

CRACCUM

ISSUE 02, 2020



Sashes, Crowns and Misogyny

Makeup and smiles mask an industry rife with ugly secrets. Ella Morgan speaks to University of Auckland students about mistreatment in beauty pageants. PAGE 10.

My Beef With Veganism

Butchering the vegan lifestyle. Madeleine Crutchley explains why veganism doesn't have to be for everyone. PAGE 17.

Teenage Love Affair

Every second you're slightly less horny than the second before. Patrick Macaskill-Webb explains why you'll never love anyone as much as you will at university. PAGE 19.



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CoronaChaos

CAM SAYS:

At the time of writing this editorial, New Zealand has just had its third case of COVID-19 confirmed and I don't know about you, but I don't feel particularly panicked at all. I know there's been a lot of hysteria - and whilst we may have more cases of COVID-19 to come, I do have faith in how this 'outbreak' is being handled.

Public Health measures are based on informed scientific facts and decisions. Experts in the field definitely know more than 'experts' on twitter. Don't get me wrong, COVID-19 is a real problem. Obeying public health precautions and instructions is important. After all, we do want to limit and stop the spread of this disease. But the absolute panic over face masks, hand sanitisers, toilet paper, and even bread is just completely unnecessary.

This isn't to belittle anyone who wants to protect themselves - by all means, have good hygiene. This disease can be fatal, it can impact people's lives and any measure to prevent disease is well worth it.

But the absolute frenzy isn't worth the stress and the huge disruption to daily life. Keep calm and carry on. You can be worried without being worked up.

With that being said, I want to list some things you're more likely to catch at the University of Auckland than COVID-19:

1. Cooties
2. A white supremacist plastering up posters
3. Stuart McCutcheon raiding the stationery cupboard before he gaps it.
4. Fresher Flu
5. A PreMed student stealing notes in the General Library

Be safe and wash your goddamn hands,
Cam

DAN SAYS:

Hot damn! This coronavirus stuff is getting crazy! I've been busy boarding up the office this week, so I haven't had much time to shit out an editorial. Instead, I'll leave you with **Dan's Top Ten Coronavirus Survival Tips:**

1. Next time you have a lecture, piss on your desk. It's the only way to make sure others aren't tempted to use it/spread their disgusting COVID germs across it.
2. Self-isolate by picking up a World of Warcraft addiction. It's sure to keep you away from social gatherings and large crowds.
3. If anyone gets too close to you, start coughing and apologise, saying "Sorry, I'm still recovering from my flu-like symptoms. Caught it from the air conditioning on the flight back in." They should begin to back away immediately.
4. Socks and sandals are a natural repellent. Use them prodigiously.
5. If coronavirus enters your body, repeat these words: "Stop it, I don't like it." Legally, the coronavirus has to leave you alone. If it still persists, call 0800 376 633 to speak to a Youthline Bullying expert.
6. Blend up a face-mask and eat it as part of a meal. It's low on calories and guaranteed to get you SWOLE.
7. Stock up on essential supplies like Bibles, white t-shirts, blue jeans, and belts. If the coronavirus approaches you, change clothes quickly and ask if it's interested in meeting God.
8. Coronavirus is only fast in straight lines. If you see one chasing you, run in a zig-zag pattern - the turning slows it down.
9. Zig-zags not enough? Try boarding a plane. Coronavirus has been banned from most countries, and probably won't be able to get a visa in time to meet you in your new city. Bonus points if you cough on everyone on the ride over.
10. Stop licking bats and pangolins. Lick moles instead - their natural predator.
11. Read *Craccum*. The World Health Organisation (WHO) notes that COVID-19 is unable to survive in situations of extreme bullshit.

Anyways, I'm off to Party in the Spark now. I'm aware there'll be loads of person-to-person contact there so I'll be wearing a condom under my clothes (for protection). Wish me luck!

Cheers,
Dan

From the President

If you've done O Week properly, dear Craccum readers, then you'll understand that at the time of writing this (Thursday morning, after Party in the Spark), I was a little dusty. After all – as your Student Executive, it is our responsibility and our solemn duty here at AUSA to make sure we are delivering a great O Week. Much like a good chef always tastes their own food to know how it tastes, so too did the AUSA Team partake in the festivities themselves to know how it was.

In all seriousness though, we hope that this first week back (or first week!) has been a bloody good one for you. O Week is a tiring week at AUSA but it is also, by far and away, the highlight of our year. The sweat (and tears) involved in putting 6000 cans of Red Bull, two tonnes of Chocolate Milk and one and a half tonnes of pre-cooked, flavoured rice in your AUSA Tote Bags, not to mention the bulk of work that has gone in to delivering O Week and Party in the Spark have all been worth it for the smiles, the thank yous and the instagram stories showing us you had a great time. It's a privilege for us here at AUSA to serve you so thank you for giving us the chance to bring you the O Week we've just had.

As we return to (or start watching the recordings of..) classes this week, it's a simple message from your Exec here at AUSA: keep on getting amongst it, building community and looking after each other. AUSA has so much still to offer this year (next week is Sex Week with all the glory of Sex Week on display – Speed Dating and giant inflatable sex objects in the Quad) and – biased as I am – I think there's starting to be a real feeling of student community among us. Last week, we were brought together two times – firstly in awe of Kirsty Sutherland, the DJ wonder who won our hearts at the Mix Off and secondly in horror at the sight of one of the comedians on the Tuesday Comedy Festival undressing himself to the point of removing not just one but two sets of underwear until he was just wearing ladies lingerie...

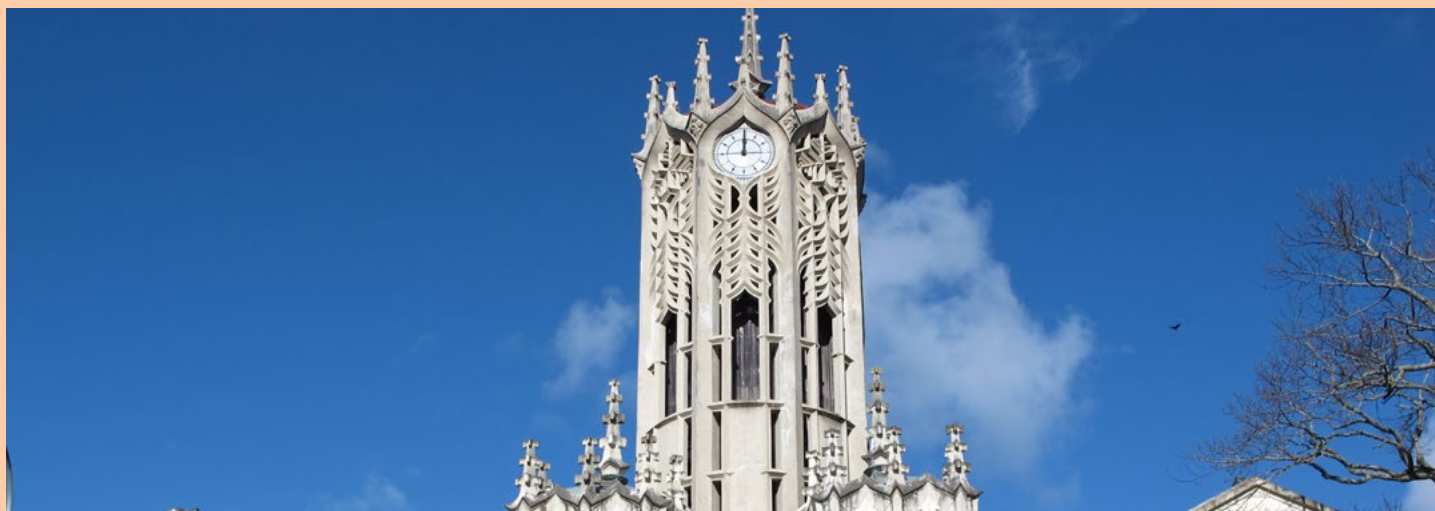
Going back to being serious again though – as we wind down from a great O Week this year, we spare a thought for those in our student community who unfortunately still can't be with us due to the travel bans in place, particularly those in China. We can't wait to have them back on campus and we wish them all the best as they start their studies for this Semester completely online and overseas. It has been good to see that concerns about Covid-19 haven't materialised into the

prejudice and hysteria that has sadly swept much of the globe and the news media but it is important that we keep reminding ourselves that it is the right of all students to wear masks as they like and it is – as corny as it may sound to some of us – so important that we remember that viruses don't discriminate and that we shouldn't either. It's also good to see that the University has learnt from last year and recognises, unequivocally, that white supremacy and other forms of discrimination have no place on campus. We are relieved that the University has advised that stickers advertising white supremacist groups are to be taken down by University Security immediately on sight. We encourage all of our students who see them to take them down or tell Security to if they don't feel safe to do it themselves.

Finally, and on a much lighter note, it's incredible to see the new Shad-ows in all its newfound glory. For us at AUSA, being the proud owners of your student bar, it is an especially special sight. To those cynics and dare I say it, snobs, who only drink from Mojo, let go of your fears and just order a coffee at Shads – trust me when I tell you that it's actually really good.

Anyway, that's it from me this week – all the best for a good one and always remember – we're here to serve you so let us know what more we can be doing or just to reach out if you need anything.

Your faithful servant,
George



New Vice-Chancellor Starts This Month

JUSTIN WONG

Dawn Freshwater will be replacing Stuart McCutcheon as the University of Auckland's Vice-Chancellor, starting on the 16th March.

The decision was announced last June and she will become the university's first female Vice-Chancellor, since it was founded in 1883.

Chancellor Scott St John said then a "comprehensive international search" had been undertaken to search for the new Vice-Chancellor, and Freshwater received unanimous support from University Council members and staff who were engaged in the selection process.

"As well as academic and professional leadership capability, it was important that the new Vice-Chancellor had a number of other attributes that we identified as important to the wider University community," he said.

"It was clear that a values-based leadership style and commitment to Māori and Pacific development, and an understanding of the civic, regional and global relevance of the University of Auckland were critical factors in the selection. I believe we have very much met this brief with the appointment of Professor Freshwater."

Freshwater, who grew up in Nottingham, England, is currently the Vice-Chancellor at the University of Western Australia, a post she has held since December 2016.

Prior to her current appointment, she also held other university leadership roles, such as Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of Leeds from 2011 to 2014, and the Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor and Registrar at the University of Western Australia between 2014 and 2017.

She is also an academic in mental health and has contributed to hundreds of publications.

Speaking to the university's alumni magazine, Ingenio, in November last year, Freshwater said she is excited to be leading Auckland University and living in New Zealand.

"There are many people looking to New Zealand with envy in terms of what it's achieving, both in innovation and punching above its weight for what people view as a small nation."

Freshwater will be taking the University's top job as the institution is facing a number of challenges, and has often ended up on headlines for

the wrong reasons in recent years.

The university has been accused of turning its back on arts and culture.

The Maidment Theatre, the university's premier theatre located under the Student Quad, was permanently closed and demolished in 2016, with Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon saying it was not cost-effective to continue with seismic strengthening and updating the venue after costs exceeded \$16 million.

Three specialist libraries, the Architecture and Planning, Music and Dance, and Fine Arts Libraries, were closed and over a hundred support service jobs were axed in June 2018 to ensure the university remained solvent.

Problems with white-supremacy have also troubled the university.

As recent as last week, white supremacist posters have been displayed on university grounds numerous times since 2017. Incidents of students finding swastikas and neo-Nazi graffiti on campus, or being intimidated by white supremacist behaviour were also reported by Cracum last year.

Despite numerous articles from media outlets after the terror attacks in Christchurch alleging a growing white supremacist movement on campus, the university has refused to acknowledge it, with Vice-Chancellor McCutcheon describing the claims as "utter nonsense", saying "there is absolutely no evidence of an increasing problem".

He also said while white supremacist posters are "unfortunate", they were protected by free speech, and the university would not not officially condemn the group behind the posters or remove the posters from campus.

But just as Freshwater officially begins her new appointment, the University is facing new controversy.

In January, Stuff reported the University has purchased a \$5 million mansion in Parnell to be rented by the incoming Vice-Chancellor.

The University has said in a statement that the four-bedroom property, which features a swimming pool and large garden space, will also be used for "university-related events and functions".

White Supremacist Posters Distributed Around Campus

ELLA MORGAN

White supremacist materials have once again been distributed around campus. The posters, which have been found at a variety of locations around the city campus, direct individuals to the website of a white supremacist group.

According to a university spokesperson, “[the university] are aware of materials being posted around the campus, and are ensuring these are removed...We are removing the material because it is illegal, i.e. defacing University property and contravening the Summary Offences Act 1981 s.33 – Billsticking. This rule applies to any material that is illegally posted.”

George Barton, President of the Auckland University Students’ Association, has admonished the materials in a statement condemning white supremacy. “There is absolutely no place for white supremacy on campus. As soon as we heard reports of stickers being up on campus we were in communication with the University who, we are very glad to see, are taking these stickers down and instructing security to do so. As we welcome our new students on campus, it is so important that we make this University as inclusive as it can be and that means making sure white supremacy has no place on our

grounds. We encourage all students who see them and who feel safe to do so to take them down and to call security or get in touch with AUSA if they don’t.”

“Importantly, in doing that and in being swift on doing that, we’re making sure that these guys aren’t getting any oxygen whatsoever or any coverage that having stickers up on campus might give them, because that’s their intention.”

Twitter users have encouraged people to remove the posters if they see them, and not to post pictures of the materials online.

“I can’t reiterate enough: they’re doing this now to provoke a response. They want us to post pictures of their whites supremacist garbage to extend their reach. Please, if you see something just take it down. Let’s not play their game,” says Twitter user @CentralCommiTi.

Last year, a number of white supremacist posters were plastered around the university campus. At the time, Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon called the material an exercise of “free speech”, and the university did not remove the posters. This response attracted criticism from concerned students, some of which took matters into their own hands by tearing down the posters.

University’s New South Auckland Campus Opens to Students

DANIEL MEECH

The university’s new South Auckland campus, Te Papa Ako o Tai Tonga, has opened its doors to students.

Te Papa Ako o Tai Tonga is the first time the university has had a university-run, dedicated presence in the South Auckland area. It holds a lecture theatre for 170, breakout spaces, a student hub with library access, and support services. The new campus replaces the university’s partnership with the Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT). Under the previous partnership, University of Auckland students living in South Auckland could choose to attend classes at MIT’s Otara campus.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Pacific) Damon Salesa says the new campus is a visual symbol of the university’s ongoing support for Pacific students. “We know that for people living in the south providing some courses and study spaces that are easily accessible can make the pathway to university easier,” Salesa said, “We believe the best learning experience is focused on our central campus, but with a presence in South Auckland as well, the transport, traffic, and time challenges that our students can grapple with are eased.” He believes having a

dedicated presence in South Auckland is an important recognition of the university’s tie to the Pacific community.

Questions abound over whether or not Te Papa Ako o Tai Tonga’s status as a satellite campus might hamper it. The university recently began a consolidation project to close and relocate all its other satellite campuses, which include Tamaki, Epsom, and Grafton, after the university found students weren’t using these satellite campuses enough. However, Rennie Atfield-Douglas, a former student who now works on the Te Papa Ako o Tai Tonga campus, is hopeful that the campus’ close link to train and bus connections will mean the location is more trafficked than the others.

Salesa says he is hopeful for the future. “The University operates a number of initiatives in the South Auckland area, designed to encourage and aid Pacific high school students in the transition through to university,” he said. “We have seen some outstanding results from these programmes and look forward to developing this reach further.”

University Issues Hire Freeze as Financial Hit Looms

JUSTIN WONG

The University of Auckland has announced a hiring freeze on new staff as it faces revenue losses as a result of the government's coronavirus travel restrictions.

Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon said in a staff email on the 28th February that the restrictions have a "significant impact" on the university's finances, as it faces a \$30 million loss of revenue in the first semester, the equivalent to the entire operating surplus that it is required by the government to make this year.

"I very much regret the need to take this step, particularly as I am conscious of the fact that the travel ban is placing an additional burden on many of our staff."

"However, the government decision to prevent our students travelling to New Zealand has placed us in a very difficult and uncertain situation, and poses a significant risk to the financial health of the University."

"I hope that the ban will soon be removed and that we will then be able to review, and ideally lift, this freeze on staff hiring."

Positions affected by the hiring freeze included all academic and professional staff, fixed term positions that are not research-funded and new contracts for services.

Teaching Assistants, research-funded positions and short-term jobs supporting the response to the coronavirus will not be affected.

Victoria University's Vice-Chancellor Grant Guilford warned the following Monday it is considering lay-offs of its staff to reduce a \$12 million loss.

Responding to *Craccum*, an Auckland University spokesperson said the hiring freeze will not affect current staff. While all currently unfilled roles across the University are affected by the freeze, positions "crucial" to providing services to students will be exempted.

However, the statement did not outline which services are considered "crucial".

The university also says there are no plans to lay off staff or change wages or benefits but if the travel restrictions continues, "we may have to look at other initiatives".

A tutor in the university's Tuākana programme, a mentoring service supporting undergraduate Māori and Pacific students, told *Craccum* they still have not received their contracts and that this will affect his livelihood.

The University has confirmed to *Craccum* that the freeze will not affect Tuākana tutors and the delay is unrelated to the COVID-19 outbreak.

"My understanding is that they're expecting us to work and then get back paid when the freeze finishes."

"I've had to look for alternative work which means I have 8am starts and finished work at 10pm. It's gonna be hard."

"I understand that they are mandated to maintain the operating surplus, however, their financial statements are available online and they have billions in assets that could be sold."

"Tuākana isn't just the University having morals. There are Treaty obligations that they have to uphold so I find it odd that these weren't

exempt from the freeze."

Michael Gilchrist, National President of the Tertiary Education Union (TEU), told 95bFM's *The Wire* that the university should not be using staff to cover financial losses, and it needs to work with the government to find alternative solutions.

"Drawing a straight line from these losses to staff cuts is totally unacceptable."

"These institutions, especially like Auckland University, have reserves that they can use to buffer these shocks."

"They also need to start talking nationally with other institutions and with the government about ways of offsetting these losses."

"I think that the government can relax some of its requirements for the university to hit some of its targets in terms of their projected enrolments, and also the requirement to show a surplus."

New Zealand Union of Students' Associations President Isabella Lenihan-Ikin also believes it is inappropriate to reduce staff numbers, despite financial difficulties.

She says hiring freezes and possible redundancies at a time when full staffing capacity is needed at tertiary institutions will affect not only staff, but all students as well.

"The coronavirus is already increasing the workload of many staff, and this will only worsen the situation."

"Important class offerings and crucial student services will be cut, and as a result the remain[ing] staff will experience an even greater workload."

"The government needs to financially support tertiary institutions during this time, as they have done with the \$11 million injection into the tourism industry, and the financial strain caused by COVID-19 should not fall on institutions alone."

Current travel restrictions implemented by the government have been expanded from mainland China to include Iran, after New Zealand confirmed three positive coronavirus cases.

The first case is a New Zealand citizen in their 60s who travelled from Iran via Bali, and had previously tested negative twice.

The second patient is a New Zealand citizen in their 30s who returned from a trip to northern Italy.

The third case, a New Zealand resident in his 40s, has no connections to the first two cases and had not recently travelled, but his family members had recently travelled to Iran.

In addition, those who have been to South Korea and northern Italy are required to self-isolate for 14 days upon returning to New Zealand.

IF YOU BELIEVE YOU COULD HAVE THE CORONAVIRUS, STAY AT HOME AND CONTACT HEALTHLINE'S DEDICATED CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE ON 0800 358 5453 (+64 9 358 5453 ON AN INTERNATIONAL SIM).

New Report Highlights Racism in the Justice System

ELLA MORGAN

A new report published by JustSpeak has drawn attention to the unfair treatment of Māori in the justice system.

According to the report, "Māori who have had no prior contact with the justice system have a greater risk of a police proceeding and are more likely to be charged by Police, than Europeans". Māori are seven times more likely to be charged by police than Europeans, and Māori women in their late teens to early twenties are twice as likely to face court proceedings by police than European women.

The report comes at a time where prejudice towards Māori in the justice system is increasingly highlighted as an important social and human rights issue. Despite making up only 15% of the general population, Māori currently make up 51.8% of the incarcerated population. Māori women in particular constitute 64% of female prisoners.

Last year, the government announced widespread reform of the justice system in order to address these inequalities. Hōkai Rangī, a long-term plan to reduce Māori incarceration, involves incorporating te ao Māori into a number of aspects of the justice system. This has included action such as establishing kaupapa Māori units and programmes in every New Zealand prison, and ensuring whānau are more involved in the rehabilitation process.

"We have a real issue with systemic bias in our justice system. And it's not just a question of socioeconomic factors because we know those also contribute to contact with the justice system, because we controlled for that," says JustSpeak director Tania Sawicki Mead.

"We're really hopeful that the government will take this research seriously, and use it to prioritise the policies and resources that communities need to feel that they can trust police and feel safe and supported in their community."

However, deputy police commissioner Wally Haumaha has questioned the study's findings, as it does not include whether crimes committed were low-level or high-level.

JustSpeak is calling for a number of policy changes to address prejudice in the justice system. The report suggests that "a fundamental shift in justice sector attitudes, values and practices is required for this structural bias to stop negatively affecting Māori". Proposed policy solutions include more anti-bias training for police, more funding for Māori based diversion initiatives such as Te Pae Oranga and decriminalising low-level offences. Currently, they are also promoting two petitions to raise the youth justice age to 21, and to grant voting rights to prisoners.

70 University of Auckland Students Recalled From Overseas Placements Over Coronavirus Fears

DANIEL MEECH

About 70 University of Auckland medical students have been recalled from their overseas work placements, due to fears around travel restrictions imposed to battle COVID-19.

The 70 students, who were taking part in a medical elective course which offered students the chance to gain hands-on experience in their field, have been told they have until the end of the week to fly back into New Zealand. As well as the 70 recalled students, 150 other medical students have also been affected. These students, who were due to take up overseas placements later in the year, have had their placements suspended until further notice.

University of Auckland Medical and Health Sciences Dean John Fraser says the decision to recall the students was prompted by uncertainty about international travel. "Our main concern was not so much for their risk of infection, but really our concern about the possibility for rapid change or imposition of travel restrictions which mean the students could be trapped," he told RNZ. "I suspect that the situation globally is going to move very, very rapidly and we didn't want to be in a position where we were caught and not being able to get students back."

Students in both low and high-risk countries have been recalled. The university says the decision to recall *all* overseas students was made to ensure that students working in high-risk countries weren't disadvantaged in their academics by the COVID-19. "We wanted to be fair to all students," Fraser said. "We didn't want to pull some students back and leave some students to continue their electives."

Fraser says the university will help affected students find new placements throughout New Zealand. Overseas placements are unlikely to happen for recalled students, due to the time and resources necessary to organise it, but the university will work with local DHBs to ensure opportunities for work experience are still provided.

"Understandably some of [the students] are quite upset," Fraser said. "We knew that that would be the case. Some of them have planned these for some time." However, Fraser believes that recalling the students was ultimately the best decision to ensure their safety.

At time of writing, the University of Auckland is the only university to have recalled its medical students. However, the University of Otago has indicated it is considering it - telling *Stuff* that it was "actively reviewing" whether it was appropriate to allow students to take part in overseas work placements.



Sashes, Crowns and Misogyny: Students Speak On Mistreatment in the Beauty Pageant Industry

ANONYMOUS

Current and past University of Auckland students are speaking out about their experiences with bullying and harassment while competing in beauty pageants.

Anna*, who graduated from University of Auckland in December, says she was scouted through Facebook for a high-profile New Zealand beauty pageant. "At the time I was quite vulnerable having just gone through a major breakup. I was looking for any validation as I was feeling worthless," says Anna.

Soon after entering, Anna became disenchanted with the competition, and in particular the pageant director's behaviour towards contestants. "I was highly disappointed and disgusted in the treatment of the women," Anna says. "I was knocked down time and time again by this man, until it got to the point where we both knew I stood no chance in winning."

According to Anna, contestants were not listened to, "but due to the misogynistic behavior of the owner this was a given...I quote from his mouth, 'I'm the boss, [name redacted]'".

Anna believes that protections need to be put in place to protect young women who take part in pageants. "Vetting needs to take place for the owners of the pageants to determine if they have the girls' best interests at heart, or a higher agenda".

Charlotte* is a current University of Auckland student who also took part in the same competition. "I entered because I thought that doing something like this would open up a lot of opportunities for me. I was very young at the time and the idea of going overseas and doing stuff like photoshoots was very exciting, it's like a young girl's dream," Charlotte says.

Very quickly, Charlotte realised that the competition was not what it seemed. Upon agreeing to take part, she was assured contestants would not have to walk on a catwalk in swimwear. "They said the only time we had to do anything in a bikini would be under controlled conditions in a photoshoot, where we felt comfortable," says Charlotte. "On our second day we were made to walk in front of about 30 sponsors in our swimwear...when I asked the director about this, he told me it was fine because we would wear bare feet and not high heels, so it isn't sexualised. Straight after we were told not to post any pictures in bikinis on social media because it doesn't fit with the brand."

"I felt absolutely objectified and disgusted. It opened my eyes to how much this pageant was controlled by other people, and the actual women taking part have no choice unless they want to face consequences in the competition."

Charlotte was taken on an overseas trip as part of her experience in the competition. However, she became exhausted after getting less than four hours sleep a night due to performing pageant duties, and soon felt unsure of the standards for contestant safety.

"Another contestant made an allegation of sexual harassment and she was suspended from the competition. We were told that if any of us talked about it we would be removed from the competition. It's very scary being in a completely different country where someone else is completely in control of you, especially when you find out that if you felt like you were in a bad situation that's how it would be dealt with."

Charlotte agrees with Anna that there needs to be protections in place for contestants. "We were all signed into contracts and didn't know what we could do or say," Charlotte says. "Every pageant you enter in New Zealand makes you sign something, and a lot of the time people can't understand what they actually mean and can't afford to get a lawyer to look at it."

Last year, University of Auckland student Kalo Funganitao made headlines after exposing bullying within the Miss Heilala pageant in Tonga. Funganitao made a speech at the pageant calling out the mistreatment she had experienced, to which organisers attempted to cut off her microphone and play music.

According to Minister for Women Julie Anne Genter, she would not criticize an individual's choice to compete in a pageant, however "women and girls should be valued for more than their bodies and looks. Our skills, intellect, courage, sense of humour and treatment of others matter, rather than a narrow ideal of beauty. We should strive for a society where everyone's strengths are realised."

"Being targeted for bullying and harassment...for being a woman is unacceptable in general, not just for beauty pageant participants."

Beauty pageants in New Zealand currently operate in somewhat of a 'wild west' environment. There is no specific governing body or regulation of the industry, so the responsibility of ensuring contestants are being treated fairly is mainly left up to contestants themselves. However, with the minimum age for some major pageants in New Zealand being as low as 16, questions are raised as to whether rules need to be implemented to keep contestants safe and protect their wellbeing.

**Names changed to protect individuals' identities*

"There is no specific governing body or regulation of the industry, so the responsibility of ensuring contestants are being treated fairly is mainly left up to contestants themselves."



In Defence of JAFAs

GABRIELLE MCCULLOCH

The first-year of uni, I lived on the corner of Queen Street and K'Road – where we were woken by drunken domestics, smashed glass, and some dude (with a beautiful, but incredibly loud, voice) singing a waiata at four in the morning.

Moving to Auckland was an adjustment. And I didn't even have to move all that far. Auckland "Super City" (which still sounds like an off-brand Gotham) swallowed my beach town in 2010, but that didn't stop everyone I knew decrying 'Bloody Aucklanders.'

Traffic? *Bloody Aucklanders.* Overpopulated beaches? *Bloody Aucklanders.* Increased housing prices?

Yeah, so, retrospectively, a lot of the things we complained about weren't that far from the complaints of every other Auckland dwelling citizen. Our inclusion into Auckland city limits may have been more justified than we would have liked to admit.

For those of you coming to this city for the first time, here is one (highly bias) account of what to expect. By the end of your degree, like the ever-expanding limits of Auckland's edges, you too may find yourself unwittingly included in the pejorative term 'JAFA.'

Con: In the city, you don't know everyone,

which can feel like you don't know anyone. You can't just walk to the dairy and bump into primary school friends, your old neighbour, and that family you cat-sat for once. There's no easy community to fall into, you've got to put in the effort to create your own.

Pro: In the city, not everyone knows you! You can go for a run through the domain without your old school teacher telling your mum, "Oh! It's just so great Gabrielle's getting out there!" Anonymity is its own kind of freedom.

Con: Town's a bit shit. Go out on Wednesday nights. Hit up all the usual suspects, Bar 101, Shads, graduate to Cassette 9 or one of those fancy places by the Viaduct. After a while, it all starts to feel a bit familiar.

Pro: Town's great! Second-year, I started to check out some \$10 gigs at Gelatos, the Wine Cellar, and Anthology Lounge. Sometimes I'd venture to a bougie café one bus ride into the suburbs – I could have a good time and be home by midnight (hell yeah!). Auckland Fringe is on right now: go to a weird artsy play,

feature.

go to the Tuesday night poetry at the Thirsty Dog, catch some comedy. In Auckland, people are always trying to show off the cool shit they've made, and it's fun to be in on it. Kind of like an inside joke, or discovering a book *before* the movie adaption – there's a satisfaction to it you might not want to admit.

Con: Auckland is loud. A lot is going on, all the time. When I moved to Auckland I fell out of the habit of checking the tides as if they were the weather. I stopped writing in my journal. Everything was happening all at once, always.

Pro: It's not that far to go to escape Auckland's loudness. I recommend a West Coast beach, the Pinnacles (if you have a car), or the top of one of Auckland's many volcanoes. There are spaces in Auckland that give you space. If you need that room to breathe, seek them out.

Overall, Auckland City gets a 3.9-star rating.

It took me a while to admit that I love this city, it's just way more fun to rag on. I didn't want to be included in the Chemex coffee drinking, perpetually frowning, aggressive driving

masses. But I have a Theory™ about the Auckland JAFAs:

Aucklanders only suck *outside of Auckland*. It's when to take your learned aggressive driving *cus-damn-it-if-you're-gonna-miss-that-one-free-carpark-left-on-Princes-St* to small-town Ohope that it turns from a survival technique to an all-round dick move. You can't smile at everyone on Queen Street, unless you want to be pulled into a non-consensual hug by a strange man at the bus stop. Things I, unfortunately, learned the hard way.

But there are moments – killing time in-between classes at Albert Park, walking out of a gig off K'Road with my mates, and even, on the way to work, just sitting in the front seat of a 300 bus at 6 am – moments that I've felt like an Aucklander. By that I mean, I felt as if I have some sort of ownership over this city, I care what happens here, I want to see it better, and I want to see it grow.

All I really know is that, last week, I was driving towards the harbour bridge at night. My Toyota Vitz doesn't have a speaker, so I was blasting music from a slowly dying UE boom. I wound down my windows slightly, slowed to see the skyline, and at that moment, I loved this city. Although a part of me still hates to say it, I felt like I was coming home.

"But there are moments – killing time in-between classes at Albert Park, walking out of a gig off K'Road with my mates, and even, on the way to work, just sitting in the front seat of a 300 bus at 6 am – moments that I've felt like an Aucklander."

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My Beef with Veganism

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

Over the past few years there has been a major growth in the popularity of meat-free diets, such as veganism and vegetarianism. This interest has been reflected on our own university campus, with a growing number of meat-free options available, everywhere from Ha! Poke to Barilla Dumplings. Seriously, look around, there's a whole lot of vegan Doc Martens stomping around campus this semester. Even here, at Craccum, we have spoken out about our undying love for the gorgeous, un-cancelable \$5 vegan lunches.

The move towards meat-free lifestyles is consistently associated with increasing concerns over inevitable climate change, with agricultural industries known to make significant contributions of harmful emissions. At last years' Auckland Climate Strike it was hard to miss signs, held by young people, that equated veganism with environmentalism. Some of those accusatory signs went as far as to claim that you could not call yourself an environmentalist if you still consumed animal products. Obviously, climate change is not the only driver of the movement towards plant-based lifestyles; the current conditions of meat production mean animals are kept in cramped and cruel conditions. Animal rights concerns are at the fore-front of vegan protests. Joaquin Phoenix's Oscar Speech caused quite a stir, where the life-long vegan (and PETA's 2019 Person of the Year) called out the lack of morality in factory farming processes. He specifically described the "cries of anguish" of artificially inseminated cows, with his speech receiving both praise and criticism online. Documentaries like *Cowspiracy*, *What the Health*, and *Game Changers* have also brought veganism to mainstream audiences,

showcasing the benefits of meat-free dieting, for both the individuals that partake and the world at large.

Veganism has also spread like wildfire online, with Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube granting people a platform to inform, and misinform. In the mid-2010s Instagram stars like Bonny Rebecca and Essena O'Neill flaunted bright white teeth alongside vegan products they were advertising, and Freelee the Banana Girl became an sensation with her hyper-sexualised thumbnails and aggressive call outs of woman on YouTube. The community on Instagram has a very specific aesthetic, with women posing at the beach, piles of fruit and veg on a kitchen counter and overhead shots of plates of pancakes and watermelon. It appears to be very pretty, and people on the diet seem to be thriving, living their absolute best lives. In captions, filled with cute cartoon emojis of animals, the celebrity vegans denounce fellow humans for their cruel and degrading sin of eating meat. The attempts to glamourise the diet and guilt the viewer are clear.

**Trigger warning:
Food and anxiety.**

Personally, my diet has been all over the place. I grew up with no dietary restrictions, but, even as a kid, the idea of eating meat always made me feel a little bit weird. Red meat would especially freak me out, and I would only eat it if it had no red bits. It took quite a lot of chewing to finish those dinners. Once I reached high school, and insecurities and self-doubt became part of my everyday life, the YouTube algorithm introduced me to the idealistic and picture-perfect world of low fat, high carb veganism. These vegan vloggers stretched their bright smiles across my laptop screen, and talked about how their diets of pesto pasta, kumara chips, and chickpea salads helped them to lose weight, feel healthier, and commit to their workout routines. The young, white, slim Australian women persuaded me that issues of malnutrition, low iron, and low B-12 were completely ridiculous and irrelevant with this version of the vegan diet. They weren't professionals, but they were beautiful and (most importantly) they were thin. Their clean images, and my existing concern for animals, were enough to convince me to make the change. I immediately stopped eating any animal products, and began to feel a sense of moral superiority in my choices. Over a few months I convinced myself that veganism had changed my life, following the e-books of the influencers I loved so much, all while I was piling on weight and testing for below normal nutrition levels.

After this dip into veganism I experienced terrible body image issues and constant tiredness. Reluctantly, I reintroduced eggs, and then meat, back into my diet. Since this experience, I have continued to try different diets, and used the 'ethical' concerns as an excuse to restrict myself in what I could eat. Vegetarianism and copious amounts of coffee led to quick weight loss, until I completely exhausted my body, and aggravated some scary anxiety issues. It's fair to say that at this point my relationship with food was pretty poor. After these experiences I have been more careful with my nutrition, and started to repair my relationship with food, while maintaining a pescatarian diet. Despite the trouble I have been through, and the knowledge I have about my body and mental health, I still feel guilty about eating white meat. For me, the awareness of veganism came at a time when I was obsessed with my appearance, worried about

what other people thought of me, and completely overwhelmed by looming notions of irreversible climate change. It was advertised as a quick fix for anybody willing, and came with no warnings or guidelines.

I don't blame the vegan diet for the issues I experienced. I trialled a very specific type of veganism, with very little professional guidance. I was young, and didn't have the intellectual tools that I have now to be critical of those YouTubers spreading misinformation, telling me to take responsibility for all the damage I was doing, personally, as a result of eating dairy and eggs. There is every chance that meat-free diets can be indulged, in a healthy and ethical manner. My concern is that simplistic, individualistic ideas of veganism completely ignore the historical contexts that do not make plant-based lifestyles available to everyone. For me, veganism and vegetarianism were adopted into the complicated contexts of gender performance, body image issues, anxiety, and lack of education, resulting in an unsuccessful and damaging experience. Before I started the diet, I felt I needed to stop taking up space, and resources. I wanted to be smaller, and this socially-learned idea completely dictated the way I engaged with food. I'm sure I'm not the only one who has leaned on restrictive lifestyles as a defense mechanism.

There are so many other factors that can affect our relationships with food; socio-economic standing, institutionalised racism, physical and mental health issues - the list is endless. To push veganism (in our current social context) as an easy solve to health problems, climate change, and animal cruelty ignores critical complexities of power. 'White veganism' is a term that has been used to critique this approach, because it often erases the history of colonisation and the fact that factory farming is a colonial product. It follows trends of minimalism present in middle and upper classes (think of capsule wardrobes and Marie Kondo), where monitoring consumption is understood as an individual responsibility. Often, it also shows a complete lack of empathy for those less privileged and degrades people in a hateful manner. Focusing on and blaming individuals for their 'choices' of eating factory farmed meat leads to the blame game, where the poor and less

powerful inevitably become the main target. This continues to push harmful stereotypes, and leads people away from thinking about pushing for collective and large-scale change.

Don't get me wrong, I love certain aspects of what the vegan lifestyle stands for, and appreciate the sentiment of vegan protests in Countdown and down Queen Street. Factory farming is terrible for the environment and the animals that are sadly subjected to it. However, attacking individuals for their diets and spreading misinformation only alienates people from the lifestyle. Encouraging people to enjoy a 'meatless Monday' or start down the path of 'flexitarianism' allows for us to make small steps in our individual lives. Blaming individuals for their 'greed' or 'ignorance,' when they are struggling with health issues, or living in tougher economic situations, does not move the meter forward. Often people rely on meat to live, because it is what is made widely available in a late capitalist system. To make a more successful argument and encourage change, it is better to take aim at the corporations that drive factory farming. Not many people are diehard supporters of factory farming, and it is a much more inclusive and empathetic stance to take, rather than the 'white veganism' that feeds into stereotypes and blames the less powerful for a situation they have no control over.

So, to the young'uns on Queen Street holding signs, the people online degrading each others' decisions and Freelee the bloody Banana Girl; the individual is not at fault here. You can make a good argument, without erasing the context that is so key to the current state of things. Factory farming cannot be removed from the historical context of colonisation and the socio-political context of capitalism. Similarly, it's important to understand the way our diets interact with our own positions of power, and our individual mental and physical health. Veganism might be a really great choice to make, to reduce a bit of your impact, but it isn't a choice that everyone can make. It's time to rewrite those protest signs, and approach the argument with context, empathy and understanding.

Yeah, it sounds hippie as hell, but whatever! Peace and love and all that. Maybe the grass could be greener, if we are just a little bit kinder, to each other and ourselves.

HEALTH BITES

Teenage Love Affair

PATRICK MACASKILL-WEBB

The teenage brain and why love will never feel so good again...



Love won't feel like it did as a teenager anymore. Most of us already know that being young also means we are more risky. Impulsivity and sensation seeking when you are younger comes with an overall 2-3x increased risk of bailing into an early grave! The neuroscientist Robert Sapolsky says that **"adolescence is the time of life when someone is most likely to join a cult, kill, be killed... help overthrow a dictator, ethnically cleanse a village... [or] adopt a hideous fashion style..." etc.** The greatest and most tragic love could be added to this list too. The point is, there's a range of outcomes, but our biology will nudge and prime us differently across our lives. As young people, we have this superpower of being extra engaged and excited by our thoughts due to our brain physiology. When it comes to young love, it's safe to say there will be a lot of strong-willed and risky times ahead. As for being an adult - love will likely never feel the same.

There is this noisy relay station called the nucleus accumbens in your brain that is most active during teenage years. Feelings in our later adult years are not part of such a noisy circuit of dopamine-rich, motivation-inducing, emotionally-releasing, or pleasure-producing thoughts, so you will feel different as you age. Your nucleus accumbens, plus other memory and limbic circuits, are busy searching, planning, and imagining a sweet young love with very little experience to rely on. If the nucleus accumbens is the busy relay station that is quick to jump to conclusions, then dopamine is the chemical gatekeeper that allows these busy thoughts to manifest action and emotion.

Dopamine is a big topic in neuroscience. It is the centre of a lot of addiction research and Parkinson's disease research. Estonian neuroscientist Jaak Panksepp wrote that **"... [dopamine] circuits appear to be major contributors to our feelings of engagement and excitement as we seek the material resources needed for bodily survival..."** The circuits Jaak is talking about are jacked with dopamine in the adolescent brain - and so it's very excited and engaged. It's like dopamine

causes that hot heat in one's stomach which senses the potential for love. Or that burst of naive excitement when you find a condom in your free AUSA tote bag. Dopamine is the chemical that could motivate us to do something big, dramatic, and risky for our crush. At other times dopamine also causes a harder-hitting emotional beat upon defeat.

With Parkinson's disease, only the loudest thoughts to initiate movement cause real muscle action. Finer intentions are difficult to get across because dopamine-producing neurons are lost. A lack of dopamine in other parts of the brain means only the strongest thoughts/signals can motivate you to do something. The opposite of this is like borderline schizophrenia, where even small thoughts trigger a large mixed soup of more thoughts and feelings. In other words, there is a middle range of dopamine that's best. Too much dopamine is bad; not enough is also bad for you.

Scientists think that because of 1) a higher level of background dopamine in adolescence 2) a greater connectivity and firing with the nucleus accumbens to the prefrontal cortex, and 3) a greater dopamine receptor density in teen years, we reach a "functional ceiling" in terms of the amount of dopamine we can take. So far research suggests a youthful fire for love is influenced by a range of adolescent brain peculiarities.

There is a negative flip-side to this exciting youthful time bathed in horny hormones: if your love endeavours pile on greater than normal social stress, then you may be at risk of an emotionally gloomy adult life. Research shows that social stress in adolescence will adversely decrease the amount of dopamine in later life - making you sluggish to emotion and the excitement of love. This science has been gathered by using rat bullying as a model for human teenage social stress. Do you feel like a bullied rat? If yes, you may be at risk of having less dopamine in adulthood because of excessive social stress.

The effect of dopamine and the busy nucleus accumbens pathway is just part of the story of the developing brain. We also undergo significant "pruning" to lend a more streamlined approach to our thoughts compared to our childlike self. On top of this, every person is very different in their behaviours, sense of risk, personal engagement with emotion, and genetic makeup. Other hormone changes during this time are also having an effect - like estrogen. You should enjoy this chemical cocktail while it lasts because the cocktail will likely never again be as strong. But, still, making life-long connections and beginning the journey towards true love, in whatever form that may be for you, sounds pretty okay too.





Sober* and Serious for O'Week

ROBERT KEAM

I was accepted for a writing position at Craccum, much to my surprise given my lack of professionalism and basic spelling skills. So I decided (as the editor instructed me) that it was time to do some really serious journalism. I decided to ease into it and write about something familiar, close to home. That magical time at the beginning of the uni year called me; it was time to re-do O'Week, without ending up in the very common first-year, Shads induced coma.

I woke up at 11am sharp (wow! That's pretty early for the first week! Go me!) and text-ed my mate to meet me in Fort Street, so she could accompany me on this exciting, journalistic adventure. We stalked up Queen Street, swerving past the suits on their pre-lunch vape breaks, and excited to make new memories with our O'Week activities (and actually remember them).

I had imagined that Albert Park would be full of bright-eyed club reps and cult members, but it was Wednesday and we'd completely mis]sed it. Instead we were graced with people lounging in the grass, relaxing in the park with their friends likesome idyllic American college movie. I swear there was a group tossing a frisbee around. It was far too wholesome. None of

them were even stoned. Or at least, they weren't about to share any with us.

Undeterred, we crossed Princes Street towards the Quad. The first thing I saw, after the dust from the construction site had cleared, was that the lawn was covered with photos of famous people. There was Will Smith, Justin Bieber and that dude from Kiss with the tongue. Oh god, a memorial wall? Just as I started to hold my head at the unthinkable prospect of Taylor Swift dying, my friend reassured me that it was a giant game of Guess Who? I was relieved.

After that scare, we just had to pop down to the brand new Shadows location. The beautiful holy sign assured me everything would be fine. My home, my castle, my alma mater,

ushered me in gently. I'm older, and much more responsible, so just one drink couldn't hurt. Both my friend and I had a jug each, of the cheapest. It's the only UOA tradition that exists, and who are we to break it? We had to christen the new bar too, welcome the moody, somewhat grungy, rooms to campus. We finished our third jug (oops) and headed back to the Quad. I took out my phone to take notes on the chaos, and the text started to sway. I had to close one eye to focus on the screen, but I wanted to stick to my journalistic intentions.

I had never seen the Quad so busy before, and my head was spinning as freshers sped past. Perhaps by the time lectures start the rest of the people will have dropped out, or started watching the recordings from home... before actually dropping out. Perhaps these uni dwellers are just waiting for the first lecture to rear its ugly head, where they will return to bed with recordings and snacks. A DJ was playing extremely tasteful music (D'n'B bringing the worst parts of Dunedin to Auckland), and people were milling around some signup booths. There was a table for bFM, which is like Craccum but audible, and a table for Unichem, which is not very much like Craccum at all. There was another for UBS, and a very busy table offering a years supply of noodles. I thought that advocating such quantities of poison would violate some AUSA code, but the noodleman was very convincing. Finally, there was a table to enrol to vote.

Oh shit, I thought, looking around. They let

these people vote?

Around the corner was something that genuinely surprised me: motherfucking Guitar Hero. We couldn't resist playing, and although my fingers were uncoordinated and I was drenched with sweat, the dulcet tones of Alice Cooper drowned out my shame. And we totally crushed it. We then walked down the stairs away from the Quad, and I caught a fleeting glance of the Shadows sign again. However, my mildly-drunken brain convinced me to continue, so we turned around, ready to continue our journalistic journey.

Suddenly, we were swallowed by a swarm of Friends t-shirts and Seinfeld socks. Had there been an explosion in the Queen Street Typo? There was a whirlwind of recognisable (nostalgia-baiting) brands passing by. I spotted the leader of the troupe holding a red sign above her head, with a number emblazoned on it. Oh, I thought, we were nearly crushed to death by a damn tour group. Unlike the tour groups from cruise ships, this wasn't made up of tanned, beautiful tourists, they were just trendy first-years.

'Do we run?'

'No, we need to observe it.'

The UniGuide was saying all sorts of strange things about "student life," which I did not

understand. Hadn't student life ended with the closing of our original Shadows? We decided to follow the group, hoping to learn more about the "community". It was imperative that we remained inconspicuous, so we swayed quietly amongst the crowd. Apparently there is a positive spirit within the University of Auckland. Anyone know where to find that? Probably wasn't mandated by the committee, and will eventually be replaced by a more reliable source of revenue.

As we followed the group towards Symonds Street, we were stopped by a tall man, asking if we wanted to join his barber club.

'A barber group?' I slurred, incredulously.

'We meet every week to discuss,' he said.

'About being a barber? Like different haircuts?'

'Oh sorry,' he said laughing, 'I meant, bible group.'

We started backing away, terrified, and broke into a run.

After that harrowing incident, we decided it would be best to retire back to the pub and debrief. We ordered a couple drinks and I checked my notes from the expedition. I had only written misspelled swear words and the phrase "David Seymour looks like he was drawn by Dr Suess."

So much for a serious journalistic perspective.

To make a vain attempt to pull a conclusion out of my incredibly blurry experience (and not piss off my editor), Orientation is a week that doesn't make much sense if you decide to attend it drunk in your fourth year. However, remembering how overwhelmed and ignorant I was in my first year, I probably wouldn't have fucked up quite as much if I had actually remembered

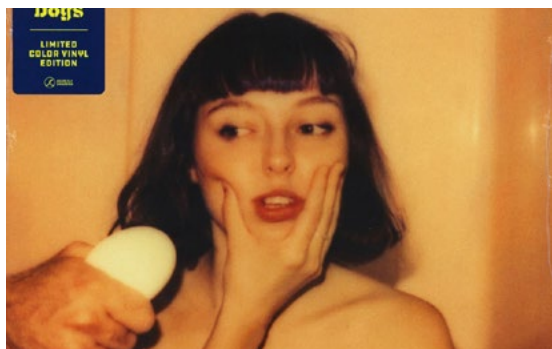
Orientation, or I had stumbled upon that "community feeling."

"Oh, I thought, we were nearly crushed to death by a damn tour group. Unlike the tour groups from cruise ships, this wasn't made up of tanned, beautiful tourists, they were just trendy first-years."

4:40

@FLORAESCENT





BEWARE OF THE DOGS STELLA DONNELLY

KATE

Biting back is feminism

(Brief reference to sexual assault)

Welsh by birth and Australian by upbringing, Stella Donnelly is frolicking across the Australasian music scene with grace, strop, and ample criticism of our systemic injustices. Her 2020 Laneway performance opened with a mihi to the whenua and mana whenua. She is an intersectional feminist and anti-racist ally, making her music even more enjoyable beyond its indie-rock aesthetic. *Beware of the Dogs*, her debut album, holds effortless melodies that emphasise the exhaustion of maneuvering through our patriarchal, capitalist and colonial reality. She cuts with a razor-sharp wit, that at first appears sweet and safe, but guts you like a fish. Despite this, all tracks are brimming with an undeniable sense of empathy. "Boys will be Boys" follows her friends experience of navigating patriarchal-denialism and belittling, post-sexual assault. *Beware of the Dogs* talks to Donnelly's privilege as a white Australian, and how ongoing colonial cultural genocide manifests in a dangerous sense of white nationalism. Finally, "Mosquito", has a lighter touch, and makes us realise that we are all just obsessive mozzies buzzing around our unattainable crushes. What I like most about the album, are the specificities of suburbia peppered throughout, that are both comforting yet, in the same breath deeply unsettling. She nestles you within the mundane whilst simultaneously serving you the monumental. *Beware of the Dogs* is a heart-filled listen for the discontented.



TAMPOCALYPSE

MADDY CRUTCHLEY

Periodt!

This play is one I jumped at the chance to see. It was explained to me as an exploration of women in dystopian film, with a fresh take on the politics of representation in Hollywood. In *Tamponocalypse* the stage is split in half, with young screenwriter Mary pitching her epic, dystopian story to a producer. As she runs the older woman through the plot of the film, her characters perform the meta menstruation melodrama beside her. The five women are trapped in a supermarket while extra-terrestrial forces, who are attracted to blood, attempt to attack them from outside. Obviously their periods pose very real problems in this situation. Snippets of the performed screenplay reveal a feminist film with complex, lovable characters, and snappy dialogue, but the producer remains resistant. She suggests major changes, such as a hyper-sexualised lesbian sex scene, a pregnancy, and an unnecessarily cruel character death, and Mary's characters are forced to endure the harmful tropes of Hollywood film. These moments were both comedic and upsetting, and I found myself laughing and sighing along with the characters. The play also had moments, that made my little filmy, feminist heart flutter. When Mary has moments of self-doubt her strong characters urge her to continue, and when the producer sees a part of herself represented in the story she becomes emotional. However, at moments the dialogue is on the nose, and the ending left me feeling completely hopeless about the future of representation. I lost any feelings of momentum, and walked out of the theatre even more aware of those issues in film. It's definitely an exploration of dystopia, but unfortunately it appears quite close to our reality.



THE GENTLEMEN

ROBBIE DELANY

8/10: *There's fookery afoot*

"Play a fucking game with me, Ray" opens Fletcher (Hugh Grant), a slimy, ex-boyfriend-type private investigator trying to blackmail £20 million from Ray (Charlie Hunnam). Reluctantly, Ray rolls the dice and the audience follows the narrative Fletcher boasts the knowledge of. This story centres on Mickey (Mathew McConaughey), a Caesar of the wild west, who is trying to sell his voluminous marijuana business. But like any Guy Ritchie film, "there's fuckery afoot". A chain of events topple involving an MMA coach, an aristocrat, and a Newspaper CEO having sex with a pig (you decide in which order). With more plot threads than your Gran's 19th century quilt, an espresso or line is recommended to follow every sweet moment of this original delight.

The film marks a return for Ritchie to the cockney gangster genre he pioneered. The characters and their adjoining stories crisscross in a non-linear fashion much like Nolan's **Prestige** or **Memento**. These characters are the true focal point of the film, each one dripping with quotable dialogue. As their world's collide, your ass slides to the edge of your seat. Yes, the film is casually racist ("What is he? Chinese? Japanese? Pekingese? Get on your fucking knees?") and might not belong in the 2020 woke environment. But the fresh story, playful editing and 4th wall breaking is irresistible. Ritchie confidently proves himself as a master of the craft. Although **The Gentlemen** may not win any ostentatious awards, "like salt and pepper" a fun time is certainly on the table.



PARTY IN THE SPARK

CAMERON LEAKEY

9/10: A Party that was indeed in Spark Arena

Last Wednesday night, AUSA held their annual O-Week concert at the new home of Spark Arena. Leaving behind Albert Park – and the free Nandos vouchers :(– The O Week concert was an absolute fresher frenzy with scattered second, third and fourth years absolutely paralysed with fear at the drunken first year mess unfolding. The Katayanagi Twins opened the night with a DJ set that set the crowd off. Christchurch based Mako Road followed them with their surf rock vibes and live set. Drax Project at 8pm got the crowd going with their universally adored Kiwi classics – playing a set of their popular hits and covers including ‘Woke Up Late’ and ‘Cry Me A River’. As Peking Duk came on at 9:20pm, the arena was largely full (minus the missing first year’s who had passed out by this point). Seeing Peking Duk DJ is always an incredible set and the duo mixed a fantastic set.

Spark Arena proved to be a great venue for the O Week concert this year and the night was definitely a success – despite the lack of free Peri Peri Chips as per previous iterations – . Despite feeling relatively ancient as a fourth year, both Drax and Peking were well worth the ticket. Shout out to the lads in front of me who were looking to score gear throughout Drax Project’s set. Whether it’s a Party in the Park or in the Spark, the O Week concert is always a must do in the UoA Social Calendar.



MUNCHY MART DRIED SQUID - MILD

LACHLAN MITCHELL

8/10: Sadomasosquidism

It was the first Monday of the semester, oh, a time of great trepidation. A new chancellor on the horizon, half the university under construction for little benefit, and the looming spectre of COVID-19 lingering over us all, like a poltergeist unshackled. But while we all have our guard up about the threat of COVID-19 bringing the long-foretold economic recession to a head, we have a silent killer in our midst, one equipped with the cloaking technology of the Predator and the acidic blood of the Xenomorph. The \$2.50 Dried Squid – Mild available at Munchy Mart was so tempting, the price speaking for itself and the quality of the food remarkably holding up to inspection. There was plenty on offer, a true guest at the Bacchanalian feast. Ambrosia of the Pacific. The humble cephalopod died to bring us joy – and it did, at first. Oh, the spice showed the passion which once underpinned its previous life as living, breathing being. In fact, I wished there was a Supa Hot version. But only a few hours later, the Dried Squid – Mild showed its true purpose as an invertebrate infidel; I have IBS, one of the few weaknesses in my mortal form, and Cthulhu’s envoy made sure to lay waste to my temple. From Monday until the time of writing, over three years later, the malevolent mollusc had me setting up camp on the toilet, like a Russian civilian finding a way to survive the long wait in Leningrad.

And I would eat it all over again.



RECOMMENDATION

NEIL BREEN MOVIES

DANIEL MEECH

Hot take: The Room isn’t the best worst film ever made. The best worst film is any one of Neil Breen’s shithouse masterpieces.

Who’s Neil Breen? Only a god of terrible small budget movies. Since 2005, Breen has been pumping out a factory line of absolutely shocking movies: *Fateful Findings*, *Twisted Pair*, *Double Down*, and *I Am Here ... Now*, to name a few of his best/worst offerings. Words don’t do his films justice, so I’ll save my breath and just summarise a few recurring motifs from Neil Breen’s films:

- Neil Breen starring as the main protagonist;
- Neil Breen throwing laptops around the room;
- Neil Breen starring in sex scenes he’s written for himself;
- Neil Breen unexpectedly (and unwantedly) getting topless. (Honestly, Neil Breen’s nipples get more screen-time than most movie side-kicks.)

Another ever-present motif is his ability to write dialogue that sound slike it’s been put through google translate half a million times. With acerbic lines like “I can hack into anything with my five laptops and six cell phones”, “I don’t need much. All I need is tuna of a can, live in a car”, and “I cannot believe that you committed suicide. I cannot believe that you committed suicide,” I cannot believe he hasn’t won an Oscar yet. I cannot believe he hasn’t won an Oscar yet.

He’s a visionary, an auteur, and an absolute fuck-up of a filmmaker. And best of all – most of his films can be found, for free, on YouTube.

So get amongst it! Call up some mates, crack into a box, and enjoy some of the worst cinema you’ll ever see. I guarantee these are the funniest comedy films you’ll see all year.



I won't change my mind: 1917 is Oscar Bait

KEEARA OFREN

When asked the question at a preliminary job interview form for Auckland Museum, "Do you have any conflicts of interest?", I woefully misinterpreted the question and answered, "Vietnam War, the Indochina Conflicts and WWI".

War in pop culture has commonly featured WWII and Vietnam, having been so recent. Studying WWI in high school history had introduced me to stories that were worthy of being told, many undiscovered narratives of soldiers from colonies, conscientious objectors and perhaps the first war that had opened the world's eyes to how modern technology could intersect with human-made horror. So when I heard the screech of the cello and bass and the pounding sound of the **1917** trailer, it was a siren call to the rocky shore.

What is Oscar bait?

Oscar bait is a category of movie that seems to be made with the intent on getting an award. This works by the virtue of choosing topics that appeal to interests of the Acade-

my voters or topics that appear to have social or historical messages but may not be that profound or provocative in content. Internet forums and film critics have tried to find a common thread to such bait films. They claim that Oscar bait films include those which appeal to a privileged view of a post-racial America (e.g. **Crash**, **The Blind Side**) or appeal to old Hollywood nostalgia (e.g. **La La Land**). But the film genre of the most automatically revered status? War films.

War is an emotional topic and no matter the nation, society sees great heroism and martyrdom associated with soldiers. This then lends itself to an elevated status of war films, where criticising them or thinking of them critically is almost implied as disrespecting the soldiers themselves. I raise another side

of war, that is one of the most controversial and carnal parts of the human experience, it raises questions of human morality and the boundaries of humanity and survival. And in this part of the century, where civilian deaths are at an all-time high and where communities in other countries are facing a 1917 reality, it's almost an affront to view war apolitically in films and to portray war as merely a story from the past.

1917 played it safe. There was little overarching political message about war or morality to tack the story together. In other words, 1917 was a cereal box with no cereal. A war film with no commentary on war. 1917 was nothing groundbreaking in the genre of war films, though it introduced new aspects which I hope would be more common in the genre for years to come.

The heroes were unlikely ones, people who were reluctant and were just dedicated to survival, and knew when to run. This reminded me of why we might have seen the appeal in Jojo from **Jojo Rabbit** and Saigo from **Letters to Iwo Jima**. These were characters that reminded us of ourselves and our consciences in situations that would have otherwise been squashed with the amount of pressure from the social environment. The actors them-

selves had previously played roles as 'best friend' or 'naïve every-man' characters. This was a clear reminder of conscription at the time, of a real fear, than a masculine **Rambo** choice to fight.

The level of sound, the continuous take and the level of action was almost sickening, no glamour, only a step closer to the frightening truth. The film didn't spare on the gore, dirt and infection, granted, this all would have been worse in real life, but it felt a lot more real than other portrayals. Interactions with civilians such as French refugees added to the appeal in this respect.

1917 is also one of the few films, like **Days of Glory**, to showcase soldiers from the colonies and different regions of the UK with rag-tag teams of regional British accents, Punjabi soldiers and black soldiers. This representation is a huge service to many in colonies who fought and whose stories had previously been overlooked. But representation isn't enough to save a film that has far more potential in terms of its message.

All in all, 1917 was good, but played it safe and there was no secret sauce to hold the burger. Many scenes were geared towards making a physical reaction including extremely loud sounds and the unsettling droning

strong soundtrack. Many scenes verged on jump scares. While this makes for engaging viewing, there is always a risk that physical reaction outstrips the film's ability to create more subtle, gutwrenching, emotional and powerful moments. And it is the latter which to me, cuts to the core of why war stories have endured through human history.

Instead of this, try: **Days of Glory**, **Letters to Iwo Jima**, **Full Metal Jacket**, **Indochine**, the 'Elegy to Dunkirk' scene in **Atonement**.

"This representation is a huge service to many in colonies who fought and whose stories had previously been overlooked."

Project and feel confidence in intimidating situations.

Engage with new people in unfamiliar situations.

Command the respect of those around you.



See what you can achieve
in a single session of
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To Stream Is Human; To Stan, Divine

LACHLAN MITCHELL

With the release of Gaga's comeback effort "Stupid Love", Twitter denizens and social media users in general are getting a look at a fanbase that has remained dormant since 2013: the Little Monsters. Paws up! It's not like Gags has been musically absent in the last seven years, but Joanne was utter shit, so we're ignoring that dead aunt country epitaph.. "Stupid Love" is her first effort since Artpop to tap into the Yaaassss Gaga market that made her successful, so it's a big year for her. The Gaga stans have had little but ketamine and Kim Petras to tide them over during their long slumber, and while I hesitate to equate any of that proudly twink-heavy horde to bears, their hibernation has come to an end.

But stan culture has evolved since Gaga last commanded such anticipation. 'Stan LOONA!' is practically a mating call nowadays. The internet, and by extension the contemporary music industry, is a very different realm

compared to just seven years ago. While I don't think I could say I stan for anyone other than the girl who sung the flute song at the end of the first Shrek movie, I grew up around them, and the internet would be a

very different place without their energy. To give a brief roundup for anyone who might not be familiar with the all-powerful term, it simply means 'overzealous fan of a celebrity'. A lot of people cite Eminem as the source of the term, due to the psychotic fan described in "Stan", but I am unwilling to give credit, as I am petty. But to stan, as a verb... you are already incredibly familiar with the process. You heard of the Beyhive, arguably the codifier of the stan community? Their power has somewhat faded nowadays, but they possess old magicks that the girls today could only dream of; for even the perception of a shady slight to Beyoncé was all it took for the hive to put an end to Keri Hilson's fledgling career. They could doxx you within minutes, armed with the greatest weapons of all: no job and an internet router. It was a beautiful time. Bzz bzz.

While the idea of the overzealous music fan is decades old, perhaps first widely noticed in Beatlemania, the Beyhive created its contemporary conception; an army that were willing to singularly revolve their identities around their chosen God, to ensure their continued financial success and cultural relevance. And most importantly, to fight for that artist without exception, etiquette being a surprise and not an obligation. By tying her career so closely to the influence of the Beyhive, Beyoncé took a massive gamble on stan culture and it paid off in a way that quite literally changed pop culture; by relying solely on word of mouth and the influence of her stans, *Self Titled* solidified the position of the stan as the marketing force, bar none.

While all the girls of new and old had their dedicated fanbases, from Mariah's Lambily to Rihanna's Navy, the ascendancy of the Beyhive changed #stanning in a way that the Little Monsters could have only dreamed of. It became more than an obsession, it became a lifestyle. This coincided with many things; the average stan was old enough to hold down a job, at least in theory; the rise of Twitter, the close quarters combat simulator we hold dear; streaming's usurping of album sales as the primary method of rising the charts, and perhaps most importantly, the ability for influencers to build a platform on the internet without solely grovelling at Youtube's cloven hooves. The Little Monsters (paws up!) missed

this moment by just a year or two. With all these powers combined, as the Planetears said, the stan became the definitive representation of a pop music fanbase. The Barbz, Nicki Minaj's stans, are perhaps the most notorious group nowadays: while Beyoncé was the first to truly advocate for the stan, Nicki is perhaps the most active at interacting with her fanbase, molding them, shaping them. The hordes of Hell need a Morningstar to lead them, after all.

And that's where things start to get interesting, and complicated. This close connection, primarily fostered through Twitter and highly personal content creation apps, is a two way street. The stan, and the cultural mechanisms behind them i.e mass media and participatory culture, are ultimately content creation machines; while one can snark about the extent of their labour, their talent or creativity, they are still a free resource with little to no protection for their words, their art or their impact. They're a resource of so many millions, but with no real face. This is a rule that, with little exception, remains hard and fast for creatives of the internet as a whole. I'm going to give you an example, the unique interconnection of 'gay culture' and stolen black expression. While this is a whole different topic on its own – much more suited for someone other than my white ass – think about the proliferation of 'gay' slang, the language typically associated with the stan. Tea, sis! And I oop- Work the house down! Etc. It is not a coincidence that these expressions, typically fostered in black communities, have been plucked and filtered until the 15 year old Lakynn and Mikayla's of the world are saying them on TikTok, having seen them on RPDR 20 minutes ago.

I've been gently mocking the stan throughout this piece. But I understand. This kind of curation isn't accidental; just as the internet provides a method to interact with the artist, it provides a method for the artist and their backers to see what is making the rounds, and how it can be utilised for their brand. A hot example of this is Doja Cat, my same birthday sibling, perhaps the best meme queen since Nicki became a pop culture sensation. Ever since memories of her youthful homophobia ironically exploded her presence on Twitter, she's rapidly risen to prominence because she lends herself so easily to knowing mockery (her atrocious wigs, for example). "Cyber Sex" solidified her as a watch-this-space presence, and "Say So" became a trend on TikTok within days. She even included the girl who made the "Say So" dance, whatever that is, in the song's official video. So she's aware of how to play the game, how to mine the stans and respond appropriately.

But where this gets complicated is Doja directly borrowing the words and mannerisms of the person who made her famous: @TheQueenNenobiaBKTidalWave, who was the first figure to truly champion her music, even when criticising her. And that criticism, the infamous 'Doja Cat? She's trash. I'm not talking about her' is now emblazoned on Doja's newest line of merch, despite never once acknowledging that Nenobia was the one who first gave her a platform to begin with. No payment, no acknowledgement, just a little swiping of the labour that built her. It's an example that any self-identified creative is aware of, that one's words and influence rarely belong to them. To stan is to offer yourself, even if you're not aware of it.

It's a cautionary tale: Twitter & Instagram are not a one way mirror, until they are.

"This close connection, primarily fostered through Twitter and highly personal content creation apps, is a two way street."



To Land

Touching down in the city of sails, and the only thing in my heart was my own choices and freedom. As I sauntered solo along the streets and alleyways, walked in the wee hours of the morning around the harbor and often until late in the night, my views of the western world being so welcoming, friendly and secure strengthened. But along with this, the longing desire for company became increasingly acute.

The next few weeks went by finding my way around Canvas rather than the campus, cruising through packed lecture halls, missing tutorials to attend workshops, submitting half done assignments and finding warmth in old photographs. This gave some respite from the cold, dark and grey weather which had more than ever added to my loneliness in this land far away from home.

A break from the rigmarole of my everyday routine, I found myself in lush gardens and parks, walking on freshly cut grass, sprinkled

with mist and embellished with cherry blossoms, I felt a new kind of joy and freshness, which was undoubtedly the arrival of spring. The impromptu walks along Mission bay, exploring art galleries and museums and the sheer joy of being my own person, filled me up with unmatched happiness.

While stoically answering calls from home, where the reinforced wisdom was to keep a young girl in the family and not send her to foreign shores, I assured myself by constantly pressing how I was the first in the family to be



Starting with university might seem mind-boggling at first, with the extremely long lists of goals that you want to accomplish. Here are a few lessons that could come in handy, ostensibly easing your way at university and helping you to acclimate in a new city.

ACADEMIC:

- Once you have finalized your courses for the forthcoming semester, make sure that you know about the referencing styles each of those follow. Attending essay writing workshops, in addition to online modules can be hugely beneficial.
- Check Canvas regularly and make a comprehensive list of dates when the assignments are due and try completing them a week prior to the hand in day.
- Whilst it is imperative to attend lectures, also make sure to be present at tutorials. As groups get smaller, more room is created for conversation.
- Reach out to your lecturers, may be during office hours or make an appointment, to talk about a missed assignment, exams, or just to have chat about other different papers.

SOCIAL:

- There exists a plethora of clubs at the University of Auckland, offering you a stage for debate, innovation, and current issues facing the planet and also supporting and working on a myriad of

pivotal causes. It is better to sign up to a few in the beginning and gradually join more. I signed up to more than 15 in my first semester and then hardly showed up at any.

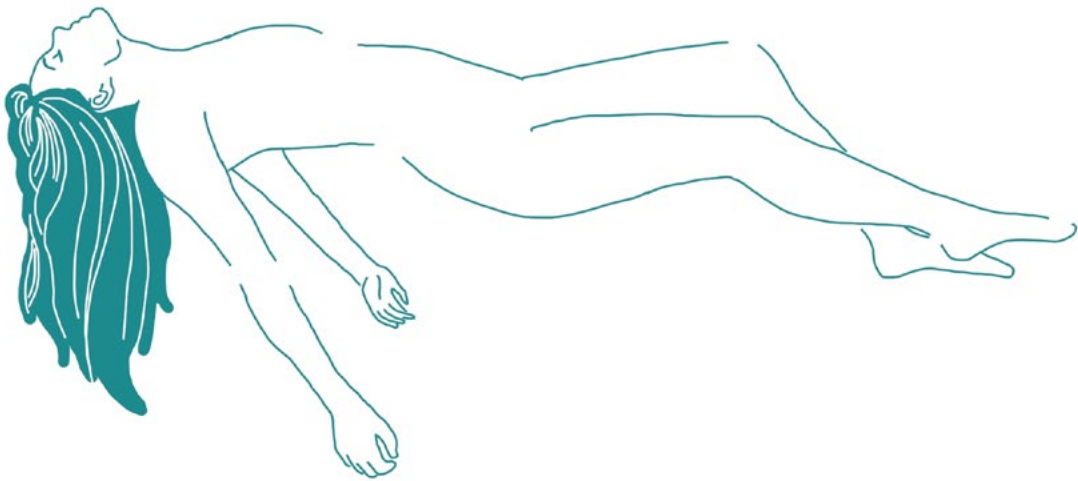
- Joining the recreation center is also a good idea, wherein you can exercise regularly and meet new people.
- Keep a lookout for CDES workshops, as they do a lot of stimulating events throughout the year, on finding your career path, CV checks, seminars about internships, networking events and much more.

While no checklist can do justice to the feeling of being at home and with loved ones, make the most of the opportunity and your time overseas. Step out of your cubbyhole, and you shall be greeted with travel, food, culture and lots of thrilling activities in this spectacular island nation. Ask out a friend and take a day off to Bay of Islands, or catch a ferry to ones in the vicinity, Waiheke and Devonport, spend a few hours at the museum or go exploring the art gallery. You could also check out the farmer's market over the weekend, go hiking or kayaking. I could go on and on but I best let you discover this Eden at your own pace.

working towards an international education and be a part of such a diverse culture. This gave me a way to challenge the misogyny that was being put forward.

As summer dawned and the rays of the sun fell on me, I found myself between celebrate and celebrate and how the last few months had changed me as a person for the better. I reflected on how imperative it is to take risks and face challenges boldly by unfolding the dreams and passions one has.

"Ask out a friend and take a day off to Bay of Islands, or catch a ferry to ones in the vicinity, Waiheke and Devonport, spend a few hours at the museum or go exploring the art gallery."



Floatation Therapy

Have you ever experienced a feeling of weightlessness, or even just nothingness? I'm a big fan of experiences. For my birthdays, I'd rather do something than receive gifts or throw a party. This year I was deciding between skydiving and this thing called a "floatation tank."

Floatation therapy involves lying in complete darkness in a tank of lukewarm, shallow water. The water is supersaturated with Epsom salt, allowing your body to float and feel completely weightless. The effect of this being, according to a local floatation tank facility:

"Once you are settled, it is almost impossible to tell which parts of your body are in the water and which aren't."

Given the darkness of the tank as well, the tanks are actually designed to block out all external distractions, like sight, sounds, tactile sensations, and even gravity.

People receive this therapy for many reasons. Primarily because floatation alleviates stress in your body and mind, putting you into a relaxed state. Floating removes all sensory inputs, therefore allowing your brain to take a break. During the float, the brain releases endorphins and reduces levels of cortisol (a stress chemical). The experience causes your brain to produce theta waves, placing you in a dream-like state and therefore reduces anxiety, stress, insomnia, and nervousness. This state is also said to be good for triggering creative inspiration and free association.

Interestingly, floatation therapy does not have its origins in wellness therapy. Rather, the

father of the therapy, John Cunningham Lilly, invented what was then called, "isolation tanks" to explore consciousness in a sensory-deprived environment.

Although flotation therapy is now well-ness-centric, psychonauts like Lilly still exist today. Hamilton Morris discusses flotation psychonauts in a VICE docuseries. After speaking to psychonauts, trialing different tanks, and even spending five hours floating in a single session. He discusses the importance of the sensory-deprivation element for psychonauts as well as the usage of mind-altering drugs during a float. He takes up podcaster and comedian, Joe Rogan's advice of taking marijuana for a more effective experience. Joe Rogan is heralded by many as being instrumental in sparking the current "flotation renaissance," according to flotation facilities.

Even the inventor of flotation tanks was quite famous for his usage of psychedelic substances, like LSD and ketamine. Far less

extremely, Joe Rogan regards how floats have aided in his self-development:

"The sensory deprivation chamber is the most important tool I've ever used for developing my mind, for thinking, for evolving."

So I ended up visiting a flotation facility for my birthday. I chose to float sober because I didn't want to freak out too much. I ended up freaking out nonetheless. As soon as I stepped inside the tank my heart was racing and it took me a while to settle, getting used to the complete darkness and weightlessness. I began hallucinating and then fell asleep. It was crazy that my 90 minute float felt like nothing more than 15 minutes. This made me understand why in VICE's documentary, Morris floated for five hours because I sure could have.

Immediately after the float, I was, as my mum said, "completely out of it." My sense of awareness was skewed, but I felt so relaxed

and elated. Like a strange rebirthing. But, as I had been cautioned, I became really nauseous. Which is really normal and passes short after. But, overall, it was an incredible experience that I would do again. So if you're like me and into psychonautic experiences, this is pretty bucket list-worthy. Alternatively, if you're looking for something to alleviate physical or mental stress, this is a therapy worth considering.

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MARCH 10, 7PM | SHADOWS BAR

AUSA Presents

SPEED DATING

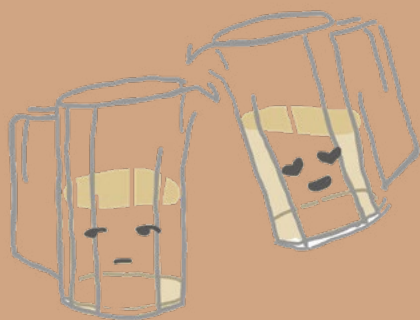


ROSALEA'S WEEKLY PICKS

9TH-15TH MARCH

So you've settled into uni, made some friends and got to know the city. Now it's time to have some fun before the assignments stack up. As much as you convince yourself that asking someone out and watching Netflix in your room is peak romance, that is not a date. It may be AUSA's sex week but here at the gig guide we're keeping it classy with date week! (who's not say a bit of steamy times develop after though ;)

This week is full of events that are perfect for you to spend some quality time with the special people in your life. Whether this be pals, partners, or potentials. Or take your own cute ass out for some self-care time.



Tuesday 10th March- Speed Dating at Shadows

Sign yourself and some mates up for a night of speed dating! Regardless of who or what you find, it'll at least be a hoot. You will be given topics to discuss so don't stress about not finding anything to talk about. With shads jugs on offer, shyness won't be an obstacle for long.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition at Auckland Museum

CUTE! Stroll hand in hand with your Shadows speed date amongst the DSLR closeups of monkeys and seals. Compare your date to one of the pictures and check their response! Museum entry is free for Auckland residents and it's a classic first date staple. Afterwards take em for a romp



through the Lover's Lane bushwalk if they haven't stormed off yet and treat them to a soft serve from the not-Mr Whippy van permanently parked by the winter gardens.

Friday 13th- Silo Cinema Presents Lion King

This Friday head on down to Silo Park, bring a blanket, a picnic, and some concealed beverages to enjoy the heartless 2019 CGI remake of a Disney classic. Impress your date/pals by singing along pitch perfect to Hakuna Matata and offend Zulu language speakers all over the world as you butcher the lyrics to The Circle of Life. It gets surprisingly chilly down at Silo Park: prime snuggling opportunities.

Saturday 14th- Flava Urban Beats

This free concert kicks off at 2pm in Hayman Park, right by the Manukau bus and train stations. Featuring performances from SWIDT, P-Money, and more; this is a stellar opportunity to impress your company with your dance moves. This is one of the last Music in Parks events of the summer so make sure to check it out.

14th-15th Pasifika festival

Can't decide on a moonlit beach stroll in Hawaii, Fiji, or Samoa? Why not all of them, except during the day in Auckland. Now that's a little more on budget compared to actual flights while we wait for Studylink to sort it shit out (cheers for the hr long wait). Join in at Western Springs this weekend in a celebration of the diverse Pasifika culture and communities in Tāmaki Makaurau with Cultural villages, food, market stalls and performances.



YOUR BIG GIG GUIDE

FOR 9-15TH (FOR UOA & BEYOND)

MONDAY 9

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

ALL WEEK Auckland Museum

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY ELECTION DEBATE 2020

6pm OGGB 260-115

TUESDAY 10

UASC SNOWPLANET NIGHT

6pm Snowplanet

SPEED DATING AT SHADOWS

Check Facebook for Time - Shadows Bar

SPACEY JANE

7pm The Tuning Fork

QUIZ NIGHT

7pm - 9pm Freeman and Grey

ARI LENNOX

7pm Powerstation >>



WEDNESDAY 11

FOSSIL FREE UOA: WE WON! WHAT'S NEXT?

6pm See Facebook for Location

EMILIA

7:30pm Pop-Up Globe

SCISA STEIN ONE: THE NOUGHTIES

8pm Family Bar and Club

THURSDAY 12

YOGA IN THE SKY

7am - 8am Sky Tower

PUBLIC POLICY CLUB: LET'S KÔRERO #1 - THE STATE AND MORALITY

6:30pm Clocktower: 119-130

AUES STEIN I: BREATHERS V BOOKWORMS

8pm Bar 101

WHAT SO NOT & FRIENDS

10pm Studio The Venue

FRIDAY 13

SILLO CINEMA: THE LION KING

5pm Silo Park

ATCH (ALL AGES)

7:30pm The Tuning Fork

THE FERGUSON PRESENTS: FOAM PARTY

10pm The Ferguson: Massey University Albany

SATURDAY 14

PASIFIKA FESTIVAL

9am to 7pm Western Springs Park

LEXUS URBAN POLO

12pm Auckland Domain

WORLD ON THE STREET: EAST & SOUTH EAST ASIA

12pm Silo Park

AUCKLAND ST PATRICK'S FESTIVAL PARADE 2020

12pm Queen St

FLAVA URBAN BEATS

2pm Hayman Park, Manukau

BEACON FESTIVAL

3pm Queens Wharf

ALDOUS HARDING

6:30pm Auckland Arts Festival

NO HOMO: QUEER COMEDY

8:30pm The Classic

SUNDAY 15

GJ GARDNER MARAETAI HALF MARATHON

7:30am Maraetai

PASIFIKA FESTIVAL

10am to 4pm Western Springs Park

BACK TO THE FUTURE TRILOGY

12:30pm Academy Cinemas



AUSA Presents

Sex Week



WHO ASKED YOU

ISSUE #2

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

HELP! MY EX IS IN MY COURSE AND I CAN'T AVOID THEM IN LECTURES. WHAT DO I DO???

Drop out.

I HAVE A HUGE CRUSH ON MY LECTURER. HOW CAN I GET THEM TO NOTICE ME?

Are you a law student? If you are, I know the public law lecturer you're talking about, and you're valid. God knows how else we would have got through judicial review.

Craccum's Daily Dose of Truth is that you will literally never be with your lecturer. If a grown adult wants to date one of their students then they're probably a piece of shit and you should run. Lecturers don't know you. You're a literal face in a sea of people who literally look exactly the same (next time you're in an arts lecture, count the red flannels. It will exceed the numbers that you know.)

The idea of a lecturer dating a student is just so WEIRD. Irrespective of the probable age gap; even if it was a mature student I'd be creeped the fuck out. Imagine being a teacher, a literal teacher of a person, and then wanting to *date* them. When you've read their essays and KNOW how stupid they are. If my English lecturer had wanted to date me after reading my very serious analysis of Jack Reacher novels, I would have sent them for a brain scan, or at the very least some intensive therapy.

That said, if you really want to get down with a faculty member, you're probably going to have the most success over in Fine Arts – they get fucked by the Uni every day, might as well add you to the list.

WHY ARE MEN GREAT TILL THEY GOTTA BE GREAT?

Because they text you, instead of telling it straight to your face.

Nah idk boo. I reckon get a burner phone and start making some extra bank in collab with NangsofAuckland.

MUNCHY MART TINGS

BY PUTT ME BABY ONE MORE TIME & ZIG A ZIG A ZHANG

Munchy Mart: our lord and saviour from 7:30 till 10:30. With it's wonderful assortment of knicknacks and whatnots. Let's see what this magical place has in store for you little one for this coming week.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Have a geeze in the frozen section. The millennial tv dinner is a frozen chicken cordon bleu watched in front of lecture recordings double speed. Feeling lonely? Check out Korean fish ice cream sandwich Taiyaki. The only love you need for the next week.



ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

U fancy. U digging into the ben and jerry's ice cream sandwich. Or vitasoy soya bean drink. Oh yom. It's good to be fancy but remember to budget, course related costs can only last so long. Unless you sign up for clinical trials over at Grafton.



TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Beef jerky and yoghurt is a classic snacc. Balance is key, keep some things seperate, like beef and dairy, although they may come from the same animal (cow) they do not work well together (aka stop doing assignments on your bed you sleep there)



GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Kinder Bueno- 3pk for \$4.50- kinda greedy to satisfy attitude but also can share with friends, u little hoarder- remember to reciprocate the love ur friends give you right back, and then they will share a bueno with u. Molto bene.



CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Chicken pasta: heat it up good to go. Or the triangle tuna. Or the bananas at the counter. U eat balanced meals. U always ready to go. You probably meal prep, and wouldn't even be caught dead at Munchy Mart except to top up your hop card. You prob have auto top up anyways. If this isn't you, maybe check your moon sign. It could be throwing the vibes out.



LEO

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Always blow on the pie. Now that's a slogan you need to adhere to, when buying those big boi butter chicken pies. Just like those creamy motherfuckers, you too are twist on a classic. Not too spicy for a gently ignorant white nana, and still flavoursome to be a crowd pleaser.



VIRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

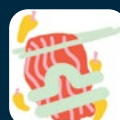
You like to play by the rules, Virgo. Plain chocolate bar this, Coke Zero that. I'm bored, virgo. Did you know munchy mart has spicy skittles?? Of course you didn't. It's time to skit up, buttercup. Go out of your comfort zone thisw



LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Spicy mother fucker korean noodles: here to make u cry and WAKE U UP, WAKE UP GET IT TOGETHER UNI HAS BEGUN. ALSO YOU GOT ANOTHER WEEK TO ENROL/DROP OUT OF CLASSES SO PLZ REMEMBER THAT BEFORE U DECIDE 105 PHIL IS INDEED THE RIGHT CHOICE. PSYCHIC ZHANG FAILED THAT MOTHERFUCKER LAST YEAR.



SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

Chewy ginger candy - just like this candy, it takes time to finish it, fuckin think things over before u say them. Jelly babies are also a nice soft option for some thinking time. However P.K chewing gum does still make the jaw ache if you are pinging.



SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

Those little jelly pouch things, slurp slurp it's time to go back to your roots in the womb slurp slurp back to basics. White bread. Olive oil. Plain rice and Salt. Kumara. Its a gentle time to be. Keep your Puku gentle and sweet.



CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Beware of those sugar free gummies at the checkouts that make you shit yourself eventually because of the laxatives. It's a scam. Fuck Kylie Jenner and those blue hair babies or whatever. Fuk detox teas. I'm counting on you capricorn, to kick up a riot.



AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Batteries from the stationary section, You're a free spirit, don't let anyone tell you that you can't achieve your dreams. It's called munchy mart so everything is edible, obviously, crack open a packet of triple a's to find out



the people to blame.

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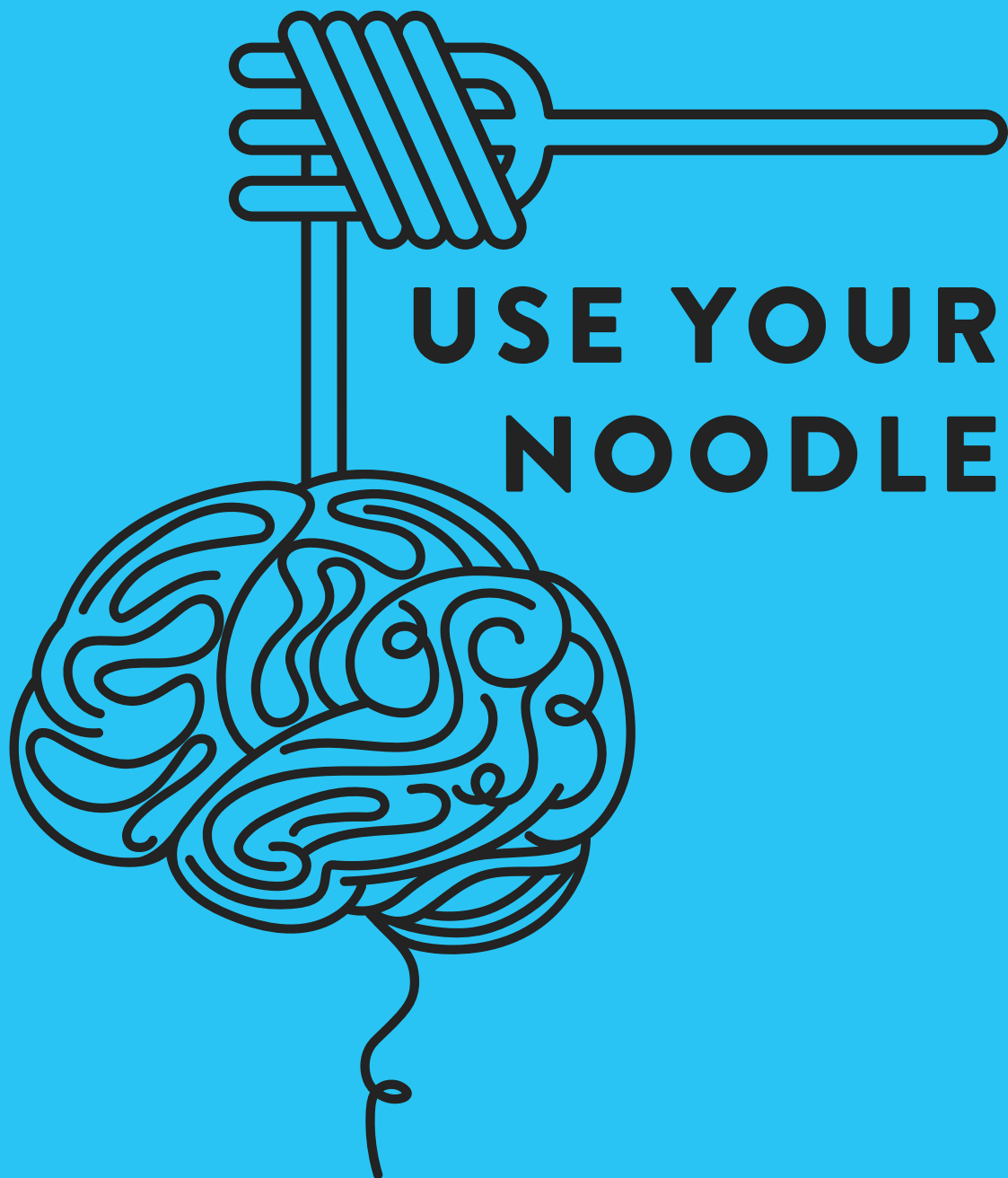
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