

# Craccum

EST. 1927

*"A Man Is Not A Necessity, A Man Is A Luxury"*  
- Cher

## Masculinity

**A MAN IN A LAKE  
IN SWITZERLAND**  
BY OLIVER COCKER // 8

**PACIFIC  
MASCULINITY**  
BY IATUA FELAGAI TAITO // 14

**THE HIDDEN COST  
OF SILENCE**  
BY KAAVYA GOSHAL // 23



**We offer  
advice about  
your rights,  
university  
procedures,  
tenancy  
and more.**



**student support hub**



# CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	3
NEWS	4
A MAN IN A LAKE IN SWITZERLAND	8
THE MANOSPHERE	11
WHAT IS SUCCESS FOR MĀORI MEN?	12
PACIFIC MASCULINITY	14
MIDNIGHT SUNRISE	13
HOW 2 GO FROM STUDENT 2 POLITICIAN	18
UNHINGED PERSPECTIVES	20
THROUGH THE LENS: GENDERED REFLECTIONS	24
HOW TO LOOK OUT FOR TOXIC MASCULINITY	26
PUZZLES	29
HOROSCOPES	30

## STAFF

EDITOR KIERAN PANUI (HE/HIM)  
editor@craccum.co.nz

ASSISTANT EDITOR KALA BURGESS (SHE/HER)  
subeditor@craccum.co.nz

FEATURES EDITOR OLIVER COCKER (HE/HIM)  
features@craccum.co.nz

ARTS EDITOR LEWIS CREED (HE/HIM)  
arts@craccum.co.nz

LIFESTYLE EDITOR KAAVYA GHOSHAL (SHE/HER)  
lifestyle@craccum.co.nz

NEWS EDITOR ALAN WU (HE/HIM)  
news@craccum.co.nz

VISUAL ARTS ARIANNA RAMOS (SHE/HER)  
visualarts@craccum.co.nz

ASSISTANT VISUAL ARTS BEN LUO (HE/HIM)  
visualarts@craccum.co.nz

SOCIAL MEDIA LEE LI (SHE/HER)  
socials@craccum.co.nz

PASIFIKA EDITOR IATUA FELAGAI TAITO (HE/HIM)  
pasifika@craccum.co.nz

MĀORI EDITOR BLAZE WEBSTER (SHE/HER)  
maori@craccum.co.nz

ENVIRONMENTAL EDITOR MIKE CROSS (HE/HIM)  
environmental@craccum.co.nz

DESIGNER NICK WITHERS (HE/THEY)  
design@ausa.org.nz

ADVERTISING  
advertising@ausa.org.nz

COVER  
'MAN IN THE WORLD' -  
BENNEDICT WEST @INDIEFOGHORNLEGHORN

CENTREFOLD  
'ROADWORKS' - JACK VALENTINE, 2023 OIL ON CANVAS  
910X1220MM

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS  
ARIANNA RAMOS, BEN LUO, KALA TAKEBE BURGESS,  
KALAA SHARMA

HOROSCOPES CLARICE DE TOLEDO (SHE/HER)

INTERNS TIM EVANS (THEY/THEM) (ARTS),  
TREVOR PRONOSO (HE/HIM) (NEWS),  
REEMA ARSILAN (SHE/HER) (FEATURES).

### EDITORIAL OFFICE

TOP LEVEL  
STUDENT UNION  
BUILDING  
34 PRINCES STREET

f CraccumMagazine  
@craccum  
@craccum  
@craccummag



**WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?**  
WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM  
YOU! JUST SEND US AN EMAIL!



# A man on men

## For every Tom, Dick, and Harry...



KIERAN PANUI

This week's issue marks the beginning of the final term of 2024, and what an exciting time it has been. Not to get sentimentally sloppy or anything like that, but every year for students means either another year to go till degree done or the year of liberation itself. Whichever that may be for you, dear reader, enjoy the remainder of your year - "best years of your life", so I'm told...

As we step into this year's *Masculinity Issue*, I find myself contemplating not just the changes we've witnessed in Craccum, but also the evolving dialogue around what it means to be a man in the modern world. Masculinity has become a recurring theme for this magazine over the years, presenting fascinating discussions, stories, and opportunities for masculine ideals and standards to be explored. Just like our annual women's special issue, Kate, this edition delves into the multifaceted concept of gender, this time focusing on men, their identities, and their challenges in today's world.

I will not at all baulk at admitting it: even as a man, I feel strangely unqualified to speak about what masculinity really is. The term is used so broadly, almost flippantly, yet when one contemplates the essence of being a man, the idea disperses into something far too complex to easily pin down. What remains, at least for me, is the acknowledgment that masculinity is not a monolithic concept but a spectrum of experiences shaped by culture, time, and personal identity.

It has never been more difficult to define what masculinity means in 2024. We have the legacy of centuries-old expectations regarding men as stoic providers and protectors, but at the same time, we also live in an age that questions and reframes these roles. Masculinity is not just about power and dominance; it is also not just strength or authority. It is, or at least can be, about compassion, vulnerability, and the capacity for change.

What does that mean in practice? Look beyond the clichés and stereotypes, and masculinity today is far more fluid, even fragile, than previous generations might have admitted. Being a good man, just like being a good woman, does not involve any esoteric rite or ritual. It simply means being a good person. The idea here is basic: gender is an exponent of individual experience and identity. We can't continue to subsume men-or for that matter, women-into rigid categories of

behaviours or expectations or appearances.

This is liberating for many men. The idea that a man can be both strong and sensitive, assertive and compassionate, resolute and introspective opens up new vistas to think about gender. In this issue, we consider these shades: celebrating atypical masculine identities through stresses exerted on those conforming to an older standard.



And yet, even in the age of increased gender awareness, men had their own particular problems. A lot has been said about toxic masculinity, but very often the term itself was used ad nauseam to the level of caricature. Rather, we should not demonise masculinity in its entirety but take into consideration how certain kinds of behaviours, values, and norms can become self-destruction both for men themselves and for the people who surround them. What is important, however, is to be able to recognize such behaviours and work our way through them and not reject masculinity, but redefine it in healthier and more sustainable ways.

Perhaps one of the most pervasive of these challenges men face relates to their mental health: men are still much less likely to seek help when it comes to depression, anxiety, and trauma. This largely contributes to deep-seated beliefs that equate emotional vulnerability with weakness-a notion with

which we should all be actively working. The interface of masculinity and mental health is tackled in some of the most captivating writings this issue has to offer: men must learn to love their feelings without fear of judgement.

Meanwhile, masculinity can still serve as a source of pride and empowerment for many men. We must not lose sight of the value of certain traditional masculine qualities, such as resilience, courage, and leadership, which remain significant assets in a wide range of contexts. The important thing now, however, is to learn that those qualities are not exclusively masculine, nor need their expression come at the expense of other, equally valuable traits.

So, what does the future hold for masculinity? It's tempting to think that gender norms will continue to blur until they become irrelevant. But perhaps that's too simplistic. What we're seeing is more likely an expansion of what it means to be a man. Rather than discarding masculinity altogether, we are seeing a broadening of its definition to include manifold forms of expression-from the traditionally "masculine" to the uncharacteristically tender, nurturing, or introspective.

What does matter, however, is that we keep the conversation open. From the growth of gender-neutral parenting to the growing inclusion of trans men in conversations about male identity, to the ways in which men are starting to deal with movements such as #MeToo, there seems to be a constant debate over what it means to be a man. As it was with the Women's Issue, Craccum this week provides a forum for these voices, helping facilitate further in a nuanced and inclusive understanding of gender.

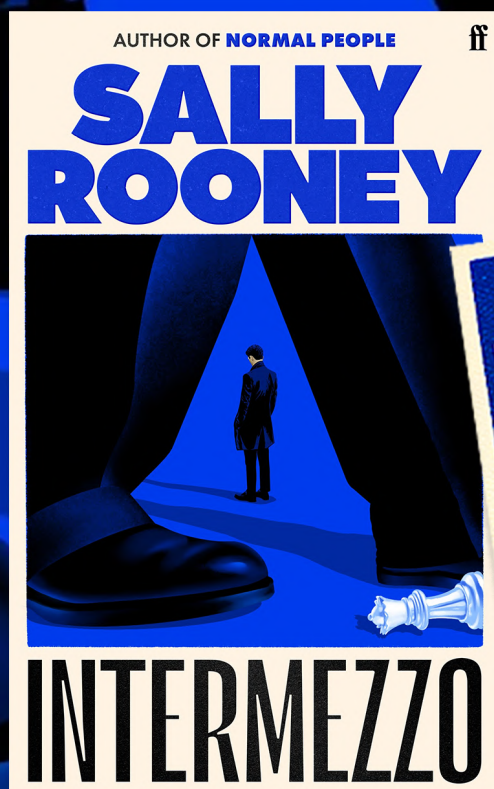
The evolution of masculinity is exciting and ongoing. There's no endpoint in sight-no ultimate "masculine ideal" toward which we're all moving. And that's a good thing. Masculinity, like all things having to do with identity, is personal, fluid, and above all, human. As you make your way through the issue, I hope you'll reflect on your own experiences with masculinity - whether you identify with it, push against it, or fall somewhere in between.

Enjoy the curated pieces that follow-thought-provoking testimonials to the diversity of thought, feeling, and experience surrounding this ever-evolving topic. And at the end of the day, whether you are a man or not, there is something in this conversation for everyone!



RELEASE DATE: 24 SEPTEMBER 2024

**PRE-ORDER**  
**FROM *Subiq* TO GET**  
**15% OFF<sup>RRP</sup>**



**+ BONUS  
BOOKMARK!**



LIMITED STOCK AVAILABLE. 15% OFF RRP FOR ORDERS PLACED BEFORE 23/9.



# COMMENTARY FROM THE POLLING ACCOUNT ON AUSA ELECTIONS

*On the week before voting opened, an anonymous account was created for the purpose of polling the AUSA election races this year. No explanations for its origin were given, and it quickly disappeared before student voting opened. We are fortunate enough to have their thoughts and comments following the conclusion of this year's election.*

**The polling was quite accurate and largely representative of the majority of the winning outcomes. How did you attain this?**

"I was aware very early on the initial methodology had some flaws. Initially, there was vote spamming in an attempt to defraud the process, but we sought coders to develop a means to detect fraud and spamming behaviour. Potentially fraudulent results would be flagged and then checked. It wasn't a perfect system, but it strengthened the integrity of the polls from the onset and made it as independent and objective as possible."

**Certainly, the polls were accurate. However, do you feel your work directly affected the decisions of student voters?**

"Firstly, we're unable to grasp voter behaviour or accurately predict it. Roughly 1500 students responded, and approximately 4500 people voted in the actual elections, so I would say

the data sample was pretty accurate. The commentary was sensationalised and aimed at capturing attention; the intention was to capture and bring people's attention to the elections. In the end, the polls aimed to track the development of the elections. For example, Gabriel Boyd polled very low in the beginning. However, his votes gained momentum when he started to gain endorsements, and the increase in his support correlated as this developed.

It's undeniable that the account had influence despite starting just a week before the elections. If people were already predetermined when engaging with the polls, the likely effect on students' psyche is that it made them unlikely to change. Of course, we wouldn't be able to quantify the influence's magnitude, given we don't have the means to measure it."

**What do you think was the effect on candidates?**

"I have no idea what the effect was on candidates competing in their race. However, we can only assume some candidates likely became discouraged by the initial polling numbers. There were a variety of reasons that made this year's elections more competitive. Whichever the substantial reason for this is, it is hard to determine. However, the

introduction of an anonymous polling account affected this year's outcome and certainly the competitiveness of the election itself."

**What are your thoughts on future anonymous polling accounts for future elections?**

"I am highly against it. Even though they may not have been the primary cause for the tensions of this election, it certainly elevated the amount of stress and animosity among candidates amongst each other. That's just my personal perspective.

I don't regret any of the actions I took as the anonymous polling account. For example, with commentary, there was a need to balance the content and the sensationalism that emerged to grab attention and follow the developments. That still does not change my stance that future students should avoid following this example; young people have certainly shown that we are not mature enough to handle the kind of competition and tension that, say, career politicians are faced with in a mature and civil capacity.

I believe this concept needs to be tried and tested at some point, and the results I've witnessed have proven to me that future students should completely avoid this sort of practice."

## A CONVERSATION WITH A NEW ZEALAND WAR VETERAN

*Richard Field is a war veteran. He served in the Malaysia-Borneo confrontation in 1965. Richard has a colourful background and career, having travelled across and outside New Zealand. He has been a demolitions expert, an assistant fire chief, the manager of a cinema, a writer for the Herald, a dog lover, and many other things. He's even had coffee with Chuck Norris! Richard lives now in Stanmore Bay, always accompanied by his Assistance Dog, 'Jett'. I've had the pleasure of meeting Richard as part of my work as a freelance journalist.*

Richard is what most would describe as a 'Man's Man', having been through what he calls "Hell and back". Given that, I certainly believed Richard would have some experience and wisdom worth sharing with us in this upcoming masculinity issue, namely his opinion on what men should be. I believe as young people, students who are just coming into the world around us, Richard provides a unique perspective we've probably not heard much of.

Richard is what professors today would call a global citizen. In each career or place he was in, he spent time and time again being involved in the communities he was a part of. With Jett, he travelled throughout Auckland to various speaking engagements educate others on the work that Assistance Dogs do. Some may also recall an old Stuff article in the early 2010s about a dog park. That was Richard and his dog Skoota.

In 2004, the two pushed the Whangarei District Council to implement its first leash-free dog park. They were the "driving force" and were regularly present before the council to make submissions. They advocated for it on the basis that parks encouraged dogs to socialise and offered another opportunity for exercise and play. At Skoota's passing, a memorial was erected, commemorating Richard and Skoota's efforts.

There are two things that Richard says he can never sit still from seeing, and that is if he sees "something unjust or lying."

**"If I see someone being treated unjustly, you know I'll be standing right there beside them."**

Even in his golden years, well past retirement, Richard's adventures stem from justice and responsibility. The intention behind his actions is always simple and rooted in honest concern and love.

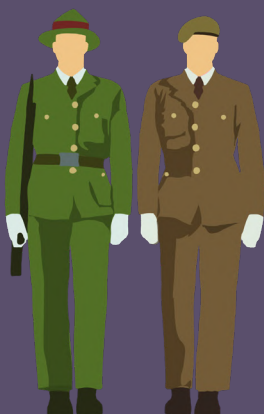
These are thoughts I think we as young people generally don't expect from older generations, let alone a war veteran. We're often thinking of things like 'ah back in my day', or 'toughen up'. Richard's life certainly tells us there is more to

masculinity than the 'toxic masculinity' that we are exposed to on social media. In Richard's eyes, it's not all about being tough or strong, although Richard certainly is. Rather, he shows us that a man is made by their ability to bear responsibility, care for others, and certainly their ability to stand unwavering for something right. It's an idea that is certainly one that can be seen as a standard that men, or should I say, everyone could consider.

Looking around, we're certainly not children anymore, and we've had our fair share of experiences. Whether it's the bully at school or the proud manager at work, I think by now, a lot of us have experienced some form of injustice. Some definitely greater than others.

So now I ask you, when was the last time you remember someone, or dare I say, a man, speaking of a higher calling than themselves? When was the last time you saw perseverance in them as they fought on behalf of that higher calling, regardless of how difficult the process would be, to protect it and see it to the end?

Sometimes, it could be as simple as pushing for the council to open a dog park. It took Richard and Skoota four years of lobbying before the council supported it and helped open the project. Richard doesn't live in Whangarei anymore, but I'm sure many dog owners appreciate his hard work and service.





# REPORT ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2024.

## CFT Update & Provost's Brief to the Student Council

The Provost was present at the student council meeting which preluded the open forum. Roughly the same message was delivered at the Student Council as the Open Forum. An acknowledgement of poor communication and questions should be directed towards faculties. She noted that phase-out of courses such as General Education Courses is inevitable. However, the Provost mentioned that student consultation is a priority, although she failed to clarify how students would be involved in the process. She reiterated that no decisions have yet been made.

When queried regarding contradicting information shared by staff, the Provost was quick to name it "misinformation" due to staff acting immaturity. As the News Editor, I'm not personally one to push my opinions onto ink, but hearing this statement was incredibly troubling at the time. Not only was there inconsistency in communication, but it can also be inferred there was serious tension between teaching staff and management.

## International Day of Action for Academic Integrity

Ben Kao from the Academic Quality Office updated the rewards available to students completing surveys. Unfortunately, there are no options for cash prizes, and they must be vouchers or Prezzy cards. Previous issues with an additional surcharge on the Prezzy cards should be removed.

Ben also introduced the International Day of Action for Academic Integrity. This is a week-long event that universities worldwide participate in to encourage honesty. There will be an online student panel where students will take part in a discussion on what academic integrity means to you. This will be a collaboration between three Edith Cowan University students and three Auckland University students. This will be held on October 16th. The Auckland University organiser of this is Sheryll McIntosh.

Additionally, pop-up kiosks will be present across campus from October 7th to the 14th. These kiosks are located in the Arts, Science, Engineering, and Business buildings and the Grafton Campus. The goal is to promote awareness of academic integrity and exams. There will be chocolates available. Keep an eye out for them next week!

# COURSE CUTS: AFTERMATH FROM THE FORUM

On Thursday, 22nd of August, the Provost attended a student-led forum to help clarify the University's Curriculum Framework Transformation (CFT) and the ongoing saga of course cuts. The Provost, Valerie Linton, is the University's senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor responsible for leading the academic mission. Her responsibilities can be found in the QR code below.

I noted that the Provost stated outright that she would only be responding to questions from students, not staff. It is clear from past information leaks that different information is arriving at students and teaching staff. This process is certainly not "faculty-led". Communications to faculty have been reported as so: "the ...CFT includes two brand new course requirements that will be required for all first-year students to take, as of 2026 [Waipapa Taumata Rau (WTR) and a Transdisciplinary (TD) course]." The critical issue appears to be a scheduling issue as there would not be enough rooms for those courses to be taught in.

Of course, there were also suggestions for fiscal reasons for the cuts; however, the Provost denied this. The emergency senate meeting on the 27th of August certainly bought us time and was a genuine win for students and staff. My key takeaway as an observer is greater unity between staff and students. This would be necessary going forward to ensure appropriate checks are placed to balance University management and safeguard our experience as students.



PROVOST'S PROFILE AND  
DETAILS



STAFF THOUGHTS ON  
OPEN FORUM



STUDENT COUNCIL  
MINUTES, AUG 20TH.

# A MAN IN A LAKE IN SWITZERLAND

EXPLOSIONS ARE THERE TOO



OLIVER COCKER

ILLUSTRATION BY KALA TAKEBE BURGESS





If you were to line up the members of the Craccum team and rank them in terms of masculinity, I would no doubt lie far below many of the women in the team. To that effect, In this Masculinity issue, I have taken it upon myself to prove to the world that I am the most masculine human being possible. And what better way to do that than attempt to solve a problem in which I have literally zero, and I mean zero, experience in the field?

The government of Switzerland is offering fifty thousand francs, or about ninety-five thousand New Zealand Dollars, to the three best ideas to remove discarded ammunition from three of their lakes. Given a predisposition to war also fits the masculine definition, and just like Edward removing James' venom, I couldn't help myself. The first line of the competition is, "Of course, there is a risk of explosion," which really speaks to me as a man.

So, from where are we retrieving ninety years' worth of environmental and societal harm? Lake Thun has nearly five thousand tonnes, all from depths two metres to two hundred metres. Lake Neuchâtel is shallower, though its base is covered in an unknown thickness of mud. Finally, Lake Lucerne only has three thousand tonnes of ammunition nestled around the equivalent biomass of less important fish that for some reason, need to be protected during retrieval. Our three main barriers are depth, mud, and preserving life. Fish and human life, of course.

Now, as a man, I can claim to know what you're thinking. Magnets. An attractive proposition but an ineffective solution. Some items are made of copper and aluminium, which are woefully diamagnetic, a fancy word that I just learned means not magnetic. We would also need a magnet capable of moving fifty kilograms from OGGB to the Library. The amount of force required would be able to move a six-tonne boat that it accidentally passed above water, or just enough to match the opposite of the human body's field, and fling children from the shorefront onto our contraption at ten metres per second.

I spent a lot of time trying to work out that in physics terms, but I don't know them, so I'll just say the strongest magnet ever made could move two hundred and twenty-five kilograms from a short distance. Not quite six-tonnes.

So, some things are magnetic, and some things that are magnetic are also too heavy. So then I thought, why don't we just pay some people to give up their lives to preserve the stability of the ecology of these lakes and manually retrieve these items? The Swiss government would give their families some ribbons, and overall, human wages could be kept low because men would want to prove themselves. Alas, they are not real men because they would be unable to lift the measly fifty kilograms with the ten per cent body oxygen that would be caused by working in the pressure at that depth. They can do the shallow pieces, perhaps.

Having exhausted my two wisest ideas, I was willing to

hang up the towels and pretend I had never embarked upon this crusade in the first place. But something stopped me. Maybe it was toxic, maybe it was societal, or maybe it was just the product of history, but that doesn't matter. If you want to be a man, you have to be persistent for no reason until you can't and make sure you don't tell anyone when something goes wrong.

A few secondary ideas were revisited. Aquaman was quickly crossed off the list due to scheduling conflicts, and "just build a really big crane like the ones that make skyscrapers" was crossed off when I saw that they were called ram luffing knuckle boom cranes, which I simply couldn't associate with myself as a self-effacing man. The idea of attaching floatation devices with drones was briefly floated, but then I remembered that I knew nothing about robotics.

Most people would call in help at this time. A team of experts, maybe a consultant or two, or even just their dad. But if you want to succeed as a man, you have to do it all on your own. Why that is was never explained to me, but anyone with ready access to a father or equivalent elder patriarch should get back to me on it. Is the now scientifically disproven lone wolf not the epitome of the masculine charm?

I returned to the original competition call out by armasuisse, which reminded me that I was coming up with an idea that would probably cost many billions of francs, at it occurred to me that I was thinking too small. The New Zealand man was getting in the way of the international man. Tall poppy isn't a symptom of masculinity but rather a domestic ideal of it, so I must cast it off.

**There are only thirty-two cubic kilometres of water between the three lakes. That's only thirty-two billion cubic metres. If we used classic Bunnings twenty-litre buckets, we could clear the entire volume with only one and a half trillion bucket loads.**

Two thousand people who worked all day every day could clear that just before the end of this millennium. If we rostered the entire population of Switzerland to a daily requirement of eight hours, it would take just four years, or it would be an extra year quicker if tourists were conscripted as well.



But I get that a national government's purchase of twenty million buckets is an unlikely prospect. You could just use a pipe. Unfortunately, when I tried to get into the science of suction, I accidentally used the word "sucking" and despite being confronted with very masculine images, it would be improper to focus on theirs, and I had to abandon this course of action entirely. It would also disturb the metres of sediment that preserve oxygen for the low-dwelling species and probably drive them to extinction.

I did devote some time to considering how fish could be safely removed from an area before returning them. I even cherry-picked an ethnological survey of fish behaviour that had little to do with the matter at hand to back up any arguments I made, though I misplaced it and do not recall who wrote it, so you'll just have to trust me.

On the one hand, not all fish species have to be removed, just those that sit at the base of the lakes; on the other hand, large submersibles tend to be predatory

species for all fish. I suggest we get fifty mad scientists and give them one year to protect as many fish as possible before we start dropping machines on them. At this point, they can move on to the next lake, and the process can repeat. Anything that isn't saved is the fault of the scientists, and we should take credit for anything else. Did they really try if they haven't given the fish legs and reinvented amphibians?

I then had the brainwave to control-c all the information into ChatGPT to see if there was anything of use it could dream up. I wish I could say that it was useless, but somehow, having access to an unfathomable amount of knowledge did allow it to suggest using In-Situ Neutralization. This technique renders live ammunition into useless casings, by operating remote vehicles.

With that under my belt, I reconsidered my original ideas and I now have one cohesive pitch to present to the government of Switzerland. There will be three models of Remote-Operated Vehicles (ROV's) The first will have suction abilities to move small

amounts of the sediment layer and put up sediment curtains to stop it from working. The second will have the chemicals required to catalogue and neutralise ammunition. The third and final shall have a combination of magnetic and grappling appendages to lift items to the surface.

Depending on their carrying capacity, it would take hundreds of thousands of trips by these small vehicles, but they would slowly get the work done without disturbing large amounts of wildlife. Is it a masculine solution? Absolutely. Because what's more manly than doing something slow, tedious, and borderline unnecessary just to prove you can? And it is not like it needs to happen quickly. The munitions were first considered in a report I could find from the year of my birth, and they didn't even stop dumping in these lakes until three years ago.

Entries in Armasuisse's competition close in February if you want to try your hand at earning one hundred thousand dollars. I'm off to take my hard-earned masculinity.

# SHAPE SOCIAL CHANGE:

## Advance Your Career with a Master of Social Work Professional

*If you're passionate about human well-being, social justice, and creating meaningful social change, this could be the perfect path forward for you!*

[auckland.ac.nz/mswprof](http://auckland.ac.nz/mswprof)



**VISIT A POP-UP**  
B201 ATRIUM

WEDNESDAY  
**11 SEPT**

MONDAY  
**23 SEPT**

MONDAY  
**7 OCT**





# THE MANOSPHERE

PREVIOUSLY I HAVE MENTIONED THE MANOSPHERE IN AN ARTICLE I WROTE FOR CRACGUN ON THE TOPIC OF INCELS. I DO FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS SOMETHING THAT SHOULD PROBABLY BE EXPANDED ON (WHETHER IT DESERVES TO BE OR NOT). THE MANOSPHERE IS THE CORNER OF THE INTERNET DEDICATED TO PROMOTING MASCULINITY WITH RAMPANT MISOGYNY BEING THE BY-PRODUCT OF A VERY FIRM OPPOSITION TO FEMINISM.



REEMA ARSILAN

Whether you want to be or not I'd wager most people are somewhat aware of the manosphere, for example if you've ever heard of the term "red pill", an "alpha" or "beta" male, or a silly little guy called Andrew Tate.

The manosphere is a loosely connected collection of online communities and websites that focus on issues related to men and masculinity. It encompasses a wide range of ideologies and perspectives, many of which are controversial or extreme. The manosphere includes communities that discuss men's rights, men's mental health, dating and relationships, and what they perceive as societal issues that negatively affect men. The heavy focus on the idea of traditional masculinity in the manosphere lends itself to the idea of the alpha male; someone who is highly intelligent, dominant, and sexually successful (ew). In contrast, a "beta" (I hate even having to type this nonsense out) is not as successful or powerful. Already you may have spotted the weird dissonance in the way these people think about masculinity: men are naturally superior to women due to masculine traits, but there are also weak men who aren't masculine enough and need to pay thousands of dollars to attend alpha male training camps in order to become "real" men. Those are real, unfortunately.

If you've never encountered something like this before and you see a clip pop up out of nowhere on your feed it's easy to cringe or to laugh at how ridiculous the whole thing is. Seeing some shirtless guy beating his chest on TikTok, or a sleazy pick up artist giving step by step instructions on how to

approach a woman, or some guy sitting in his parents' basement making a podcast, and most people will brush that off. But sometimes they say something that makes sense. Take, for instance, that weird guy from the conservative dating app who makes Tiktoks eating food and trying to "gotcha!" feminists, who usually spouts nonsense but occasionally says something vaguely reasonable. It's like a monkey hammering randomly at a keyboard, give it long enough and eventually something coherent might be produced. This is how it starts. Maybe some guy is on the internet talking about men's issues, and maybe he's making some good points. Maybe he builds an audience. Maybe he has some questionable views, says some controversial things, but hey, he's right most of the time, right? A lot of men fall down this rabbit hole without realising how extreme their views are becoming, without thinking critically about the content they are consuming or the motivations of the creators of that content.

I have two younger brothers, and my god that stuff is everywhere, all of the time, promoting these ideas about what it takes to be a man and how men should act and how they should treat women. My siblings are smart kids but there's a concerning amount of it out there, and there's a not insignificant number of people who are convinced by it. The way that these guys act is not normal and is not healthy and should not be promoted, and yet people are so desensitised to misogyny and toxic masculinity that it circulates and gains following with no problem. The most obvious example of this is Andrew Tate. In a lot of these cases, like the street interviews or the random little podcasts, you can't really say whether these men believe the ideas that

they're promoting or whether they just know that controversy generates views. But Andrew Tate has proven that he really does believe everything he says just by the way that he acts in real life. His masculinity is determined by his material wealth and the number of young woman he has around him at all times. That's what's important, and that's what he promotes to his audience. He talks about committing acts of violence against women casually, and he thinks that this makes him superior to women. He blames women for being sexually assaulted, which is convenient for him because that would make the charges against him not his fault, he's just a man and that's just how men are. I don't even want to repeat his vitriol here, but he calls himself a misogynist and rails against the idea of equality, and just from that you should get the idea.

Toxic masculinity is perpetuated across the manosphere, and is a deeply distorted view of what it means to be a man. It conflates strength with dominance, success with exploitation, and masculinity with the subjugation of others, particularly women. While it's easy to dismiss this content as absurd or fringe, the reality is that it is normalised online and has a powerful influence on impressionable audiences, especially young men. The pervasive spread of misogyny and the celebration of aggression and dominance as virtues have real world consequences, fueling harmful behaviours and attitudes that impact not only women, but the men that internalise these views. It's easy to go down the rabbit hole, and much harder to crawl back out, and in the meantime people lose time, money and relationships to these internet grifters peddling bad ideas.



# What is Success for Māori Men?

## Questioning Choices for Career Paths for Tāne Māori



BLAZE WEBSTER

Throughout my schooling, I had always noticed many Rangatahi Māori would sit in the back of the class and not contribute to any academic activities. Many teachers would ignore their presence unless they mucked around, seemingly only having strong abilities in sports or trades, often dropping out of high school as well once they are legally able to do so. Their potential in an academic realm are frequently disregarded and overlooked.

I had a discussion with *Anaru Parangi*, a Māori Relationships Manager; Anaru has a passion for working with Rangatahi, and has assisted me by providing his perspective for this article. Anaru advocates for more Maori in education, stemming from the belief that education and academia is a vehicle for creating better outcomes for Māori and rangatahi Māori. Yet, having tertiary education isn't the only way to be successful; getting mahi and/or going straight into a trade is equally beneficial (if that's what you fancy). There obviously shouldn't be pressure to only work or only study, because the world is not black and white. Any decision, as long as you're happy, is a good decision, right?

In our discussion, we noted that the challenges tāne Māori face in a societal sense is the overbearing need to 'earn' money; tertiary education therefore 'delays' getting a full-time job and money, in context looking like a waste of time. It should be noted that many tāne Māori come from a traditional home, the influence of which likely encourages them to earn money and get work straight after school without consideration for any alternatives. I would not be surprised if a lot of tāne Māori don't even imagine themselves in University, rather picking up the trades, Defence Force, or an 'average' job without thinking twice.

Another obstacle could be that there are not enough Māori tāne models to look up to in the world of academia. Less tāne overall are enrolling into mainstream tertiary education courses, and the lack of a community, especially for tāne Māori, hurts the prospect for going to study tertiary. It begs to ask a question: what do tāne and/or tāne Māori have to look forward to if they are 'losing' money/time on a community-less space?

On the contrary, if we admit that studying after highschool is a great pathway, it is not

the only way to 'earn' money in a manner that meets a greater need for self-fulfilment. University remains a good outlet to explore and refine your passions into a career and job, but uni is not the only option for achieving the feeling similar to earning good money. The fruits of labour aid the feeling of accomplishment when growth is provided, and working upwards in a vertical manner for 'good' money may be a good enough of an accomplishment in the long-term, but only in context of providing promotions and experience, allowing tāne Māori to go above what they know naturally without pushing them into a box (i.e., to Uni).

*If you are a tāne Māori, you shouldn't feel like you 'have' to do anything; noone should be forced to feel like they need to be in a specific position in their life at any point in time, regardless of whanau, friends, and money.*



1. Swallow the Rat - Small Places [NZ]
2. Jim Nothing - The Present [NZ]
3. Teddyyy - Radio (Club Mix) [NZ]
4. LEAO - TAEAO [NZ]
5. Te Huhu - On Holiday [NZ]
6. Marlin's Dreaming - Country Plains [NZ]
7. Frank Booker - El Salvador (Vocal Mix) [NZ]
8. Elliot Dawson - Quarter Life [NZ]
9. Liam Finn - Living Daylights [NZ]
10. Coast Arcade - Baited [NZ]



LISTEN  
HERE TO THE  
SPOTIFY  
PLAYLIST





# 95bFM DRIVE ISLAND ELISA & BUZZ

**4-7PM**



**FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER  
ELLEN MELVILLE CENTRE  
FREE ENTRY** 

Irirangi Te Motu  
**NZ On Air**





# PACIFIC MASCUL- INITY

THE TOPIC THAT OPENS  
UP BIGGER DISCUSSION  
AROUND PACIFIC CULTURES



IATUA FELAGAI TAITO



**M**asculinity is a very complex issue when you align it with the Pacific culture (Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia). Due to the fact that having any emotions or being a bit flamboyant will deem you weak or a bit pansy. However, my question would be: Is it even safe for Pacific men to be vulnerable?. I think of that question because within a cultural sense, they are portrayed to be the breadwinner or the patriarch of familial cultural protocol and dynamic in the 21st century. And from research I have read and personal stories I have heard it is hard to be vulnerable when they have to be this type of ideal of being strong, and sometimes being strong is correlated to masculinity a lot of the time.

I think of mental health for Pacific men because the stats show that "1 in 8 men will experience major depression in their lifetime, with the suicide rate being three times higher than that of women". And as I ponder on this, I am not surprised because of the cultural and societal aspect which makes it difficult for Pacific men to be vulnerable and in one aspect comes down to the masculinity trope that has existed and still exists today. That type of masculinity trope is explained well by Tanu Gago where explains in his Re:News article:

"We come from a culture groomed through colonisation to be uncomfortable with the soft edges of our identities. From a young age, that premise is reinforced through what we're praised for, the conversations our families have and ultimately the men chosen as role models in our community. As a result, there's an internalised fear around being branded weak or inadequate".

This articulates eloquently what happens currently, the idea of colonisation has shifted the conversation and emphasis on masculinity being at the centre, and not allowing the 'soft edges' where people may perceive that notion of being more vulnerable or even a tad feminine or emotional to be shown explicitly. And men being chosen as our role models which is a great feature, however culturally in many (not all) Pacific cultures it was arguably a matriarchal society and so the shift of colonisation did occur which sometimes adds that added pressure for Pacific men to the utmost perfect role-model and if they showed vulnerability or a sign of weakness (more so a sign of human emotion not weakness) it becomes a massive ordeal than it already is.

This internalised fear of being 'weak' or 'inadequate' is prevalent in our society which adds to the notion of Pacific men's mental health issues arising in comparison to women or Pacific women in particular.

This masculinity trope as discussed prior needs to be addressed with care but also openness to alleviate these tensions that exist culturally and socially as well. This notion also opens up a bigger conversation around Pacific people's mental health.

For instance, according to Dr. Siale Foliaki, "Pacific people, historically, report high incidences of poor mental health, however have one of the lowest participation and engagement with mental and health services in addressing their mental well-being compared to other groups".

So why is there a low participation and engagement with mental and health services for our Pacific communities in Aotearoa New Zealand?

I think because there isn't a stronger strengths based cultural approach that creates a space where Pacific communities feel safe and seen to address and have the autonomy to express their issues to these mental and health services due to it being extremely eurocentric. Which isn't a bad thing, it has a eurocentric approach, but can be a culturally disenfranchising system that forgets Pacific people's needs.

I feel as though this is not a two dimensional discussion when we talk about masculinity, because when you apply an intersectional lens around Pacific males with that idea of masculinity there becomes a complexity that stems historically from colonisation and how that has affected well-being and current issues that have proliferated into another issue that Dr. Foliaki has shared.

I am not intentionally trying to express the deficit framing of feeling distraught about these issues, but I am stating on Craccum the facts and how it is not a simple matter. In addition, I hope understanding these nuances allows people to have awareness and hopefully the aspiration to improve on all of these matters from an academic standpoint, grassroots level with communities on the ground and within a policy level where these changes can occur and the work can be done.

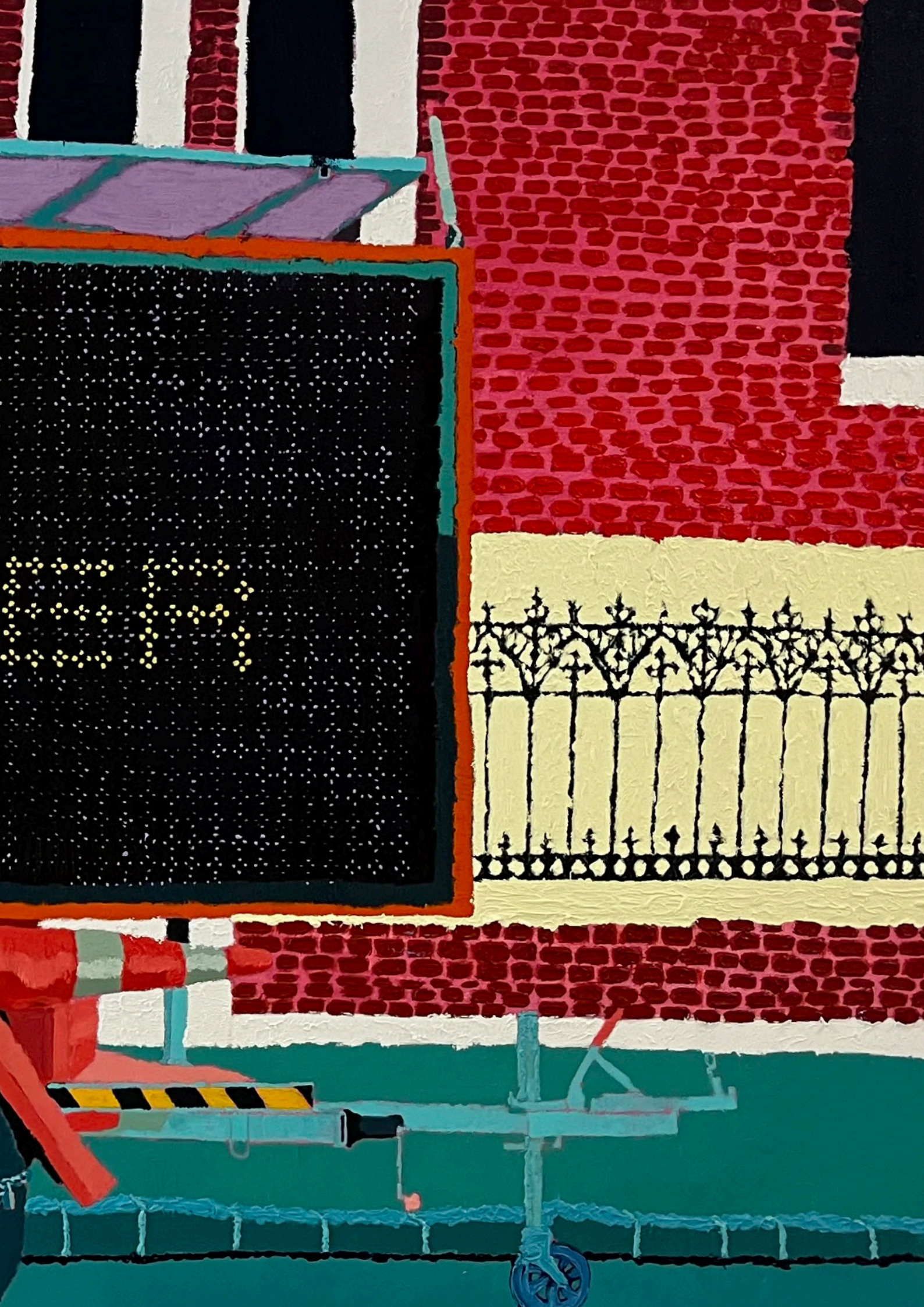
As the Pasifika editor I hope I report and analyse findings to serve our communities at Waipapa Taumata Rau | The University of Auckland for Pacific students and views as it is extremely crucial to express Pacific views on a platform like Craccum.

Fa'afetai tele lava, manu'a le vaiaso.











## OPERATION REPORT

## MIDNIGHT SUNRISE

SUMMARY: Stopping time is easy, keeping it there is hard.

OPERATIVE: Paige Turner

It was three hundred repeats ago when I realized I was in a time loop.

The days go like this: Tuesday, maybe an hour of Wednesday (if I'm lucky) and then back to Tuesday to do it all again. For all I know, there could have been more repeats than three hundred — between repeats, my memories fade like denim in the desert; leaving only the barest impression of anything there in the first place. But here's how it goes, from what I remember.

On the Tuesday morning, I always wake up to my alarm clock ringing at the usual time of 5:15 AM, a bizarre preset that I never bothered to adjust. It was a birthday gift from my boss, all the way back from when I was a junior — he said I needed some better time management skills (polite shorthand for "you son of a bitch, don't you dare think about turning up late to your job ever again"), and like a scared kid at the principal's office I vowed to listen as best as I could. Some repeats I turn the clock off, other repeats I knock it off the nightstand and break it, mostly I just let it ring. In the end, my tardiness didn't matter; that moron let me do anything as soon as I became his supervisor.

So, Tuesday morning. Either I get out of bed on time or I don't. My wife, Delilah, sleeps like a log no matter what I do; she was always a heavy sleeper. She deals with whatever happens to the alarm clock. If I break it, I usually forget about it until I see her tossing away glass shards on my way out the door. The sight makes me feel like shit. I've been trying to clean up after myself more ever since the loops started, now that I see how much of a pain it is for other people to deal with.

The Tuesdays when I get up on time, I run the dishwasher so Delilah has clean dishes to use. Then I eat my breakfast, get dressed, and drive off to work. Washington DC isn't all it's cracked up to be — the most I have to do is stamp and sign a few documents, then print three copies of each. The boss who gave me my alarm clock is there; he doesn't mean a thing to me now. I can't even think about slapping him on his bald head anymore. It sounds fun, though. I must have done that in a

previous repeat. Shame I can't remember for sure.

The repeats when I don't get up, I call in sick to work and pretend I've got a day off; I savor my extra time in bed by wrapping my arms around Delilah to feel her warmth a little longer. We've been trying for a baby; she won't stop gushing about how cute the neighbors' children are. After lunch, she'll invite the other housewives for afternoon tea, and I know she'll take the opportunity to grill them about their "adorable little babies". In one repeat, I listened in, but it was nothing but baby talk. I'm glad she wasn't cheating on me, at least.

Lunchtime is cafeteria food or a packed lunch when I'm at work and a home-cooked meal when I'm not. Two hundred repeats ago, I started packing my own lunches, and somehow it became muscle memory across repeats. I don't want Delilah to waste her time on things a grown man can do for himself, even if my cooking never turns out as well as hers does. God, if only I got better at that too. It turns out the same every time; a ham and cheese sandwich on plain white bread.

For the rest of the afternoon it's either bookwork or flicking through the channels on TV to see if anything's changed — which, of course, it hasn't. Nothing ever changes. Even though I forget the finer details, I still feel the endless tedium of it all, so, so acutely.

Dinner is spaghetti bolognese and talking with Delilah about her day. Two-hundred-ninety-eight repeats ago I asked her if she noticed anything different, if she felt like the days were repeating themselves; even though I prayed so desperately for someone else to know what was happening, for someone else to know my struggle — she chalked it up to work-related stress.

"Your job's not that boring."

After all these repeats I still remember how terrible it felt to be dismissed so casually — the shiver down my back, the heat dissipating through my chest, the jolt of pain in my stomach. That



Tuesday, I lost my appetite and went to bed without another word. I don't talk about repeats with her any longer. Even if she knew, it wouldn't do us any good. I've given up on being understood by anyone at all. No-one can do anything about our situation.

Tuesday night passes without incident. I get my forty winks in most times; for that, I'm thankful. The times when I don't sleep the whole way through, I get to watch the sunrise early.

The nights when I get to watch are the worst of them all. I see the mushroom cloud and the light coming from ground zero — the White House — and it burns like white phosphorus. The pain is like nothing before; my skin damn near melts off my bones and I dissolve into oblivion.

I escaped, once — driving into the countryside with Delilah — but we... We crashed, and I woke up in bed at 5:15 AM again.

After I'm obliterated from existence it's nothing but darkness. See, it's not as bad if I'm already asleep; the time bleeds into next Tuesday so I can do it all over again. Even if I forget everything else, I'm left with the memories of the sunrise, as fresh as battle wounds. The flow of time always continues as if nothing ever happened. No, not always. Time isn't flowing anymore.

It was one repeat ago when time stopped. Here's how it went.

It was one of the Tuesdays when I got my lazy ass out of bed and at work. I was eating lunch at my desk when I overheard one of my coworkers talking about the Russians. Of course, everyone hates the Russians. But they were talking as if they knew something I didn't — some hazy future plan that gave them all the more reason to hate.

Truth is, I've suspected it for a long while, probably since the first repeat. Moving so close to the Capitol was the worst decision I ever made. If Delilah and I were further away, she'd live even if I died; I had to be selfish and prioritize convenience over safety, over her and our future child's survival...

"They're going to drop the nuke any moment now, and they'll drop it right over the Capitol!"

I headed home early that day. Walked out the office, didn't look back — even as they were calling for me to stop. I drove as fast as I possibly could,

and it was a miracle I didn't hit anything on the way back. Delilah almost fell over when she opened the door to see me. I told her I wanted to help with her afternoon tea party, and she really fell over then. I listened to the ladies' gossip from start to finish; it seemed so trivial, but the triviality made me happy all the same.

I wanted to cook dinner, too. Delilah thought I was joking at first, but the look on my face seemed to convince her it was serious. With her guidance, I made a passable lasagna — and it was the first one I had eaten in all the repeats I remembered. She didn't understand why I was crying, and I couldn't tell her.

We went to bed early, at my insistence, and held each other close. She dozed off immediately; I couldn't sleep.

It was too quiet. I couldn't hear any sounds from outside. I couldn't even hear her breathing.

Was she breathing? I checked her pulse with my fingers — nothing. I listened for her heartbeat with an ear over her chest — nothing.

I looked at the alarm clock. I hadn't broken it that day, but its arms were stopped at one minute to midnight.

One minute before the bomb. Well, it sure as hell wasn't going to drop anymore.

God help me, I don't know what to do with myself. No, maybe I am God. I was the one who stopped time — who else could've done that but God?

All I can do now is wander around town, seeing everyone stopped dead in their tracks like dumb statues. Mouths open or closed. Eyes wide, shut, mid-blink. Frozen in their final moments. I wish I could change it back — let 'em live their nice lives for a few more hours before it all goes to shit — but, if I'm being honest, I have no idea what "turning back the clock" would do for them, or me. Or how to "turn it back" it at all.

And, still being honest, I don't want to die. Sure, you can't call this suspended animation "living", either, but I'd rather not die if I can help it. Survival instincts and all.

Someone tell me, is it so bad for a guy to want things to stay the same?



# UNHINGED

CAMERON BURGER

THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE CHARACTERS AND NARRATORS IN THESE STORIES ARE THEIR OWN AND DO NOT REFLECT THE OPINIONS OF THE AUTHOR.

# PERSPECTIVES

## MAKING A PILAF

You pull the poor little things out of their nice cool environment and start skinning them alive. But that's only the start of the torture. Not content with removing their only protection from the elements, you now determine that they do not deserve to be whole. You take out the sharpest, most painful apparatus and savagely slam its blade into their flesh, again, and again, until there is nothing left but pieces. But still they are not dead. There is more to come.

Lubricated with the blood of their cousins, in they go, into a chamber that sizzles their sad remains. Water is poured in, and they look up in anticipation of relief, but their hopes are dashed as they are promptly buried by a million particles, identical in nature. There's nothing unique about them. How fitting that they shall be humiliated, tortured, and then forgotten.

The heat, the pain and the constant shifting of their new hellscape lasts for an eternity. But they find something new being introduced to their midst. They wish they didn't - any awareness is agony - but this is how things are now.

The newcomers have been through a different kind of torture. Waterboarded. Sterilised. And left in darkness for months. Not the warm, comforting darkness of the natural world. A cold, steel, everlasting darkness. They only saw the light for a few seconds before being thrust into the now familiar tomb of suffering. But not for long - the heat is taken away only for them to meet their final resting place - crushed, disintegrated, and never to be aware again.

A few were lucky, and got to see the light for longer as they cooled and tried to recover from their incident, but eventually they all went the same way. For them, life was pain, yet there was little comfort in its end. I only hope it was worth it for you.

## THE VEGAN VILLAIN

"Alright, you got me. Now what are you going to do?" the spy asks, feebly struggling against the ropes binding her, as well as preventing her from falling into the ominous looking glass tank.

The vegan villain, perched on a faux-leather seat, laughs. "Nothing. The Lone Star tick breeding programme has completed, and this time tomorrow they'll be released all across the globe. Enormous amounts of the population will become allergic to red meat, and it'll be too late for governments to do anything about it!"

"So what. You're going to induce allergic reactions in millions of people? All so you can stop people from eating meat?" the spy cries in disbelief.

The villain's manic smile wipes off his face for a moment. "I'm not stupid. There'll also be announcements made everywhere to warn people. And before you say that would defeat the purpose of doing it, I don't need everyone to become allergic. Just enough to collapse the meat industry."

"You're sick," the spy spits. "Just because of your own beliefs, you want to take away the freedom for other people to eat what they enjoy?"

"Yes," the villain replies simply. "According to my forecasts, this will delay the worst effects of climate change by about two years. Besides, did you ever think about the freedom of living creatures to not be eaten?"

"I know things are bad, but this isn't the way to fix things," the spy pleads. "Expose factory farms and lobby for regulation instead. I'm sure you have enough money to do all that if you're able to build this secret hideout."

"Why are you so insistent on letting people

eat meat? Plenty of vegetarians survive without it; is it really worth all the pain and death? Just because they're not humans?"

"It's not about that, you're missing the point."

"What is it about, then? Is it because we're more intelligent than them? Cause you know, adult cows are more intelligent than babies. Would you eat a baby?"

The spy gives an exasperated sigh, and looks down at the empty tank. "How about you just dunk me now and put me out of my misery?"

"There's nothing in the tank that could kill you."

"Really? You don't have, like, giant man-eating carrots or something?"

"I'm not a sadist. Humans are worth as much as any other animal. No, my true victory will be when you admit to your cognitive dissonance, and join my cause."

"Fine. I would eat a baby. I'd even eat someone with severe mental disabilities, or someone who's permanently comatose. Happy now?"

"No, that's the wrong answer."





# BEFRIENDING A SIREN

This is probably a really dumb idea, being in a tiny boat with a huge anchor, in the middle of the Mediterranean. But it's not like I've got anywhere else to go. I was laughed out of the Philosophy Academy, and exiled from Athens. All because I dared to speak up against the dogma.

And now I'm going to prove I'm right.

Though it hasn't been easy navigating in the dark, I managed to get myself near where they supposedly are. The maps aren't perfect, for reasons that'll become obvious later, so now I just need to listen out for the voices. They'll probably find me if I don't find them, but I'd rather be mentally prepared. Just in case I am wrong.

It's a little later in the day when I spot an island in the distance. If you can call it that. Not much vegetation, or even sand for that matter. Just rocks. But on those rocks are what looks to be some women with wings. With some effort, I heave the anchor out from my boat and plop it into the ocean. Hopefully I'll be able to winch it back up when I'm done. Haven't tried. Maybe I should've.

Too late now. I think I'm close enough for them to hear me, so we should be fine.

"Hi!" I shout across the water, waving frantically.

All the beings immediately whip their heads around in my direction.

"My name is Adonis. What are your names?"

They have rather confused expressions on their attractive faces, but start to smile and beckon me with their fingers.

"Can't come closer," I gulp. "Anchor's down."

They look irritated for a moment, then one of them talks in the silkiest voice I've ever heard. "Swim across, it's not that far."

"Can't swim either."

She sighs heavily. "What sort of man comes to sea without learning to swim?"

Her voice has lost some of its silky quality.

"I figured once you go far enough out, it wouldn't help anyway," I reply.

"Why did you come then?"

"To make friends. I haven't been able to anywhere else. I'm too different from them."

Seeing pity from a mythological beast's eyes is an odd sensation.

"They're all terrified of you. Every voyage, they waste so much money avoiding these islands

lest they end in disaster."

"They do have a point..." she interrupts.

"Yeah, I've heard the tales of people falling for you and then getting eaten or whatever. Trust me, it gets brought up every time. Thing is, they all have lust in their heart. But I have no desire for intercourse, or even romance. Everyone thought I was kidding myself, or there was something wrong with my brain. But there's not! I can resist your call!"

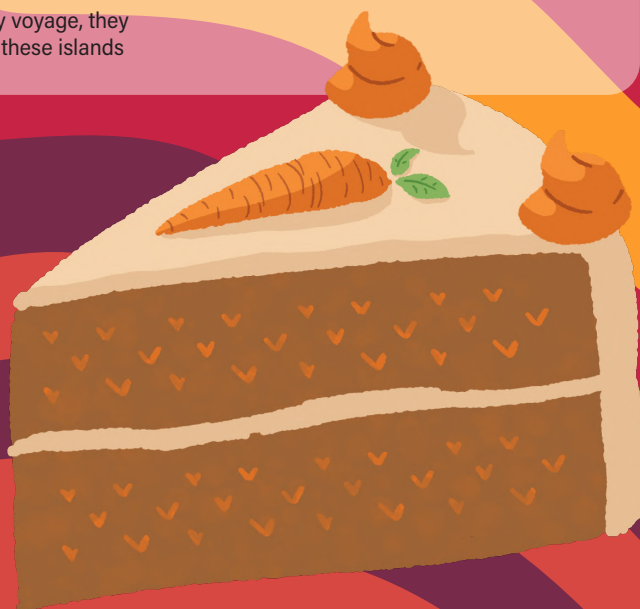
"Shame he can, otherwise I wouldn't need to listen to him," one of the others says.

"Shut up!" says the first siren. "It's nice to have a change from the drooling lovesick ones. This man actually has a brain."

"Nah, he's one of the worst. He's a philosopher! They're never good news. Always picking apart things that shouldn't be. Making life much harder than it needs to be."

"You're just jealous. So, philosophy man, what are your plans now?"

I shrug. "I think I'll stick around. Maybe I'll go back later, but I've got plenty of supplies. I'd love to learn more about you all. Speaking of which, what do humans taste like? I've always been curious, but didn't want to try it myself."



# NZIFF

Soundtrack to a Coup d'Etat

☆☆☆☆☆ - "I can neither confirm nor deny if Wes Montgomery was employed as a CIA asset in the Congo"

- Oscar Simons, President of the Wes Montgomery Club



# EVIL FEMINIST GAY SLUT TAKES ON PATRIARCHY!

## EXPERIENCES OF SEXUALITY IN A QUEER, MASCULINE WORLD



TIM EVANS (THEY/THEM)

It may not come as a complete surprise to the weekly reader that I have my fair share of both experiences and opinions when it comes to sex. For the most part, I try my best to be helpful and witty when it comes to giving my pro tips for getting good tip. As with all legitimate academic writing (which I consider Craccum writing the finest example of), it's important to cite one's sources, and understand when to criticise their short falls. Thus, (yes, I can use thus if I want to... what're you gonna do, punish me? Kinky bitch!) I feel it's important to share some of my experiences which have built me into the "sexpert" you read in your weekly Craccum issue.

Most people who want to have sex with men on a casual basis turn to a digital platform - whether that be Tinder, Grindr, or even Snapchat and Yubo for those of us who were early bloomers with little self control. My personal turnout was Grindr, one of the staples of the gay community. I will take this moment to remind you that I use they/them pronouns so technically it wasn't gay to be on Grindr, okay? Like that one TikTok says... "She wanted to be messy and look at loose hole". Some people describe this app as a cesspool, the worst part of the modern gay

community and while they are mostly right, it is a natural progression of our patriarchal society which holds gay men rigidly in the bounds of masculinity. That's right, I'm a university educated evil feminist slut with an understanding of the real life implications of the patriarchy - as the title might have subtly hinted. Grindr provides opportunities for anonymity and wilful ignorance - men can get their rocks off without having to feel like they're demeaning themselves at all. Men on Grindr are able to express toxic masculinity at its finest, which is a defence mechanism in itself caused by the shame of queer sexual desires. Of course, there are more and more people going beyond this on the app, but it permeates the community and can leave a lasting distaste in your mouth once leaving the app. But hey, spitters are quitters right?

Another important thing to note about Grindr is that the way the app is designed ("the grid" for those in the know) allows basically anyone to talk to anyone based on location and activity. Certain times of the day and week have different demographics logged on, and inevitably that means that a certain kind of person is on in the middle of the day on a weekday. Young people, like myself at an age I should not have

been accessing a casual hookup app, tend to be active at weird hours. Maybe they're hiding from their family, or even bored on a school day. The other kind of person that tends to follow these trends are older men, usually closeted, that have no business sexting a teenager. The nature of it is, however, that these conversations and meetups happen simply based on the timings of activity and the desperation of these demographics. In an attempt to escape from the trappings of traditional masculine pressures, "DL" (down low, or closeted) culture is perpetuating internalised homophobia and the fear of expressing oneself in a healthy manner.

It was a number of situations like this that brought me my knowledge of happy, healthy sex. The tragedy of discovering where your boundaries are is that you need to go right up to them and occasionally cross them. Now that I am older and know better, I have my own methods to explore my sexuality (and gender nowadays) which aren't governed by confused perspectives on what a man should be. One can only hope that this continues to become more common, but until we know it is, maybe check on your friends who mysteriously disappear from parties or hide their phone screen quickly when a certain notification sound dings off.

# CLUBS COLUMN

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



### UASS - UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND SURF SOCIETY

We are the best new club on the block! We're all about building a surf community for university students, from beginners to experts. Weekend trips to the coast, BBQs, and on-campus social events are our vibe. We have surf equipment you can use for FREE!! Check us out at @uass\_nz



### THE OLD AND MIDDLE ENGLISH CLUB

Hal wes ðu (be well)! We meet weekly to read and discuss pre-Shakespearian English works, like Canterbury Tales and Beowulf, and learn about the languages, cultures, and history of medieval England and Europe. We organize events for a variety of experience levels and interests. Come along and enrich your lore!



### EXERCISE SCIENCE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

We are a student-led organisation for all Exercise Science and like-minded students, aiming to foster friendships within the department through fun events and study advice. We've hosted multi-sport and social walk events in the past. Keep an eye out for fun exercise activities this semester on our Instagram, @exercisa.uoa.



Sake  
 And the broken nosed  
 Broken headed  
 Drunk  
 Buying him booze for love  
 And my sake cools  
 As he threads away angry  
 For the beating he got for street  
 Arting.

I sit  
 I sip  
 I savour  
 The alcohol and  
 Suffering

Sake Momentary.  
 Friend.

Laughing monk  
 Broken and bashed  
 Painstakingly mended by  
 Main force of will  
 Wizard of ink  
 In the pores of my skin.  
 Friend maker  
 Note taker  
 Drinker  
 Thinker  
 Never blink hur hur

A man reminded  
 Me of my uncles  
 Broken In threadbare  
 Pride

Wife beaters  
 Fathers  
 Kind in a sentimental way  
 Noble none  
 The less

A real mind fuck  
 The contradictions  
 Of it  
 Yet in the lines  
 Of his face  
 And of his nose.

Home.

- Padriac O'Leary



# Through The Lens: Gendered Reflections

An exhibition showcasing female alumnae photographers curated by ARTHIST 734 students

MADI MACDONALD

The 2024 cohort of Art History 734 would like to invite you to our end-of-year exhibition, *Through The Lens: Gendered Reflections*, co-curated by us and Associate Professor Linda Tyler. The exhibition will take place at Old Government House, 24 Princes Street, opening on Wednesday October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Art History 734 is a postgrad paper focused on developing art writing and curatorial practice. On the first day, Linda handed us each a secret envelope. Inside were artworks, some instantly recognisable, others more obscure. We were tasked with finding information on our artworks, searching for artist, title and date – usually good places to start as budding art historians.

I'll admit that I didn't recognise my artwork, but after class I embarked on a tour of several galleries across the city with Linda. We ended up in the Maritime Museum, and the last work

I was led to looked extremely familiar. Linda smiled knowingly at me when I asked if this was part of the same series as my artwork – "yes Madi, that's why I've brought you here" was her answer.

Armed with the knowledge that my artist was Yuki Kihara; I dove into finding out what I could about her art practice. Kihara is an interdisciplinary artist of Japanese and Sāmoan descent, she is fa'afafine (the third gender of Sāmoa) and her research-based approach seeks to challenge dominant historical narratives. The artwork I was given is part of her *Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?* series from 2013, in which she problematises Paul Gauguin's paintings of the Pacific, reframing colonial myths and exploring the intersectionality between identity politics, race, gender and sexuality.

As we began to present our findings in class,

we discovered that all our artists are female photographers, and all artworks are from the University's own collection. Working together, we are excited to present a survey of the female gaze as explored through the diverse lens of talented female photographers from Aotearoa. With works from a wide range of artists including Yvonne Todd, Lisa Reihana, Marti Friedlander, Ann Shelton and Fiona Pardington, the exhibition is a celebration of artists who have emerged from various time periods and cultural backgrounds, but who all have a connection to the University as alumnae. Each artist has developed her own unique approach, using the camera to deconstruct common conceptions of femininity, identity, and place.

**But I'm just giving you a taste – you'll have to come to the show to find out more. The exhibition will run from 2 October to 13 November 2024 at Old Government House, 8 am to 7 pm, Monday to Friday. Admission is free :)**



Shigeyuki Kihara. *After Tsunami Galu Afi, Lalomanu* (2013). c-type photographic print. The University of Auckland Art Collection.





Yvonne Todd. Gynecology (2006). Lightjet print photograph.  
The University of Auckland Art Collection.



**HOW TO  
LOOK OUT  
FOR**



KALA TAKEBE BURGESS

**TOXIC  
MASCULINITY**

---

**ARE YOU NOT SEEING  
THESE MASSIVE  
RED FLAGS?**





**W**e may all like to think that our generation has moved and evolved far from toxic masculinity, but truth be told, it has not.

So, what is toxic masculinity? Toxic masculinity is the mainstream understanding of masculine attitudes, thinking and behaving according to masculine stereotypes. It negatively impacts the individual as well as the environment around them.

This toxicness may not be visible at first, but it can manifest subtly and grow over time if unchecked. It is important that we be able to recognise these signs early in our relationships, or even before committing to them, to maintain a healthy, balanced relationship.

## **RED FLAGS TO LOOK OUT FOR**

### **WHEN THEY OVERT DOMINANCE AND CONTROL.**

No one likes a controlling person. However, we may only notice control once it reaches a point where it can control every aspect of our lives. To spot this red flag, look for signs where your partner insists on having the final say in decisions, dictates your actions, or expects you to defer to them simply because of traditional gender roles. Relationships should be a give-and-take.

### **JEALOUSY AND POSSESSIVENESS**

These two things stem from control and dominance. Try to notice if your partner is excessively jealous or possessive. Be careful; often, they can mask these things as "protectiveness", but really, they are trying to control who you see or what you do.

### **RESISENTCE TO EQUALITY**

If your partner is not making efforts to create a more equal relationship and prefers to maintain traditional roles where they hold more power and authority over you, perhaps it's time for you to leave that relationship.

### **CRITICISM OF 'UNMANLY' BEHAVIOUR**

Be aware and watch out for situations when your partner criticises or mocks behaviour they deem "unmanly". For example, expressing emotions or showing vulnerability.

This can be either on themselves or others.

### **DISMISSAL OF YOUR FEELING**

Perhaps your partner often downplays or dismisses your emotions, making you feel like your concerns are trivial or irrational.



And of course, we have subtle signs of toxic masculinity.

### **MICROAGGRESSIONS**

Subtle, often passive-aggressive behaviours or comments that undermine your autonomy, intelligence, or abilities, often based on gender stereotypes.

### **EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION**

Watch out for emotional manipulation, where your partner uses guilt, shame and gaslighting to make you doubt yourself or feel responsible for their happiness.

### **INABILITY TO HANDLE REJECTION OR CRITICISM**

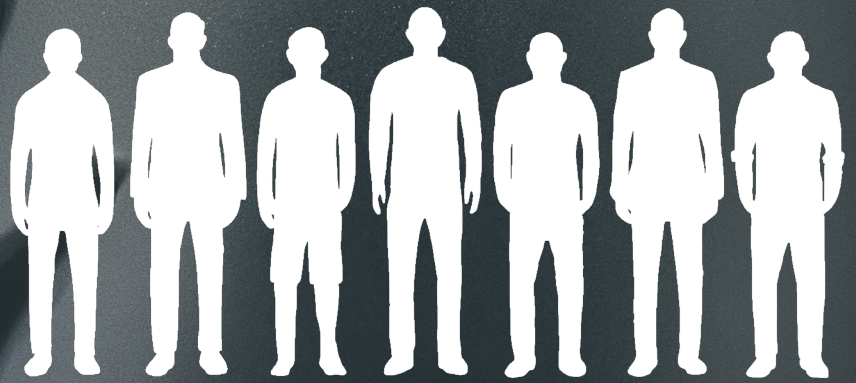
If you notice your partner reacts poorly to rejection or criticism, viewing it as a personal attack rather than constructive feedback, it can be a sign of toxic masculinity.

With these traits and actions above, it can affect your relationship negatively. These behaviours presented by your partner can gradually erode your self-esteem, at times making you question your worth or abilities. It can increase emotional distance, making it difficult to maintain intimacy and trust. This causes constant tension and conflict as one partner continually undermines the other.

So, how can we address toxic masculinity? I know it can be challenging.

First, if you're scared of hurting the other, perhaps having an open dialogue could be a good start. Encourage a calm, non-confrontational discussion about your concerns, and if this doesn't play out well, seek external support. But most importantly, know when to walk away. Prioritise your well-being, even if it means ending the relationship. At the end of the day, we all deserve relationships that have mutual respect, equality and healthy communication without the involvement of toxic masculinity.





NOT ALL MEN ???  
YES, ALL MEN

# YES, ALL MEN

## THE HIDDEN COST OF SILENCE



KAAVYA GHOSHAL

"I hate all men."

"... but not all men?"

What does it mean when a woman states that she "hates all men"?

When we say that we hate men, we don't *hate men*. Actually, unfortunately, some of us love men. What we do hate is the position that they hold. Women aren't making a blanket statement to generalise every man in the universe; we are simply criticising the oppressive nature of our society. The position that men hold takes over every aspect of our lives, you may think that it's an age-old conversation, constantly repeated, with no real conclusion, but the fact of the matter is that I sit here, a privileged international student, claiming that I have suffered, more than once, the consequences of this very oppression.

What defines men from the beginning of civilised society is that they have been at the top of the hierarchy. This is not to say that the patriarchy has not affected men deeply—in fact, ironically, it is this higher stature that causes men to struggle deeply with vulnerability, which ends up *causing* these issues—but the fact of the matter is, you (a man), will continue to reap the benefits of the patriarchy. The key point here is that you will continue to benefit *regardless* of whether you participated in gender oppression of any kind. What do we call it these days? A win is a win ...

"Not all men" is a phrase that often surfaces in discussions about gender violence, harassment, and sexism. Intended as a defensive assertion, it insists that not every man is guilty of these behaviours, so the blame should not fall on them as individuals. This is true. Not all men are responsible for everything that goes wrong in society—but those three words don't make the patriarchy disappear. What they do, however, is brush a very serious issue under the carpet, invalidate a woman's emotions, and in doing so, ironically, prove our point ... yes, all men.

But perhaps, you are one of the men who have never caused any harm towards a woman. Never pursued her after she said she wasn't interested, never lied about sleeping with her, never crossed a line of any form, never denied accountability, never catcalled a woman, called her a bitch. When I name all of these actions, I'm willing to bet that some faces come into your mind. Perhaps they're your friends who told you that their side of the story was entirely different and that some things were simply lost in communication.

But privilege also means having the power to act—or not act—in the face of these situations. When you witness your friends engaging in sexist or harmful behaviour and choose to remain silent, they are perpetuating the very culture that allows such behaviour to thrive. Silence is not neutrality; it is complicity. By not reprimanding their peers, men tacitly condone these actions, signalling that such behaviour is acceptable or, at the very least, tolerable. In

these instances, even men who have never directly committed harmful acts toward women are still part of the problem because they have allowed it to persist unchecked.

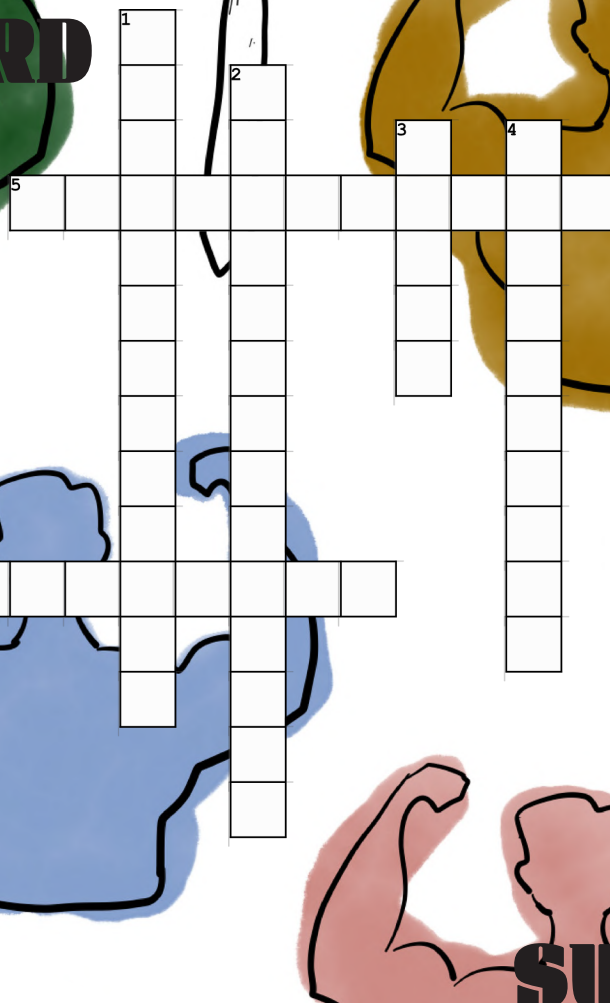
Even if not all men actively participate in the oppression of women, most passively support the patriarchy by turning a blind eye to such incidents. Men remain friends with sexual offenders. They make jokes about it. Men laugh when a friend catcalls women "for fun." If you are someone who has no one in your life who has ever carried out any of the actions, you are truly (and I mean this with the utmost sincerity) one of the good ones.

The idea of "Yes, All Men" does not imply that every man is actively harmful but points out that all men operate within a system where they have the power to influence outcomes. The first step is acknowledging that even if you've never personally harmed a woman, you are part of a society where many men have. This acknowledgement isn't about guilt—it's about responsibility.

It's about understanding that there is a hidden cost to silence, and it will take loud voices and even louder actions to live in a society where, truly, it's not all men.



# CROSSWORD



## Across

5. Disempowered  
7. Duty, Obligation

## Down

1. Bonds  
2. Ownership  
3. Tough  
4. Female grace  
6. Exposure, Sensitivity

# SUDOKU

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

# WORDSEARCH

I H  
 C U  
 M S R L  
 K H B G  
 O K R N J J  
 Z F Q A J T  
 K V D V E T B S K I M G I T J W W X T M  
 Y M A N S K A A R X E P E G L Y D S T  
 L Z Y L A O L T E L O N N H U H I M  
 U A D G S L Z A T D D J D M F U  
 P X C Q E B L N S L E U W B  
 X C R F R R E X S U W P  
 B N K R S B S G R X P D U E  
 W E Y E V L M T V Q K P G P  
 O G M I V P O O K I E S U E F S  
 A K M R P I R Y O Q B H R J  
 C R O D C I O A I Z E V X O  
 G H C A Y A O X R K  
 N Z W Q C T M N  
 Q T A S

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



# HOROSCOPES



CLARICE DE TOLEDO



LEARN  
MORE

**T**his week will be a bit of a slow burn before the Lunar Eclipse in Pisces hits on the 17th of September. There's a lot of positive transits happening: Mercury will go back to the Sign of Virgo, finally concluding a long arduous journey that was this Retrograde. If things have been slow and confusing, you could expect that the fallen pieces from the puzzle finally fit together. During the weekend, Venus, the Moon and Jupiter will form a trine in the air signs, a very positive aspect, expect more harmony in your relationships, interactions going more smoothly and a lot of creative buzz in the air! With that being said, let's get into the Astrology for each Sign! **Please read your Rising sign for more accuracy.**

## ARIES

With Mercury going back to the sign of Virgo, you could be focusing more on work and health, giving you a chance to improve your routine and have key conversations with your boss or coworkers. By the weekend, with the Venus, Moon, and Jupiter trine, it's a great time to connect with others, attend events, or enjoy quality time with a partner. Expect smooth interactions and a boost of creativity for any projects you're working on.

## TAURUS

At the start of the week, with Mercury reentering Virgo, you'll feel inspired to dive into creative projects and rediscover old passions. This is a great time to explore ways to relax and de-stress. As the weekend approaches, the Venus, Moon, and Jupiter trine will bring balance, offering opportunities to blend creativity with productivity while also enjoying self-care activities like walks and relaxation.

## GEMINI

With Mercury reentering Virgo early this week, your focus may shift to family and home matters, helping you navigate recent changes and resolve issues from Mercury retrograde. You might feel more in touch with your emotions and connected to your family. This weekend, the Venus, Moon, and Jupiter trine is perfect for spending time with friends, exploring new hobbies, and enhancing your creative flow and perspective.

## CANCER

As Mercury reenters Virgo this week, you may find yourself more confident and focused on communication, travel plans, and learning. It's a great time for writing, speaking, and diving into new topics. By the weekend, the Venus, Moon, and Jupiter trine brings a reflective energy, encouraging you to enhance your home environment, connect with loved ones, and embrace breakthroughs. This could also be a moment to push past your comfort zone and take steps towards a healthier mindset.

## VIRGO

At the beginning of the week, with Mercury reentering Virgo, you'll focus on work and finances, gaining clarity on job situations and financial planning. It's a great time to get organised and track spending, though you might find yourself spending a bit more. The weekend offers a perfect opportunity to socialise with friends, enjoy romantic moments, and tap into your creative side for writing or work-related ideas.

## LIBRA

At the beginning of the week, as Mercury returns to Virgo, you may sense the end or start of a significant cycle in your life. You could feel more connected to yourself, with increased emotional clarity and spiritual awareness. Prioritising mental health and exploring new ways to support your well-being may be on your mind. By the weekend, the Venus, Moon, and Jupiter trine in your fire houses will make it a great time for fun activities with friends, indulging in beauty treatments, and enjoying creative hobbies. Consider going shopping, visiting museums, or spending quality time with your partner.

## SCORPIO

Early this week, as Mercury returns to Virgo, you may feel more inclined to spend time with friends and your community. Tensions or conflicts within your social circle could ease, and you'll gain clarity on your future goals. By the weekend, the Venus, Moon, and Jupiter trine in your water houses will encourage a slower, more relaxed pace. It's a great time to connect with loved ones, engage in calming activities like walking or journaling, and reflect on how to enhance your relationships.

## SAGITTARIUS

At the start of the week, with Mercury moving back into Virgo, you may find yourself focusing more on career and life direction. This period brings clarity and inspiration about your goals, and you might engage in significant writing or conversations. By the weekend, the Venus, Moon, and Jupiter trine in your air houses will make your social life more active. Expect to attend events, go on dates, and meet new people, with interactions feeling particularly enjoyable and supportive.

## CAPRICORN

As Mercury returns to Virgo and wraps up its retrograde, leading you to focus on studies, revisit past research, and handle details. Expect themes of learning, teaching, and travel to emerge, possibly inspiring thoughts of an overseas trip or exploring a new culture or language. By the weekend, the Venus, Moon, and Jupiter trine in your earth houses will boost your productivity, bringing positive feedback and potential job opportunities. You might also pay more attention to your appearance and how you present yourself.

## AQUARIUS

At the start of the week, with Mercury moving back into Virgo, you might feel more introspective and focused on self-development. This is a good time to embrace change, learn new ways to manage difficult emotions, and get organised with finances, possibly even receiving unexpected money or addressing debt. By the weekend, the Venus, Moon, and Jupiter trine in your fire houses will boost your energy, making it ideal for exploring new interests, taking day trips, or diving into creative projects. Conversations may also take on a deeper, more meaningful tone.

## PISCES

At the start of the week, with Mercury moving back into Virgo, relationships and communication take centre stage. You might have open discussions about your feelings with a partner or close friend, signalling a new chapter in your relationships. By the weekend, the Venus, Moon, and Jupiter trine in your water houses encourages self-focus and improves relationship behaviours. Expect deeper conversations and a sense of relief regarding your financial situation as things begin to improve.



# SHADOWS

YOUR STUDENT BAR

SHADOWS BAR TURNS  
**41**

COME CELEBRATE SHADOWS  
BIRTHDAY WITH US



## \$4 Better Beer.

\$5 Sourz shots  
\$6 Tequila Shots  
\$7 TUI RTD  
\$9 Jagerbombs  
\$8 Shadows Jugs  
2 for \$15 Red Bull Vodka  
\$40 Export towers

FRIDAY  
13 SEPTEMBER  
FREE ENTRY



12PM - Late • DJ from 8PM • Happy Hour Deals • Food Specials • Giveaways AllDay

EVERY TUESDAY

**\$10  
BURGER &  
FRIES NIGHT**



Buy a drink off tap and get a \$10 burger & fries

Terms & Conditions apply

ALL DAY

2•4•1 PIZZAS  
EVERY WEDNESDAY



BUY ANY PIZZA ON THE MENU AND  
GET THE SECOND ONE FOR FREE

Terms & Conditions apply

EVERY THURSDAY

**2 FOR \$25  
COCKTAILS**



CHOOSE 2 COCKTAILS FROM OUR SELECTED RANGE  
FOR ONLY \$25

Terms & Conditions apply

ALL DAY

**\$5 NACHOS  
EVERY FRIDAY**



BUDGET MEAL SORTED  
GOES WELL WITH A MARGARITA OR BOTTLE OF SOL

EVERY DAY

3pm - 5pm AND 9pm - 11pm

**HAPPY  
HOUR**

\$8 WINES

\$10 SCAPEGRACE G&T

\$11 HAZY OR TIGER CRYSTAL

\$12 MARGARITA OR ESPRESSO MARTINI

\$18 BETTER BEER BUCKET



EVERY TUESDAY

**QUIZ  
NIGHT**

\$10 BURGER AND FRIES COMBO • BAR TAB PRIZES • GIVEAWAYS



FROM 6PM

REGISTER VIA INSTAGRAM @SHADOWSBARNZ

SHADOWS BAR - OPPOSITE THE MAIN LIBRARY • OPEN MIDDAY TIL LATE • MONDAY - FRIDAY



SHADOWSBARNZ



EVENTS@SHADOWS.CO.NZ



# \$100K CHALLENGE



**Open to all current University of Auckland students & staff**

**Enter your start-up plan to win a share of a \$100,000 prize pool!**

Entries due  
**Monday 23 September, 12pm**  
at [velocity.auckland.ac.nz](http://velocity.auckland.ac.nz)



**BUSINESS SCHOOL**  
CENTRE FOR  
INNOVATION AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**velocity**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME

🌟 **\$100K CHALLENGE** 🌟 - Do you want to win a share of \$100,000 !?

Whether you have some experience in entrepreneurship, or none at all - we have something awesome to offer you 🍌

Students and staff from all faculties at the University of Auckland can enter Velocity's 100k Challenge! you need is an idea you're passionate about 💡

Ready to turn your idea into reality? Submit an 8-10 page business plan and a 1-page business canvas for a chance to be one of the top 15 entries. Gain exclusive access to a pitching workshop and get the opportunity to present your idea to a panel of expert judges.

📅 Entries close Monday 23rd September

Want more details? Go to the link in above ! You'll find everything you need, including the entry template and resources to help make your entry a success.

Don't miss your chance to change the future with your idea! 🌟"