

CRACCUM

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT MAGAZINE SINCE 1927

ORIENTATION



**LAW/BUSINESS
FACULTY MERGER**

Written by Te Hira

SHIT 2 DO

Written by
Lewis Creed

**FROM STUDENT TO
STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

Written by Amelia Orr



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THANK YOU!

WELCOME BACK TO THE MADHOUSE!

FROM CRACCUM'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



HARRY SUTTON

Hello, and welcome to 2025! My name is Harry Sutton, and I am your Chief Editor for Craccum 2025. Around for the ride is my Managing Editor, Lewis Creed, and Digital Manager, Lee Li. We are so excited and ready for this year. And we want to hear from you. Tell us about your drunk stories, your achievements and your hardships. Whatever comes across our desk, we will be reporting it. We are committed to being your voice.

2024 is long in the rearview mirror.

After a brat summer and spending New Year's in the pouring rain and mud at Rhythm and Vines, it's time to go back to spending half an hour looking for a seat in the general library, spending twenty dollars at Munchy mart for a single bag of chips and spending over three hundred dollars a week on rent for a windowless room in Grafton. Welcome back to the classic University of Auckland experience. Did you miss it? Well strap in for another year in the madhouse! And if it's your first year here, this issue is jam-packed with stuff to help you find your way around our madhouse: even our centerfold is a map!

So, what is your student magazine going to look like this year? Craccum will be a little different, with fewer printed issues coming out than in previous years but still publishing your fun and not-so-fun student stories. This year we want to focus on

those stories of real students' lives and what really happens at our prestigious university. Whether its people jumping into Albert Park fountain and going for a swim over the weekend or our student-athletes representing the university proud. We will keep you covered on everything student-related! We will also keep you informed about AUSA and what they are doing in their sphere, like events they are running and their decisions that will affect you as a student, something that hasn't been done before.

office, which is just above the quad, go a few floors up and next to 95bFM is our office. It might be quite hard to find with not a lot of signage, but we are there!

So, all that aside, what is happening this week at the university? It's O-week! The week that memories are made for probably the wrong reasons. Like waking up with an extraordinary hangover next to a complete stranger. There are so many different key events going on, like the famous

Alfred Street party with artists such as Drax project and Messie, this is an event that you won't want to miss. Along with that, the Clubs Expo will be running this week, where there is everything from the Chess Club to the Roleplaying Club, there is a club for you to find (and exploit for free pizza!)

We are so excited for what this year has to offer for Craccum and our move to slow on-line over the year to get more stories out daily,

a stronger emphasis on the student voice, and just some light-hearted funny stories that will hopefully give you some joy and escape from the crazy world we live in. I will speak to you guys soon and looking forward to hearing some of your crazy stories.

Harry



But possibly the biggest change coming to Craccum this year is we are making the slow move over this year to a brand-new online website: www.craccum.co.nz. One that you can actually use on your phone, providing content on the weeks when we're not publishing printed issues. You will always have something new to read on there, every day and it will be constantly updated with the latest news. Don't worry; we still have our



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

AUSA

GABRIEL BOYD | AUSA PRESIDENT

Kia ora, and welcome back to UoA for 2025!

My name is Gabriel Boyd, and I'm thrilled to serve as your 2025 Te Rōpū Kahikatea (TRK) Auckland University Students' Association (AUSA) President!

2025 will be a fantastic year, with Campus finally bouncing back from the lockdowns. Our job is to catalyze this renaissance and take it in our stride. I promise we won't let you down.

TRK AUSA is your student association on Campus, centered around the three pillars of Experience, Support, and Voice. It's our job to ensure y'all have the time of your life here at UoA while helping you when you need it and constantly fighting for the student body.

What to know

O-week is here, and so is our Alfred Street Party! We'll have loads of activities on the City Campus Monday-

Wednesday, and on Thursday, we're at Grafton! To add to the excitement is the Alfred Street Party, with Drax Project, Coterie, Messie, and more! The party sells out quickly, so if you don't have a ticket by now, you better get one soon.

We're also running six themed weeks alongside some of your favorite university clubs around Campus. Sports Week, Arts Week, Pride Week, International Cultures Week, Womensfest, and Politics Week.

If this all sounds like a bit of you, follow our Instagram page @ausa.uoa to keep up to date on everything happening.

In summary: my favorite mantra about university life is that 'you get out what you put in.' There are two main paths you can take in your university life. You can watch your lecture recordings from home and still get fine grades. Theoretically, with some degrees, you can never step foot on Campus but still graduate with all your qualifications.

There's nothing wrong with that style, and I know that with commuting times and work, you may need to prioritize other aspects of your life over coming into the city.

But I recommend you still try. If you take the second path and attend your classes in person, join clubs, and hang out on Campus, you'll have a much more memorable time and meet some incredible people.

Ultimately, you have the power to dictate how your time at university goes. Push your boundaries, say yes to opportunities, and open yourself up to meeting new people, and you'll look back at your time here as the best time of your life.

Remember, TRK AUSA is always here for you throughout your time studying. The house is always open, so walk in and say hi sometime. You won't regret it :).

See y'all around,

Gabriel

Whakarongo Mai: What does AUSA actually do?



IRENE PARSAEI

Everyone knows what AUSA is. Or, at least they think they do. It's the big house on Alfred Street with the blue signs, and nobody seems to ever go in or come out. AUSA handles a lot of different matters regarding student life on campus, but do UOA students *actually* know what their association does?

A poll, completed by 26 UOA students shows that 27% (7 people), indicated that they knew, while the remaining 73% (19 people) did not.

The students were then invited to express what they knew about AUSA, and what they thought could be improved on for the upcoming year.

ART BY LEWIS MATHESON CREED

"I know that AUSA hosts a bunch of events around campus, but I can't really participate in any of them because of my distance to uni. A lot of the activities I see hosted are during the night (for instance pub quizzes), which makes it difficult for me to get home without it being midnight or later. They could possibly do more daytime activities, or expand events over multiple days?"
- Lawrence, Business

"I know what AUSA does, but I think the most major thing is to make sure the first years know, since they're usually the ones who need it most. They make a lot of posts on social media, but social media only works if people know about it and follow it already. There needs to be more in person engagement with students."

- Arav, Psychology

"I had a vague idea of what AUSA did, but they have a lot of other services, and things they deal with that I would never have known about if a girl at student hubs didn't tell me. I think it would be really useful to other students if they knew more about it."
- Vera, Classics and English

(After voting 'yes' on the poll) "It feels like a Catch-22. People don't care for the AUSA as they feel it's not their voice, and people think of it as more of a club. In order to gain the attention and interests of students it needs to start being more outspoken and say what students feel, which of course is difficult when students don't engage with it. They need to do something to get people talking and engaged."

- Jude, History and Politics

"I used to know what they did, but I've lowkey forgotten everything about AUSA."

- Anonymous, Computer Science

(Author translation: Maybe they need to be more memorable in the way they present information.)

Whakarongo

MAI



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EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE LAW/BUSINESS FACULTY MERGER

AH SHIT, HERE WE GO AGAIN...



TE HIRA MAYALL-NAHI

The University of Auckland has been undergoing a myriad of changes to staff and organisational structure the past year, the latest being the proposal to merge the Law School and School of Business & Economics. This poses a huge potential impact on students and staff as there is the potential to restructure courses, changes in faculty focus, and possible changes to support services. Initially proposed by Vice-Chancellor Dawn Freshwater, the merger has been met with a lot of questions and concerns from students, staff, and even external organisations.

This merger was initially proposed on November 12th, 2024 – 6 weeks before the university closed for the summer, but after most students had clocked out for the summer. Submissions were open until January 20th, 2025, with a senate discussion to be held on February 24th, and then a Council meeting on March 17th. The biggest theme that seemed to stand out from responses to this was the lack of consultation with those that would be involved and affected by this merge. If this decision moves forward, new faculty will be made into effect from the beginning of Quarter 3, 2025 (June 23rd).

The proposal follows the finalisation of two other faculty mergers in 2024, which saw the splitting up of the Faculty of Creative Arts & Industries into

the Faculty of Arts & Education and the Faculty of Engineering & Design. The news of another merger was, as expected, just as unsettling. With confirmed reductions in the number roles and also allowing voluntary redundancies, the faculties have been pushing to keep what they can. The new faculties are currently in their transitional period which will last until April.

WHAT IS IN THE PROPOSAL?

The Law School will separate into two departments: Public Law and Private Law. Public Law will focus on Criminal law, Environmental, Indigenous, and International. Private Law will cover the areas of Commercial Law, Corporate law, Intellectual Property, and Technology. Due to Private Law containing courses around Commercial Law, the department of Commercial Law from Business School will be merged with Law School. The UOA staff Q&A added to its article on this matter on November 21, 2024, that “Establishing two departments would ensure academic staff receive the necessary mentoring

and support”. This brings forward the question of how staff are being supported in their faculties already, and does this merger allow for people to grow professionally or will they be stifled with more workload?

These departments of Public and Private law will have a head of department, one of whom will be the Dean of the Law School, and the other will be Deputy-Dean. Under the proposal, the Dean of Law will then be reporting to the current Dean of Business & Economics, Professor Susan Watson, whose teachings focus on Commercial Law.

This proposal, found on the UOA News and Opinion page (24/01/2025), follows a line of reasoning in that it “...would allow [the university] to streamline resources and support structures, aligning more closely with other faculties in size and capacity”. When you remove the corporate jargon of this sentence, it actually alludes to a more practical and ideal sense of efficiency. By combining both faculties, they are looking at making them similar in size to the other merged faculties. Efficiency is often the main benefit associated with most mergers, we must question



whether this goal reflects the best interests of the students and staff, or if it's a convenient cover for potential budget cuts and job reductions.

While mergers between university faculties isn't uncommon, it's important to note that most of these are driven by financial pressures or even some efforts to consolidate resources. These changes do still remain controversial though as they can easily lead to course restructuring and staff layoffs. It would also be remiss of our reporting if we didn't mention the Law and Business Schools merger that was proposed by Freshwater, and Paul Johnson, at her previous university, the University of Western Australia. This proposal worked towards saving the university approximately \$40m, as part of a university wide consolidation. This merger was later undone in 2020. Given this is an example of a previous merger that didn't work successfully, it's interesting to consider why this proposal is now being considered for UOA.

THE PROPOSAL'S RECEPTION

The University's proposal has sparked significant online attention and discussions, with some contributors including *Radio New Zealand*, *We Are The University* (UOA activist group), and *Reddit's* good old *r/universityofauckland* thread.

One

side of the merger had a larger presence and voice when it came time to publicly speak on their opinions. The legal community seemed to show the most resistance to this proposal, with some of the most notable responses coming from the *Criminal Bar Association* and the *New Zealand Law Society*. Some common themes that showed up in responses were the impact on the law school's reputation, the lack of clarity of the private and public law departments, and the lack of evidence or data that shows this is needed and will work.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS FOR THE LAW/BUSINESS MERGER

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

Initial proposal for the merger announced

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Staff Q&A added to the UOA news article

DECEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025

Period for submissions opens and closes

JANUARY 20, 2025

Deadline for public submissions

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Senate discussion

MARCH 17, 2025

Council meeting to finalise decision

JUNE 23, 2025

Proposed start date for the new faculty structure

It was difficult to find an article or response from someone who works within the Business School online. If there is a response, I will gladly hear it and report on it. But until that happens, I will air my questions here. Why the radio silence? This absence of commentary doesn't help to ease the minds of students and staff, leaving further questions about the impact on the internal organisation and course structures. What help can students ex-

pect from their current faculty when navigating this merger? What effect will this have on those currently studying and their degrees?

Student voices online, especially those on *r/universityofauckland*, are quite attuned to the idea that this merger is driven mainly by financial considerations. So the question here would be - is it? And if cutting costs is the central point to this merger, who does this serve? Is it for staff wellbeing, student education enrichment, stakeholder and investor interest, or broader institutional goals?

In the lead up to this article, I reached out to staff members from both schools either on their submissions or for a comment. I was even able to receive a comment from one of the University's media advisors which reads: "The University is reviewing the submissions received from staff, students and stakeholders in the consultation process, which closed on 20 January. The University will not be commenting further until all feedback has been considered". This was the consensus across the board from all contacts. While I understand the sensitivity at the current point of this process, it does call to question if the timing was in some way strategic to be able to give no comment in the week where students return or start their studies.

While the University continues to read through the submissions and prepare for the council decision meeting, the UOA community will be left wondering whether the merger will continue ahead or if their concerns will be enough to stop it. We've already undergone the mergers of Arts, Education, and Creative Arts, and Engineering, Design, and Architecture. Do we need to keep thinking even further ahead at the possibilities of what might become of the Faculties of Science, and Medical and Health Sciences? For now, we wait.

HARRY'S BI-WEEKLY SPORTS RECAP!

CURATED BY CRACCUM'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



HARRY SUTTON

Alright, it's time for the Editor's Bi-Weekly Recap of the top sporting events of the last two weeks. Sport has always been a passion of mine, and I understand that Craccum hasn't always promoted or written about it in recent years, so here we go breaking new ground!



UOA VS AUT O'WEEK CHALLENGE

First off, our top university men and women's 3x3 basketball teams, volleyball teams are going to playing ech other on Friday March 7th at our brand-new recreation centre. It starts at 11am and goes till 5pm. Its free entry and giving out free food so go along enjoy some live sport during O-week! Now back to my top sport stories from the last two weeks.....



PROMPTS FOR THEM, AUCKLAND FC'S CAPTAIN HOROKI SAKAI CELEBRATES AS HIS SIDE SCORED AGAIN.

AUCKLAND FC AND THEIR DOMINANCE OF THE PHOENIX.

Phoenix fans, I would look away from this story. After losing all the New

Zealand derby games and Wellington having the down season that they are having, this was a must-win game for them. What transpired on the field was far from it, it was an onslaught of goal after goal after goal for the home side Auckland FC.

Neyder Moreno, one of Auckland's mid-fielders, scored a hat trick to open the scoring, and then the goals poured on and on. The final score was six to one. The third-biggest defeat in Wellington Phoenix's history. Auckland now sits comfortably at the top of the A-league ladder, and Wellington sits in 11th and is now in danger of missing the playoffs for the first time since 2022. It's going to be an uphill battle for the Phoenix, but it's still possible for them to reach the playoffs.



USA V CANADA: CONNOR MCDAVID CELEBRATES AS HIS SIDE WINS 3-2 IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.

CANADA BEATS THE USA FOR THE INAUGURAL FOUR NATIONS FACE-OFF CHAMPIONSHIP IN AN OVERTIME THRILLER

"You can't take our country, and you can't take our game." That was the post on X from Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, after they won the first four nations face-off championship. This was one of the most significant games of ice hockey in recent history and it lived up to it. With all the political conflict and drama that has been going on

between these two countries and the USA even coming out and beating them just a week earlier in the round-robin, Canada had to respond, and boy, they did.

The game went back and forth, and after three periods of close hockey, the game went to overtime. Chants of "USA! USA! USA!" rained down in TD Garden in the hope that it would get the American side to win, but Canada's goalie, Jordan Binnington, made save after save to hold the score at 2-2. Finally, the best player in the world of ice hockey, Connor McDavid, fires a shot into the back of the net deep into the first overtime period.

Winning the game and the championship for Canada. After all the tariffs imposed and Trump talking about taking Canada and making it the 51st state. This wasn't a normal championship win, it was a win for the country and in this dark time in Canada, a light for the country to rally behind and celebrate and for a moment, forget about the negativity that they have faced for the last few weeks.



HIGHLANDERS' VS BLUES: FINN HURLEY IN THE OPEN FIELD IN ONE OF HIS MANY OPEN RUNS.

AFTER TWO ROUNDS OF SUPER RUGBY, IS IT BACK ON THE RISE?

The first two rounds of super rugby couldn't have started any better, with

close games such as the Brumbies just edging past the Western Force in a 45-42 thriller in Canberra, high-scoring action such as in the Chiefs beating the Crusaders 49-24 in Hamilton. (Still not very happy about that game due to my Crusaders bias, anyway, moving on.)

The biggest story and event from these first two rounds though was played in the mighty heart of South-land in Dunedin. Before the match, the Dunedin faithful honoured Connor Garden-Bachop, a member of the Highlanders who tragically passed away just last year. Both sides did a haka in his honour. It was a special moment for Connor's brother who was at the game.

That was the scene set for the game. After 60 minutes after hard fought rugby, the game was on a knife edge, with the Highlanders leading 23-21, but then the Highlanders found themselves in a hole, with a yellow card and injuries they were down to just 13 men for the rest of the match.

The Blues threw everything, including the kitchen sink, at the Highlanders, desperate for their first win of the 2025 season. But time after time, the Highlanders held their line and kept the Blues from scoring for the last 20 minutes.

When the full 80 minutes were up, the Highlanders had won 29-23. It was their first win against the Blues in four years and a game and a win that the Highlanders will remember for a while. Overall, more fans are back in the stadium, more action-packed games in this early season. I would say that Super Rugby Pacific is back and better than ever.

And that is all the sport for one issue. Don't worry this will return next issue and with the brand-new website being created, our News Co-Editors and I will drop more sports news soon.

CLUBS -ON- CAMPUS

CHECK OUT THESE THREE COOL CLUBS ON CAMPUS,
COME BACK FOR NEW CLUBS EACH ISSUE.



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AND ALPINE CLUB
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EVENTS



SCORE TICKETS TO SOME AAF'S MOST MIND-BLOWING PERFORMANCES FOR \$30 FOR UNDER 30S AT AAF.CO.NZ!



a mixtape for maladies

(4-23 MARCH, ASB WATERFRONT THEATRE)

The songs we connect to our memories just hit differently. Ahilan Karunaharan, hands down one of our finest theatremakers, has picked 17 nostalgic pop tracks to chart the deeply moving journey of Sangeetha and her family in 1950s Sri Lanka. Taking us from innocent times through to decades of civil war, to a new life in modern-day Aotearoa, this unforgettable saga is a testament to the storytelling power of good music.



millennial electropop, this non-stop ride through three decades of dance music has you covered. Whoever had the brilliant idea to put the vocal power of African gospel singers behind one of Ministry of Sound's biggest DJs sure knows how to bring the house down.



Maya Piata

(18-23 MARCH, VARIOUS VENUES)

With a musical style inspired by her New Orleans Creole heritage, Ngā-ti Tūwharetoa whakapapa, African American, and Native American roots, Maya Piata will delight audiences with her unparalleled effervescence and vitality. For the Festival, she performs a mixture of original and well-loved songs in Aotearoa for the first time. Growing up in "The Big Easy" amidst a vibrant live music culture has impacted her career thus far and we can't wait to share that energy and dynamism with Tāmaki Makaurau.

As well as the performance in the Spiegeltent in Aotea Square, these very talented artists (Maya Piata, Kulāiwi and Kaumakaiwa) will be in venues around Tāmaki Makaurau with our Indigenous Music on the Move series. Check out the details for the show closest to you. Make some memories and enjoy authentic, vibrant music and arts close to home.



HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr

(13-16 MARCH, Q THEATRE)

Did you know that a woman invented the tech behind WiFi? And that she was one of the biggest movie stars of her time? A crackerjack of a one-woman theatre show, HEDY! is the rollicking true yarn of Hedy Lamarr, whose bombshell looks — dubbed "The Most Beautiful Woman in the World" by Hollywood's publicity machine — overshadowed her scientific genius. Creator Heather Massie not only embodies Hedy and a cast of (36!) Tinseltown greats with real spunk, but it's her drive to inspire the next gen — especially women in STEM — that got us excited about bringing her message and Hedy's story to young Aucklanders.



History of House

(12 MARCH, AUCKLAND TOWN HALL)

Imagine a dancefloor, the world's greatest gospel choir and a DJ set for the ages. That's History of House in a nutshell. Whether your vibe is disco funk, club classics, rave anthems or

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IRENE PARSAEI

Did you forget about your New Year's resolutions? Don't worry, you still have time. According to the internet, the number one most common resolution every year relates to fitness, which links to gyms seeing spikes in membership signups and attendance in January. If like millions of other people, going to the gym was on your resolution list too, then look no further! The University's new recreation centre can meet all your fitness and health needs.

Hiwa Recreation Centre, located on Symonds Street, boasts a luxury experience for only \$200 for the entire year, and free for students in halls of residence. With state-of-the-art facilities on each of its eight floors, Hiwa is unlike any other gym, not just in other universities, but also in the whole of New Zealand.

For those into aquatic fitness or pretending to be Cleo from H2O (*no judgement*), there is the choice of an eight-lane swimming pool, or a diving tank, complete with a spa and sauna to soothe aching muscles afterward.

There's plenty of options for people who prefer to keep their feet on the ground too. In addition to the regular cardio and weights rooms found at most gyms (*albeit new and cleaner at Hiwa, and with Netflix set on the cardio equipment*), there are two sports halls. Sports Hall 1's pièce de résis-

such as dance and pilates for the stressful exam weeks. If you're feeling like Indiana Jones, you could even try tackling the bouldering wall or using the rooftop turf to recreate your favourite dramatic movie scenes when Auckland's rainy season begins. If, by chance, none of the options from the

extremely extensive list above piques your interest, there is a social area inside, where hammocks and recliner seats have been placed for rest and relaxation.

It all sounds so perfect, right? *Right?*

While nobody is complaining about the addition of a new, clean gym with a membership price that is impossible to find in this economy, certain events that have

happened in the past few years seem to beg the question: should a new recreation centre *really* have been at the top of the University's priorities?

The University reported that the budget set for the recreation centre was \$320 million, although the final figures won't be clear until later in 2025. This budget, according to the Uni-



tance is its glass floor with LED court lines that can be changed to match the sport being played. The second hall has hoops and lines set up for sports such as basketball, volleyball, netball, and even badminton.

There's multiple studios for a range of activities, from martial arts, bikes, and group fitness classes to activities

versity, was partially funded through the compulsory student fees paid at the beginning of each year, which according to the official website, is around \$1,108.80 per student. These fees, accumulated since 2003, were a major source for the money that went towards building Hiwa. However, they couldn't have been the only source.

The planning of this recreation centre began before many current students had even finished high school. The case for building a new recreation centre was first approved by the University Council seven years ago, in August of 2018. By August of the following year, the first designs were finished, and for the next three years, 2020 – 2023, demolition and construction were in motion. The doors of the newly finished centre were first opened to students on November 25th, 2024.

August of 2018 being the date of approval for the new recreation centre, coincidentally, (or not), was only a short while after the University's controversial decision in June of 2018 to shut down three specialist libraries which held books related to Architecture, Fine Arts, Music and Dance. While these books were moved to the general library, students and professors alike were outraged at the loss of their space. This unpopular move by the University was, unsurprisingly, to cut costs, and save money.

While saving money isn't inherently a negative thing, the University has decided numerous times to take unfavourable actions in favour of pocketing an extra million, with the reassurance that it was needed. So where is the money being saved going? Evidently not towards the needs of staff or students.

In the second semester of 2024, it was leaked, keyword: *leaked*, that the University had proposed to cut courses with fewer enrolments, in what it labelled 'course optimisation'.

To academics and students, it clearly wasn't optimal at all. It was immediately identified that courses falling under Art or Science programmes would be disproportionately affected by these cuts, and many stu-



dents were left feeling as though the University was attempting to stream them into more conventional degrees such as engineering or law. Petitions were signed, a rally was held, with students and teaching staff vocalizing their opposition to the proposal, and then all discussion about it seemed to conveniently come to a halt.



Most students are also now familiar with emails appearing in their inboxes once or twice yearly about strikes from those in the Tertiary Education Union (TEU). Members of the TEU have been stating for years that neither the pay, nor the wage growth that the University offers is enough to meet the rising cost of living, and inflation. In some instances, grades were withheld from students, and lectures were not held due to these strikes, and despite this, the University did not and still has not met the demands of those who are striking.

In addition to teaching staff striking, in May of 2024, some students living

in the halls went on a rental strike, after the University increased accommodation fees by 8%. Students reported being unable to pay for food and having to skip classes to be able to afford the new rent that was put in place, facts that didn't seem to not fall on sympathetic ears. The organization Students for Fair Rent reported in their press release last year that the University's response had been quote *'hostile and disappointing'*, and that it had *'explicitly refused to engage with the campaign.'*

It would seem like common sense to most people that if there were this many controversies and problems surrounding one university, the first course of action to be taken would be to swiftly resolve them. The priorities, in reality, seem reversed. The new Hiwa recreation centre, while impressive, feels like a shiny, dangling toy in front of a distracted child, because ultimately after everything that's happened, the response that the University of Auckland had to the question "what should we do with our money?" was... build a new gym.

Definitely an interesting decision.



EVENTS

SHIT 2 DO

Some shit to get up to for every day of the week. Just add mates (or dates)!



MONDAY

03
MARCH

UOA CLUBS EXPO

What: Explore hundreds of diverse UOA clubs, heaps of prizes and giveaways.

Where: UOA City Campus

When: Monday to Wednesday, 10 am – 3 pm

Cost: Free

FREE

TUESDAY

04
MARCH

360 INTERNATIONAL GENERAL INFO SESSION

What: Learn about the possibilities of studying abroad while at UOA.

Where: OGGB 260-055, UOA City Campus

When: 2 – 3 pm

Cost: Free

FREE

WEDNESDAY

05
MARCH

ALFRED'S STREET FESTIVAL

What: Live Kiwi Music | Drax Project, Coterie and more (Summer Vibes)

Where: Alfred Street, UOA City Campus

When: 5–10 pm

Cost: \$30 for UOA Students.

Tickets: ausa.nz/alfreds25

THURSDAY

06
MARCH

AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL: KIA KOR! LET'S MOVE!

What: Live Kiwi Music | Betty-Anne, Julia Deans, Thomas Stowers (RnB/Soul)

Where: Aotea Square, Auckland CBD

When: 5:30–7:15 pm

Cost: Free

More: aaf.co.nz/whats-on/kia-kori-lets-move

FREE

FRIDAY

07
MARCH

WICKED AT SILO PARK

What: Defy gravity and see the iconic film in the waterfront park w/ food trucks.

Where: Silo Park, Wynyard Quarter

When: 5:30–7:15 pm

Cost: Free

More: silopark.co.nz/peoples-choice

FREE

SATURDAY

08
MARCH

MUSIC IN PARKS ALBANY

What: Live Kiwi Music | Shallow Dive, Back to the Hillside, SO-JOURN (Rock/Reggae)

Where: Albany Lakes Civic Park, Albany

When: 1 – 4 pm

Cost: Free

More: ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/events/2025/03/music-in-parks-albany/

FREE

SUNDAY

09
MARCH

PASIFIKA FESTIVAL

What: Celebrate and experience Pasifika culture with live performances

Where: Western Springs Lakeside Park, Western Springs

When: Saturday, 9 am – 6 pm, Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

Cost: Free

More: ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/events/2025/03/pasifika-festival/

FREE



UOA X AUSA X JBL
PRESENT

ALFRED'S STREET PARTY

MARCH 5TH

5PM - 10PM

CITY CAMPUS

DRAX PROJECT COTERIE

★ ★ ★ ★ WITH ★ ★ ★ ★

MESSIE SWIDT
FOBS JULIAN
KATAYANAGI TWINS

HOSTED BY HADZ

GRAB YOUR TICKETS NOW!



AUGUST
AVENUE





DRAX PROJECT

Drax Project is a dynamic, New Zealand-based band that's been turning heads with their mix of pop, R&B, and funk since 2014. Known for bangers like "Woke Up Late" and "Catching Feelings," they've built a loyal fanbase with their unique sound and energetic live shows. Drax Project will have the crowd pumping!

COTERIE

They were so damn good last year we had to bring them back as headliners! The Kiwi boys based in Perth are the kings of blending indie pop, rock, and a bit of electronic flair. With catchy tracks like "Killing it Off" and "Cool it Down", du'd with a reputation for their energetic performances, they've quickly gained dominated the Summer Festival scene. They're your new favourite band you haven't scene yet!



SWIDT

'The most electrifying!' The Kings of 312, Swidt, are an unapologetic hip-hop collective from Onehunga! Known for their raw lyrics and blend of classic rap with modern influences they've become a staple in the NZ music scene. If you're ever in need of a hype up, just jam Swidt on Spotify and within 15 seconds you'll run through a wall.



MESSIE

For the ED, DnB, Jungle and House fans! Messie rose to stardom after touring with Fred Again in 2024 and has since already just capped off her own European Tour. She's stopping by home in Aotearoa for a quick visit and we've locked her in at Alfred's for her only Auckland show this summer!



FOBS + KATAYANAGI TWINS + JULIAN

Holding us down as our resident DJs for the night this lineup is unreal! 2024 was a wild one for the FOBS breaking out into the Auckland DJ scene in dramatic fashion. These boys will always bring immaculate vibes! The Katayanagi Twins are no strangers to AUSA concerts – the girls have featured on almost every lineup for the last 5 years and for good reason too. Julian (aka Julian Dennison) dabbles on the decks when he's not filming blockbuster movies and we're stoked to have him at Alfreds Street Party!



AUGUST
AVENUE



AUSA x VASELINE PRESENTS

O'WEEK FEST

Also brought to you by
LIFESTYLES & UoA

MARCH 3RD - 5TH

10AM - 3PM

ALFRED ST

LIVE DJS

LIVE UNIBANDS

**CELEBRITY
APPEARANCES**

**CULTURAL
PERFORMANCES**

FREEBIES

GIVEAWAYS

**DONUT EATING
COMPETITIONS**

FOOD TRUCKS

**O'WEEK
RUN CLUB**

**ACTIVITIES
& MORE!**



CITY CAMPUS MAP

THE QUAD



HIWA



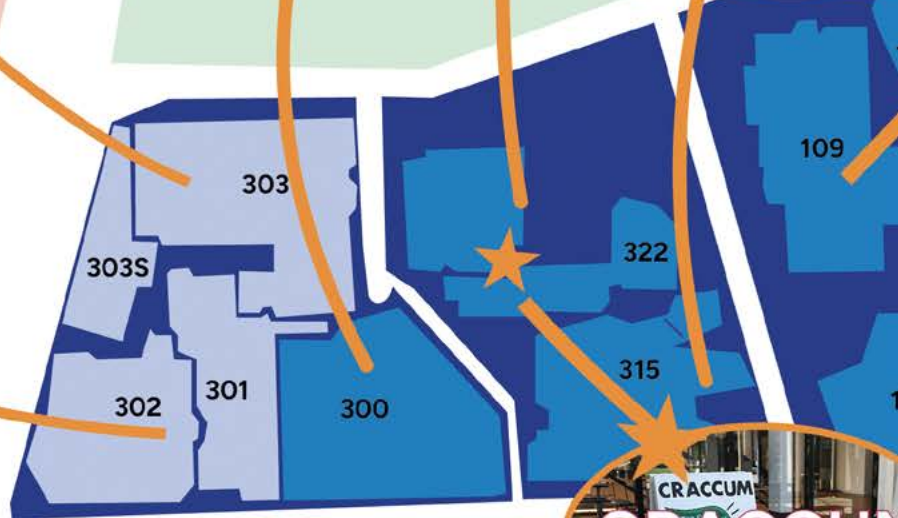
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SCIENCE



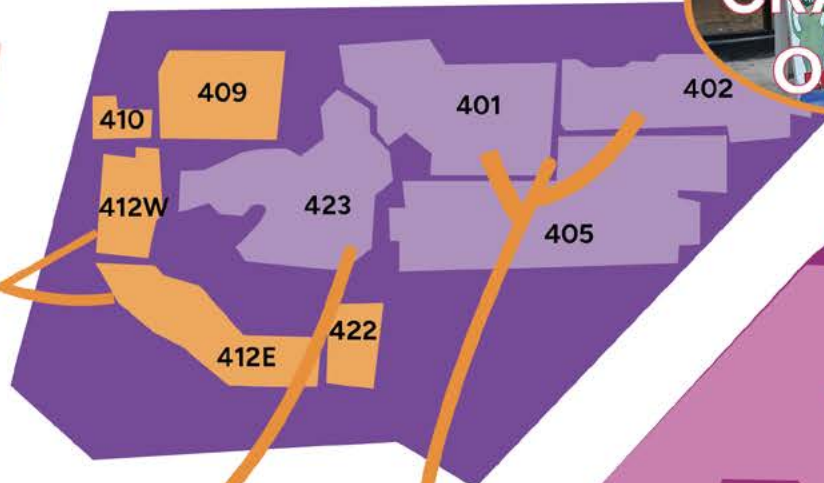
SCIENCE



CRACCUM
OFFICE



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CONFERENCE
CENTRE



ENGINEERING



OGGB



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SEND US YOUR MAP !!
TO : visualarts@craccum.co.nz

LIBRARY



CLOCK TOWER



MACLAURIN CHAPEL



OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE



BIOLOGY



MUSIC



ARTS



CLL



FALE PASIFIKA



WE



GRAFTON,
NEW MARKET,
& OTHER
CAMPUS



2024 OF A24

A REVIEW



JUSTIN AGLUBA (HE/HIM) | @JUSTIN_AGLUBA

Oscar season is here again. By the time this edition is published, the winners of the gilded statuette would be long proclaimed at the Dolby Theatre, Hollywood. At the time of writing, there were ten publicly disclosed nominees for Best Picture, and no winners in the meantime. Suppose the news hasn't reached you yet.

A24 has produced some of the most critically acclaimed films in the last decade, supporting indie films to certified modern cult classics. With its approach to cultivating avant-garde cinematography rather than the boilerplate flicks we have seen and come to expect from high-budget Hollywood movies, it managed to produce and distribute films like *Moonlight* (2016) and *Everything Everywhere All at Once* (2022), both bagged the coveted Best Picture at the Academy Awards. A24 in the opening credits is a quiver to a cinephile's heart, a sign that originally crafted cinematic poetry is afoot. With excellently made motion pictures, at least one of A24's films will carry the Oscar back home (my money's on *The Brutalist* and *Sing Sing*). Here's a quick review of a few of their pictures from their 2024 filmography.



QUEER

(dir. Luca Guadagnino) — A gay James Bond's hunt for genuine human connection

William Lee (Daniel Craig) is an American expat in 1950s Mexico City hopelessly navigating the queer dating scene as an openly gay man through substance abuse and casual sex until he met a strapping war veteran, Eugene Allerton (Drew Starkey). Trust me, everyone is there for the plot, not Daniel Craig's on-screen

fellatio. We closed our eyes in that cladless bareback scene, transitioning back and forth to the sweltering Latin American midday.

Allerton first appeared across a red-blooded sport of cockfighting, no less, Lee instantly fell in lust. Who would have thought that Nirvana's *Come As You Are*, the scene's anachronistic background music, could be so sensually gay? This highlights Daniel Craig's divergence from usual machismo roles such as Benoit Blanc and James Bond, the gentleman detective/spy. This "Bond" ventured on a mission to Ecuador in search of *yagé* (*ayahuasca*), a psychoactive plant said to grant telepathic capability. Except, the hallucinatory decoction unveiled visions that they avoided to confront—"I'm not queer, I'm just disembodied."

Queer was based on William Burroughs's unfinished 1952 semi-autobiographical novella of the same name, published in 1985. Burroughs intended to live vicariously through Lee, a sassy homosexual unapologetic of his queerness out in the open. Their relationship was unrequited or, as Guadagnino explains it, "unsynchronised love"—out of place, out of time.

This is Guadagnino's second 2024

movie after *Challengers* (starring Zendaya and Josh O'Connor). *Call Me by Your Name* (starring Timothée Chalamet) seared Guadagnino on the Hollywood boardwalk as a leading queer filmmaker. His movie portfolio—laden with his signature portrayals of “queer”—adds a touch of familiarity and awareness to queer relationships (including fine young cannibals in *Bones and All*, 2022). Thus, Guadagnino films are usually throwbacks of earlier times (the 1950s, 1980s), antedating queer stories within periods where LGBTQ+ tales were somewhat muted (if not erased).

Genre: Romance, Drama, LGBTQ+



CIVIL WAR

(dir. Alex Garland) — Cautionary tale on war and the role of journalism

Released in a divisive US election year, *Civil War* highlights the aftermath of a full-blown anarchy. Four journalists embarked on a road trip

from New York to the White House to interview its incumbent (Nick Offerman) amidst the war-torn United States, hostile to pressmen. We heard, from their casual chatter, the Chief Executive’s decisions on pushing a third official term, dissolving the FBI and authorising air strikes on US citizens. This led to domestic fracturing, the petrodollar’s collapse and wide-scale disorder.

Garland pairing California and Texas, stereotypical bailiwicks of two rival parties allied against the Union, is particularly intriguing. Its meagre worldbuilding left audiences wondering about each faction’s motivation. He attempts to paint the belligerents devoid of their banners, presenting the struggle as an apolitical battle on which the stakes transcend partisan divide: the soul of the nation. Further, it does not wallow in the tension towards oncoming skirmishes; rather, at times, it plunges right into the thick of combat. While it may not appeal to many, it succeeds in disabusing us from romanticising war as nothing but an assault on the senses and being. Thus, we’re not meant to understand the *casus belli* as justification for the wider conflict moreso than its maddening aftermath.

Civil War studies a decaying state and journalism’s place amidst the bedlam. Lee Smith (Kirsten Dunst) contemplates the failure of her photojournalism to effectively dissuade the nation from self-destructing. It underlies opinions about present media, returning to its roots (symbolised in old film cameras), dispassionately relaying events as they are in still images without inserting themselves in the fray—something today’s US media outlets are criticised for doing.

If there’s an overall message, perhaps it’s *sic semper tyrannis*.

Genre: Action, War, Mystery & Thriller, Drama



HERETIC

(dirs. Scott Beck & Bryan Woods) — A thought-provoking movie to lose one’s religion

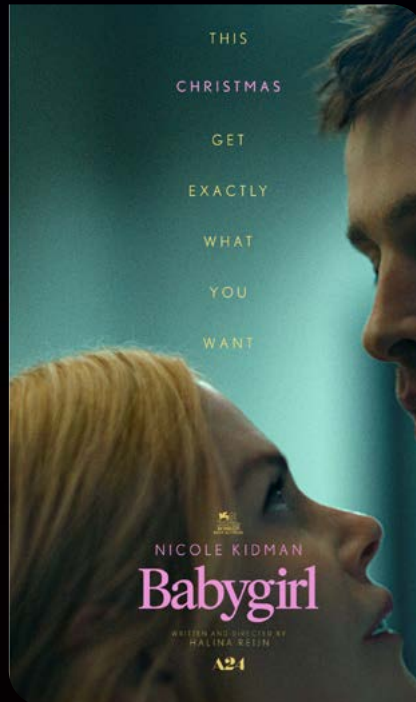
Set in the Mormon heartland, we follow Paxton (Chloe East) and Barnes (Sophie Thatcher), two young missionaries on their quest to proselytise willing “investigators”. They visited a house owned by a religious sceptic, Mr Reed (Hugh Grant), hoping for another conversion—only to walk willingly inside his lair of traps, making them question their beliefs along the way. Mr Reed engages the pair in a dialogue, enticing the two with the scent of blueberry pie as he excavates deep-seated hypocrisies within the LDS church. He transposes it later to indict the broader Christian dogma

as nothing but a glorified iteration of antiquated lores.

Mr Reed, who studied theology for decades, sought the “one true religion” and claims to have found it. In the course of their discussion, he floated hierological inconsistencies, citing Mormonism’s “cynical brain-washing tactic” to embrace polygamy only to discard it when convenient. This irreverently unspools Barnes and Paxton’s indoctrination, learning Mormonism reduced to Christianity’s “zany regional spinoff” and their missionary work as mere ad commercial.

This film reminds me of Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code* (2006), except we’re not running around the Louvre but in the constraints of Mr Reed’s dimly lit house. It argues that religions are man’s fiction to imbue purpose in earthly living, banishing nihilistic demons from memory. Mr Reed, however, inadvertently reveals his own hypocrisy in an attempt to reify his “one true religion” by demonstrating a Eucharistic miracle. The finale is open to doubt, and that’s by design. As to the fate of Barnes and Paxton, we can simply take a leap of faith that they suffered better ends.

Genre: Mystery & Thriller, Horror



BABYGIRL

(dir. Halina Reijn) — A sex-positive probe on (softcore) female masochism

A female CEO, Romy Mathis (Nicole Kidman), oversees a lucrative automated warehouse company and is married to a devoted and feminist husband, Jacob (Antonio Banderas). Her company’s well-oiled machinery eliminates redundant tasks from human hands, easing the workload for frictionless efficiency, contrasting Romy’s professional independence with her private need to be controlled and dominated. In the opening scene, we were captured by her performative moans only to slink from their postcoital bed dissatisfied, masturbating to online pornography in secret. Her efforts to curb her lust were defeated by her husband’s “vanilla” approach to sex.

In response, she engaged in a corporate tryst with a younger male intern in the shape of Samuel (Harris Dickinson), risking her career and family on the line. Exploring the dynamics of their relationship, on who has power over whom, Samuel would say, “I could make one call, and you lose everything”—to which Romy irresistibly submits. We learned about her

upbringing in a cult commune from which her childhood fantasies were possibly implanted, her name selected by the cult guru. We can speculate that her submissive daydreams were rooted in her need to purgate the embedded childhood trauma (or fantasies)—in the most intimate human activity.

There is no *Fifty-shades-of-grey*-esque BDSM, but rather a softcore sadomasochism—a reversal of age and status roles. The climactic confrontation is a contest of assertions: whether female masochism is merely a patriarchal construct. There’s a surprisingly feminist ending to this story: a woman salvaging her life intact and sexually satiated, not lampooned for her desires, relishing the triumphant orgasm.

Genre: Mystery & Thriller, Romance, Drama



THE BRUTALIST

(dir. Brady Corbet) — A masterpiece of the decade, an ode to immigrant journey

In a brutal three-hour-long saga, *The Brutalist* is uncompromising in its depiction of a Hungarian-Jewish architect and Holocaust survivor, László Tóth (Adrien Brody), and his

immigrant experience in the post-war United States. He settled in Philadelphia, almost at the exact latitudinal parallel to Frank Lloyd Wright's seminal opus, *Fallingwater* (also in Pennsylvania), said to have inspired Walter Gropius, the founder of the Bauhaus school where László was trained.

Brutalism is a mid-century architectural style characterised by reinforced *béton brut* (French, lit. *raw concrete*). Due to its lack of embellishments in contrast to previous styles, it was vilified as austere, soulless and aloof—I disagree. It's a misunderstood genius, much like László, who suffered discrimination as a Jew and then as an immigrant but later revered for his towering accomplishments. Upon learning this, Harrison Van Buren (Guy Pearce) commissioned László on a colossal project, the Van Buren Institute. László fashioned the negative space, tapping natural sunlight to elicit a humbling vista. László's brutalism employs its surroundings to better serve its creative schema, reminiscing his captivity in Camp Buchenwald in Nazi Germany to his immigrant life in America, one that embodies resilience, adaptability, and survival: cloistered maybe in a cramped mortared cage but dreaming upwards to the high ceiling.

Life is a coarse, rigid, bare wall—a brutalist edifice—but, in totality, a thing of unsung beauty and promise. As a testament to its endurance, we see it every day in the Beehive, Inland Revenue Manukau, UoA's Arts and Engineering building interiors, and even Symonds Street Underpass dons the brutalist aesthetic. Once condemned for its stylistic oddities, it is now revalued as an epochal symbol, *transcending all time*. As László poetically puts it: "A whole river of such frivolities may flow undammed, but my buildings were devised to endure such erosion..."

The Brutalist is a masterpiece of the decade, an ode to immigrant journey, which I manifestly endorse for your appreciation.

Genre: Drama



SING SING

(dir. Greg Kwedar) — Making hope out of nothing at all

Sing Sing is a surprisingly uplifting and optimistic drama on prison life, set in the eponymous maximum security detention facility in New York. It opens with John "Divine G" Whitfield (Colman Domingo) playing Lysander from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, orating the transient moments of love—like a thunderbolt in a collied night.

We see, in their impassioned enactments, the transformative potential of the Arts as they rehearse for a play called *Sing Sing Folies*. I learned that this theatre troupe was based on the actual story of *Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA)*, on a mission to break the incarceration cycle of US convicts. The comedic play itself was based on reality. The actors were former inmates who dedicated their emancipated lives onstage, their dignity restored, and their carceral past now behind the grand drape.

Sing Sing adeptly humanised the convicts through the power of theatre

acting, sublimating their sound and fury towards artistic expression. In a potent performance, D Dan (Sean Johnson) delivered a poignant scene. He recounts graphic mutilation as normative within the keeplock detention wing as he counsels a rambunctious Divine Eye (Clarence Maclin): "Brother, we're here to become human again... [and] enjoy the things that is not in our reality."

It had limited release in 2024 but had a wider release earlier this year as part of its Oscar campaign. This was a powerful, gripping, life-affirming drama where a group of outcasts find their purpose in the most hopeless of spaces.

Genre: Drama

To My Friend Who Got In



EVA LIN (SHE/HER)

I remember the days
When we would study together
Hang out together
Spend time together

Learning in class
that the body regenerates itself
Pushes the old to the outside
and sheds it away

And we'd share notes
with drinks in hand
clutching to dreams
of another place

But as the wheels turned
Took you but not me
Pulling us apart
Breaking our dreams together

I am forced to watch

as the parts of you
that I knew
loved
studied with

are pushed further away from you

and are shed away



FILM

COMPANION (2025)

Gaslight, Gatekeep, Girlbot.

HOPE MILO (SHE/HER) | @HOPEMILO

I am only in this theatre for my friend Emily. Emily is only here for Sophie Thatcher. The movie begins as I stuff my mouth with *New World* popcorn that I not-so-subtly snuck past the minimum-wage Hoyts employees I went to high school with.

So, Sophie Thatcher likes peaches. And mediocre white men who don't shower, don't open their blinds, and live off *Shapes*, *Doritos*, and their gaming monitors' UV rays. Her character, Iris, heads to a lake house in the wops with her boyfriend Josh and his friends. Then comes Act II. Sergei, the owner of the mansion, comes onto Iris. Iris kills him with a pocketknife. Valid.

Then the twist: IRIS IS A ROBOT? (A reveal that really shouldn't be shocking when Josh's pet name for her is literally Beep Boop.) Turns out, Josh and his friends planned to frame her for Sergei's murder and run off with his money. But Iris, being the ultimate girlbot (get it?), breaks free, steals Josh's phone, commits a couple of murders, and takes them all down one by one. The final kill? Josh. With an electric wine opener.

7/10. Deducted three stars because at one point I was convinced we were getting a robo Challengers and we didn't. #ROBBED.

May the image of Sophie Thatcher's bloodstained pink cardigan be forever burned in our minds, as a reminder to be polite every time we ask *ChatGPT* to summarise our lecture slides this year.

Seen, heard or read something you want to tell everyone about? Tell us at managingeditor@craccum.co.nz to get your review here next week.



FILM

THE MAURITANIAN (2021)

Eye-opening, evocative, and truthfully told. It highlights injustice in an authentically raw fashion.

SAKSHAM (HE/HIM) | @SAKSHAM21097

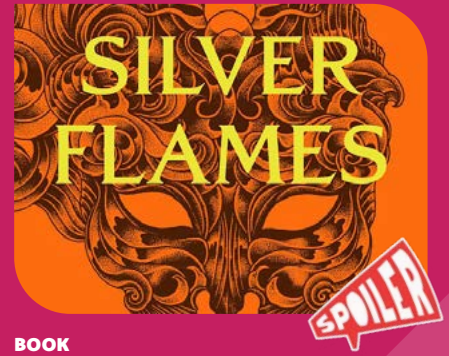
Twenty years is a long time — a span in which a life can move from inception to adulthood, youth to middle age, and middle years to elder. It also seems like enough time was removed to stare unflinchingly at the horrors of 9/11.

Based on the best-selling memoir *Guantánamo Diary*, the film follows Mauritanian native Mohamedou Ould Slahi in his fight for freedom after being kidnapped from his home in 2002.

The story is told largely through his eyes which gives the film a first-hand kick. All the surrounding characters have an unusual complexity as they are pushed to ignore facts and pursue justice for victims of an atrocity.

Notably, the flashbacks are powerful in their differentiation to the present. The aspect ratio shift and shooting style diverge to something profoundly intimate and bold. These choices add depth to Slahi's character and, cinematographically to the spectator, it creates a deep-seated connection to Slahi and his terrible circumstances. Rahim's performance conveys everything that needs to be portrayed. His persistence, his pain, and, remarkably, his hope are all there. The use of flashbacks visualizes Slahi's past in a profound and impactful way. It slowly reveals more and more with one's empathy building up, enabling a greater understanding of the key message of the film.

The Mauritanian is a must-watch, eye-opening film. Certainly, it will not be forgotten as its profound effect lingers way beyond the film's final hopeful and endearing frame. Tahar Rahim puts on a revelatory act, not at one point does one question if he was performing or not. It's as if he lived through all of this.



BOOK

A COURT OF SILVER FLAMES (2021)

Or a Court of So-called Feminists?

HANNAH JUDD (SHE/HER)

Late to the trend, this summer, I tore through *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J. Maas. Whilst not a literary masterpiece, it is an easy, indulgent summer read. Reviewing the whole series would take too long, so this focuses on *A Court of Silver Flames*. Be warned: SPOILERS AHEAD! Centred on Nesta, ACOSF follows the eldest Archeron sister from a volatile, traumatized recluse to an empowered warrior, healing through love, friendship, and battle training. While cliché, her journey is enjoyable and depicts a common underrepresented response to trauma: lashing out, drinking too much, and being an a**hole. Meanwhile, Feyre and Rhysand take a backseat and simultaneously become some of the worst characters I've ever read. Rhysand, once a champion of personal choice and female empowerment, commits reproductive coercion and grows generally authoritarian in nature. Is Maas painting Feyre as an unreliable narrator? Likely not. Rhysand, forcing his inner circle to lie about Feyre's pregnancy, is barely questioned, quickly forgiven, and framed as romantic. Maas successfully presents this controlling character as a desirable romantic. The only way to redeem him? Make him the villain in the next book, turning sugarcoated abuse into an intentional twist. Maas struggles with originality in the ACOTAR series, adopting the most banal elements of fantasy and altering them slightly. Prythians' map even looks eerily similar to the United Kingdom. Additionally, its pacing is odd at best, but its fantasy world is still engaging, with many lovable characters despite the former protagonists' downfall.



GIGS

GROOPCHAT, SWALLOW THE RAT, RINGLETS AND HEAD LOCK GRAVE

FLORIAN BELL

As I have been meandering through the local scene the last few weeks, writing a single review seemed exclusionary, so I will attempt multiple short yet precise impressions of what the local metal, punk and alternative rock scenes are up to.

Friday the 7th of February, Groopchat and Swallow the Rat

Groopchat have been making waves on the local scene due to their catchy yet dark songwriting creating crossovers between Deftones and traditional Kiwi Dunedin Sound jangle pop. Of note is the incredible quality of the music for the young ages of the musicians, all three of whom are apparently under 18, which would be hard to believe if not seeing it in person. Groopchat has easily broken out of the Smokefree Rockquest stereotype and is a must-see for any lover of alternative rock music, as they are almost definitely the next big thing in local music.

Swallow the Rat were traditionally a three-piece, but their cathartic post-punk has benefited greatly from an additional second guitar making the line-up punchier and increasing musical dynamics significantly. The highs and lows are much more prominent, creating a more engaging experience

and fleshing out the intricacies of the songwriting.

Saturday 8th of February – Ringlets

Ringlets return for their first gig of 2025 with new songs but the same intricate energy and intriguing musicianship. Showcasing many tunes from their upcoming second album but also playing a few fan favourites, Ringlets' music captures an intellectual form of punk and noise, while retaining softness and simple complexity. Raucous yet delicate, intense yet spacious and passionate yet genuine. The second album can't come quick enough!

Saturday the 15th of February – Head Lock Grave

Head Lock Grave have returned in style after a nearly year-long hiatus. Sporting a charismatic new vocalist, bringing even more energy than before, Head Lock Grave put on a massively intense and punishing show, with the all ages mosh pit never getting enough. Heavy riffs, brutal breakdowns and salient screams meant they have easily re-claimed their spot as one of Auckland's best metal bands.



FILM

TINĀ (2025)

Not to be mistaken for a Tina Turner biopic, like my mum thought when she went in.

TIM EVANS (THEY/THEM)

Tinā, by Miki Magasiva, is a touching and hilarious story born from the director's own life and flavoured with warm Samoan love. The film follows Mareta Percival (Anapela Polataivao), a passionate music teacher and engaged part of her church community. After surviving major earthquake tragedies in Christchurch, she is inspired to turn her life around. Working at St Francis (an uber-posh, *Dio* vibe), she forms a school choir and teaches a bunch of "stuck up rich kids" the power of community and music. If you've seen the trailer, you may know the shot of all the singers lying down, eyes closed, as Ms. Percival teaches about the Va (the space). This film is seriously THE must watch of Semester 1. It is touching and heartfelt, while remaining hilarious and witty. The essence of community and love is present throughout and the film feels grounded in the real experience of Aotearoa. Also, the film features a number of UOA students as singers, so you might see your friend from that one tutorial you like. **If you're not going to see *Tinā* in theatres NOW, you're missing out.**



FILM

I SAW THE TV GLOW (2024)

A secret, woke-left film that will turn your brother gay and make you realise that you look good in a dress.

TIM EVANS (THEY/THEM)

This film by Jane Schoenbrun, starring Justice Smith as Owen, takes the viewer through a psychological whirlwind of heavy-handed transgender allegories and exciting filmmaking to create an intricate and unique plot, urging the viewer to wake up. Owen and his unlikely friend Maddy become enthralled by a fictional TV show from the Young Adult Network, *The Pink Opaque*. In their safe zone of 10:30 PM on Saturdays, they immerse themselves in the world of psychic powers and sisterhood. As the film progresses, it becomes less apparent which side of the story is the real one, and whether Owen is really a person at all.

The film takes an interesting perspective on the trans experience that grabbed my little non-binary brain by the throat. Through some heavy-handed pink lighting and a horrifyingly beautiful sequence with Owen's father, it becomes clear that Owen is a burgeoning transgender woman. Brutally for the audience, it becomes clear that becoming the truest version of himself (... herself) is going to be more of a mission than once thought.

This A24 film brings all of your classic tropes that I love from all of A24's latest and greatest. The cinematography is eye-grabbing and pushes the narrative (and sub-plot) extremely well. It is not exceptionally complicated to unpack the allegory at play, and yet the film still does a great job of pacing and maintaining tension throughout. While the film may not be explicitly scary, it may be pretty horrifying to those of us who relate a little too well to Owen.



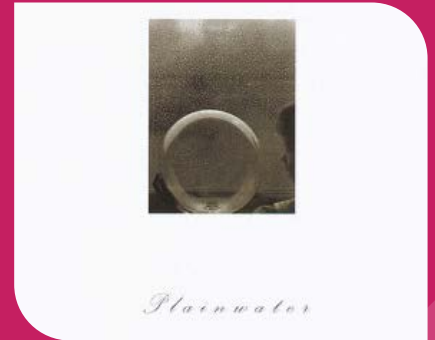
FILM

LAST WEEK (2022)

Someone/something is controlling Ye. He's the perfect cultural distraction, a more sophisticated pacifier than Drake.

TREVOR PRONOSO

In October 2022, during the height of Kanye West's erratic antisemitic and racist media activities, he released a 30-minute-long video on his YouTube channel titled *LAST WEEK*. For how oblique and oftentimes campy Ye's artistic aesthetics are, never has *LAST WEEK* been a more puzzling piece of visual media within the discourse of Ye as a cultural icon. At some point, at least for a disillusioned Ye admirer as I am, one sees the argument that all the public faux pas and highly publicised records of Ye's declining mental health as stemming from his poor individual financial choices and conscious/unconscious narcissism read too insufficient. As of 2025, and maybe back in 2022, one should come to the cynical realisation that Ye hasn't had a backbone in a long time and is now kowtowing to a much more invisible oligarchic power that can satiate, or even exceed his superiority complex. A slightly conspiratorial take for sure but recall the opening scene of *LAST WEEK*: we see Ye mime as a playable GTA character, complete with third-person camera perspectives and UI (health bar, wanted level, city map). All of Ye's tweets are smokescreens for something we all know deeply is the larger problem at hand: unmitigated capital accumulation. If the board of directors running Adidas, *Keeping Up With The Kardashians*, and Universal Music Group are still getting paid despite Ye's antics, nothing will change.



BOOK

PLAINWATER (1995)

Between interning and the summer work grind, Anne Carson's Plainwater loomed large over my break.

SADIE MAY YETTON (SHE/HER) | @JOANO-FAUCKLAND

This one small book kept me sufficiently occupied, not for its length or complexity, but for its luscious language. It demanded a drive in me to linger over it, sitting with every passage, swallowing each word. It is a collection of works, and although her elegantly jagged poetry is in leagues of its own, it was her two sectioned essays that grabbed me and held me there. Prosaic, indulgent, and exceptional, her long-form writing can feel like balancing something precious in your hands — lose your focus, and you just might drop it. The first essay recounts a pilgrim's journey undertaken by herself and another who one could assume to be her tour guide, the touchingly named 'My Cid'. She leaves you in the dark as to whether this pilgrimage brought her closer to loving him than it did to her physical destination, but the achingly genuine, often ugly humanity she captures hits you with the same heartbreak either way. The second essay is explicit about the romance at its core. It chronicles her experience of being an older virgin turned lover turned object of resentment and dwells on the innately embarrassing qualities of each. Her stark narration is unforgivingly analytical, but when she does allow a bullet of heartache to land, it is just as devastating as an actual gunshot. She is willingly candid about one's first love, which tends to be wiped clean of its awkwardness, ineptitude, and humiliation.

laneway 2025

a month later, was it really that shit?



LEWIS MATHESON CREED & ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTORS

But not everyone's Laneway experience was as fun as mine. I was lucky enough to volunteer as an Artist Liaison. What does an Artist Liaison do, you might ask? Well it mainly consists of installing fridges, packing Clairo's Grain Waves and nearly rolling a golf cart while taking RNZŌ to do their set (sorry!). Plus pretending not to geek out when Steve Harrington walks past you. If you weren't able to make it this year's Laneway, or it was too expensive (honestly fair enough), the best way to attend a festival for free is to volunteer. It's heaps of fun and it keeps you busy between sets you want to watch. If you'd like to work at next year's Laneway, keep your eyes peeled for around November/December when applications open.

"Clairo was so beautiful but omg go girl give us nothing" ~ Anonymous

Last month we asked our readers what they felt, and so many of them felt the crowd had poor etiquette, the congested gates were dangerous, the sound on the main stage was too quiet but somehow also too bassy. The tickets were pricey and Charli's setlist wasn't so spicy. There was also a feeling on the ground at Laneway 2025 was that the festival's spirit was at a crossroads.

"DOGSBIT this year" ~ Anonymous

For many, the 16 artists who took the stage(s) before Charli were opening acts to the culmination of Aotearoa's version of brat summer, and the only reason they attended. And was there anything wrong with that? Undoubtedly, the same volume of people would have packed the Spark Arena for a solo show from Charli XCX, so Laneway, being a day-long festival, offered good value for money.

"I walked in on someone getting fingered in the portaloos - 6/10"

Yet in between the dotty lime sea of 365 Party Girls bumpin' that, some longtime Laneway festival goers felt that the line-up had drifted towards the mainstream. Back in the day, Laneway had a reputation of being an off-beat, weird, and "indie" festival (as far as festivals with ten thousand attendees go). A gathering of international artists who were probably too small to visit Downunder (+NZ) alone, but too big to fit all of their fans in a pub. But these days, Olivia Dean, an artist billed on the 4th line and performing at 3 pm while most concertgoers were still locked out, was able to host a solo show the night before at The Powerstation. A bonus for her fans for sure, but it speaks to the increasing popularity of the artists performing at the festival.

"Fkn GREATTTTTTTT"

However, I feel the sound is the same as it ever was; the style of music, and

thus the selection of artists, has drifted toward the mainstream. Headliners Clairo and Charli XCX are Laneway veterans, performing in 2019 and 2020 respectively, when both had less than half the popularity they enjoy today. We know popular music is constantly evolving. Sounds which were once more alternative, emerging and fringe in the 2010s and now in vogue in the 2020s. As such, their obscurity and mystique as they were absorbed into that conglomerate abyss that is mainstream (western) culture. In this age of virality and sudden mass popularity, it is only human nature for older, original fans to feel defensive about newcomers and a sense of loss, or grief, of niche exclusivity. My advice: just be happy you were hip first. No one can take away the veteran status of your fandom from you.

"A lot of lightweights, but queer friendly env so I felt safer than at other festivals I'd been to"

And is it not terrific that these artists are still up for playing a 50-minute set at a festival in central Auckland? This can't be said about every international artist these days, who often skip NZ for "logistics" reasons, like Laneway veteran Billie Eilish, who is performing in Australia this week. We now see these artists we love who started out playing here and are sadly outgrowing us. We need festivals like Laneway more than ever to magnetise their tunes back to our shores. Disagree with me? Tell us @craccum!





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problem e.g.
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Employment?

Facing
a disciplinary
meeting?

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financial
Support?

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make a
complaint?

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Auckland University Students' Association

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(Opposite the
General Library)

ONLINE:
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advice@ausa.org.nz



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From Student to Student of the Year

Amelia Orr is The Student of the Year 2024, Co-Presidents of the Arts Education Student Association (AESA) and (Auckland University Psychology Student Association) AUPSA, Student Rep and Wellbeing Ambassador.

AMELIA EDEN ORR

I came to university knowing exactly what I wanted to do when I grew up.

I was one of "those" kids - I went to all the open days, emailed professors before I was even accepted, spent nights tucked into my books, hitting 'next page' on google scholar. My plan was simple - get the grades, get the degree and get out. My mind was permanently stuck in the future; one where I had completed my Doctorate of Clinical Psychology, and spent my days listening to patients bemoan their life from the comfort of a plush office chair. I was so focused on that future that I barely recognised my first year passing by in an uninspiring blur.

I found one small caveat in my master plan - almost every professor I approached told me I had get my hands on some so called "extra-curricular experience" in a place called "the real world". This makes complete sense; I, as someone who barely dared to step foot outside of Kate Edgar was sceptical. At the end of my second year I begrudgingly applied to a couple of exec positions on student associations, thinking it would be a relatively effort-free way to schmooze with lecturers and network my way into a degree.

I was dead wrong.

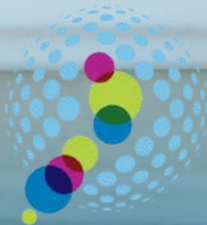
I did things I never imagined were possible as a student; Planning and hosting balls, mixers, company tours - traveling up and down across the country for camps, and conferences, racing to university from the airport, barely sliding into my tutorials. I found my gaze dropped from my future, refocusing instead to what was in front of me; long nights spent talking with friends, mario-kart tournaments, fancy lunch socials with our executive, and of course, the beloved weekly shads pub quiz. I was completely swallowed up by a maelstrom of opportunities that cascaded into one another, again and again and again. Looking back it feels like no time at all has passed - but every day felt visceral; my focus on the future ahead of me life dropping to where I was putting my feet day-by-day.

Looking back on my achievements feels strange; I don't really feel like they belong to me because in my own mind, I was just jumping from day-to-day, task-to-task, interest-to-interest. I had no expectations of anything coming from it. Everything I've accomplished I owe to my friends, my family, my communities; the people who I am fortunate enough to be in the same place and time as. They dragged me out of living in my future, and into theirs.

Now, when I'm asked what I want to do once I graduate, much to the dismay of my parents, I now say I have no idea. But I think not knowing is the ultimate privilege - it means that there are still opportunities open to you, and still time left to explore them. Opportunity is waiting for you, no matter where you are in your student journey. As a student, you might never have another time in your life where you get to spend your time hanging out with other young people, just doing whatever it is that interests you - even if it is just hanging out at shads throwing back 10 dollar jugs. As much as I thought I knew exactly what my future was going to look like when I came to university, the only thing I really learned is that if you spend too much time focusing on the future, you lose sight of what's available to you right now. Your future isn't some far off place; it's happening right now, right in front of you.

If you keep gazing into the distance, you might miss it.





Pacific
Clinical
Research
NETWORK
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Current studies



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Clinical trials aren't just for those who are sick—healthy volunteers play a vital role in research too! Whether it's testing new vaccines, medicines, or treatments, your participation helps improve health outcomes for people worldwide.

Why volunteer?

- 🌐 Help discover breakthrough treatments
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- 💰 All studies offer compensation for your time & travel
- 👏 Make a real impact on the future of healthcare

What is a clinical trial?

A clinical trial is a study that evaluates the safety and effectiveness of a treatment for a particular disease or condition.

📢 WasteWise Info Stall 📢

📅 **Where:** Alfred St, Opposite UOA Library
🕒 **When:** Monday 3 March – Wednesday 5 March

Looking for advice on waste management and council services? Visit our **WasteWise Info Stall** – your one-stop hub for all things waste and recycling in Auckland!

- ♻️ **Get answers to your waste-related questions**
- 📄 **Learn about responsible recycling & disposal**
- 📢 **Stay informed on council services & waste initiatives**

Our knowledgeable **WasteWise Advisors** are here to help! Drop by, grab some educational materials, and discover how you can reduce waste in your community.

Every little bit counts – let's work together towards a Zero Waste Auckland! 🌱



HALLS: HEAVEN OR HELL?

SOME ANONYMOUS ADVICE AND TALES
FROM UOA'S HALLS OF RESIDENCE



TE HIRA MAYALL-NAHI & ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTORS

Moving into the halls is weird. It's exciting, it's gross, it's frightening. But most of all, it's a barrel of hyper-specific events that typically only happen when you live in the halls. Take that in whichever way helps you process your experience. Thankfully some people were willing to share their experiences and advice.

HELL

Matt from Waipārūrū says: "It all started in O'Week - everyone's favourite time to start a sordid affair with a stranger from across the country. A guy I knew from before halls decided that he was going to make some less than savoury moves on as many women as he could before the end of the week. At least, that's what it looked like to me. At every turn he was chatting up another girl, and I was drunk enough to be losing track. It was chaos, until... He found the girl he was going to bury in his bed. They were famed for being loud, at the dismay of the rest of us. Until one night, it was all quiet on the western front. Could it be they quietened down? Oh no, that would be way too simple. Our trusty super slag was on another floor, banging another girl just as loud. I swear it became a competition to see who could be more dramatic. Thank goodness the girl from the other floor seemed to win?"

Anonymous from UNIHALL TOWERS says: "Living in the halls is fun as but

even though you aren't ever really alone, there were times where I just felt really lonely. I don't know why, but yeah I just went home when I felt like that."

Simon from Carlaw says: "I hated calling the duty phone in my first year. It's so embarrassing to have an RA have to come and sort out whatever mess you were in. Sometimes, though, I loved seeking petty revenge with a noise complaint or reporting bad behaviour on my floor. This time, I was desperate. My neighbours were fucking so loud I couldn't sleep. I felt like I was in the room with them, only thank god I didn't have to watch. I thought, enough is enough, and I called the duty phone. Only, by the time the duty RA was there, they'd finished. Embarrassing... The next night, it began again - so I called straight away. It seemed old mate must've been worked up because in the 2 minutes it took the RA to get there, well let's just say there weren't

any more noises out of them that night."

Lily-Mae from WAIPĀRŪRŪ says: "I was cooking my noodles in the microwave once and it accidentally caught on fire. We pulled it out and had to fan it out with my hoodie and some tea towels. I didn't know that there were bits of metal and foil on the noodle cup! Some advice I would give is be kind and true to yourself. Remember that this is a first experience for everyone."

Sa TE TIROHANGA O TE TŌANGAROA (OVERSTAYER) says: "When you keep on coming in a lot, the staff think you just stay there. I had a lot of friends living there one year so I stayed with one mate most of the time rather than going home. I will say though, the floor was better than that brick bed."

HEAVEN

Annie from Waipārūrū says: "I would say definitely go to the clubs in when you're in halls! There's Karaoke Bars that are fun to go. Bar 101 is a sad must, and crawling down to Holey Moley. My friends loved taking the bus to Newmarket, there's a lot more to do there. Provedor and Rosie's are good too. I didn't really do much else. Also, go out for dinner in Ponsonby to see the night life."

Aoatea from O'Rorke and Unihall Towers says: "Take advantage of all of the

events this year - try all the different things that they offer. You meet a lot of people when you attend the events. Those people will become your friends for years after."

Tiare from GRAFTON says: "[My floor] clicked in the very first week. We got to go out to the city and explore Tamaki all together. It was exciting because most of the people weren't from Auckland so they got to experience it for the first time. I did need to tell a couple people though that I

needed time to myself so I could sort everything out when I first moved."



SOME PERSONAL ADVICE/ TALES FROM TE HIRA

- Cutlery Amnesty – too many cutlery pieces had gone missing and we were told we'd be charged for the missing items if they weren't returned in a week
- Using a sock to cover the light sensors for movie night
- Watching people order UberEats when the menu for dinner is Lamb Pilaf
- A couch in the elevator that stayed there for a month until someone got caught sleeping on it
- The floor fridge being the most unsafe place to store your food
- Two mates showering at the same time so they could listen to a new album together
- Pretending you're vegan to get sorbet as your dessert
- Having to invest in truly noise-cancelling headphones – you'll figure this one out eventually
- Cooking noodles in the kettle
- The study room on your floor always being occupied by the med students
- Floor 2 deviants taking the elevator at peak rush hours
- The washing machines overflowing too often
- Using the toilet when someone is taking a shower to hide any noises
- A whole salad being spilled in the elevator and no one touched it for 3 days
- Knowing that the fire alarm hates to see someone use the toaster
- Someone calling the RA as noise control because some people on your floor are getting acquainted with each other (please see the note about headphones if this occurs again)
- Waiting until the last 15 mins of dinner service so you can get a second round of food
- Coming back from hours of lectures just to see the first person you talked to at o-week sitting on your bed playing guitar
- Getting locked out of your room during the semester break without your phone, so you have to run around the floor in your towel trying to find someone that is still there to call the RAs, who end up just laughing when they realise you had the most cliché university accommodation experience

If you couldn't tell, that last point was a personal, and absolutely embarrassing, experience.

But hey, if you can't laugh at yourself your RAs will certainly do it for you.

FACTS

TOP 5 REASONS TO DROP OUT OF UOA AND ENROL AT **AUT** INSTEAD

HONESTLY, QUIT WHILE YOU'RE STILL AHEAD.

SEAN MATHESON

1. AUT has better student culture: UOA is as corporate as it gets. Every time I visit your campus, I get chills and am reminded of the horrors of late-stage capitalism, as your faculties merge into the singularity which is online AI-driven lecturing. We might have Technology in our name, but we put people first.

2. AUT has better food options: We literally give out free food all the time. Honestly AUTSA > AUSA. Plus, our food shops are way better, with yum sandwiches on at our CBD campus and a whole cafeteria just for our Sports & exercise science students. Which reminds me...

3. AUT is better at sports: Ok, not gonna lie, your new Rec centre is kinda cool. But seriously, we have all the athletes and kick your asses every time. Join the dark side, join our sports clubs.

4. AUT has better support services: You know your precious Student Hubs? We did it first. You copied us. And we still do it better. Know your place. And that's at AUT. The grass really is greener on the other side.

5. AUT's student magazine, Debate, is published more regularly: When Debate started being published bi-weekly last year you laughed. Well, the jokes on you now. Enjoy your tri-weekly if you're lucky student mag losers. Or just take my advice, drop out and enrol at the superior "Auckland University".

DON'T LET AI EAT YOU UP!!!

OPINIONS ON OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF AI USAGES



LEE LI (SHE/HER)

You might think I'm someone who's against AI, but you're WRONG.

AI is my friend—my search engine, my unpaid intern, and probably the reason I survived university, overcame the language difficulty and built my career.

From ChatGPT to MetaAI, and now to the trending DeepSeek, the demand for AI is higher than ever. A recent study from the UK shows that 97% of the highest-paying IT jobs require AI competency. Now, if you go on Indeed and search for jobs in marketing, social media, or any field of media and communications, you'll quickly notice that many require 'AI proficiency'.



Unleashing AI is a skill, and I was fortunate to be among the first batch of digital marketing students who were taught to use AI in the class, equipping us with new skills in this competitive career field so we don't fall behind. Perhaps that's why there's a new job called 'Promote Engineer'—clearly, we need someone to tell the machine what to do.

Remembering three years ago, when I first started university, AI was strictly prohibited. Fast forward to today, the university now allows its use where appropriate. Everything is digital now, and as your Digital Manager at Craccum, AI helps me organise emails, summarise blurbs, and search for keywords to boost our rankings and drive traffic. But most importantly, it's been a game-changer for me—a former media/communications student whose first language wasn't English.

Language is a privilege, and being able to communicate is a privilege—not just with people, but also with

machines. Last year, at a student-staff conference, I proposed AI as an effective tool to help students for whom English isn't their first language, enabling them to refine their essays grammatically and make their writing more readable. I often heard that some students got marked down because their phrases were 'rather awkward'. However, as for a higher education institution, ideas should be valued more than how they are presented. After all, a good idea is worth more than a thousand words.

But does that mean AI can do everything for you? Simply, NO. You can't just ask AI to write a whole essay for you—that's plagiarism. AI might be as good as it sounds, for example, improving production efficiency and streamlining workflows. But here's one thing AI can't replace: your creativity—your humanity, what makes you human.

We can't afford the consequences of over-relying and overindulging in the AI world. Sure, we can ask AI to handle some admin work, like drafting emails, but it can't execute higher intellectual tasks. If we start letting AI write everything for us, one day, we might forget and lose the ability to read, write, and communicate with other human beings.

So, let's outsmart AI. They handle the labour part, and we handle the smart part. They can be a solid tool for basic research, but don't let them do everything—remember, they're just your unpaid interns. Don't forget who's the boss.

Alrighty, have a wonderful new semester and **DON'T** plagiarise.



HANDBOOK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

GRACE LONDON (SHE/HER) | @GRACELONNDON

Congratulations! You've made it to Auckland Uni and have no idea what to make of it? Well, as an international who has been exactly in your shoes, I have compiled a few pointers to help you navigate your new life in this far away land.

1. Going out: Bar 101: Go once, tell everyone "Yeah worst club in town, I'll never go back", then proceed to end every night singing your heart out with a \$4 cruiser in hand, surrounded by your new besties having the time of your life.

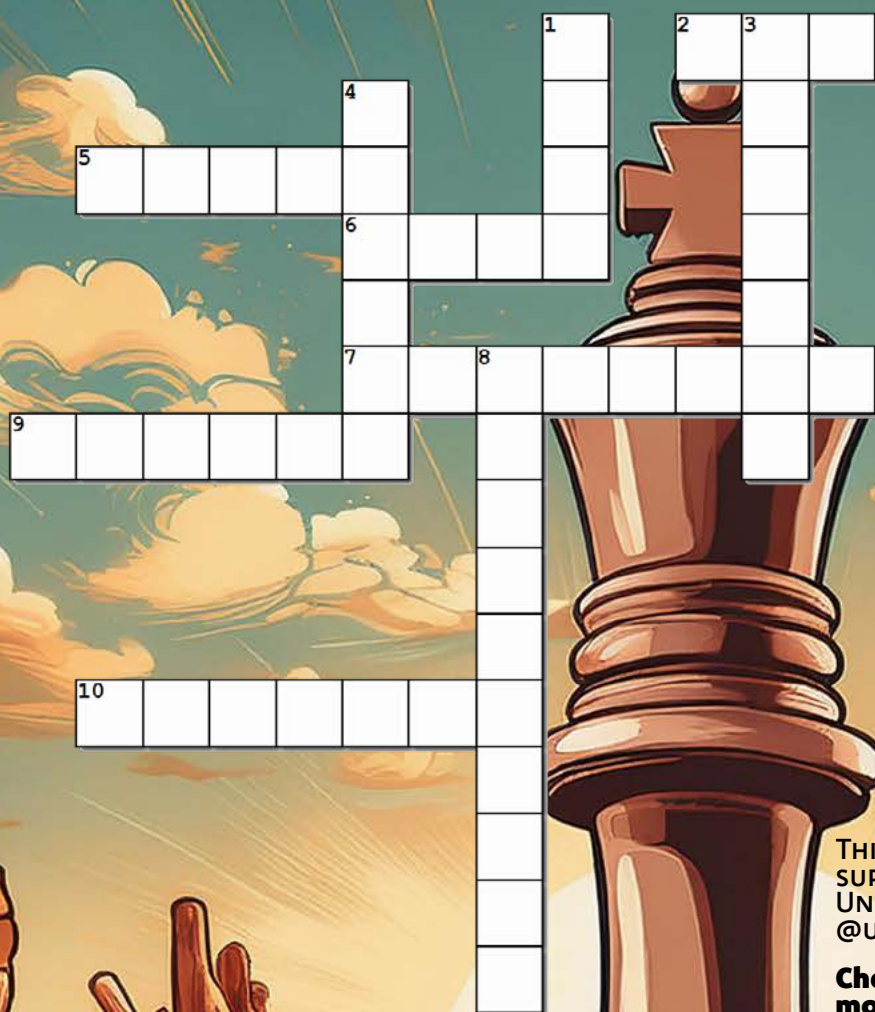
2. Societies: join them. While they may hate to admit it, kiwis love internationals — as long as you get stuck in. If you're on a club trip and are forced into the middle of a circle for a croc fight, don't resist — you won't encounter any reptiles, but you will get a taste of what it really means to be a kiwi.

3. Tutorials: please just speak. Talk to the people around you, chances are they won't bite your head off and you might actually make some kiwi friends, and you want some of those, not just for the car access 😊.

4. Beach: when you're not bar 101'ing, at a society event or being an academic weapon, go to the beach! Mission bay, Takapuna, or even Devonport if you're feeling fancy, why come all this way if you can't post one study break beach trip on your Instagram.

Finally, you're going to love it here, enjoy every second!

PUZZLES



DOWN

1. The name of the new Rec center in Te Reo.
3. Did you know we are looking for people to contribute _____ to Craccum?
4. I check my uni ____ every day?
8. UOA gives you three free sessions of what?

ACROSS

2. I promise I will not misuse...
5. The name of the student radio station based above the Quad.
6. Te Rōpū Kahikatea.
7. I will attend all of my...
9. 2025 is a blank _____.
10. One of the bands performing at Alfred's Festival on Wednesday.

THIS CHESS PUZZLE IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY CHESS ASSOCIATION @UOACHESSASSOCIATION!

Chess hint: Checkmate in 1 move.

6		9						
		7		5	2	8	9	1
				1				6
2	3					4		
9					1			8
		1	2			3	5	
7							8	
				8	9			
8		4	1	9			7	3



**CHESS
ANALYSIS**



**SOLUTION
FOR BLACK**

HOROSCOPES



Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19):

So, you botched last year. Yes, I know. I know EVERYTHING. Inespera is spyware. But failure doesn't define you. O-week is a blank slate. Let fresh faces breathe new light into your life. Focus on each day as it comes. One step at a time. Also, wait for their to reply. You know who I'm talking about. And if you don't, you will soon. But don't keep them waiting. Follow Chappell's lead: Chivalry is the new horny.



Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18):

Go to Unleash Space. Yk, that orange area in the Engineering building. It beckons. They paid me to say this. Shocked? You shouldn't be. How do you think Dusk pays her bills, buddy? Those goodie bags you've been racking up don't fill themselves. Tapping into your snowflake energy will actually be fruitful this week, so strike while the iron is hot. Just don't burn yourself ;) Dusk is all about that Health & Safety.



Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20):

Watch out for those religious cults this week. Yk, the ones that randomly chat you up about the bible. Dusk is all about faith, but she worries for your freedom too. You're too precious to be corrupted. Focus on yourself this week, try a new hobby. Maybe try one of those super niche clubs, like the University of Auckland Scale Modelling and Miniatures Club. Yes, that's a real thing. Why haven't you signed up already? Who knows? Could become your new personality trait.



Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19):

New Year's resolution? Fuck that. You're about that New Semester's resolution. Attending your lectures, joining the Rec centre, catching the vibes at Alfred's Festival. Look at you e n g a g i n g. You might come across a bit TOO sunshine and rainbows this week, so don't be surprised when your less bubbly mates get startled in your headlines. Knowing when to hit the dim is the key to this week, cuzzo.



Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20):

Like your horny friend Aries, you need a change of pace to ace O-week. But unlike them, you actually need to get laid. You're gonna be eye-rolling the festivities, but changing lanes is what you need. So feel alive. Switch course? Switch degree? Switch sexuality? Find a new you alongside your new routine. Thank me later babes when shit starts going your way for once.



Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20):

No. This is not a sign to use AI. Unless by AI you mean Always Interacting, because that's what you're gonna be doing this week. Your phone's gonna be buzzing so much you could use it as a vibrator (if you're so inclined, no judgement from Dusk, darling). Just remember unlike an AI, your need to recharge your social battery, queen. Chill out, listen to LoFi beats and do your readings. That means you Alexis, goddammit! You can't say I didn't warn you.



Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22):

Fuck's sake. Stop crying. Learn some other emotional reactions to sprinkle throughout the day. Variety is the spice of life. We're tired of your waterworks. And you're dehydrated. Yes, this is your sign to drink. Water dammit. Shads isn't going broke, stop being their platinum donor. Stop reading now. Drink some water. Breathe. Make some new friends in your tutorials so you're not always leaning on your regular therapist bestie. Fuck's sake.



Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22):

So basically, you're stacked. Not only do you have peak protagonist energy coming your way this week, you also have rizz off the fucking rizz-dar. Babes. I'm scared. Seriously, these readings are not normal. This is your sign to be a class rep. Yeah, put your hand up during that awks moment when the lecture asks. Own that shit. Not all of us can be as cool as you, okay? Jeez. And remember: always use protection.



Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22):

You lucky bastard. You're gonna be that one friend bragging that they didn't need to queue up at Student Hubs. We get it: you have your class timetable as your laptop AND phone background. Where is building 303S? Oh, you know? Of course you would. Just don't rub it in too hard on us mere mortals that you're on top of your shit. Loosen up, remember O-Week is for having a good time.



Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22):

I... you've suffered a fate worse than death this sem, honey. A two-hour 8 am and 6 pm lecture on the same day. You might think that works for your schedule, but work-life balance is a thing. Find something fun to do to break up the time between your classes. Grab a vegan meal in the quad and meditate. You're reading Craccum so you're on the right track. Expect the unexpected this week as your expectations vs. reality collide. Stay safe out there.



Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21):

Do I hear Diana Ross? Because you're coming out this week. Shedding your shell, and revealing the new you. Just look at you go, cutie. But don't stare in the mirror too long. Remember, your tutorial class isn't a runway, so your fashion fuck-ups aren't nothing to lose sleep over. You are fugly. Fucking Utterly Gorgeous, Like Yasss. So kill it this O-week.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21):

Semester Time! C'mon grab your friends. We're going to explore Bar 101 and get drunk again. The fun will never end... and neither will the cheap cruisers! You're the reason Gemini's are blushing in class. You're out here committing acts of terror in their dms, blowing that shit right the fuck up. "And what?" You say. "O-week doesn't last forever. All the info is on the lecture slides anyway". You are a bad influence, that's what you are.



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