

# CRACCUUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND STUDENT MAGAZINE



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# Simply the Best

## Cam Says:

And we're back! Only briefly and only for one more edition but hey, aren't you glad?

With a treasure trove of online content over the lockdown(s) we decided it was time to put out a bumper edition with our best content for the year. So here it is! The best of Craccum 2020.

Throughout the mag, you'll see some content that we published in our digital magazine that is now finally in print! You'll also spot our Aotearoa Student Press Awards (ASPA) placing articles, and some other fun things to wrap up the year that has been 2020. It's certainly been a challenging and very disrupted year. It's been a privilege and an honour to serve as Co-Editor of *Craccum* this year and to create this magazine each week.

So while you're studying for exams over the next few weeks, take a break, have a kit-kat, and have a read through *Craccum* and forget about your study for a moment.

All the best and signing off for the last time (this time for real we promise)

Cheers,  
Cam

## Dan says:

Hah! I bet after last week's editorial - the one in which we said goodbye - you thought you were rid of us. Unfortunately for you, it's not quite that easy.

We're back for one final hoorah - the Best of Craccum 2020 edition. This edition is pretty much what it sounds like: a special, one-off collection of all the best work we published this year. It's got Ashley Bloomfield erotica, quarantine haircut competitions, University of Auckland toilet reviews, and more.

As Cam noted earlier, a few of the articles in this magazine have a cool little Aotearoa Student Press Awards (ASPAs) logo on them. These are the articles that won (or placed second or third, as indicated by the badge) at the ASPAs - the biggest student press awards in New Zealand.

That's pretty much all these is to say! Best of luck with your exams (if they're coming up), and I hope you enjoy your summer (if they're done)!

Cheers,  
Dan

PS. If you're reading this, I'm assuming you're studying for, or are about to have, an exam. Here's my top three tips for acing exams:

1. Slip a \$20 note into your exam paper with a winky face drawn on it.
2. Write down quotes and important notes on your thigh, and then spend the whole exam too afraid to look at your thigh because you're worried you'll be caught.
3. This is the sneakiest trick of all. It works like this: a few weeks beforehand, go through all your past notes and commit them to memory. If you want, you can use some memorization techniques to make sure you've locked them down pat. Then, when you walk into the exam, remember what you learned from those notes and write it down on the paper. No-one can call you out for copying from your notes because they're all in your head.



# Recapping AUSA's Year in 2020

Kia ora koutou,

Well done for making it to the end of semester two and the final issue of Craccum for 2020. It has been an absolute pleasure being your AUSA rep for 2020, first as the Education Vice-President and later as the Acting President for the past four short but sweet months.

2020 has been a massive rollercoaster of a year. COVID, lockdowns and everything else that comes with a pandemic aside, the team here at AUSA have shown real strength to pivot to the online space in what seems like a very, very, very long year.

The week I am beginning to write the 2020 annual report for AUSA, collecting wins, events and everything that happened in between and I couldn't be more proud of our AUSA whanau and the UoA student community. I wanted to write this final President Update as a thank you to our students and all those who have signed our letters, participated in online (and in-person) pub quizzes, checked out the new shads and generally supported us in 2020.

So... here is the 2020 recap:

## Student voice:

- Our AUSA Student Council scored a 5 point grade bump for all students in Semester 1 and Quarter 2 to recognize the impact Covid has on our studies
- We held an SGM and created a new role of Post Grad officer on our exec
- We welcomed Dawn, our new VC and started building a great relationship with her
- We welcomed awesome new student voice interns to the team who helped engage with our class reps, pull together critical reports to identify problems students faced and worked on student voice projects!

## Student Support

- We piloted an awesome project to address period poverty by offering free sanitary products in halls
- We gave out more than 60k worth of hardship grants, that's more than double the number of applications of last year.

- Our Queer Rights Officer set up the Queer Student Network to consult with rainbow students
- We launched our one-stop-shop for everything you might need at uni - Our Student Support Hub in AUSA House.
- To make sure we could help as many students as possible, we welcomed new student advocates and upskilled them to help students in any situation
- Our AUSA Buddy Program supported many, many international students over one of the toughest years for students

## Student Experience

- At the start of the year we ran the biggest o-week event with Party in the Spark! We had an epic line up of Mako Road, Drax Project and others to kick off the semester.
- We also took Re//Orientation to the faculties with arcade games and activities.
- We ran our Free Exam Zoominars for major first-year papers, online due to the lockdown
- We had a massive turnout for our elections - we had 61 candidates run for our exec positions. That's more than double the candidates last year!
- Last week we had an epic last day of classes with Class of 2020! Read: Free ice cream, thousands of dollars of giveaways and live music right in the heart of the campus: Shadows Bar

Thank you for your involvement in AUSA over the course of this year, whether it be attending an event, running for a position on the executive or just signing your name to an open letter. It's been a massive year that has shown that resilience and adaptability are key, and looking ahead, we are all very excited for what comes next.

Bring on 2021 and good luck with your exams!

*Emma Rogers, Acting President and the AUSA Team*

Find out more about our support services via our website: [www.ausa.org.nz](http://www.ausa.org.nz)

# The Year in Headlines

DANIEL MEECH

*Phew! We made it to the end of the year. What a miracle. We thought we'd recap 2020 by listing some of this year's news headlines in order. The headlines have been taken from articles published in print, as well as the articles we published online-only. If you want to read these articles in full, you can find them by searching for them at [www.craccum.co.nz](http://www.craccum.co.nz). Please note that we haven't included the headlines to any of our Facebook posts.*

## SEMESTER ONE

### **Issue One**

University Purchases \$5m Parnell Property  
Shadows Bar Reopens for 2020  
2000 Auckland Students Stuck as Coronavirus Travel Ban Continues

### **Issue Two**

New Vice-Chancellor Starts This Month  
University's New South Auckland Campus Opens to Students  
University Issues Hire Freeze as Financial Hit Looms  
White Supremacist Posters Distributed Around Campus  
70 University of Auckland Students Recalled From Overseas Placements Over Coronavirus Fears

### **Issue Three**

Abortion Legislation Bill Passes Second Reading  
Five in Self-Isolation at University Accommodation  
Women's Space Lacking in the New Rec Centre  
University Tightens Restrictions on Use of Academic Titles

### **Issue Four**

Exchanges Axed out of COVID-19 Fears  
New Student Accommodation Development Receives Resource Consent  
University of Auckland Has No Plans to Suspend In-Person Teaching [Editor's note: lolololololololololol]  
University's Annual Report Likely to Shed Light on Māori Achievement

### **Issue Five**

Abortion Legalised in New Zealand  
Students Report Thefts Around Campus  
Studylink Payments to Continue During Lockdown  
Two Students Confirmed Positive with COVID-19 as University Closes for Lockdown

### **Issue Six**

Pharmacy Students to Complete 4th Year Placements at Healthline  
Rec Centre Moves Online as the COVID-19 Lockdown Continues

### **Issue Seven**

Accommodation Residents Facing Further Restrictions at Alert Level 3  
Tertiary Student Support Package Announced  
University Will Continue Remote Learning Until At Least Semester Two  
Auckland Uni Takes Top Spot in Sustainability Rankings for Second Year Running

### **Issue Eight**

AUSA Calls for Academic Transcript Changes in Light of COVID-19  
AUT Paramedicine Students to Do Placements at Healthline  
More than \$100k Claimed by University Sports Clubs and Facilities in Wage Subsidies  
New Zealand University Students Strike in Rent Payment Retaliation

### **Issue Nine**

Course Grades Going Up While Exams Shelved for Sem One  
NZUSA Calls for Universal Student Allowances

### **Issue Ten**

Attendance Recorded for Students Going to Campus Under Level 2  
University Accommodation Residents Still Being Charged for Empty Rooms  
Student Develops Contract Tracing Tool in Light of COVID-19 Pandemic

### **Issue Eleven**

University Launches New Te Reo Māori App  
Hipkins: No Waiving Student Loans and Universal Education Income  
Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences Proposes New Clinical Selection Test

### **Issue Twelve**

Staff Encouraged To Use Up Annual Leave and Reduce Working Hours to Cut Costs

Greens Call for Inquiry Into Student Accommodation

Political Protest Moves Online Amid COVID-19 Restrictions

### **Issue Thirteen**

Hundreds of Auckland Students Receive Access to Devices

Independent Inquiry To Look Into Student Accommodation

Thousands March Across the Country for Black Lives Matter

UniLodge Whitaker Residents Could Be Moved for International Students' Quarantine

# SEMESTER TWO

### **Issue Fourteen**

Calls From Universities for International Students to Return to New Zealand

Mental Health Services Get Government Funding Boost

New Supports Available as University Adjusts to a Post-COVID Environment

Report Highlights How COVID-19 Has Affected Māori Students

### **Issue Fifteen**

COVID-19 Increased Students' Stress Levels and Anxiety, Report Finds

George Barton Resigns as AUSA President

Government to Spend \$50m to Rescue International Education Sector

Rec Centre Introduces New Programmes and Classes for Semester Two

### **Issue Sixteen**

AUSA Readies Ballot Boxes for the 2021 Executive Election

Students Affected by Contraceptive Pill Shortage

Executive Positions Scrapped and New Appointment System Part of AUSA Constitutional Changes

University of Auckland Alumni and Donors Targeted in Cyberattack

[Editor's note: lockdown two began this week]

### **Issue Seventeen**

Overheard Evangelical: I Have the Right to Share What I Want [Editor's note: an interview with the lady posting religious messages on Overheard @ UoA]

Staff for Students Wellbeing Fund Funds Period Products for Semester Two

Learning Returns Online as Auckland Experiences Second COVID-19 Lockdown

AUSA Special General Meeting Moved Online

UoA Students Win Global Health Competition

### **Issue Eighteen**

AUSA Executive Nominations Announced

University and Club Events Affected By Level 3

Students Worry of Funding Cuts to School of Social Science

AUMSA Establishes Rainbow Communities Representative Role

### **Issue Nineteen**

After Fighting Executive's Attempt to Abolish the Role, AUSA

Campaigns Officer Candidate Runs for Position Unopposed

24-Hour Online Tests Replaced With Time Limits for Semester Two

University Launches Trials for Monitored Remote Assessments

### **Issue Twenty**

AUSA Challenge University on Compassionate Consideration Application Fees

Racism at Universities: Not Exclusive to Waikato

Shadows Burgled During Level 3 But Remains Operational

Advance Voting not Available on City Campus This Election

### **Issue Twenty One**

Compassionate Consideration Fees Will be Waived This Semester

AUSA Hosts Drug Reform Debate

Sexual Abuse Victims Facing Barriers to Receiving Mental Health Support

### **Issue Twenty Two**

Contrary to University Statements, Students Are Still Being Charged Compassionate Consideration Fees

International Students Call for More Representation and Action

### **Issue Twenty Three**

Craccum Wins Big at the Aotearoa Student Press Awards

Documents Reveal Flawed Student Consultation Processes in Developing the University's COVID-19 Response

Dawn Freshwater Offers to Sell House

Students Allege Mistreatment Working in the Hospitality Industry

University Employees Have Been Monitoring Students on Social Media, May Have Been Posting Anonymously

### **Issue Twenty-Four**

Two Uni Clubs Respond to Craccum Clubs Article but Biggest Spenders Still Keeping Quiet

Chlöe Swarbrick Set to Win Auckland Central Electorate

Canterbury University China Expert Faces Review on Paper Critical of NZ Universities' Chinese Links



# Money, Money, Money: Uni Clubs Got \$350k Of Student Funded Grants But Books Remain Out of Sight

JUSTIN WONG AND DANIEL MEECH

*University clubs, societies and associations have claimed more than \$350,000 in club grants funded by the student-paid Student Levy (or the Compulsory Student Services Fee), but very few have publicly disclosed how that money was spent.*



Figures obtained by *Craccum* under the Official Informations Act showed that as of August 11th, 153 clubs at the university have claimed \$358,730.27 worth of club grants for 2020.

The Canoe Club received the most grants with \$15,150.50 over three rounds, followed by the Snowsports Club, who got \$15,000 at the start of the year, while the Football Club took in \$10,323. On top of this, *Craccum* understands that many clubs collected registration fees from its student members.

Despite the large amounts of student-paid money changing hands, there is very little regulation of student club finances and information relating to it was not easily accessible by the student body.

All enrolled students are required to pay \$7.86 per point of the Student Levy in addition to their tuition fees to fund university-provided student

support services, such as Health and Counselling, advocacy, and childcare.

On average, an Auckland University undergraduate student will pay \$943.20 of the Levy for taking eight papers in 2020. This figure is the highest in the country, compared to students at Canterbury, Victoria, and AUT universities, who pay \$870, \$849.60, and \$836 respectively for student services and other building and student assistance levies.

Out of the \$24 million that the University collects through the Student Levy each year, \$400,000 are allocated by the Club Support Committee annually to help clubs “create a vibrant and engaging campus community”.

This is split into Major Grants and Small Grants.

Major grants, offered twice a year, are used to support large events and activities, or campaigns centred on student issues, concerns and causes. Up to \$1,000 of Small Grants are offered each month to clubs to spend on marketing materials, as well as small on-campus events and activities.

But these funds could not be used on travelling expenses, printing, websites, settling payments of a person, or purchasing alcohol.

Clubs that want to apply for a grant would need to submit a proposal on how the grant would be used, prove their membership is made up of 70 percent current students or alumni up to three years, and provide a budget and previous year's receipts to demonstrate their financial capability.

While treasurers are required to present a financial statement at Annual General Meetings to report to club members on the financial transactions over the previous year, there are no requirements for this to be made public, despite receiving money that is funded by the entire student body.

*Craccum* contacted 94 out of the 153 clubs that received a club grant to enquire how - and whether - they regulated their finances, or how non-members can access their financial statements.

Almost all declined to comment or never provided a response.

Out of the few clubs that replied, most of their grant went towards purchasing equipment or hosting events.

Canoe Club President Maurycy Prystupa told *Craccum* the \$15,150 the club received went towards gear and equipment maintenance, while Snowsports Club President Charlotte Wills said their \$15,000 grant was used to renovate their ski lodge and cover costs for their beginners' weekend.

Meldon Woo of the Singapore Students' Association said the club has used their \$3,342 grant to subsidize activities including movie nights and ice-skating.

The Motorsport Club claimed the \$1,100 funding was used to "reduce the high barriers of entry" to social motorsport, but did not respond to further queries on what items the money was spent to achieve this.

Most responding clubs said their treasurers reviewed their finances once every year, but otherwise did not have any form of regulation in place.

Both Prystupa and Wills said their clubs' financial statements are available on the Charities Register, as they are registered charities, with the former adding the Canoe Club hires external accountants to perform an audit "every few years".

*Craccum* was unable to find the financial statements on the two club's respective websites. We were also unable to find anything on the

websites which explicitly stated that the club's financial statements could be found on the Charities Register.

Others, including the Underwater Club and the Hockey Club, said their financial statements can be viewed on the Incorporated Societies register. Meanwhile, Tramping Club Captain Andrew Battley told *Craccum* their treasurer report is published in their annual magazine, which is available on the club's website.

But for the clubs that received student-funded grants but were not publicly registered, their financial information was only kept to club members and away from the public eye.

Lucas Gao, the President of the Web Development and Consulting Club, said students were welcome to join the club's Annual General Meeting if they want to know about their financial situation.

The Squash Club, which got \$5,200 of grants, said their financial statements are uploaded on the university's Engage platform after their Annual General Meeting. As of this story's deadline it is yet to be made available.

*Craccum* spoke with Campus Life, the group in charge of handing out grants, to understand whether they regulated how these clubs manage their finances.

A spokesperson said other than requiring student clubs to submit receipts for how they have spent their money, they were largely left to their own devices because clubs are independent to the university.

The responsibility for clubs' financial regulation is "largely for the executive to determine", but there were "no specific penalties or punishments" for students caught spending money inappropriately.

Instead, Campus Life prefers to "focus on support and structures", by providing "Accounting Fundamentals workshops".

The spokesperson also said Campus Life does not think there needs to be more financial regulations, as any complaints could be sent to [studentgroups@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:studentgroups@auckland.ac.nz), and members can call a special meeting to raise any concerns.

Not all students share similar views.

One former club member told *Craccum* that although they personally don't want too much university involvement, more needs to be done to make sure students are not taking the money for themselves.

Arts student Alex said he thought the university had someone keeping track of club finances and thinks it is "crazy" to think that no one is doing it.

"I love students, and I love steins, but on paper it's pretty dumb to be giving student clubs all this money and just say 'there you go, do what you want with it'."

"I didn't realise that was how it works."

Another business student agreed that more regulations are needed to make sure student-funded money is used responsibly.

"It's all of our money. I think we should know how that money is being used."

"I'm a student, I'm broke; I don't want to give someone ten dollars in fees just for them to go and spend it on themselves."

"I know most clubs would never steal anyone's money - most of the people doing it are good guys. But even if just one in ten clubs are taking money, that's too much."

But the view over more regulation varied between different club executives.

Battley, who was also the Tramping Club's Treasurer in 2019 and whose mother was a previous club treasurer, said the best people to manage the finances of a club are the members itself, rather than applying an overarching regulatory system.

"If you look at any organisation, you'll recognise that centralisation of management and addition of extra external regulation typically leads to delays in implementation."

"How would you apply a single regulation across a political club, a food club, a religious club, and a sports club?"

"By the time you've created enough degrees of freedom in the system to allow it to fit all of the different clubs, your regulatory system is basically as big and unwieldy as the clubs themselves, and has lost any benefit."

He believed that more training and advice for a newly established to build its own financial regulation system would be more beneficial to all clubs instead.

Meanwhile, the Canoe Club's Maurycy Prystupa said she would be happy to see stricter regulations from the university because it could retain students' confidence on how clubs are managed.

"As a club, we felt like we owed it to our members and to the University to continue to meet and exceed these historic requirements."

"If this would improve the general student cohorts faith in the way the money is being spent, then we can see the value in introducing further regulation."

But, Jackie Wei of the Asian Board Games Society told *Craccum* he personally thinks current rules on clubs should be rolled back.

"The basis of university clubs is mainly to let students run and organise

their own affairs."

"As functional adults, we believe that by loosening some of the regulations, like grant applications, the clubs are able to provide more diverse activities on campus, which in turn benefits students and staff alike in the university."

**UPDATE:** Since the publication of the article, the Equal Justice Project and the Concert Band responded to initial queries.

Neil Lindsay, the Acting President of the Concert Band (UniBand Inc), said their \$4,495 grant was spent on large instruments that were too expensive for individual students to own, including bass clarinets, baritone saxophones, and xylophones.

However, despite their name, Lindsay said the club is not an incorporated society as they were still undergoing the process.

He also said there were no procedures in place for the student body who are not part of the club to check their expenses.

Equal Justice Project Director Sophie Vreeburg told *Craccum* that out of \$1,700 granted to the club, most was directed to social events for volunteers and group training days.

She also said she was satisfied with the current level of financial regulation.

"The current process for applying for funding and grants through the Engage platform is very rigorous."

"We are not only required to show proof of receipts for all the money we spend but also provide commentary on how we spent the money in previous years and whether there are any improvements we can make."

"Personally I think this regulation is great."

The Equal Justice Project's yearly financial reports could be accessed on the Charities Register under its name.

Although this information was not shown on the club's social media accounts and website, the club's constitution required the treasurer to file financial documents "promptly" with the Charities Office.

**Note from editors:** *Craccum* emailed all 94 clubs that received \$1,000 or more of grants to find out their plans for the funding or whether they had any mechanisms to keep their finances in check. Some clubs replied, and some of their comments are featured in this article. Many did not, including the Football and the Goju-Ryu Karate Club, which received \$10,000 and \$9,000 of grants respectively. A full list of the club that received grants in 2020 with the corresponding amounts can be found online.



# Pregnancy Clinics Supported by Pro-Life Organisations

ELLA MORGAN

**A number of organizations in New Zealand claim to offer pregnant people advice, support, medical care and counselling. However, many of these organizations leave out one important fact to prospective clients; they are supported by pro-life causes.**

According to their own website, Pregnancy Counselling Services is “registered with the Charities Commission as a non-profit, non-religious and non-political organization”. Despite these claims, multiple women have reported representatives from Pregnancy Counselling services expressing anti-abortion sentiments.

April\* contacted Pregnancy Counselling Services after she became pregnant with her second child. Her partner had just left her and she was feeling unsure about continuing with the pregnancy.

“When I went they definitely didn’t want me to get an abortion,” April says. “They told me if I did it, it would be with me for the rest of my life and I might regret it. It made me really scared.”

“I don’t think they are unbiased, they don’t want women to get abortions and basically that’s the message they gave me.”

In 2015, Otago student magazine *Critic* reported Pregnancy Counselling Services staff expressing the popular pro-life belief that life begins at conception, and listing a number of negative arguments related to abortion.

Radio New Zealand reports Pregnancy Counselling Services has received over \$300,000 through the Department of Internal Affairs’ Community Organisation Grants Scheme, despite regulations of the scheme that outline funds should not be allocated to religious or political causes. The organization has also received funding from anti-abortion group Voice for Life, and in the past expressed support for a petition calling for the notification of parents for people who receive abortions under the age of 16.

Gianna’s Choice, a self-proclaimed “pregnancy options and support” service, offers a number of services to pregnant people. According to their website, these include “free pregnancy tests, confidential advice about pregnancy options, support after an adverse prenatal diagnosis, free confirming ultrasound, practical help and support, adoption, post abortion recovery programmes, life skills and parenting programmes”. Nowhere on their website is it mentioned that any pro-life interests would be represented in these services.

*Craccum* contacted Gianna’s choice earlier this month, seeking pregnancy advice and support. We were given an appointment time and directed that this would take place at an address in Mount Roskill. At this same address is the John Paul II Centre for Life, operated by Family Life International New Zealand. We were also notified that upon arrival, a pregnancy test would be performed for their records, and were assured that “we are not a government organisation and we offer complete confidentiality”. Due to the COVID-19 situation, *Craccum* was unable to attend the appointment.

Family Life International New Zealand describe themselves as a “pro-life, pro-family” organization on their own website. It is made clear that Gianna’s Choice is a program run by Family Life International New Zealand, which they describe as “a service which aims to reach abortion vulnerable women throughout New Zealand”.

The organization also organizes prayer vigils outside abortion centres in New Zealand, claiming that “six babies have been saved from abortion” due to their actions. They encourage those participating to engage with the public, and in an information pamphlet state that “only trained side-walk counsellors should approach women.”

Earlier this month, a provision banning pro-life protest within 150 metres of an abortion clinic was scrapped in a voting mix-up during the second reading of the Abortion Legislation Bill. Abortion is now completely legal in New Zealand, however without this safety-zone provision it is likely we will see organizations such as Family Life International New Zealand continuing such action.

It is clear that both Pregnancy Counselling Services and Gianna’s Choice are both deeply connected to the pro-life movement in New Zealand, despite both initially seeming to provide genuine support to pregnant

people.

In the United States, ‘crisis’ pregnancy centres have been accused of representing themselves as clinics offering counselling or medical advice, and in actuality pushing a pro-life agenda. These centres are so widespread in the US that some reports claim there are 2,752 of them compared to 1,671 abortion clinics.

The question arises as to how organizations like these affect women and pregnant people in New Zealand. Family Planning offers counselling to women considering abortion, and [abortion.org.nz](http://abortion.org.nz) recommends talking to your GP, Family Planning or Youthline if you want to discuss your options. However, when researching options online, it becomes difficult to tell whether you are accessing a truly unbiased, impartial service. For someone who may be considering an abortion, or is weighing up their options after discovering they are pregnant, access to a free pregnancy test or someone to talk to may seem like an appealing option; especially when many organizations seem to hold no pro-life or pro-choice bias on paper.

*\*Name has been changed to protect the identity of the person interviewed*

## Trolley Bandits Defend Actions Amid Backlash from “Carlaw Karens”

ELLA MORGAN

**Tensions are brewing at Carlaw Park Student Village as residents are divided on the morality of stealing shopping trolleys from Countdown.**

Since the beginning of Semester Two, increasing numbers of trolleys have been taken from Countdown on Quay Street, and ended up abandoned in the basement carpark of the residence.

Debate over the trolley issue came to a head as residents made anonymous submissions to the “Carlaw Confessions 2k20” Facebook page. One anonymous commenter made a plea for residents to return the trolleys so they can be used by people who need them in store.

“How about y’all stop being lazy asses and just carry your groceries home. Show some integrity!”

Since the submission was posted, a number of residents have defended their actions in taking the trolleys.

“Supermarkets are capitalizing the fuck out of these lockdown periods, so I’m struggling to see how 10ish missing trolleys are going to make a significant difference,” reads one submission.

The argument continued on the page for days, with one commenter labelling those speaking up about trolley theft “Karens”, while others said residents should stop arguing over trolleys and go back to “writing



thirsty confessions and dissing our flatmates”.

A number of Carlaw residents told *Craccum* that the trolleys can be repurposed and are often reused by residents. “I can just chuck all three of my flat’s rubbish bins in the trolley and take them down to the rubbish room in one go,” says one resident. “Otherwise I have to fuck around and make two trips, and it stinks down there.”

A Countdown spokesperson said it is not unusual for trolleys to go missing from time to time, but they should not be taken away.

“We’d of course encourage students not to take baskets or trolleys away with them as this is actually theft, and it also disadvantages anyone else who needs to use a trolley or a basket when they shop with us.”

Countdown collects any abandoned trolleys, and customers who spot any that seem out of place should report this by calling 0800 40 40 40.

#291

Dear Carlaw, I like being free wondering the streets. I like my new home in the carpark, thats to the residents that gave me this freedom. The supermarket was a dirty place. Lots of my fellow friends are sick of the covid germs from most of you. Yours Sincerely - The now free trolley that lives in the carpark xoxo



# An Army of Helping Hands

*Brian Gu talks to Isabella Fanselow of the Student Volunteer Army about the rallying of student volunteers nationwide to service aid to those unable to shop for necessities during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. If you want to volunteer or know of someone who can benefit from their nationwide grocery delivery service, please head to [sva.org.nz](http://sva.org.nz) or continue reading this article for more information.*

During a time where the nation is up against one of its toughest challenges in our lifetime, I am proud to be reporting on fellow students who have voluntarily rallied together to make a difference. Through their kindness, selflessness, and responsibility to take action, they have emerged onto the frontline through their grocery delivery service for those unable to leave home. They have been sponsored by the nation's biggest brands, partnered with New World, and even been lauded by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern – they are the Student Volunteer Army.

It was only last summer that I was introduced to the Student Volunteer Army (SVA); a time where, only mere months away, no-one

could have guessed this group would find themselves having such a large role to play in New Zealand's efforts against COVID-19. However, jumping into action when times are hard is what this group are used to, and it's the foundation they were established on, having first formed as a student collective down in Canterbury following the earthquakes. The premise of their volunteer work is simple, but what astonishes most is when you learn of the sheer scale of their operations.

"We have approximately 2500 registrations of volunteers," SVA student president Isabella Fanselow tells me. "Of those, 786 are in Auckland." Isabella is a student from the University of Canterbury in her final year of

Chemical Process Engineering and heads the student executive team. "I'm not doing a whole lot of studying I must say," she jokingly admits. "It's definitely very SVA heavy at the moment!"

As the country continues to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic, Isabella describes watching the rapid growth of her team to achieve national mobilization of volunteers. "Normally, we have 30 students who run the club and then three to four full-time staff," she tells me. "But in the last month, we've got around 100 students working on things from an organizational sense and 40 people working full-time, whether that be in our call-centre, on the tech that has gone into making

the grocery system, or just generally leading comms to the media.”

With their recent New World partnership, SVA have expanded their grocery delivery service across Aotearoa, including up here in Auckland. Isabella tells me this is the first nationwide volunteer mobilization SVA have done for a specific cause. “We’re certainly learning a lot,” she admits, “but it’s very exciting.” I ask her how the original idea came to fruition.

“So, it started with a somewhat naïve conversation on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March,” Isabella recalls, “which is now five weeks ago-ish. We were starting to realise that things did not look so good, and there was probably scope where we could help. We started talking to people in the community, and realized that the grocery area was somewhere that people were really struggling, and that if we could build a really safe and robust system, we could help a lot of people across the country. So since we’ve had this realization, we’ve focused most of our attention on this grocery delivery service.”

Isabella walks me through the responsibilities of a grocery delivery volunteer. “The lead picker will send them their orders, then they go to the supermarket. That [volunteer] will then go fill that order, go to the till and then it gets charged to the SVA account which the customer has paid into. The order is then delivered contactlessly to the person who made it.”

“To ensure that our volunteers are safe,” Isabella adds, “the supermarkets open their doors early for us so that our volunteers are the only ones in there. They also get given masks, gloves and hand sanitizer to use.” She is confident the system that SVA have set up protects the safety of its volunteers and beneficiaries. “The volunteer picks and then delivers that order, so there’s no changing hands of orders.”

The robustness of their service, with appreciation of scale, is no doubt tribute to the tireless work the operational team has done behind the scenes in setting this up, from website to volunteer roster. “That was a

personal highlight for me,” Isabella recounts as she reflects on this recent journey. “Seeing my team rise to the challenge of this where it’s completely, you know, not what they signed up for. Seeing a lot of them step up into leadership positions has been really rewarding.”

While dealing with SVA from an operational standpoint consumes most of Isabella’s time, she tells me she does get to hear the positive stories of students making a difference on the front line. “It’s super rewarding hearing the feedback from people who’ve gotten the first grocery delivery they’ve had in weeks, and they don’t have to go out to the supermarket and feel so safe. We’ve had lots of people who write a little note and leave it in the window for the volunteer to see.”

And for the icing on the cake, there was of course the almighty name-drop from Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern during her daily press conference, where she thanked the SVA for their tireless work. “We had no idea that she was going to say anything to us,” Isabella tells me with a proud beaming smile. “She had perfect messaging, said exactly what we’re doing in the perfect way, and it was very exciting.”

For now, the plans of the SVA are to continue making this grocery service available for those who need it across the nation. “We will be doing this for the long run,” Isabella insists. “Even once we’re down to Alert Level 1, people who are medically vulnerable and elderly should still not be leaving their

houses, so we’ll be operating at all levels.” As the restrictions become looser over time, Isabella suggests she would like to see the organization expand to assist people who are alone during these difficult times. “Once we are able to have more contact with people, it would be really cool to explore how we can work to help combat social isolation.”

Perhaps what surprises me most of all, and serves as best reflecting the selflessness of student volunteers, is when Isabella tells me the service isn’t at a shortage of volunteers but rather beneficiaries. “We’ve just got so many volunteers who are keen to help,” Isabella tells me. “So we’ve 100% got the capability to provide the help. People shouldn’t feel like they’re going to be making life difficult for us by putting an order through; they’re actually enabling people who want to get out there and help to help, and in a safe way.”

“I really encourage anybody if they know someone who is in need of the service, whether that be single parents who can’t leave the house because they can’t leave children behind, medically vulnerable, elderly – just anyone who needs it. Send [this service] through to parents, grandparents, neighbours and friends.”

For shoppers and volunteers, simply head to [sva.org.nz](https://sva.org.nz) to be connected with all the information you need or contact the SVA helpline 0800 005 902 for phone assistance. *If you enjoyed this piece, please share it with your friends – let’s spread the word about SVA!*





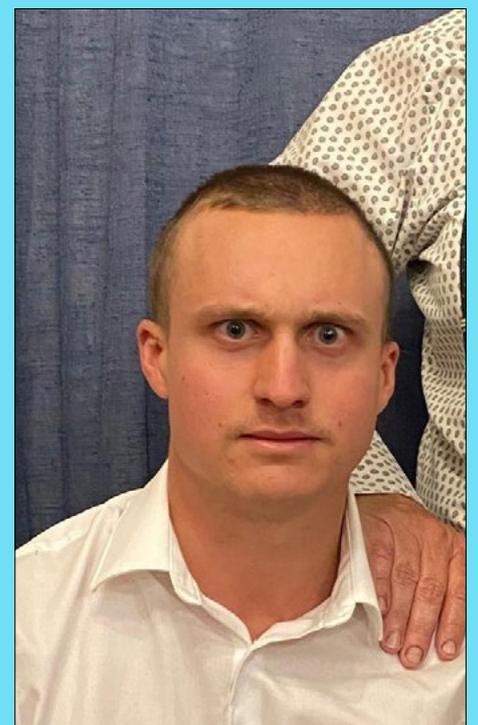
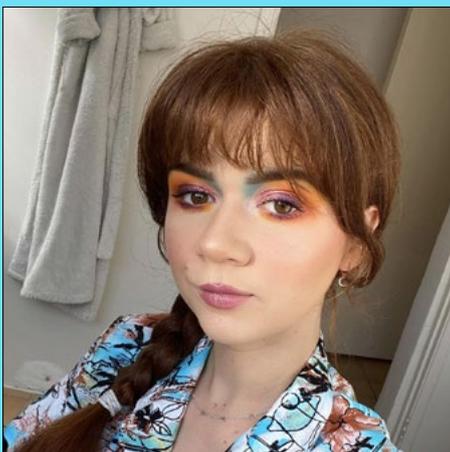
# Quarantine Haircuts

We rounded up some brave souls who were willing to share their adventures into the wonderful world of DIY hair jobs. So dive in. Be inspired to take up your scissors. Craccum shall not be responsible or liable, whether directly or indirectly, for any damages or loss caused or sustained by the reader.

"I mentioned to my hairdresser at my last haircut about maybe doing bangs one day. I was meant to get a trim very soon but then lockdown was announced and I couldn't get to my hairdresser in time. So since I didn't want her to have to cut heaps off when I next saw her because I've been trying so hard to grow it out, I gave myself a trim. Then I thought f\*ck it, why not bangs as well. I was originally going to do curtain bangs but I'm already here so let's go full bang." - Sav Wallis



Kia ora gang,  
"It was with dog clippers because that's all I had." -  
Cheers,  
Sean Dugdale-Martin



feature.

They said they did it to get big on tiktok. - *The boys @thealexanderz (tiktok stars)*



Three colors (and counting) I've sported during this lockdown - *Tara Mok*



If only bleaching always went as smoothly as Jen's



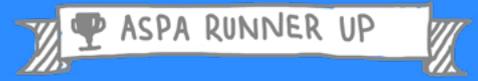
Great at teaching Public Law and talking about NZ constitutional questions. Even better at keeping it slick. - *Dr Edward Willis*

A screenshot of a Twitter post and a reply. The main post is a selfie of a man with a beard and a bun hairstyle, with a text overlay that reads: "Shout out to Prof Henaghan who saw my lockdown hairstyle on a Zoom call today and remarked that I ought to wear a hat." The post is dated 7:35 PM · Apr 21, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone and has 10 Likes. A reply from Sherry Zhang (@byssherryz) dated 18h ago says: "Replying to @edwardmwillis Kia Ora Ed! U taught me in public law a few years back, but this ain't a law question! Bit if a cheeky q tbh: I'm the lifestyle editor for the UoA student magazine @craccum\_mag. This is really quite a stellar look: thoughts on submitting this to our quarantine hair lookbook?". A reply from Edward Willis (@edwardmwillis) dated 16h ago says: "Sure." The screenshot also shows navigation icons for a close button, back, forward, and share.

# How to Flirt With Your Tutor Over Zoom

CAM AND DAN

We know what you're thinking: now that physical classes have been scrapped, I'll never be able to get with my cute tutor. Never fear! Craccum's got you covered. Flirting experts\* Cam and Dan share their top ten tips for taking your student-tutor relationship to the next level:



\* We both have partners, so clearly something worked.

## 1: Play with your hair

While your tutor's giving you feedback, start subtly using your body language to show your interest. Try twirling hair strands between your fingers, biting your lip, and winking. When they give you a bad grade, just laugh and tell them how *mean* they are :) If they say they like your work, say "Thanks **Big Boy**" and giggle incessantly. Keep giggling for a few minutes. You can never giggle too much.

## 2: Compete with other students in the Zoom call

Any idea that anyone else in the call has is trash. This is a competition and you've got to win. One-up every idea anyone else proposes. If someone did the reading, you've done it twice. If they thought the reading raised good points, you thought it raised GREAT points. Subtly find ways to make yourself look good. See if you can position your screen to be next to someone ugly, you'll look better by comparison.

## 3: Speak in ASMR

You'll need a headphone cable with a microphone built into it for this one. Start by moving the microphone up to your mouth. Slowly - ever so slowly - begin whispering. The wetter and grosser the whispering sounds, the better. It doesn't really matter what you say so long as you say it staring straight into your webcam. That way, when the tutor glances up at the screen wondering where the fuck that noise is coming from, they'll find themselves locking eyes with you. As soon as this happens, deepthroat the microphone a little and raise your eyebrows. Guaranteed to get them hot under the collar.

## 4: Bust out the cardboard signs, Taylor Swift style.

For all of you who haven't seen the video for Taylor Swift's seminal song *You Belong With Me*: shame on you. All you'll need to pull this one off is a piece of paper and a sharpie. Scribble down something really romantic ("I

wanna bone"? Or "I'd shave my legs for you"? Something along those lines), and flash the card up on screen every couple of minutes. Even if the tutor doesn't actually read the card, thanks to the powers of subliminal messaging, they're 100% guaranteed to fall in love on the spot.

## 5: Get yourself a wingman.

What this lockdown takes away with one hand, it gives with the other. Sure, you're locked inside, and that means you can't go out to find your love. But - assuming you're isolating with family or flatmates - you've now got access to a support network of wingmen and wingwomen who literally couldn't get away from you if they tried. Try roping a couple of these people into your next flirting attempt. Convince a flatmate to walk past your webcam every once in a while and say (loudly), "Wow! I still can't believe you're single, what with that eight pack of abs you have". Pay a family member to walk into your room and tell you off, mid-call, for risking your life to save those puppies in that burning orphanage that one time. Have a mate come in and inform you that he has to, absolutely *has* to run the washing right now so you better strip off *immediately* and chuck your clothes in the washing basket. You get the idea.

## 6: Angle the webcam up your nose

Trust me. This works! I saw it in a nature documentary. Apparently, gorillas flare their nostrils to attract partners. As Darwin famously wrote in *The Origin of Species*, "gorillas and humans are like 99% the same basically" - so that means it should work on 99% of humans too. Don't believe me? Try it out for yourself! Next time you're killing time in your tutorial, whack your webcam up a nasal cavity. Really get it in there, the more hairs on screen the better. You can thank me later.

## 7: Hold up a picture of a much hotter person

Hey, I know what you're thinking: how am I supposed to get my tutor's attention when my face looks like a bruised ass cheek? Answer: replace your face with someone else's. Google "hot guy face" or "hot girl face" and a couple hundred images come up. Download one, print it off, and tape it to the front of your webcam. Boom! Problem solved. Just remember to wiggle the photo around every couple of minutes to make it look like you're a real human being.

## 8: Start mirroring them

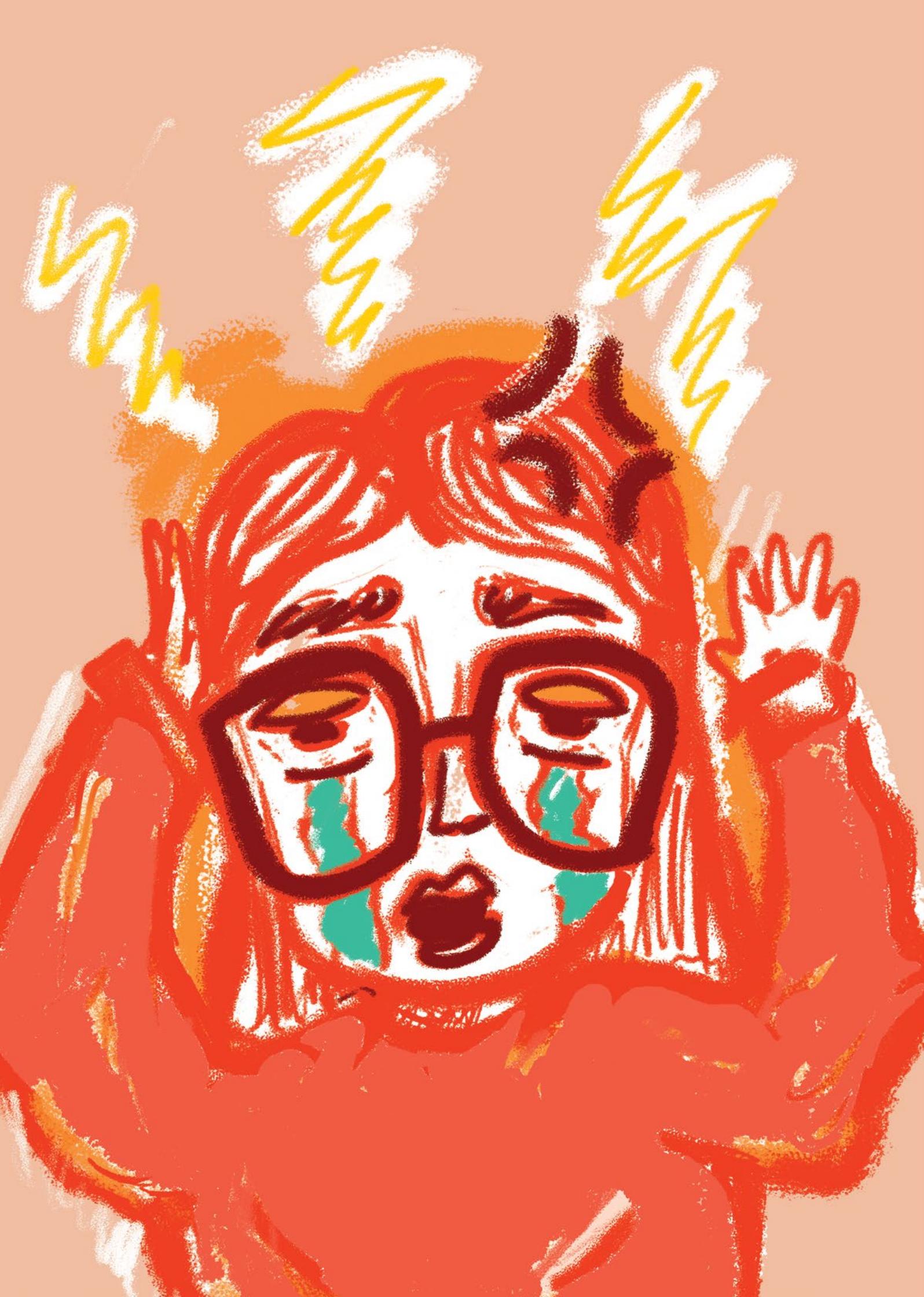
According to Wikipedia this is one way of flirting. And I don't know about you, but I trust Wikipedia to tell me how to flirt. When they rest their face on their hand, you do the same. When they smile, you smile. When they tell you to stop being so creepy, you tell them to stop being so creepy. Wear a wig to match their hair style. Change clothes so you both are wearing the same thing. Wow isn't that so crazy, it's almost like you're meant for each other. Like you two should be together. Forever.

## 9: Leave your webcam on while you get changed

Oops. Guess they just saw you naked. What an accident. You *totally* didn't mean for that to happen. But did they like what they saw? Did they want to see more?

## 10: Let your assignments do the talking

Keep it spicy by making your assignments that little bit more sexy. Insert emojis and wink faces into the essay where you think it gets a bit frisky. Use adjectives like hot, moist, and wet to describe concepts. Refer to all authors as 'Daddy' or 'Mistress'. Refer to your last body paragraph as the 'Climax' of your essay and in that conclusion, you 'cum' to some **sticky** conclusions don't you?



# Student Response To Remote Learning 2.0



MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

*In a less than ideal turn of events, the re-emergence of COVID in Auckland pushed UOA campuses back into remote learning mode. After a couple of glorious weeks on campus, with access to lecturers, tutors, supervisors and Munchy Mart, we're back to destroying our backs as we try to study in bed. Craccum spoke to more than fifty students, to find out how the quick transition back into remote learning has affected university work.*

## What aspects of remote learning have you found most challenging in Semester 2?

Overwhelming, students reported that a lack of motivation was their biggest challenge in completing their work during remote learning. Students also cited poor mental health as a difficult road block, adding that uncertainty about the future (including the potential return to campus, the changes to course formats and deadlines and adjustments to grading rubrics) was exacerbating their stress. One student stated, "Learning has been difficult since we are still not 100% sure whether assessments will be online or not. I would much rather have everything online at this point than risking my health and travelling to the university. I don't drive so public transport is my only option, which has made me scared of whether to even go to university." Several students carried this sentiment too, with an element of concern about returning to university during the pandemic.

Some students also highlighted that issues of access were making remote learning more difficult, with common issues including poor wi-fi, technical difficulties, having to share devices, lack of access to online resources and quiet spaces for focused study. One student highlighted the difficulties of managing their studies with their responsibilities at home, explaining "Supervising homeschooling has drastically

reduced time for study and my access to a shared device with kids at school using it." The lack of communication from lecturers and the university was another prevalent issue, with some feeling like the information they were receiving in semester one was clearer. Others felt overwhelmed with information, concerned about missing important details and changes. However, some students clarified that the communication and course delivery depended on the paper; one said "Some papers are presenting us with adjustments to due dates and expectations. Meanwhile others have simply started recycling old lectures from past years but not giving us any sort of indication as to their new requirements in terms of tutorials. It's just plain to see what papers are run better than others."

Several students also expressed frustrations over elongated lecture recordings, suggesting that it was taking much longer to run through content and that some lecturers were purposefully exceeding time slots. One said, "Lecturers have tried to be accomodating and break them into smaller parts - but this often ends up taking more time than the two hours, and it's hard to keep focus for such a long time period. I think our lecturers have been doing a great job, but there's a natural tendency to load a whole lot more information into a lecture when it's recorded online with no space for questions."

Other challenges that students highlighted

included extended screen time, lack of schedule, lack of adjustment time (with the absence of 'teach-free' days), absence of time with tutors, the recycling of old course content, the lack of practical work and feelings of isolation.

## Are these challenges the same, or different, from the Semester 1 challenges? How are they the same/different?

Largely, students reported that many of the issues they were facing were similar to those in semester one. Many, however, also added that they were finding it more difficult to cope with the challenges in the second round of remote learning. Students attributed this to the fast and unexpected switch to online learning, lack of adjustment time, lack of clear communication, increase in anxiety and worse mental health.

The major difference students highlighted was the lack of certainty; one said "At least in lockdown version 1 it was pretty clear that uni would be entirely online for the rest of the semester. There is so much uncertainty this time - we could come out of lockdown soon and then it could happen again. I don't know what to prepare for regarding assessments and exams if we do them online." Other differences that students pointed to included the lack of a grade boost and the adjustment to 24 hour test periods.

However, a few suggested that they felt they were more prepared for the study techniques they needed to use during remote learning, with the lack of motivation being their main concern. Some students expressed appreciation for the increase in live tutorials and lectures, suggesting that this change made it easier to stay on track. One suggested that their lecturers were adjusting better, stating "My lecturers are making the effort to make lecture recordings that are easier to follow," while another said "Lecturers seem to be getting sloppier because there's this ethos that it'll all be okay again soon."

### How has remote learning affected your motivation to complete university work?

Nearly all students that responded to Craccum's survey disclosed that remote learning had negatively impacted their levels of motivation. Some students suggested that being separated from other students, tutors and lecturers, with a lack of discussion, made learning more difficult. One stated, "I have no motivation. Normally being around the other students would allow for collaboration and further motivation but without that it's been incredibly demoralising." Some suggested that the absence of campus lifestyle was draining their motivation. Uncertainty was once again highlighted as an issue, with students feeling less motivated due to the lack of information about assessments later in the semester. Other hits to student motivation included feeling overwhelmed by the amount of work and admin, feeling like workloads had increased, distractions and responsibilities at home. One student said "There are so many distractions at home - I'm partial to the Netflix binge, or disappearing into the Youtube hole. Motivation is definitely more difficult to find. At the same time, remote learning has provided much more time to complete assignments as I can rearrange my class schedule to fit as needs be."

One student expressed frustration at the lack of control they had over their courses, stating "Seething UoA did not extend the dates to withdraw from courses. The lockdown was announced 2 business days after the cutoff. I would have done less/different papers if I knew I was in for more remote working." Another suggested that this lockdown period

has made them contemplate transferring universities.

Motivating factors that students highlighted included support from their friends, live and interactive course elements (zoom and live lectures) and the pressure of deadlines. A few students suggested that their motivation had remained the same, with one saying that remote learning "made [uni] easier because my disabilities make in person study difficult."

### Do you think the university has offered sufficient support?

Students were quite divided on the amount of support that they felt was being offered from the university. Those who felt the university was not doing enough to support the sudden move to remote learning highlighted a lack of communication, lack of clarity on the rest of semester, changes to test rules, lack of a grade boost, disregard for mental health and the absence of adjustment time. One student said "Absolutely not. I'm getting more in debt every day because of the lockdown, I'm constantly very stressed. Some of my classes have mandatory labs and technical components that don't run on my computer, meaning I'll have almost no training on the system before our first test. Some of my papers are full year, affected by both lockdowns and we don't even get a grade bump." A few felt that the support offered in semester one was more comprehensive, with one student stating "I think there was sufficient support last semester, with the grade bump and 24 hour tests/exams. However, so far this semester it doesn't seem as though much has been done to alleviate the stresses of the abrupt shift to online learning."

Some students suggested that their struggles and frustration were more dependent on individual courses, expressing concerns about the communication from lecturers and increased workload in particular papers. Other students felt that their struggles during remote learning were more personal, including the lack of motivation. One said "I don't really know what support is available. I could just motivate myself more. I don't have issues with laptops or internet access and I know they have supported students well with that."

### If we were to go back to remote learning at a later date, what changes would you like to see to the current process?

The suggestions that students presented for improving remote learning were wide ranging. The most popular suggestions included clearer communication from both the university and course convenors, reinstating longer test periods (some suggested 2-4 hours, some advocated for the return to 24 hours), another grade bump, adjustments to coursework and the integration of more live elements (Zoom lectures, tutorials etc.). One student stated "It would be useful if lecturers outlined a timetable of when classes and tutorials would be posted at the beginning of a lockdown so it wasn't as easy to fall behind. On the whole though, I think lecturers are doing a good job as the situation is new for them too. I'm a bit concerned with online exams in terms of equity issues: a three-hour window might not provide sufficient time for students dealing with additional issues at home. Hopefully, we don't need to go back to online learning once Covid-19 is out of the picture: the best model for a university - a place of active learning, a place to make connections and deliberate ideas - is clearly in person, and I miss it!"

Some other student suggestions involved creating more consistency across papers, utilising more flexible due dates, incorporating teach-free days, the ability to drop papers without affecting GPA, remaining online for the rest of semester and improving the quality of lecture recordings. One student refused to answer Craccum's question, asserting "i aint gonna even manifest we do remote learning again so i shall offer no changes, apologies xoxo".

# Craccum's Top Picks from UoA: Meaningful Confessions

TARA MOK

UoA: Meaningful Confessions is a great invention. Talk to a bunch of students in the university and the conversation will somehow wind itself around to mentioning a meaningful confession that one of you read the other day. It's somehow assumed that every student knows what the meaningful confessions are and has probably read whichever one you're referencing. And 9 out of 10 times, that assumption is correct. Isn't this the closest thing us UoA students have to student culture?

However, go onto the Facebook page today and you will see a sea of COVID-19 posts and scroll a bit further down to see people trashing biomed and general IC4 angst. While all very real issues (to varying extents), it can be hard to find the true gems of confessions that make the page the treasure that it is. So, I read every meaningful confession so you don't have to! All (as of today) 2146 of them. You're welcome. Here are my top ten picks (in no particular order). Look them up for some laughs, escapism, or tips that just might save your life and/or dignity.

**#669 The Irresistible Jelly. "Whenever you would look at it ... world peace would fall over the world for a split second."**

While everyone is out there confessing their crush on the cute girl at the OWeek stall or the boy sat in front of them in the lecture theatre, 7Anon writes a poetic love letter to jelly. An iconic moment in the history of Meaningful Confessions.

**#1873 Sex? Not for me thanks. "Some people say they're saving themselves for marriage and I say why stop there? Think bigger. Think death."**

With everyone at uni and many now living on their own and others with more time on their hands because of the COVID-19 situation, many of you might be thinking of having sex. May I direct you to this confession and see if I can convince you not to do such a heinous deed.

**#1031 Dear Mrs Potato. "You are crazy. If I had to describe you in one sentence with an adjective, that would be my answer."**

This confession wins the award for the most wholesome sappy love letter. Despite the mixed messages, insults, and intense focus on the recipient's sister, it will still pull on your sappy heartstrings.

**#2035 Pre exam shooley. "So you know that unspoken fear all girls have when they go into the bathroom somewhere and the toilet seat lid is down?"**

This one's for all you readers who get off on other people's pain.

**#2001 and #1999 Goodbye shadows. "Shadows worship is not a substitute for a personality."**

This is what happens when you insult Shadows. Watch the drama of this Shadows duel unfold.

**#1872. My wisdom teeth. "I have been waiting all my life for a saucy spicy dripping hot French lad to come over and shove his baguette right into my pumpkin soup and out of all the fucking timeline that a human being could ever exist in, my wisdom teeth decided to fuck my jaw up on a random Thursday"**

Best Tinder date story ever.

**#1639 Listen up, kids. "It drives me crazy when people are like "oh yeah, I've pretty much finished, just have to do my references." NO YOU FREAKIN' DON'T!"**

Read this before you graduate.

**#1611 Universe telling me something? "I have seen you every. single. day. for the past 5 weeks. Sometimes you don't see me, sometimes you do and it's happened so much that I think you've noticed it too."**

Is it the Universe? Is it Joe Goldberg? Read it and find out.

**#1529. Dear All Years Above First Year.**

Take pity on them, y'all.

**#1527 why u always lyin. "I lowkey calculated the minimum grade she needs to get into 2nd year (i think the minimum gpa is 6 right? correct me if im wrong) which is a 9 for all courses this year if her existing gpa is 4.725."**

If you thought you were petty, watch this person obsess over whether their friend is really a law student. My only question is: why do you care?

**#1230 WHERE THE FUCK YOU AT DUDE. "So sometimes your boy here gallivants in OGGB looking for that one meat I wanna eat."**

There's a lot of love confessions on this page but this one takes the cake for really making me want to find this boy the meat he wants, no matter what it takes goddammit, and I think you might feel the same too.

**#731 LIFE. "I wake up at 6, no wait I wake up at 7...actually I set my alarm for 5:30, because that's when I think someone who is doing biomed should wake up."**

Read for an accurate "day in the life" of a student. Might be depressing but this is also realism at its finest.

**#511 90s child stuck in a society to which he doesn't belong. "While everyone else jams to hip hop music, with words filled with no meaning other than talking about drugs and "bitches", I can't seem to move away from the deep dark meaningful words of Linkin Park which gave me reason to live through my teenage years."**

He's not like other guys. We all know someone like this.



# Toilet Reviews of UoA

DEB RAWSON

*I like to stay hydrated. I am a prolific pee-er. I have peed in many toilets, far and wide, bad and worse. Read on to see how UoA shapes up, plus, a special guest section on unisex toilets on campus.*

## Arts 1 / 2

Charming. Quaint. Idyllic. I want to invite Architectural Digest into these toilets and offer a celebrity-style YouTube tour. Standout feature? The blue tiling. I once took a selfie here, and it was the nicest selfie I have ever taken. 7.5/10.

## Kate Edger

Ding ding ding don't do it. It's d-d-d-disgusting. I hope the alliteration gets the point across. Still, a very central and convenient location for a quick pee-and-dash. 2/10.

## Level 0 Kate Edger

The level 0 toilets deserve a special mention, due to their convenient location for emergency situations. I have fond memories of hightailing it into Munchy Mart at 9:30 p.m. on a Thursday night, and staring down the male cashier while purchasing my super tampons and coconut water. 8/10 location, but ew, still Kate Edger. 3/10.

## Shads

Talking exclusively the old Shads here. I thought about visiting the new one for the sake of this review, but; honestly, ceebs. Also, going to Shads purely to piss rather than

getting pissed feels wrong. Almost as wrong as the new location. Anyway, the old, shitty (ha) toilets built camaraderie. Many a time would a lock be broken, or toilet paper absent, causing us in the toilet to band together, pool our resources, and form life-long bonds. 5.5/10.

## General Library

I think everyone has been to these toilets at least once. It often smells that way. Despite this, I find these toilets oddly comforting. A nice oasis away from catching up on the years' worth of lectures I didn't attend. Also once cried about my dead dog here. If you want some privacy, head to the level 6 toilets,

which have their very own tiny staircase going up to them. Cool! 6/10 objectively, but, on a personal level, 7/10.

## General Library Basement

Poorly lit, and the hand-drying towels on the right-hand side are constantly broken. The only things I appreciate about these toilets are the size and location. Even so, there is often a line in-between lectures for this shithole. 4/10.

## Building Adjacent to Clocktower Which is Still Confusingly Named Clocktower on the Map

These toilets are the crème de la crème of UoA toilets. When people complain about uoa wilding out and spending money irresponsibly, this is what they mean. When people say they like the white marble home decor aesthetic, this is the inspiration. When I pee, I pee here. Widely spaced-out sinks, lovely full-length frosted windows; these toilets have it all. They are also usually empty. Considering bringing my friends in here to eat our \$5 vegan lunches if all the good spots outside are taken. The winner: 10/10.

## New Science Building

I really enjoy pressing the buttons on the doors to get to the ground-floor toilets here. And while I have never personally visited the upper level toilets, UoA Meaningful Confession no. #1809 said they were their favourite, and “really clean”. Said confession received many likes, so must be accurate. 9/10.

## Clocktower

Not a lot to say about this one. Cute. Vintage. A bit small and old, but, tiles! 7/10.

## OGGB

Yikes. My feelings are summed up in UoA Meaningful Confession #2093, which tells the sad tale of some poor soul trying to pee in the mens, but having to hold it so some students could finish their renegade tik tok dance. Not cool! Toilets are large, if a little sterile, cold, and gray, much like the students themselves who use them. 5/10.

## Engineering

Hard to say, seeing as the one time I stepped foot in this building, I felt a strong desire to leave. Come to think of it though, I did briefly pee in these toilets when I was forced to sit an exam in this building. Pretty standard experience. 6/10.

## Architecture/Conference Building

Seeing as the Arts faculty is perennially lacking facilities, I had some lectures in the distant architecture buildings last year. The toilets on the level where you walk in are very cramped and mildly gross. Also old. Shout out to the toilets down the stairs and to the right though. Although also a bit dank, I once took a satisfying, solitary shit here, which was nice. 5/10.

## Commerce A

Small, old, and unremarkable. Hand-dryer towels are annoyingly positioned above the sink, so you end up in someone’s way while trying to dry. 6/10.

## Law School

I have peed in many places here, but maybe I’ll save a full review for Verbatim. To summarise, if you want privacy, head to the hidden locker room toilets downstairs or the hidden stairwell ones in 810. For a more convenient pee, head to the right of the law school cafe. 6.5/10.

## Albert Park

These are a good mid-way point between Uni and Town. Ask yourself this though, do you hate yourself that much? Are things truly that desperate? Keep in mind that although the threat may loom large, the odds of actually pissing yourself are low. Have some self-respect, and get your ass to Genlib. 0/10.

## Guest Pee-er on unisex toilets:

*note: trans on campus are starting research into toilets on campus. About time!*

1. There’s no unisex toilet in Kate Edger.
2. No unisex toilet in the library.
3. There’s one in the new science building. Pro: very big and new, accessible. Con: lots of people in that area, user might feel uncomfortable going into it. And it’s not accessible after normal working hours.
4. There are three in the clock tower east wing. Highly recommended. Pro: v clean and not many people know of their existence. Con: not accessible after normal working hours.
5. Apparently there’s one in the biology building but I’ve never managed to find it.

**“Clocktower: Not a lot to say about this one. Cute. Vintage. A bit small and old, but, tiles! 7/10.”**

REMEMBER, WHERE  
YOU STAY TONIGHT  
IS WHERE YOU MUST

STAY FROM  
NOW  
ON

stay inside your  
bubble do not leave  
your bubble  
a global pandemic  
do not go  
outside

stay inside your bubble  
do not leave your bubble







# Fruit Picking

SHERRY ZHANG

I moved out of home into a really cute flat in Sandringham at the start of this year. The windows don't quite shut when it rains, there's no insulation, and it's very much a student flat. But I love it. I came home late from work on my second night here, and at 11:30 PM discovered a magical chai van. Chai Wala Bhai sits at the end of my street and Brother Chai always greets me with a smile. He is a staple in our community with his South Indian breakfast foods and late night tea hangouts around the van. The three cats who live down the road always greet me when I come home from uni. And our neighbour diagonally left always has the best music taste. It's a doof of jazz and funk, intermingled with our native bird call in the bush separating us.

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When self-isolation started mid-March, my flatmate Bronnie and I set a goal to go on runs (okay, walks) throughout the neighbourhood. A smart move so we didn't go for each other's throats in the middle of cabin fever.

This meant sprinting to keep a 2m radius around bike riders, dodging tennis matches across the white lines in the middle of the road, and nodding to the teddy bears keeping watch in the windows. However, as we always do, we got distracted and the first night brought us a large mirror we found on the curb-side. Wiped and disinfected of course, and now sitting in the lounge.

The second night we came home with a dozen feijoa, abandoned little ones from the ground. Bronnie had also yanked me to a stop and hoisted me up over the fence at the local Bowling Club to nick a couple of limes. "\$50 per kg!," she yelled, as I grabbed onto a fat round green punch of zest from the top of the tree. God that night's stir fry tasted extra special.

The third night, we abandoned the whole concept of trying to PB our 5 km run time. We set out with cotton bags, and went on a hīkoi through the neighbourhood.

I'd grown up with a feijoa, plum and orange trees in my childhood home, so that was my expertise. Bronnie on the other hand managed to spot all the fig, olive and lemon trees. I can't even begin to tell them apart, following her excited pointing with 'Huh? Where?' We'd teach each other which ones were ready, and which ones needed a bit more sun. And never more than just enough for us two. A bit of gentle trespass to nick the neighbours fruit never hurt anyone. Plus, we were still complying with all the guidelines of our government sanctioned walk.

It's a learning curve when you move into a new area, and it made me miss the familiarity of my childhood home: South Auckland and the North Shore. But onwards and upwards to exploring and building your personal map. That was one of my favourite activities. As a 7 year old, I'd spend hours memorising the garden. Ah Ma would show me all the nooks. I'd follow her to the park: Ah ma ready with an old kitchen knife to dig up baby bamboo shoots. She said my young eyes were better at

spotting them. And then we would then squat in the laundry room, her showing me how to peel the dry husk to reveal the supple tender bamboo in the middle.

I had little nimble hands too, so she would lift me up and get me to help her fill a crinkled reused Pakn'Save bag with kumquats in the trees surrounding the back of Browns Bay Foodtown. Jin Ju is best eaten fresh, or stewed and candied into a tea for coughs. I can tell you exactly which walkways around my childhood home had bushes of lavender, ju hua and bai he. Good for coughs and chills.

\*\*\*

As I shared this inherited knowledge with Bronnie, she was reminded of a book she had read about rongoā Māori by Rob McGowan. The mātauranga you gain from living, breathing, listening to the ngahere. Throughout the book, Pa Rob's reiterates that a person can only tell you so much. If you get to know the trees and the plants, they will tell you everything you need to know. And the importance of respecting the tikanga of rongoā Māori. For example, saying a karakia - whatever that means to you in your language - before harvesting.

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I used to cringe all the time when my mother would go on about Qi and traditional Chinese medicine. I wish I could just chuck back a Panadol and climb into bed when I had a cold. But you don't fight your Chinese Mother when she gives you foul smelling tea to wash it down. Stewed bitter dandelion straight from the garden (or the park near Sherwood reserve!). When I got a bleeding nose, it's because I'm 上火. My Qi is on fire, and I had to immediately eat green lentils and bai he. When I'm on my period, I have to drink go ji berries, ginger and date soup, being careful not to 着凉, and have too much cold Qi.

I didn't even realise I believed in all this until I moved away and lived in a house with people from different cultures. I used to scoff at everything my mother said to me, and now I've turned into her. I also tasted my own medicine when my flatmates started giving me turmeric

and milk for my cough.

Bronnie would go tramping with her granddad. He's originally from Aberbeeg, Wales but spent most of his life in the Wairarapa, and hunted deer in the ranges of the lower eastern North Island. He taught her that you could eat the ends of supple jacks, like asparagus. Also to look out for tutu as it's poisonous. And that a certain fine moss is an indicator of air quality. Oh and Bushman's friend is good toilet paper.

My Ba would take me to the markets, his parents (my grandparents) were sweet potato farmers/ theatre performers (thanks to the cultural revolution) and he taught me to pat watermelons to listen to their bellies. And oranges with the largest bum holes are the sweetest.

This is all knowledge passed down from generations.

When discussing generational knowledge and traditional medicine, it's important to note the Wai 262 report from the Waitangi Tribunal. This affirms the Crown's responsibility in respecting and supporting Māori knowledge and intellectual property. The connection to nature, and the connection rongoā practitioners have to the whenua.

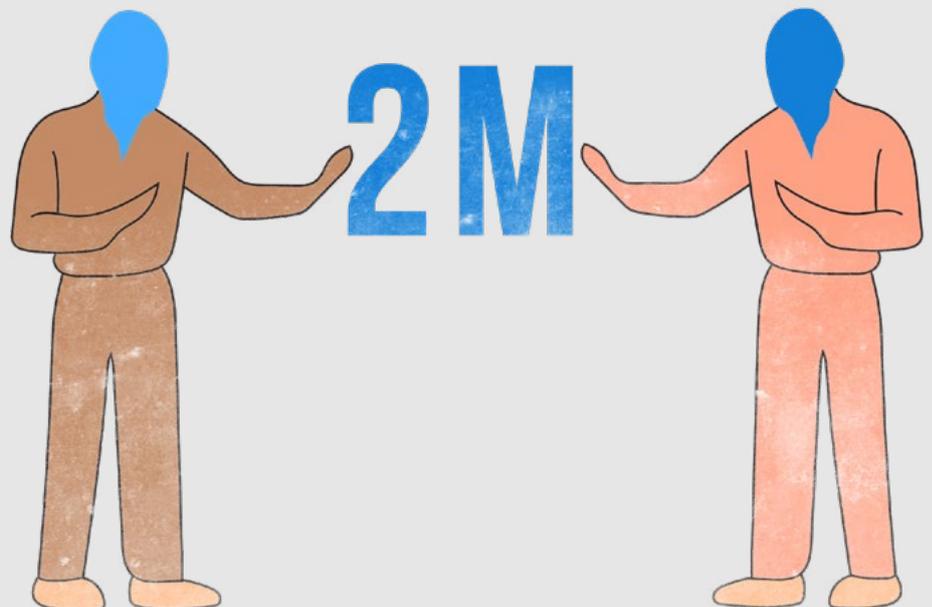
It makes me wonder about the place of big pharmaceutical companies exploring the Amazon rainforest, and the exploitation of indigenous knowledge for the 'greater good.' It makes me wonder about the highway the local government chucked through my family village shrine in Longyuan, Fu Jian. It makes me wonder about balance, and all the physical, cultural and spiritual parts that make up home.

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Even in writing this piece, I had to call my Ma for the names of the plants. I can recognise them from memory, from my walks with Ah Ma. As she rattled off the names, she also started chastising me and told me she found a lot of baiguo (really good for when you have yellow phelgm) in the bushes at Browns Bay carpark and they are drying in the sun.

"Can you come eat this weekend?"

I remind her of the rāhui in place. She asks if I'm eating fruit and vegetables and I tell her we've started curing our own olives. The whole process will take exactly four weeks. Maybe I can show her when it's ready?





@Juliaazhu

# 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?

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.



**CRUSHING JULIA JACKLIN**  
KATE MCLEOD

*Crushing* in name and nature, **Julia Jacklin's** second album was released in 2019. The album follows the lead up and fall-out to ending a long term-relationship. It is a reflection of sorts, a reflection of self, body and mind, and what it means to be both with and without someone. The sound of the alternative-indie rock album is premised on chilling clarity and vulnerability. Jacklin takes the most recognisable and micro moments of uncertainty and doubt, doused in all of it's complexity, and serves them to you in blistering couplets.

"Body" is the first of the album, a five minute long simmer that starts with leaving a humiliating lover that got her kicked off a domestic flight, and ends with an epic boil of claiming self and body. "Don't Know How to Keep Loving You", is a desperate plea to make a dying relationship work. Morphing and altering ourselves seems to be an easier task than breaking the heart of someone we love. At this point in the album it becomes clear things need to end. "Pressure to Party" was the first song I learnt on the guitar, so it is banned from being played in my flat. However, it follows the grudging re-entrance into dating life post-break up due to the pressure of well-meaning friends.

*Crushing* is a statement of self, it is both freeing and internalising. I wish I had discovered this album earlier. If you're looking for a message from the universe to end a crushingly-done relationship, this is it!



**SETUP NICHOLAS FRANCHISE**  
KATE MCLEOD

One of the few franchises not owned by Disney

Nicholas Franchise's debut album **Setup** makes for leisurely summer listening. It was brought into the world via his mum's shed in Ōtepoti/Dunedin, 2018. However, Franchise, and his smooth indie-rock-synth craft, only entered into my sphere at NestFest in January. Since then, **Setup** has repeatedly proved itself as a great company on my many pilgrimages between Tāmaki Makaurau and Te Tai Tokerau this summer.

It's an easy, relaxed, and fulfilling listen. Highlights include: *3:33 AM (One Too Many)* that happily takes you back to the time(s) you probably pushed the boat out a bit far on the kickcons front, and attending your 4-year-old cousins princess birthday party that same morning becomes a daunting task. *Like Each Other*, which was recorded in a Queenstown bathroom, is a swift indie-synth slap of 'oops, maybe I have fallen in love with my summer fling?'. And finally, *Victory* calls for reflection on all of the wonderful parts of your weird little life you've lived over the past couple of months. A perfect gift to the end of a precious summer. Overall, **Setup** is a dreamy and almost nostalgic listen, similar to that of Sam Wave and Joe Ghatt. Summer might be ending (unless the climate crisis keeps this heat up), but this sweet lil' Aotearoa number will remind you of golden warm days deep into the damp Auckland winter.



**LUCID - RAVEENA**  
KATE MCLEOD

Bathe me in the bloody river! *Lucid*, by **Raveena** is a journey of growth, strength, and self-love seduction. *Lucid* is Raveena's first album, and was independently released in 2019. Raveena Aurora is a child of diaspora; growing up in Queens, NYC, after her parents fled India in the anti-Sikh Riots of 1984. Openly bisexual, Raveena wants her experimental R&B-jazz music to create a safe, and honey-sweet space for all womxn. She tenderly explores the crossroads of identity in her independently released music, marrying her queer and South Asian identities.

Every track on *Lucid* carries you to a new independent visceral moment, thus making for tricky work picking my top three tracks. However, in order to write an on-time and above mediocre-recc, I managed to hastily select some. "Stronger" is my favourite from the album, never failing to remind me that I truly am my own magnificence. My holiness was never doubted in this lulling and silky awakening. "Mama" speaks to Raveena's mother's evolving resiliency and femininity, as an immigrant woman and wife in America - an ode to what is given up. And "Petal", the final track of the album, offers a sense of renewal and rejuvenation, in the ever-changing journey that is healing.

Overall, *Lucid* manages to bundle you up in silk, yet freeing you into the wind all at once.



Look, about Dawn. I'm sure she's a lovely person. I'm sure she wants the university to succeed. I'm sure Stuart McCutcheon probably would have been worse. But it has to be said - the constant flip-flopping between answers this year has pretty damn annoying.

It started with the compassionate consideration fees. First, the fees wouldn't be waived. And then they would be waived for some people. And then they would be waived for everyone. Except no, actually the university has decided they'll only be waived for some people in very specific circumstances. Then there was the graduation - it was going ahead in-person, and then it was definitely-going-ahead-in-person-no-matter-what, and then it was cancelled, and then it was online, and then it was actually back on sorry. (Of course, there were the constantly shifting in-person classes dates too. But these were more forgivable - Dawn can't control COVID.)

Then there were the controversies about Dawn's house (ICYMI: the uni effectively bought her a \$5 million Parnell mansion), Dawn's salary (she earns around \$750,000 a year; more than the Prime Minister), and the whole debacle around taking a payout (when other Vice-Chancellors were announcing they were taking pay cuts, and showing exactly how much they were cutting, Dawn simply said she had donated some of her money to the university, but refused to reveal how much she donated).

Having said all this, there have been some average moments mixed in with the shit. Students did get a grade bump in the first semester, at a time when no other university was doing that. The university did a pretty good job of getting laptops and other virtual learning equipment out to students who needed it to study online. They set up a student hardship fund and provided free meal packs to students who were financially impacted by COVID. So yeah, I guess it wasn't all terrible.

All in all, a solid C+. A lot of pretty shit moments mixed in with some average-to-good moments. Room for improvement.

## DAWN'S FIRST YEAR IN CHARGE

C+ - More flip flops than a jandal factory



Online learning sucks balls.

That's it. That's the whole review. Now fuck off.

...

...

Okay, fine, I'll keep going. On paper, online learning should have been alright. It's basically just the normal university experience (wake up, convince yourself you're going to class, fall asleep again, watch the recordings later) except with the first three steps cut out.

And yet, somehow, learning online during the lockdown was unbearably painful. Maybe it was because we *had* to do it that way. Maybe it was the lecturers trying - and failing - to operate a web camera. Maybe it was the constantly changing lecture release schedules. Maybe it was not being able to see any friends or classmates in person, or having to fight the urge to check Facebook all the time. Maybe it was Maybelline. Whatever the reason, learning online during the pandemic did not feel like watching lecture recordings normally - it sucked, and it sucked big time.

Normally at the end of these reviews we try to chuck in a couple of suggestions for people to check out if they liked what we reviewed. So, if for some reason you enjoyed online learning and want more of it (you sick bastard), here are some alternatives we think you might enjoy:

- Sticking your testicles in a french press and squeezing them
- Banging your head against a wall for twenty minutes
- Slapping a sunburn on your back until your eyes start to water

## ONLINE LEARNING

F- - See me after class.



Four bedrooms, three bathrooms, 708m<sup>2</sup>: described as 'elegant, relaxed, on trend, timeless and just so wonderfully liveable' - and no, we're not describing your student accommodation. The University of Auckland earlier this year purchased a five million dollar Parnell property. The plan: rent the mansion out to Vice Chancellor, Dawn Freshwater, to live in while also hosting swanky official university functions. And no, not the sort of university functions that Flametree caters.

Now, it would be easy to get mad at the university governance for spending five million dollars on a property for one of the highest paid public sector executives in the country. But how could we be mad when you look at those manicured gardens and the pool? And that kitchen! If you ever needed justification just look at the interior and the location, no wonder the university felt it appropriate to spend taxpayer and student funded money on this! The only problem: the university is going broke. Freshwater has now announced that she has recommended the university sell the property, all the while the Auditor-General has now started investigating exactly what the justification was for spending five million on the mansion.

Dawn, I'm sorry they're going to sell your mansion, but never fear, I think there's some room at Carlaw next year!

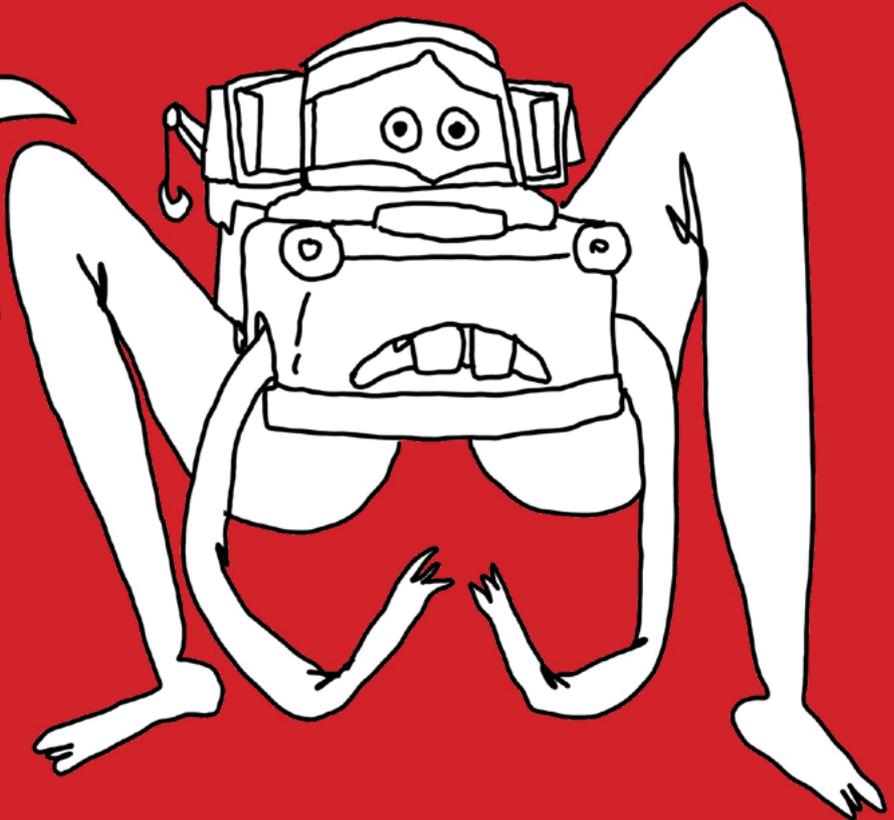
## THE FIVE MILLION DOLLAR MANSION

\$5,062,500/10 - Your fees paid for what?



Mater... what are we?

I... I don't know...



# Frightening McQueen: An Exposé on the Absurdities of the Cars Universe

OSCAR ZAMBUTO

*Oscar Zambuto shows that in the realm of Cars, terror is a highway, and eldritch abominations ride it all night long.*

At the time of writing, we are nearly halfway through an already frantic semester two, and I must say, I am losing sleep. Over what, you may ask? Never-ending political unrest and scandal? Living through one of the deadliest and most devastating economic crises of all time? The thought of having to turn up to yet another Zoom tutorial at 9am? The answer is, perhaps surprisingly, none of these. Instead, my insomnia which no number of Headspace Sleepcasts can cure, is caused by the nonsensical nature of the universe created by the 2006 Disney-Pixar smash hit, *Cars*. In a world where uncertainty is rife, Lightning McQueen and his stupid friends do little to assist. The franchise, which includes the much-maligned sequels of 2011 and 2017, throws up more questions than answers about biology, law, history, automotive intercourse, and the place of humans in the universe. Behold, a series of questions and observations which keep me up at night:

- In the *Cars* universe, it is shown multiple times that buses and taxis exist. However, the question must be asked – why? Whom are they transporting? Other cars, who can transport themselves? It is an undisputed point that humans do not exist in the *Cars* universe, so this renders sentient public transport completely redundant and utterly absurd. However, I propose that the public transport seen in the films are in fact relics from a time where humans once existed in the *Cars* universe, and what we are seeing on screen is in fact a post-apocalyptic world where cars have somehow acquired human sentience. Perhaps a 4<sup>th</sup> year engineering student got a bit too lonely on a Friday night and thought his Mum's Mazda Demio was looking mighty fine.
- In *Cars 2*, the viewer is confronted with a religious conundrum. In one scene, we see

the Car Pope in a procession, surrounded by adoring fans. Of course, any reasonable child watching at this point would think, "hang on a minute, surely the existence of a Car Pope implies Car Catholicism, and therefore Car Jesus?" Is there a suggestion of the two-tonne Car Jesus still being crucified on a wooden cross? Theologians, answer this question: did Honda Civic Jesus die for our sins, or our treads? Indeed, one may then ask, "what car would Jesus have been over 2000 years ago when the first combustion-powered car was built in 1876? Would he have been a horse-drawn carriage?" And, indeed, why does the Pope need to be transported in the Popemobile if the Pope himself is a car?

- In a similar vein, in the first film we are introduced to World War II veteran, Sarge. Now, if there was a World War II in the *Cars* universe, of course, any right-thinking person would infer the existence of Car Hitler and Car Stalin. Does the existence of *Planes* allow for the Japanese Empire's kamikaze pilots in-universe? Did Car Hitler commit the same atrocities and crimes against car-manity? Also, what does a war fought by cars even look like? A demolition derby?
- Biologically, the *Cars* universe makes no sense. How does reproduction work? Obviously, I have already hypothesised about the origin of automotive sentience, but how does a car come to be without a human agent? Why do they have teeth if they don't eat? If they have tongues and eyes, this implies the presence of all other organs in the cars' interiors. This begs the question, when Lightning McQueen gets a new paint job at the end of the first film, is this akin to getting a tattoo, or getting a new skin? Which appendage determines the biological sex of each car? Is getting a tyre change the

equivalent of a limb transplant, or potentially even a temporary amputation? I think, if I'm honest, I've overthought this one. Perhaps tyres are just shoes, and a car's paint job is just its outfit... but, if this is the case, when Lightning McQueen has to finish the race at the start of the first film with only three tyres, wouldn't this be extraordinarily painful since he's scraping the equivalent of his bare foot against asphalt at 250km/h?

- Next, I would like to consider the sports industry and legal frameworks of the *Cars* universe. In the first film, Lightning McQueen is brought to trial in a Car Court. Of course, the existence of an automotive judiciary implies the presence of an automotive legislature – a *carliament* of sorts. While we know nothing of car law outside of the Radiator Springs jurisdiction, this question remains unanswered. In terms of sports, Lightning McQueen is a professional race-car driver, right? WRONG. He is actually an endurance runner, as racing must be considered as the automotive equivalent of athletics. In line with this assessment, and returning to my first point about the assumption of human sentience, I also propose that Lightning McQueen's signature lightning bolt decal suggests that McQueen has acquired the life force of 20-time Olympic gold-medallist Usain Bolt. Ka-chow.

In conclusion, there remains a multitude of unanswered questions surrounding the absurdities of the *Cars* universe, but sometimes questions are better left unanswered. Does Lightning McQueen have a car insurance policy, or a life insurance policy? Does it even matter? Overall, it has been a *carthartic* experience expelling all of these thoughts, and hopefully I will be able to sleep at night without wondering if Lightning McQueen has a penis.



# Erotica: Ashley bloom me up

@ASHLEYBLOOMFANS

In spite of the open windows, the air is still, the neighbourhood quiet, the sounds of children playing on the streets long forgotten. It is the 20th of April 2020, and Aotearoa is on lockdown.

Nobody knows this better than I. Since the beginning of the nation's Covid-induced quarantine, I have completely abandoned myself to civil obedience; I wash my hands thoroughly multiple times a day, I don an N-51 mask if I am forced to leave the house (essential errands only), and, of course, most importantly of all - I tune in to Ashley Bloomfield's national health updates with almost religious ardour.

I am watching the man himself on television as we speak, his virile, concerned expression broadcast in high definition on my 50 inch screen. My eyes are fixed on his strong jaw, primed and ready to warn New Zealanders of the dangers of this global pandemic. His steely gaze seems to infect me like the virus he warns me against; his dirty blond hair is tousled, perhaps from the knowledge flowing through the brilliant mind beneath...or perhaps from something else entirely.

I hear a rustle from behind me as my sexy, sanitary little secret emerges from the hallway. A thrill travels down my spine at infectious speed as I listen to his footsteps shuffling ever closer, while simultaneously keeping my gaze fixed to the screen. That's right - I am part of Ashley Bloomfield's bubble, and we are about to play doctor like never before.

I turn slowly and there he is, a vision in hazmat. His feet are protected by blue plastic booties (single use), his handsome features hidden behind a state-of-the-art respiratory mask, but aside from these and a pair of nitrile gloves (size XL), there is nothing standing between my hungry eyes and the naked body of Aotearoa's Director-General of Health.

"Miss [REDACTED]", he murmurs in a soft yet commanding baritone, "in spite of our previous meetings, I still don't think you quite understand the gravity of the coronavirus pandemic. Please, allow me to explain a few basic health and safety parameters to you again."

The tingles in my spine begin to branch off, setting my whole body ablaze with lust. "Oh, doctor," I reply meekly, "please, show me the way."

Ashley steps forward, reducing the distance between us to well under the recommended two metres. "Miss [REDACTED]," he purrs, "do you think this is a suitable distance to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus?"

"I - I don't know," I whisper, hoping this will lead to the conclusion I've been yearning for all afternoon.

My prayers are answered as Ashley swoops me into his arms, depositing me with surgical precision onto the sofa. "Oh, Miss [REDACTED]," he breathes, "I see you are still a few handy informational memes away from fully grasping just how important physical distancing is."

With that, my medicinal man-beast arms himself with the proper prophylactic equipment (also size XL), and plunges into me like a deeply satisfying syringe. While the fear of coronavirus rages on outside, here, with Ashley, I know I am about to receive the only cure for what ails me.

Check out more art (G and M+ rated) on IG @Ashleybloomfans

# Interview with @Ashleybloomfans

## How did this instagram come about?

For a while, there was a mystery as to who Ashley Bloomfield was, I kept hearing the name referenced and was like lol who's this Ashley woman and if she's the queen of the MoH why is she never on tv. Then I realised it was the guy talking at 1pm and became absolutely obsessed with him. We decided to do some research seemed like he was woke as we loved his manner and thought we'd make a fan account as a fun joke. Also my flat has set a goal to try to achieve fame of some sort on one social media platform. I was going to go for tik tok but ashleybloomfans was more fun. We quickly got the whole flat and a couple of friends in other bubbles to get in on the page. Originally we painted the fan art ourselves and pretended it had been submitted by like small children in rural towns but then to our surprise real people started sending stuff in and we ended up having a backlog of fan art. People were gagging to paint the big guy. That's essentially what happened its been lots of fun and we've amassed a few followers much more than our original goal of around 10.

## Why Ashley? Why him?

Jacinda is frankly overdone. Ashley is so unassuming, he's almost handsome, he's like a very generic looking middle aged man with a weirdly bland sexiness. He reminds people of who they want their dads to have been and who they want their husbands to be sometimes too, very Freudian really. He's nice, he's respectful, he's calm, he's humble and he's doing his job well and he's patient answering questions. Yeah I think it's the humility competence combo that does it for me personally. There are also like a fuckload of middle-aged women who want to fuck him, this is become evident as we have run the Instagram. He's a good bloke! wholesome kiwi masculinity! he's great!

## There is quite a variety of fan art sent in about him: What have been some favs? What is the community like?

We will always really enjoy the nude, a lot of work went into it. We've loved the songs that have been written too; they've been awesome. Honestly the variety has really impressed us. We've had cross-stitch, pixel art, paintings, drawings all sorts of things. Its all been awesome. I'd like to see some poetry though.

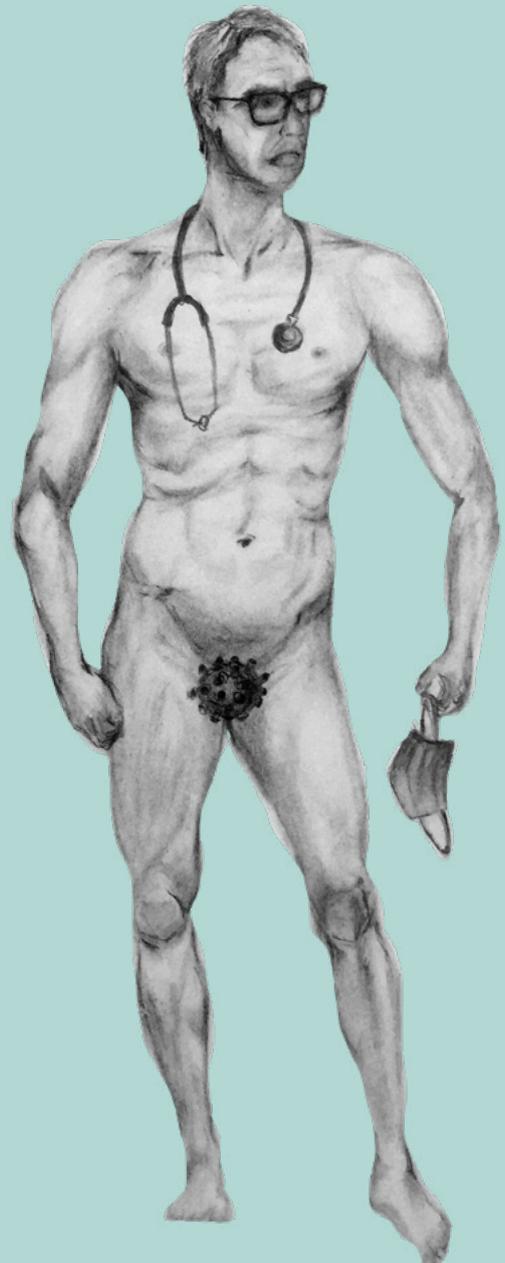
## Top tips for keeping well during lockdown <3

Lockdown is going to be different for everyone. We are incredibly lucky to be students in non-essential work in a flat of close friends. For us lockdown has been doing lots of fun stupid things that you can't do during normal times like fucking up your hair, doing a pub crawl through differently decorated rooms in your house, going on Omegle

etc. We've been trying to maintain a routine, our bubble has been doing exercise every morning together, eating together, doing activities every night. It's important to stay social, stay connected and pull in your social supports where possible I guess. These are not easy times at all. We are lucky to be able to make something fun out of it.

## Anything you'd like to add?

Up the essential workers we love you!





# Becoming a Sugar Baby on IMVU

LACHLAN MITCHELL

*Bored? Horny? Why not dust off your IMVU account and try it on with some freaky cyber daddies. Lachlan Mitchell shows you how. Or you could just get an Only Fans, I guess.*

So, we're in for the long haul. Miss Rona just hasn't taken her heels off our necks. Shit's fucked! Shit's getting locked up! You're getting locked down! And while the government has considered many things, from the supply chain of food to public transport being relegated solely to the needs of essential service workers, there is something the government has not considered. They may have taken the nation's alert level to Level 4, but they will need to be on Level 14 if this is not critically managed - picture Chernobyl, picture Fukushima, but localised entirely within your bedroom.

However, this is something they cannot regulate, something they cannot provide. I'm talking about safely engaging with your horny levels.

They will be rising. You will be in an enclosed space - if it applies, away from your significant other. Likely with family in relatively close quarters. Constantly. Your horny levels will be reaching pressure levels not unlike the stresses submarines feel in the depths of the ocean - you are but a passenger on Captain Nemo's *Horniness*. While it could be easy to simply resign yourself to the

monotony of Pornhub or Blacked.com or whatever your shit is, or scrolling through Instagram and absentmindedly fingering yourself to whatever #baddie does the trick for that session, maybe it's time to get a little inventive. A little niche, a little... pixelated.

And now, what I'm about to say won't be easy. But if you truly wish to escape the trappings of *ennui* that quarantine will rain down on us all, you will have to make some... moral adjustments. You will have to be a sick little freak. You will have to consider giving your devices a virus that will far outlast the

physical and economic impact of Miss Rona. But, like Virgil guiding Dante through the rings of Hell, I will be in your navigator in this realm of eternal punishment.

The Sims gave the world an opportunity to truly manipulate your surroundings, to exert your Ubermensch will on the world. Only the limits of Electronic Arts could constrain your vision. And without access to mods, EA constrained the possibility for horniness to levels that only mods could seek to fix. But The Sims gave our society a collective dream - to truly roleplay as a three-inch slim thicc pixelated bad girl with a gorilla grip pussy and a stable income. Or anyone with genitalia that gives off that sweet, sweet back of the PS4 warmth. Aslan once spoke of the Deep Magics 'from beyond the Dawn of Time' - IMVU and Second Life are from an era that has faded into a shared memory, but like the deep magics, have not disappeared from reach. With IMVU, I present you an option to truly manage your horny levels over the coming quarantine period, no matter how long it lasts.

As someone who spent most of their teen years gleefully scamming the monstrously lustful dwarven denizens of IMVU out of their credits, I am intimately familiar with the realities of that site, even more so now that the site has irreparably crumbled to resemble but a shadow of itself. IMVU was once the go-to for the curious and the bored, the desperate, the socially exiled. They all moved on to greener pastures, or went to prison. Those that remain are... changed. They have not seen the light - they were born in it, molded by it. But they are who run IMVU now; the koreaboos, the furies, the sado-masochists unable to find physical satisfaction with traditional implements. They scraped up the bones of their forebears, and built a calcified empire out of what was left behind. They, above all, are the true guardians of horny.

'Okay, you've sold me. I'm that kinda *freak freak*. But should I proceed?' However you wish. But you will need finances. Very few will so much as talk to an avatar that isn't utterly dripping in garishly rendered stripperific fits, nor will they even consider approaching one lacking H-cup milk wagons or an atrociously lengthened & pixelated magnum cock. But

you do not need to pay. That's too easy. Rather, there are far more *active* ways of attaining wealth. I recommend you listen to *Next Level Charli* for this part.

1. With the minimal free credits IMVU sends your way after making an account, find an outfit that reveals as much as your non-Adult Pass account will allow you to do. I recommend knock-off Versace.
2. Find a chatroom that serves any fetish you may be interested in, or one with crowds you think will be particularly desperate for human (or non-human) interaction.
3. Idly chat, or as is far more likely, roleplay with the Nazgûl that walk these halls. Invariably, one of them will make their character walk up to you, even if you look like poverty, and will remark on your beauty. Also invariably, they will either ask you to follow them to a part of the chatroom where you can dance to a horribly degraded MP3 of Super Bass, or they will invite you to their avatar's private room for 'more lol :).
4. Sit down, and talk about yourself, or your character's backstory. Whatever works. Send them a friend request out of the blue. Get them close. While they are incredibly horny, they are surprisingly receptive to the 'hooker with a heart of gold' trope. Say you'll click on the fuck animations in a minute, but you just want to feel special, and really look like someone that'll satisfy their needs. Or, y'know, "haha I wanna fck but my av is Not looking very sexy.....". If it sounds too easy, it's because it *literally* is.
5. Now, some of them will offer to gift you the clothing directly. If that works for you, good. But we're not Holly Golightly - we want our own money, our own resources. Describe what you want, and slowly work up to asking them for the credits to buy it. Go for something around

1-1.5k in credits, or about \$2.00 in NZ currency. Talk about whatever their fetish is - if they're a furry with a butt plug so deep in their arse that they haven't farted in a moon cycle, talk about it. As I said earlier, you're going to have to make some adjustments to your life.

6. Once they're suitably horny, and you don't think they've cum yet, go for the final push. Ask them to gift you the credits so you can buy what you want, and a little more to surprise them. If this sounds too easy, *it literally is*. Only one of every 20 marks is ever wise enough to call you out, so you'll likely be fine. Once the credits have been wired to your account, leave their chat and block them. You're done. You've succeeded.

For what it's worth, when they're not the kind of sicko that solely wants to spit on you and make you submit to their six-frame 'pissin' on your azz' animation, most of them are relatively nice people. You might feel guilt. However, it's just business. Do you want to feel guilt, or do you want to feel *hot*? Until this gets too much, repeat the six steps ad nauseum. It almost always works. I won't guide you on what to do once you are satisfied with your clothing collection, or you have attained enough credits to become the target of another dear reader. What chatrooms you peruse in order to get what you need, that's your business. I'm just here to hold the door open for you, to sell you on the premise of being a little more than what horny whispered into your ear previously.

On IMVU, you can be anyone you want to be. But many games sell you on that premise. What is unique to IMVU is not what you want to be, but what you're willing to do in order to cum. If you're willing to mess around in the polygon polyamorous hell-dungeons of stink, flesh and sweat known only to the pigs from 2001's *Hannibal*, then you have entered a new plane of being that no level of quarantine can take away from you. Safe travels, voyager. We'll see you once the lockdown is lifted.



# 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 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.

# Outfits of UoA

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY AND CAMERON LEAKEY

*This week, Resident Fashion Icons™, Cameron Leakey and Madeleine Crutchley, break down the style guide for each faculty.*

Okay look, you couldn't exactly call last semester's study outfits a fashion show. In fact, you could barely call them 'clothes.' We were mostly rolling out of our beds at 5 to the hour, chucking on the nearest clean (?) T-shirt and pretending our webcam wasn't working for the Zoom lecture so we didn't have to show our Bedhead. We thought this semester would be different. It started out this way. But well, now we're here. The On-campus fashion show should resume soon so get ready for it with your guide to the Outfits of UoA:

**Science:** We aren't going to lie and say you all dress like geeks. It would be easy to pick up on some classic Computer Science tropes and suggest you all dress like you're on *Young Sheldon*, but we know this isn't true. Science is just normal style. A nice shirt and jeans. Inoffensive and forgettable. Accessorise by draping your lab coat over your arm and buying a colourful jansport backpack. Bonus points for a grey zip up hoodie.

**Engineering:** Hallensteins Chic is your style persona. Sneakers with Jeans! No problem. Ladies love it. That's what that one shop assistant told you, and your mates all dress like this so it must be cool. You just look extremely sensible, which isn't exactly a bad thing! It speaks to your character - head in the books.

**BONUS:** A premade *Look Sharp* costume for any of your famous steins. A bold choice for you.

**Arts:** Four words. Little shirt, big pants. But it's not just the clothes that make this look. You must be coated in stolen girlfriend's club rings, clasping a keep cup in your jittering hands and sporting some endearing undereye circles. You're likely aiming for the effortless look, but have actually revealed your internalised need to meet classic beauty standards through the overly constructed and tryhard vibe you're putting out. It's very likely that the things you own ARE from chain stores, but you're great at hiding the fast fashion tags with your beige tote bag.

**Law:** Boardroom casual is the name of the game. You're not stuffy and formal enough yet, but you dress to impress. Collared shirts, jeans, boots. Always a nice coat. Sometimes you venture into sweater territory. Often your style is flavoured by your Conjoint.

**Fine Arts:** Did you buy that at the mall? Oh hell no! Gross. To dress the part, you must have hit up K Rd, found your assortment of alternative recycled fashion and then hit up SaveMart to find some more. Old patterns, big jeans and white pumas. Bonus for chain necklaces and vaguely vintage jewellery. Every now and then, a piece of your wardrobe will have a strategic bit of paint laid across it. One day, you hope, someone will ask you about it.

**Education/Social Work:** Channeling the energy of your fave Primary School teachers, everything is fun and funky and looks a good few years too old for you. You're mostly practicing the modest dress sense you'll have to abide by when you land a job. You often sport a bit of a wildcard for your accessory; big statement earrings, colourful sneakers or a watch made for children. Sometimes placements have you getting pretty run down, so you're part of the faculty most likely to don sweatpants on campus. Don't worry, the authoritative vibe you put out draws attention by itself.

## Grafton Kids: (Med, Optom, Pharmacy)

A wide variety of styles. Just like the wide variety of medical specialities! Most Grafton kids are dressed well. Though as the years go on and your clinical years get closer, we see a shift to White Coat Chic. Think of what your GP might wear. Thermometers and Stethoscopes are your greatest accessories.

**Business:** Are all business students heading to the gym at the end of lecture? Or have they just dropped by class after a session. OGGB is filled with people dressed in basketball shorts and workout tights, cuddled by hoodies and Kathmandu jackets to beat the ice winds flowing through the basement. Occasionally, the sea of wannabe fitness influencers is parted by the Moses of Business School; people dressed in white collars and dress pants, carrying briefcases to class, most likely on their way to the MCC Case competition.

**Music:** The paths diverge a little here. One group of the music kids is filled with the students who are really, really focused on perfecting their craft. They keep it casual, with well-fitting jeans, t-shirts and a warm jacket. Most of the time they're quiet and kind, and can be distinguished by their large Cello case. The other group don big t-shirts, big pants and Nikes, casually carrying their guitars around

campus. They're more interested in the label of 'music major,' making people mixtapes and introducing their romantic interests to 'bands you've probably never heard of.' Some of the best dressers and biggest heartbreakers on campus.

**Architecture:** Hands down. Best dressers. End of story. Well put together, with classic and timeless silhouettes. We're most likely already in love with you. Are we thinking of Ted Moseby? Joseph Gordon Levitt in *500 Days of Summer*? Probably. Whatever, if you're an Architecture student with pretty hands and a good sense of style, you're probably the hottest person on campus. Flick Maddy an email ;)

## Bonuses

### The Dunedin Transfer:

Listen, we get it. You went to Duffers to escape your family, grow your social circles and attempt to study Med. Unfortunately, your plan has fractured due to mingling with the South Island's worst and binge-drinking, and you've ended up at the much less rowdy UOA campus. But, that is not an excuse to wear your Huffer hoodie, Speights shirt and dirty jeans to campus. This is Auckland City baby. It's time to adapt, strut your stuff down Symonds St and create a more positive relationship to uni. You got this!

### The Influencer:

Sometimes, you'll catch a glimpse of someone looking too immaculate on campus. They just look a little more expensive, a little too calm and collected. They sport minimalist clothes from NZ made brands and shoes that actually look like real leather. Do they model? Do they make money on Insta? Do they just have rich parents? Do they even go here??

### Struggling Through Exam Szn:

Is that a t-shirt with an abstract pattern, or did you spill your Subway sauce while scarfing down a sandwich at lunch? The exam look is not exactly a 'look,' it's more of a mobilization of your dirty laundry pile. It just means you're responsible! You've sacrificed all methods of self-care and turned into a note-reciting zombie to try and achieve a B+ in your gen ed course. Well done! This 'fit is best complemented with angry glares at anyone who seems to actually have their shit together.

## a conversation

my mother is not the type  
and to soften  
fluffy with concern  
each state is only a  
dip into another  
to be over  
they bled during childbirth  
told her to be quiet  
reinforced the division of  
from propriety  
son  
from solace  
trying to hold up  
I never understood this  
saw her coolness as  
grasped how  
lines deeper than  
away until  
felt myself feeling nothing  
an attempt at survival

to witness crying  
to rush over  
because she knows  
liquid  
she sits there and waits for it  
like how she bit her lips until  
because the nurse  
how years of family  
expressiveness  
daughter from  
solitude  
holding a book from  
the world.  
divide always  
distance never  
childhood grafts  
a well of years can wash  
last week when I  
in order for something to pass  
in lieu of feeling the edges

modi deng

# Summer Nostalgia



A photo collection by Flora Xie @floraescent

Models @shannon\_horne\_ and @marliesgoubitz









# THE BEST OF WHO ASKED YOU?

Welcome to Craccum, where we put the "agony" in "agony aunt." We're not qualified to deal with your problems, but neither are you.

**What's your favourite way to cooks potatoes?**

Would you ask Shakespeare to choose between his plays? Would you ask Scorsese to choose between his films? Would you ask Stan Lee to keep only one of his superheroes? Would you force Queen to burn all but one of their albums? Was Sophie's Choice a comedy to you? Do you delight in causing other's mental torment, leaving them desolate and broken as you have forced them to throw away their beloved?

That said, mashed.

**Help, I think Craccum's Agony Aunt makes up their bs submissions.**

Did I answer your question, or did I send this to myself? You'll never know for sure. I hope it keeps you awake at night.

**How do I focus on my online lectures? Please help me, every time I sit down in front of my computer I somehow end up on Club Penguin. I would literally rather cut my hand off than write my essay about media consciousness in contemporary sci-fi. It's due in thirty minutes. I'm literally begging you, my degree is on the line.**

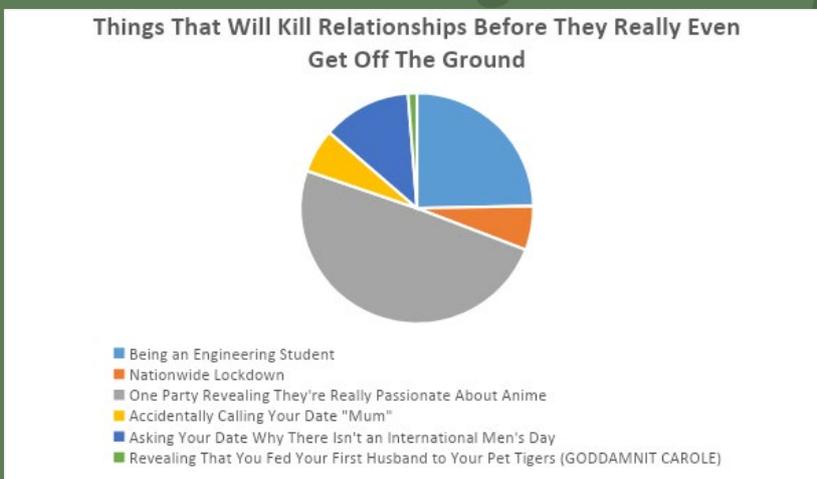
This question is from me. I wrote it. For the love of God, someone help me.

**"Wouldn't Change a Thing" is the best song from the Camp Rock series. Yes or no?**

You come into my house. You leave your shoes on. You eat my homemade pumpkin pie. You have the gall, the audacity, to slander Introducing Me. You look me dead in the face, on my private property, and suggest that This Is Me is inferior. You tell my children that Can't Back Down is a sub-par entry into the Camp Rock discography. You heavily imply that 2 Stars was written by an illiterate toad. And then, when you've had your fun, you take a moment to spit right in the face of Here I Am as you leave my home. You stole my silverware, you craven, festering ooze of a man.

I cannot fathom the brazenness, the unmitigated CHUTZPAH of your question. Never speak to me or my son ever again. You are blacklisted from Craccum and no longer permitted to read our publication.

**I've slid into a stranger's DMs during lockdown, but we're running in circles in conversation because we can't meet up. What should I do?**



As you can see, your situation is on the list. Therefore, you have to just wait it out until all this is over. No way can you get to know someone via DM in the middle of a pandemic. Patience, padawan.

# the people to blame.

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