



guyson

FLORA XIE & NAOMII SEAH EDITORS IN CHIEF
editor@craccum.co.nz

JESSICA HOPKINS NEWS EDITOR
news@craccum.co.nz

CHARLOTTE PARKER CHIEF REPORTER
chiefreporter@craccum.co.nz

OMNI ARONA TE AO MĀORI EDITOR
maori@craccum.co.nz

GRACE BURTON-MCKEICH FEATURES
features@craccum.co.nz

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY ARTS
arts@craccum.co.nz

NANCY GUO LIFESTYLE
lifestyle@craccum.co.nz

ARELA JIANG STAFF WRITER
staffwriter@craccum.co.nz




GABBIE DE BARON VISUAL ARTS
visualarts@craccum.co.nz

MICHELLE TIANG SOCIAL MEDIA
socials@craccum.co.nz

NICK WITHERS DESIGNER
design@ausa.org.nz

AARON HAUGH ADVERTISING
marketing@ausa.org.nz

EDITORIAL OFFICE
TOP LEVEL
STUDENT UNION
BUILDING
34 PRINCES STREET

 CraccumMagazine
 @craccum
 @craccum
 @craccummag

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

WE WOULD LOVE TO
HEAR FROM YOU! JUST
SEND AN EMAIL

PEOPLE TO BLAME

AUSA CARES • LET US HELP YOU • HERE FOR YOU



Is there healthy food on your table?

Are you having to sacrifice
nutritious meals in order to
stay on top of bills?

we can help!



www.ausa.org.nz/cares



cares programme

STREET FASHION

EDITORIAL 4

NEWS 6

SAY BYE TO BIAS 12

**THE SECRET LIFE OF 14
MaTUrE STUDENTS**

REVIEWS 22

RAROBOYS & FRIENDS 24

SELF-ISOLATION IS HOT 30

THE F(ONION) OF WISDOM 33

HOROSCOPES 38

WRITERS

Jessica Hopkins, Charlie Parker, Veronika Orekhivska, Grace Burton-McKeich, Omni Arona, Nancy Guo, Sophie Sun, Gabbie De Baron, Madeleine Crutchley, Arela Jiang, Jay Alexander, Ben Mollison, Amy Crawford, Naomii Seah, Flora Xie, Polly Prophet

COVER **EVELINA NESTECKA**
CENTREFOLD **CHLOE BETTINA**

ARTISTS

Gabbie De Baron, Evelina Nestecka, Georgia Wu, Lewis Creed, Chloe Bettina, Kath Yang, Sophie Sun, Kiki Hall



Don't Gaslight or Gatekeep, Just be a Girlboss

For a magazine that started up as a men's committee, we've come pretty far: our team now mostly comprises women. If you weren't aware of our history, the name of our magazine is a scrambled up acronym. The word 'Craccum' stands for 'Auckland University College Men's Common Room Committee'. We mostly keep the scrambled acronym because it has 'cum' in it. Sexual liberation is a girlboss mood, after all.

In a deep dive of our magazine's archives, we found some gems in the old Letters to the Editors section dating back to our very first issue in 1927. There sure were a lot of vocal men who wanted to chat shit about the women on campus!

A writer who went by the pseudonym "Male" noted that a lot of women on campus had short hair compared to the average population of women outside of the Uni, but suggested that short hair has no advantages. Since those who attend uni are supposed to be the "most intelligent and the most advanced section of the women of the community", he "can only conclude that

women do not benefit by, but rather are injured by, a university education."

Well, it looks like we (two short-haired women) must be getting injured by our university education then. Is he wrong? Not entirely, given the amount of stress and breakdowns uni has caused us.

But we've come a long way since 1927. Since Craccum was founded, we've seen worldwide women's suffrage, gay liberation, and the abolition of racist immigration policy. That means Craccum now has two women of colour at the helm, one of whom is a raging bisexual. We also have a badass woman of colour—hi Alofa!—as our AUSA president. Pretty cool if we do say so ourselves.

But although we live in a time those in 1927 could only dream of, it's more important than ever that we don't become complacent. After all, only a few years ago, University of Auckland students were protesting over white supremacist posters. Universities have always been at the forefront of social debate and radical change. Even in the (relatively) short time we've been

at uni, we've seen the role that we, the students of UoA, can play in creating dialogue and getting shit done.

Although the world is burning, maybe the adage 'history repeats itself' doesn't always have to inspire fear. Yes, we're living through another pandemic and another potential world conflict. But that means we can also live through more incredibly powerful social movements that spark real change. And it can start here, with your voice and ours.

So, 'Craccum' now stands for Crazy Relatable Art Cunts Creating Unamusing Magazines. We sincerely hope that horrifies the bigots who wrote into our mag 95 years ago (except you, Undergraduate, you go girl). Because sometimes seeing where you come from can show us how far we could go.

XOXO

Arohanui,
Flora Xie and Naomii Seah.

EDUCATION FOR WOMEN.
(Issue 1, March 10th 1927)

Sir,

— I notice among the women students of our College a greater proportion of unshingled or unshorn locks than I can find at any other gathering of women in our city. As the advantages of short hair are so indisputable such conservatism among what should be the most intelligent and the most advanced section of the women of the community seems almost unbelievable. As I do not find conservatism so strongly ingrained anywhere else I can only conclude that women do not benefit by, but rather are injured by, a university education.

— MALE.

COLLEGE POLITICS.

(Issue 2, March 24th 1927)

Anyone who has the slightest knowledge of College affairs must know that without our women students the corporate social life of the place would be dead indeed. Do not think that I wish to belittle the work done by men students; I know that they bear the heavier part of the burden—as indeed they should; and I admit that this burden too frequently falls on the shoulders of the over-worked few.

— HARAPHA

EQUALITY FOR WOMEN.

(Issue 1, March 10th 1927)

Sir,

-- Delving into my copy of the constitution of Students' Association, I see that the women folk of the College are represented on the executive of the Association by "one vice-president, and three of the members elected under sub-clause (d)," and further that "these shall be the only women bearing office under the preceding provisions of this clause." This means that of an executive of 14 members, four, and four only, are women. Obviously this is grossly unfair, seeing that the proportion of men students to women students in the College is far more nearly equal than this, and that the women do their share in the work of the Association with as much energy and success as the men. It is also most unfair that women students should be debarred by the constitution from holding the office of president. Surely the ingrained prejudice and conservatism of the men students would be a sufficient guarantee that no woman would ever reach that office unless she were extraordinarily well qualified, without absolutely debarring her from even aspiring to it. Surely the women of the college will have enough energy to make their protest against such barbarous injustice heard to some purpose at the next general meeting of the Association.

— UNDERGRADUETTE.

EQUALITY FOR WOMEN.

(Issue 3, April 7th 1927)

I have recently noticed a letter appearing in your first issue over the signature of "Undergraduate." Your correspondent suggests that the women students should have greater representation on the Students' Association and that they should be eligible even for the distinguished office of president. It is hard to understand how such a proposition can be seriously made. Women, and in particular women students, are notoriously unversed in business affairs, and the object of giving them representation on the Executive should be only to ensure that matters of concern to the women students are brought forward. For this purpose one Vice-President and three members should be sufficient. The need of the executive is for men of business ability.

— COMMONSENSE

Have thoughts you want to share with us? Send your own Letters to the Editor at

editor@craccum.co.nz

Can't Afford Groceries? Now You Can Talk to Someone About It!



JESSICA HOPKINS

In a win for Auckland students, the government has announced an expansion of campus mental health services this semester. But with reports of students struggling to access hardship funding, some say more should be done to ensure student wellbeing for all.

The government has dedicated \$3.8M of well-being support for Tertiary students in Tāmaki from the \$25M 2020 Tertiary Student Mental Wellbeing package, which aims to meet students' needs during COVID-19. Green Party Spokesperson for mental health, Chlöe Swarbrick and Minister of Health Andrew Little visited UoA, AUT, and Massey's Auckland campus to share the announcement with student leaders.

Little stated that around 80,000 students will benefit from "mental health promotion activities, wider access to talking therapies, drug and alcohol help, [and] student-led initiatives." The funding will also provide targeted support for Māori, Pacific, and Rainbow students. UoA will receive a total of \$2.113M until June 30 2023, with a possible further year of funding.

The University told *Craccum* they consulted with AUSA and the Kaiārahi and Tuakana network to determine how the funding could be best applied. Services being expanded include Te Papa Manaaki Campus Care, AUSA care packages, and Puawaitanga, the University's phone counselling service. Student initiatives like the Wellbeing Ambassador Programme have been prioritised, and a new Rainbow specialist mental health practitioner is being appointed.

UoA will also appoint a Kaiārahi, who "support[sic] our health and wellbeing services to adopt te ao Māori, [and work] across the University community...to understand the needs of our Māori student[s]."

Kyla Campbell-Kamariera, Tumuaiki of Te Mana Ākonga, the National Māori Tertiary Students' Association, told *Craccum* that they welcome targeted wellbeing support for taura Māori.

"I hope the funding will support the work that Māori students' associations have already been championing since before the pandemic. Activities where relationships are fostered among students and support networks are particularly important. At a time where [we are] physically isolated... we need to stay emotionally and spiritually connected. This speaks to the way Māori and Pacific peoples are raised in their respective communities."

Although the additional funding is welcome news, it was



recently reported that more than \$2.5M of COVID-19 hardship money had not been paid out to Tertiary students, despite some struggling to survive during the pandemic.

Andrew Leessels, National President of the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) told *Craccum* that the Government's approach to student hardship is "inaccessible" and "dehumanising."

NZUSA has previously advocated for a Universal Education Income (UEI) for all tertiary students.

"A UEI is an expensive ask; we've costed it at \$2.5 billion. There is a cost to investing in the well-being of our students, but there's an even greater cost if we don't. People are dying with student debt from borrowing living costs on their loans and setting back their lives by a decade. If we support them before they fall off the cliff, we won't need the ambulance at the bottom."

Te Mana Ākonga's Tumuaiki says that inability to afford necessities is currently impacting the wellbeing of taura outside of university. "Food, housing, and the cost of petrol [are] at a crazy high at the moment, [and] is expected to increase further. It is not an option to under-spend COVID-19 hardship money when money in the pockets of taura could mean the difference between sickness and health."

UoA confirmed that all hardship funding provided for 2021 has been allocated to students and says they are on track to distribute all of the money for 2022. "In 2021, the University contributed \$500K to the Student Emergency Fund. We also received an additional \$1.6M in funding in October 2021 from the Government's Hardship Fund for Learners. All of this funding was spent on students who applied for it... [we] provide accommodation subsidies, food, and direct cash payments."

The University says they will continue to discuss hardship issues affecting students with AUSA. Funding for further services in universities across the country is expected to be announced soon.

Māori Representation in Aotearoa's Law Community

CHARLIE PARKER



Following a milestone Supreme Court nomination in the U.S., Craccum investigates what Māori representation looks like within Aotearoa's law community.

On February 25th, the White House confirmed President Joe Biden's nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for the U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Jackson is the first African American woman to be nominated for the position. Biden said in a formal White House ceremony "I believe it is time that we have a court that reflects the full talents and greatness of our nation."

According to the New Zealand Law Society in 2018, in Aotearoa 80% of law practitioners were of New Zealand European descent, and only 6.1% were of Māori descent. Māori practitioners were still the second-largest ethnicity group practising. Despite this, Te Reo Māori is only the fifth most spoken language among lawyers. In 2018, only 820 Māori lawyers were practising. The first Māori judge to be sworn into the Supreme Court, Justice Joe Williams, and the first Māori judge to be appointed Chief District Court Judge, Judge Heemi Taumaunu, were appointed just three years ago.

Craccum spoke with University of Auckland law student Lily (Te Āti Awa) about how underrepresentation affects Māori in the law community. Lily said, "I think it does discourage

students into a field when they aren't represented well, and that goes for all underrepresented demographics. I'm a woman too, and I know a lot of women who feel uncomfortable in their STEM fields because they're underrepresented. The sad reality of it is; if we don't see people like us succeeding, why would we think that we can too?"

For those looking to enter the field, the University of Auckland runs a Māori Academic Programme (MAP) that "is designed to strengthen, nurture, and promote the desire for academic excellence in the pursuit of your law degree." MAP provides extra tutorials for Part I, II and III of law, and pre-test wānanga. The University offers targeted admissions scheme for Māori students to help with entry into Part II of their law degree, available to 32 Māori law students; who are able to prove their whakapapa and fill out the relevant application online. The University also has six scholarships available for Māori students.

"Law is hard, but it's especially hard when you feel you don't belong. I remember in my first year it was really distracting, you know the whole imposter syndrome feeling. The resources available can help, but it's also additional time that people may not have. It needs a systemic change, not just a workshop," said Lily.

The teaching of Māori law and indigenous rights doesn't seem as prominent within the University as it should be to correctly represent the almost 900,000 Māori in Aotearoa's population. From the compulsory law papers available, only 4/12 papers explicitly state that they will be looking into Māori law, practices, or the effects current laws have on Māori communities. Only 4/24 General Law elective papers are available on Māori issues.

Dr. Fleur Te Aho (Ngāti Mutunga), teaches and researches indigenous law and Māori's relationship with the law. Dr. Te Aho said, "Significant changes need to happen to encourage more of our tauira Māori to practise law: we need to decolonise legal education in Aotearoa for a start... so that it is truly bijural, bicultural, and bilingual. Some efforts are already underway, but we are a long way off this goal. And we need to decolonise legal practice, and the law itself, too. For firms and businesses looking to hire law graduates this will include having to confront the structural racism that exists within their organisations and valuing the incredible knowledge and perspectives Māori law graduates have to offer."



“We hope for a miracle”: watching the Russian-Ukrainian war unfold from New Zealand

Ukrainian student Veronika Orekhivska on witnessing her homeland's invasion, and how you can help.

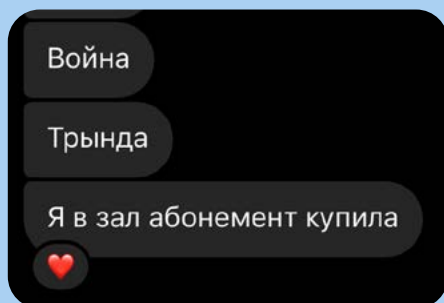
“It Feels A Shame To Be Alive” — Emily Dickinson.

I would never have thought that the line Emily Dickinson wrote almost 160 years ago would turn into a feeling that burns from the inside of me and all Ukrainians who are not in Ukraine right now. We are all as one paralysed by fear, pain, and grief. But my brothers and sisters in Ukraine are forced to act without breaks for sleep or food because the desire to survive and stay alive drowns out all other feelings.

I confess that I do not know how much time has passed since the first bombs fell on Ukrainian cities. It feels like we have been in this for months. But according to my messages to my friends, it is clear that this happened only a few days ago, February 25 at 6pm NZT. It was 4am in Ukraine. It was also dawn when Germany invaded Poland in 1939.

It started almost a 1000 years ago

For Ukraine it didn't start on February 25. It didn't start a few weeks ago when



**WAR.
FUCK.
I BOUGHT GYM MEMBERSHIP.**

the governments of New Zealand, U.S., and other countries asked their citizens to urgently leave Ukraine. It didn't start in 2014, when Russian troops invaded Ukraine for the first time in modern history. News outlets around the world avoided calling it a war, overusing words like "crisis" and "conflict". They still do. It didn't even start in 1991 when Ukraine left the Soviet Union and declared itself an independent country.

How do I know if my friend died? Will her mom message me on instagram or something?

6:45 PM ✓

(MY MESSAGE TO FRIEND IN NZ)

Если я тебе не пишу 17 дней я все кекнулась

Договорились

**HER: IF I DON'T TEXT YOU IN 17 DAY I'M DONE I'M DEAD
ME: DEAL**

It will be a shock to find out (it's a shock to me every time I think about it) but for Ukraine it all started hundreds of years ago. Russia has invaded Ukraine roughly every century since 1149. Ukraine has never invaded Russia. Throughout all these years, Russia (and our other neighbours) have owned bits and pieces of our country from time to time. In the early 1900s, Ukraine became independent for a second, but then the Russian revolution came and brought Ukraine into the Soviet Union. For 70 years, the Ukrainian people were equated to the Russians. They devalued our culture, and persecuted and killed those who spoke out against the Soviet regime. But despite the decades of this humiliation, the Ukrainian language did not disappear. Ukrainian culture flourished because

VERONIKA OREKHIVSKA



У меня крыша едет когда самолеты летят над нами

9:14 PM

Я плачу каждые 30 секунд

9:14 PM

I'M LOSING MY MIND WHEN I HEAR PLANES ABOVE US. I CRY EVERY 30 SECONDS

the stories and songs of our ancestors are passed down from generation to generation. In the late 80s the Soviet Union began to disintegrate; my country saw this as an opportunity and in 1991 Ukraine declared its independence. But the pro-Russian forces did not even think of leaving the Ukrainian government, and we knew it, we saw it, we felt it. So, there was a (nearly peaceful) revolution in 2005 that opposed the pro-Russian government and the protests were successful.

And then in 2014 there was a revolution of dignity that overthrew the pro-Russian president and the whole country thought that Russian influence would end there. Yes, I'm in my early 20s and I've already witnessed two revolutions in my home country. In 2014, the Russian army invaded the territory of Ukraine. Russia justified their actions with the help of deception, misinformation, and sabotage. News publications and political scientists around the world can provide 100 reasons why this happened, 100 reasons that led to this, but as a Ukrainian I believe that when we overthrew the pro-Russian president, the Russian government realised they were losing control over us and sent their troops. And so they remain in Ukraine to this day.

Why did they start hostilities and what do they need from Ukraine? To put it simply, Ukraine has set an example of democracy and independence. Ukraine has shown that it is ready to

live on its own without the influence of the Russian authorities, and this is very dangerous. Because after Ukraine, other countries that were under the rule of the Soviet Union can rise up and this will be a big blow to the authority of the Russian government. My people haven't taken a deep breath since 2014. My country has not been itself since the beginning of the 20th century.

"Oh no, it's a war. I just bought my gym membership"

This is a message from a close friend of mine as soon as active hostilities began yesterday. She could joke then, but a day later, I heard her crying in the audio messages, unable to say a word. My aunt had to go to work. Employers threatened to fire her if she didn't do so, and she can't afford to lose her job even at a time like this. My classmates are in bomb shelters. Sometimes they go home (if they still have a home) to eat. And they eat like it will be the last time because they don't know when they will have the opportunity to eat again. My 14-year-old cousin knows how to seal windows so they don't shatter from the vibrations of the exploding bombs. Nurses carry newborn babies into the basements. Children and women hide at metro stations—a few days ago, a child was born there. My mother's godson signed up to be a volunteer fighter. My grandparents, who cried for five years that I left Ukraine, are now crying with happiness that I am not there.

I and my close family in New Zealand seem to have aged a few decades in these couple of days. My body refuses to function normally. None of us can let go of the phone. We text every few hours to each of our relatives, but every time we hear a phone buzz our hearts stop. We no longer have conversations, we just wait for the two words: "I'm alive". We don't tell them how we're doing because nothing in the world seems important enough to share with people who are at war. I do not know how to answer when they tell me that they are ready to die and that they are not afraid of death. And my biggest fear right now is that one of them will die and I won't know about it. Because who else will tell me about it?

It's not a crisis. It's not a conflict. It's a war.

"As Russia continues to wage war in Ukraine, the fighting has not been as one-sided as might have been expected. Despite being outgunned and outnumbered, Ukraine inflicted more casualties in 24 hours than Russia suffered over eight years of engagements in Syria." —The Economist ¹

More than a week ago, the Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation *ordered*



Дві години тому у метро Києва народилася дитина. Ось такі новини дарують надію!

TWO HOURS AGO, A CHILD WAS BORN IN THE KIEV METRO. THESE NEWS THAT GIVE US HOPE!

the Russian media not to call what is happening a war.²

Russian propaganda is strong, and all those terrible stories that we see in films and TV shows about harmful disinformation are true. A small group of Russian activists around the world are raising funds to sponsor independent news outlets to tell the truth in Russian for Russian citizens. I never would have thought that during the war one of the most terrible

weapons would be information. But it also means that you and I can help.

Share and repost, and spread awareness. I know that this phrase has become overused lately, but in the 21st century information diverges quicker than before and it might help. It is very easy to believe that we are helpless, but we are not as long as we have the opportunity to spread truthful information. Check the sources from which you draw information and share it with everyone, especially with your colleagues/friends from Russia.

Sign petitions, donate, and did I say donate? Signing petitions online can feel unreliable. But it is quick and easy, and in this way you can help, but also show everyone how many of us are. Here are links <https://linktree/RazomForUkraine> and <https://linktree/UkraineResources> where you can find all the necessary resources as well as links to donations that go directly to support the army or support civilians. Any active action to stop this war is another breath for my family and my friends.

We hope for a miracle. And the past few days have shown that miracles are possible: a car with a civilian was run over by a Russian tank. Twice. The man inside the car is still alive. We hope for the miracle that Ukrainian forces will push Russian troops back to Russia. But we fear that Ukraine is not strong enough, and that the Russian government will take at least the eastern part of Ukraine. We fear that if Ukraine ceases to exist, Russian forces will turn their attention to Europe and continue to attack whomever they want.

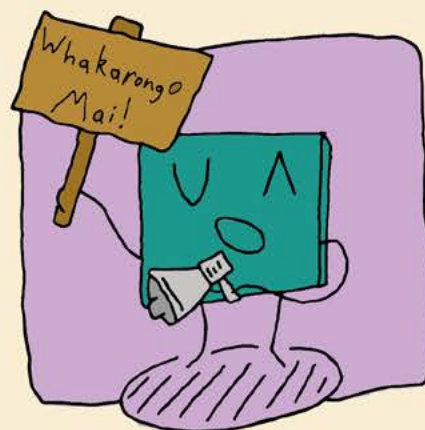
But with your help, that may never happen. I wish you a peaceful sky above your head.

Slava Ukraini!—Glory to Ukraine!

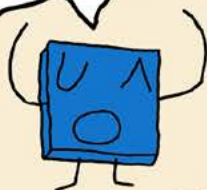
¹ The Economist, 25.02.22, "The military gap between Russia and Ukraine is vast".

² эхо кавказа, 26.02.22, "Роскомнадзор требует от СМИ не называть происходящее на Украине войной"/ "Roskomnadzor demands from the media not to call what is happening in Ukraine a war".

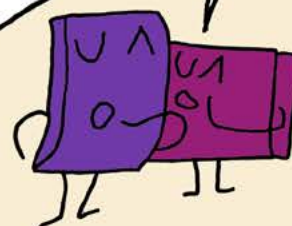
My home life is good, I can concentrate at home, but it's just not the same. Having done the majority of my degree online I relish every opportunity I get to go and study on campus.



I feel good about going in! I know it's not the smartest thing, but I see so many people at work so I'm more likely to get Covid through that. Now we are at phase three of red light, I think it makes sense that people doing practical courses like me are allowed back!"



Our lecturers are online, but most people just come in since we're already on campus every day for clinics and labs.

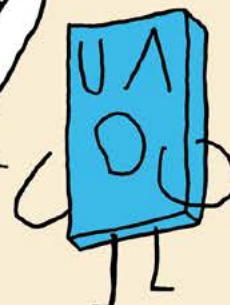


I wanted to, but couldn't justify going in if none of my friends were in the studio. I was really excited to be back on campus for uni this year. I couldn't wait to see all my friends and catch up; everyone had been really busy over the break with internships, summer jobs and other projects so it was hard to find the time to meet up with people.



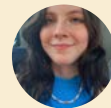
Whakarongo

MAI



Whakarongo Mai: Why on Earth Would You Want to Go Back to Campus?

CHARLIE PARKER



Prior to semester one beginning, the University of Auckland announced that teaching for the first six weeks of the year would be online, with only selected classes being taught in person. However, on-campus facilities, including the general library and study spaces, are open. *Craccum* spoke to UoA students about if they decided to study on campus.

Brad*, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honors)

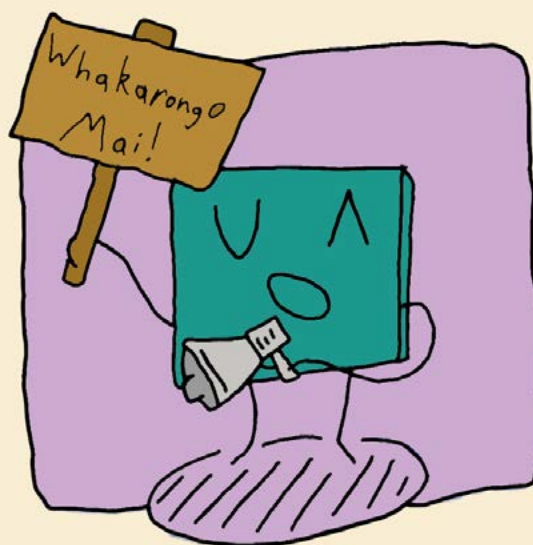
"I feel good about going in! I know it's not the smartest thing, but I see so many people at work so I'm more likely to get Covid through that. Now we are at phase three of red light, I think it makes sense that people doing practical courses like me are allowed back!"

"I think as a postgrad Fine Arts student it's necessary though, I wouldn't have come back if I hadn't. At the beginning of Covid there were so many fine arts students who couldn't make art the way they wanted because of being stuck at home. We need materials, equipment, and space that is just impossible to get at home."

"Even just simple things like having wall space to hang big art. Last year and the year before everyone had to completely change their art so it was suitable to be made at home and presented digitally. For some people it's fine to compromise but other artists literally just ended up handing in written work because there was no way to make their art from home."

Yasmin, Bachelor of Design and Bachelor of Arts

"I wanted to, but couldn't justify going in if none of my friends were in the studio. I was really excited to be back on campus for uni this year. I couldn't wait to see all my friends and catch up; everyone had been really busy over the break with internships, summer jobs



and other projects so it was hard to find the time to meet up with people. It just kinda sucks, I have classes of less than 20 people and we can't go on campus."

Do you think that more people would go to study on campus if it was normal to do so, even despite the health risks?

I think so, but I also think a lot of people are just reluctant to go in because of the risk of covid. It's hard to tell, especially given that everyone is doing different classes."

Liam, Bachelor of Science

"I don't want to sound like a freedom fighter, but if I have the freedom to come into campus...I will. My home life is good, I can concentrate at home, but it's just not the same. Having done the majority of my degree online I relish every opportunity I get to go and study on campus. Everyone's lazier at home, it's so easy to just get comfortable procrastinating or in your bed and just avoid everything. Everyone's worried about Covid still, and I still want to avoid it, but if it's my study or being sick for a week or two? Unfortunately, my degree comes first."

Vanshika, Bachelor of Optometry

"Basically, we have to go in for all labs and clinics. Our lecturers are online, but most people just come in since we're already on campus every day for clinics and labs. But obviously if they're sick or a household contact, they stay home. Also, I just can't be at home in the halls anymore, I'll lose my mind."



Say Bye to Bias: Confronting Gender Perceptions

I'm still qualified for this, right?



ARELA JIANG

I feel a bit problematic writing this piece. I thought I'd given up my rights to write on anything women's rights related, on the 20th of May, 2021—the day an SPCA campaigner called me 'Mr.' without doubletaking. But the scrutiny felt over your gender, being acknowledged as a gendered-being first and a person second? Regardless of our identities, we all experience it. It's this feeling that's at the heart of what it means to break the (gender) bias, this year's theme for International Women's Day.

I've moved through the world as a man ever since starting testosterone. And it's been... a mind-fuck. I wasn't prepared for the small, unsettling changes to how people treated me once I started medically transitioning. It's an ongoing culture shock. It's taken some readjusting to realise that even if I hadn't changed internally, my physical changes were shifting others' perceptions and expectations. Now that I'm seen as male, the ways I naturally express my personality to others are questioned by non-men (that's some cognitive dissonance). I hate being seen as another schlubby dude cashing in on patriarchal dividends (what sociologist Raewyn Connell defines as the advantages to all men reaped from our unequal gender order). But when I out myself as trans then I'm not truly seen as a 'real man'—just an echo from a woman's mouth. I suppose being Asian helps: people think us effeminate, soft, unmanly. I want to fully embody

my femininity, but I fear it'll cost my male identity.

There's so many biases wrapped in



gender performativity and perception that we're constantly taking on and recreating. For international women's day, how do we break them? Can we break them? In my process of reconciling everything involved in being seen as a cis-passing "man",

I spoke with others to hear their experiences of being gendered, as "women" or otherwise. Ellie (they/them, Turtle Island Aniyunwiya), a

queer, non-binary person is seen as a cis-woman but isn't. OP* (she/her, Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Kahungunu), is a straight/questioning, cis-woman whose masculine-leaning style and personality throws people the fuck off. And Moth (she/moth), who describes herself as "kinda like a woman, but not—a 'woman+' along the lines of being trans-woman/trans-femme/'Moth-gendered'".

What's some misconceptions people have about you and your identity?

ES: I'm often misgendered because I look cis and have a lot of cis privilege. I'm not perceived how I identify most of the time unless I out myself to people. It's super unfair that cis-people have these 'androgyny' expectations—that I should get top-surgery and all that. It sounds terrible, but the cis-people in my life, as much as I love them, all still see me as a woman. Like, "Ellie is just doing the 'they/them' thing, call them that—but they're still a woman". I feel like people are memorising my pronouns rather than respecting my gender identity. One of my past partners always introduced me as 'gender-neutral', and I've been called woman-adjacent, which really fucks me off.

OP: I've been told a lot of people avoided me back in high school because I looked like a bitch from the way I presented myself and my 'personality'. I was often asked if I were

a boy/lesbian because I dressed pretty masculine compared to all the other girls. Even now, people ask, especially after cutting my hair short. People are so surprised that I'm Māori because I'm light skin and because my personality doesn't match stereotypes of wāhine Māori which is straight-up fucking racist.

ML: People assume due to my name and presentation (I like to dress quite androgenous), that I'm non-binary which I don't consider myself to be. Or they assume when I dress more femme that I'm a woman, which is not entirely correct. Oftentimes it's even difficult for me to figure out where I am on the gender spectrum. I try to look at gender more as a metaphor, so calling myself 'Moth'-gendered because what our culture commonly associates moths with reflects my gender quite well. But people can get a bit weird about [my gender] so I try to gauge what I tell people. It's hard to be taken seriously particularly when it comes to official document-type processes. I try to be as accurate as possible but sometimes it doesn't work. In some situations I'm a woman, in others I'm trans-femme, in some I'm Moth-gendered—it's all context-dependent.

Do you feel they treat you differently when they get to know you and your identity more?

OP: Honestly, once I talk to people, they'd be surprised [about my identity]. I had some friends in high school that thought I was lesbian that upon finding out I wasn't into them, they would distance themselves. Many of my family and schoolmates were surprised that I wasn't lesbian, and were all "You just gave off that lesbian vibe". What

I've been told a lot of people avoided me back in high school because I looked like a bitch from the way I presented myself and my 'personality'.

vibe is that? It's just cringe, stereotyping the fuck out of lesbians, creating this category of how lesbian women should look and act (non-femme presenting, and I guess whatever my personality gave off).

Do you actively try to shift these perceptions?

ES: It depends on the situation. If I know I won't see someone again, I'll just let it pass because otherwise I'm spending my entire life trying to correct them. But when it's people I care about and want to build a relationship with, I'll correct them. It also depends on my safety if I'm uncomfortable in a space and don't know the people.

OP: I've honestly started gradually presenting more femme these days—I don't dress at all how I used to. I do like dressing femme, but it's just I don't really feel like I'm seen as attractive when I dress masculine. I know I shouldn't have to feel like that, but yeah. These days you want to be a good-looking person—especially for my partner because I want him to be attracted to me. If I dress in a [certain] way I'm suddenly a lesbian again.

ML: I don't really have a self-awareness around how people perceive me at times. It's hard to control people's perceptions of me, which leads to people see me in the way that I am superficially because I can't do much else about it.

Doesn't that get exhausting?

ES: I try to be understanding, cause I get that y'all have to unlearn what y'all have called me for years. But yeah, it's tiring to constantly correct you; at some point I'm just gonna stop trying.

ML: I think that I've been really lucky with how people interact with me. Being a queer trans-woman, I've been surprisingly sheltered which I think contributes to how I'm able to so freely express myself. When people perceive me as I am, that gives me a lot of joy and a lot of energy, even if that reaction isn't 100% positive.

It's hard to be taken seriously particularly when it comes to official document-type processes. I try to be as accurate as possible but sometimes it doesn't work.

How have/are you overcoming this mismatch?

ES: I hate the idea that queer and trans-people are inherently resilient because we've had to go through bullshit. But like, it's a bit true. I first came out to one friend in 2018 and it was such a negative reaction I didn't come out again for like, a year. [But] queer community is everything. That's been huge in uplifting me and making me feel secure in my identity.

OP: Honestly, I've recently started questioning my sexuality as I've suppressed it for a long time. Because of people giving me labels and shit, I've never had the chance to think about it. I just wish I could've been allowed to be attracted to whoever without the "I called it!" and "No surprises there", the "We already knew" shit. I say I'm straight because it makes me uncomfortable trying to explain myself to those who think they know me better than I know myself. But I have good mates that don't give a fuck and are understanding of what I feel. That helps.

ML: When people do get it and see me as myself it really strengthens me in who I am. People, like my partner, help me reflect [upon] myself, especially when I get deadnamed or misgendered. Then I ask people to use my name and pronouns a lot to help me reiterate to me that I am who I am. Being able to come to terms with who I used to be, and finding some joy in it, really has helped me embrace that.

*FULL-NAME WITHHELD TO PROTECT INTERVIEWEE'S PRIVACY.

The Secret Life of MaTUrE Students

What it's like to study as a real adult

GRACE BURTON-MCKEICH



If one more lecturer says, "You guys are probably too young to remember this..." and I'm the only student that remembers it, I might just yeet my computer out the window mid-Zoom.

I'm 23, not even that much older than most of my classmates. Still, it's hard not to feel like a grandma when everyone else is fresh out of high school—sorry to all the people studying who are older than me. Trust me, I can feel your eyes roll as you think—ppft—23? Try returning to uni at 30! Or 50!

Don't pretend like you haven't noticed us. It's pretty hard to miss the balding man sitting within the first three rows of the lecture theatre or the person who's always taking notes with pen and paper. No, we're not your lecturer or your tutor—we're here for a degree, same as you.

Being a 'mature' student is an interesting experience. In one way, our lives aren't too different from those of our younger peers; we work while we study and have bills to pay. But in other aspects, our lives couldn't be further apart.

So, what's it really like to be the oldest student in the room? I sent

a questionnaire to members of the Mature Students Association to find out.

I received responses from people from all walks of life, from those in their early twenties to retirees. About 55% of respondents studied full-time, and 80% pursued undergraduate qualifications. Many people had been to university before, attending directly after finishing high school. Although, in some cases, attending university hadn't been an option. For example, Chris, a 51-year-old studying a Master of Public Health, said, "[they] didn't know how to study in high school." That they "had large family commitments, didn't even know what tertiary study was" and "couldn't afford it" at the time.

As you might have guessed, a lot can happen in your life before you decide to go to university at 40. Mature students have spent their years not having breakdowns over assignments doing exciting things. Ty*, a 31-year-old studying for a BA(Hons) in Philosophy, "trained and worked as a stuntman for four years [and] tried to become a cop." While Ty was throwing himself out of windows for money, other mature students were nannying in France, getting married, getting divorced, having children and even grandchildren. Most respondents have had entire careers before deciding to retrain or return to study. For example, Katherine*, a 33-year-old, is pursuing a Master of Audiology after working for 11 years as an engineer; Larissa* (44, BA in Sociology and Psychology) "owned businesses" and Andy (36, BE) "was a chef for 15 years."

For those of you itching to leave

In one way, our lives aren't too different from those of our younger peers; we work while we study and have bills to pay. But in other aspects, our lives couldn't be further apart.



the capitalist institution we call uni, it might be hard to comprehend why on earth anyone might want to identify themselves as four-letters-followed-by-three-numbers for at least three years, especially when they might have an established career and a stable source of income. Call them what you will, but mature students have several reasons for coming to UoA. The winner for the most wholesome response goes to Leo*. Leo's 50 and is studying a BA in Art History and Anthropology. He said: "My late wife worked in many areas of the university, and eventually was a university teacher. She really encouraged me to give it a go. When she passed away, I took up study in honour of her." I'm not crying. You're crying!

Other mature students, like Jannai (41, PGDipSci), "wanted to get a degree and have a career where [they] could make a difference in the world." Some students were following their life-long dream of going to university or pursuing a particular career. Some, like Mid-life student* (41, BFA/BSc in Computer Science and Psychology), just wanted to spice up their lives. Mid-life student wrote, "[I] was not enjoying work, and thought that if I don't do something to change it, I will be stuck in a job I hate for the rest of my life."

Sam*, who is 31 and studying for a BE, perhaps best sums up what it can feel like to decide to go to university later in life: "Career dream. Bravery or stupidity." Apart from deciding which one of your kids to spend less time with this week or whether it would be weird to go flatting at 45, one of the biggest challenges adults face while studying at UoA is feeling isolated. Sean* (53, BE) said, "At my age, socialising with 20-year-olds feels weird or creepy, so I'm not making many friendships among fellow students." Carla is 37 and studying towards a BSc in Food Science. They feel like they don't always "fit in at clubs, drinking, games

"My late wife worked in many areas of the university, and eventually was a university teacher. She really encouraged me to give it a go. When she passed away, I took up study in honour of her."

night, etc. Younger students find it a bit awkward having someone older there." Similarly, Ty said, "Being ten years older than other students has sometimes been a real kick in the teeth. The age thing can be pretty awkward, especially socially. Being full time, I don't see people my own age and it's hard to really build a good social network (especially at UoA)."

Other challenges mature students face include being unable to "see the slides unless [they] sit at the front" (Larissa), that their "memory is not as good as it used to be" (Vicki 64, BA in History and



Criminology); and generally feeling old. Trust me, nothing makes a person born pre-1999 feel geriatric than when the lecturer asks what year people were born and everyone says 2003. In addition, Old Person 42069* (50, BA Philosophy) was particularly triggered by the way fellow students "mistake them for a staff member all the time."

Despite these challenges, going to university later in life has its perks. A handy advantage is that you have had time to figure out precisely what you like and value. Many respondents said things like: "I am really clear on what subjects I choose and why I am here" (Leo). Or "I'm more intentional about my area of study" (Ty), and "You really want to learn!" (Mid-life student). Relatedly, mature students say that they're "not afraid [...] to look silly" (Jannai). Effie*, a 46-year-old law student, said that you "don't mind being the person at the front asking all the questions." On behalf of all your classmates, TYSM Effie, for taking one for the team and making those awkward silences just a bit shorter.

Another great benefit of waiting to go to uni is being able to apply all your life experiences to help you in your studies. Apparently, "The stress of uni is nothing compared to the stress of running a kitchen!" (Andy). Katherine talked about how since studying the first time, she has "gained a huge number of life skills", including how to "manage [their] time and understand the real world impacts of [their] discipline." On a different note, David, who is 51 and studying law, mentioned how handy their historical knowledge is. In fact, "[they] helped write some of the legislation we are studying." So, like—does David get to cite themselves? If so—jealous.

Other challenges mature students face include being unable to "see the slides unless [they] sit at the front" (Larissa)

It would be a wasted opportunity to not ask mature students if they had any advice for their younger peers. What follows is some of the heartwarming words of wisdom from people who've lived the length of your life at least twice over; maybe you will find comfort in them:

"Study what interests you—not what your parents want you to do, or what you think will get you the best job. If you follow your interests you will end up with a fulfilling career." — Mid-life student.

David, who is 51 and studying law, mentioned how handy their historical knowledge is. In fact, "[they] helped write some of the legislation we are studying." So, like—does David get to cite themselves? If so—jealous.

"There's no rush. If you need to, take time out. Learn a trade, follow your dream. Life is long and you don't need to know what you're doing at 18 years old." — Celeste*, 26, BSc in Biomedical Science.

"Travel as soon as the borders reopen!" — Andy.

"Enjoy the opportunity of being able to learn [...] And to also enjoy the non-study aspects—those parties, the clubs, the relationships...they are as fundamental in forging who you are as the study is. (And the more parties you go to, the easier it is for mature students to steal the As!)" — David.

Mature students also want to encourage others who're in similar

"Study what interests you—not what your parents want you to do, or what you think will get you the best job. If you follow your interests you will end up with a fulfilling career."

situations to take up tertiary study.

"If you feel like you're too mature to start university, you're not. Fuck the voices in your head [...] if it'll make you happy, then do it." — Venise, 22, BA in Classical Studies and Ancient History/Theological and Religious Studies.

"Be prepared for strange questions about why you're there, odd looks, and people asking if you're the lecturer. If it all gets too much, most lectures can be watched online." — Larissa.

"There is support available for mature students at Auckland Uni. Don't be afraid to ask for it!" — Leanne.

If we are to take one thing from the experiences of mature students, it's that there's no right way of doing life, despite how big the pressure may seem. Whether you go to uni straight after high school, wait until you're 60, spend some time working before pursuing postgraduate study, or don't go to uni at all, you won't be alone. No one has any idea what they're doing anyway, nor can they guarantee that what they're doing now will still make them happy in ten years. Also, talk to your mature peers—if they don't speak to you first, that is. They're looking for a person to sit next to in the lecture hall or a familiar face to recognise on Zoom just as much as the next person.

*SOME NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO PROTECT STUDENTS' IDENTITIES.

The 21st Century's Ideal Woman

We've come so far, but there's still a long way to go

GRACE BURTON-MCKEICH



Clearly, we don't need feminism anymore. In 2020, close to 25,000 UoA students identified as female. And 18,000 identified as male. In 2019, the Uni employed 279 female senior lecturers and 278 male senior lecturers. Fields once dominated by men are increasingly less so. For example, 55% of all medical doctors in Aotearoa are female. "She believed she could, so she did"—duh. A female's 'success' is meritocratic... Right? Sorry, let me pick up my laundry, cleaning products, kids, job, and concealer that I dropped in disbelief.

However, if you did think that, you're not a bad person or anything. We've all internalised the patriarchy's messages to some extent. Just the other day, my mum said I needed to shave my legs.

Sure, many women living in westernised nations no longer need a husband to increase their chance of survival. But, the truth is many of us feel immense pressure to behave and look a certain way, all while doing as many things and achieving as much as possible.

Dr. Eunice Gaerlan-Price completed her PhD in girlhood studies last year. In our interview, she said that the young women in her study described a need to be perceived as 'supergirl', someone gorgeous, smart, popular, charming, and well-rounded.

Perhaps you can relate to this feeling too? Some members of the *Craccum* editorial team definitely can. Naomii admitted that she feels "pressure to be the best in everything [she does], which includes being at least an 8/10, whatever the fuck that means." Similarly, Maddy shared that she often feels that her "presentation is key to successfully holding value" in "whatever given social context" she finds herself in.

As long as the pressure to be supergirl exists, young women will keep sacrificing their sleep and overall well-being. And this leads to burnout, says Dr. Gaerlan-Price. Do you know what will happen if we let all women burn out? Iceland, 24 October 1975—that's what.



Maybe, like some of the news presenters Dr. Gaerlan-Price has spoken to, you're still not convinced. It seems that this pressure is merely an inescapable part of life. Well, that's a dangerous opinion. Dr. Gaerlan-Price explained that by considering society as post-feminist, we fail to address "real gender and race issues [...] because it allows people to say women are doing really well—'just look at school achievement rates!'—but that ceases once you get into positions of leadership or places where decisions need to be made. Representation is still not there."

Similarly, some of the girls in the study were "sick of the feminist messages," buying into the idea that if they work hard, they can achieve anything. (Which, don't get me wrong, it's fantastic there are lots of girls with the capital to reach their goals.) But such an individual approach—neoliberal feminism—"puts the responsibility on the individual to step into her female empowerment." Thus, denying that societal structures "are still inherently capitalist and patriarchal." Therefore, not every female has the same ability to be self-determining.

It's also necessary to note that the receipt and interpretation of society's messaging is highly nuanced. According to Dr. Gaerlan-Price, young women from a white or Asian and upper or middle-class background tended to have "quite an individualistic approach to how they would value and view themselves [...]. The notion of success was based on the 'I'." These individuals tended to experience the 'supergirl' pressure more than girls who identified as Māori, Pasifika, or South-East Asian, whose identities intersected with lower socioeconomic groups or had strong religious affiliations. Dr. Gaerlan-Price noticed that these young women viewed "success as a communal or a collective thing." They said things like "I need to be successful, so I can help my family," and "I want to be a biomedical researcher, so that I can find out if there are cures for the ailments that affect my community more and more."

Whatever feminist wave you surf—post, neoliberal, eco, or intersectional—we can all be doing more to help young women thrive. Dr. Gaerlan-Price says that the first step is awareness. Both in terms of knowing how society is structured and how we, as individuals, reproduce the 21st Century's idea of who girls and women should be.

Stop Waving My Flag at Your Dumbass Protest

Indigenous UOA students share their thoughts on where Tino Rangatiratanga should fly

Anti-mandate protestors have (unfortunately) made their way to Tāmaki Makaurau with an “occupation” planned at Pukekawa/Auckland Domain. Flags of all kinds can be seen flying as anti-mandate anti-vax protestors walk over Auckland’s Harbour Bridge. They can also be seen at Pukekawa from UoA’s Grafton campus. The most (personally) infuriating of which is the Tino Rangatiratanga flag. A flag that stands for much more than those who have chosen to fly it at anti-manaakitanga non-iwi led protests.

The flag was created in 1990 by Hiraina Marsden, Jan Smith, and Linda Munn who used the traditional Māori colours of red, black, and white. Black represents Te Kore (the void), a space existing beyond everyday experiences, while white represents Te Ao Marama or world of light. Red represents Papatūānuku (the Earth Mother), the land, and active forces, while the koru represents an unfurling fern that symbolises a renewal of life. It has since been recognised as the official flag of our people.

OMNI ARONA NGĀPUHI, NGĀTI WAI



Being at Ihumāatao, you could feel real manaakitanga. It was a glimpse into a possible future of Pacific unity. It transported you to a different world where the love of the land and culture was the kaupapa. There is none of that outside of Parliament.

To fly the flag, one must follow key principles, two of which include “expressing a spirit of mutual respect and nationhood”, and “respecting Tino Rangatiratanga as a flag that represents all Māori”, neither of which these anti-vax protestors uphold. Mutual respect has not been upheld since the occupation outside of Parliament. Threats and violence towards the public have become an everyday occurrence. Videos of occupiers discarding their waste on whenua that is not theirs are disrespectful to the water and the land, especially with local iwi (Ngāti Toa) repeatedly asking protestors to leave.

Compare this to a mana whenua led occupation. Being at Ihumāatao, you could feel real manaakitanga. It was a glimpse into a possible future of Pacific unity. It transported you to a different world where the love of the land and culture was the kaupapa. There is none of that outside of Parliament. Waste is



spilt into rainwater drains, Nazi flags are flown, and school children are threatened on their way home. This is a reality that students on our city and Grafton campus could face on our way to and from Uni

Linda Munn, who helped create the flag, has called out anti-vaccine protestors for hijacking the Tino Rangatiratanga flag for the so-called Freedom coalition march. In some cases, we've seen the flag flown upside down. It further illustrates that these protests don't represent shared values amongst Māori in regard to Tino Rangatiratanga and Te Ao Māori.

With the movement finding its way to Tāmaki Makaurau, I asked Indigenous and Pacific students at the University for their opinions on Tino Rangatiratanga being flown in movements that are not with the kaupapa.

Mary*, highlights the false subconscious narratives the public can form from seeing Pacific flags flown at these sorts of movements. "It just makes us look bad. It makes them think we're all anti-vax. Waving the Flag of Tonga shows how proud we are as Tongan people [but] waving it at these events is something we shouldn't be proud [of]." They noted that "there's always that one guy", referring to how one person can misrepresent their people.

Hugh (Ngāpuhi), a 3rd-year science student notes how it can negatively characterise Māori. "It paints us as anti-intellectual and anti-science.

"Part of me doesn't blame our people for believing this stuff, we are targets

"my teina are struggling to meet essay deadlines because they have to attend funerals of their loved ones who were affected by this virus".

for misinformation spreaders," but they note it's "disheartening as part of my study focuses on the immune system."

"The freedom they fight for isn't freedom for the medically fragile."

A continuous theme of this "movement" and protest is their support for an ambiguous concept of "freedom". The only freedoms at risk are the freedoms of privileged people to go against rules despite having the choice to get vaxxed or not. In reality, unvaccinated people are merely suffering the consequences of their decision not to do the bare minimum

Their ideology goes against the freedom of the medically fragile, the immunocompromised, the elderly, healthcare workers who have become overrun as Covid has gotten out of hand, and the disabled taurira at our University.

to protect others in the midst of a global pandemic. Their ideology goes against the freedom of the medically fragile, the immunocompromised, the elderly, healthcare workers who have become overrun as Covid has gotten out of hand, and the disabled taurira at our University. The protest outside of Parliament has become a super spreader event and we do not want the same happening right next to our campus and central hospital.

AUSA president Alofa So'olefai noted that "growing up the *fa'asamoa* way mean[s] I naturally put other people and their needs ahead of my own; and with these mandates, I see it as putting the safety and security of my 84-year-old bedridden great-grandma and my 71-year-old grandad who underwent a triple bypass before my own."

Equality feels like oppression when you're privileged.

Alofa sees "the mandates as gates," acknowledging that although some see them as "jail gates," the mandates are "there to protect these people people that saturate the Māori and Pacific communities (not just old and sick, but technologically inept), who paved the way for us to be here in the 'land of milk and honey'."

"When I see the Pacific and Māori flags flown at these protests, I am disheartened because it doesn't represent all of us. Many of my family work in the health sector and they work their butts off serving our people and helping them because they happen to be one of (if not the most) affected and disadvantaged groups of people in this nation when it comes to government policy".

Alofa noted her frustration, stating "my teina are struggling to meet essay deadlines because they have to attend funerals of their loved ones who were affected by this virus".

While these protestors march over the Auckland Harbour Bridge, massive protests for peace across the world are being held after Russia declared war on Ukraine. Within Russia, it is illegal to have an "unsanctioned gathering" and those that protest are likely to be arrested for protesting war. It puts the self-indulgent protests of those outside of Parliament who think they are oppressed into perspective as others across the world fight for real freedom. When we compare ourselves to other nations, our death toll is significantly lower, thanks to a considerably high vaccination rate and lockdown initiatives. Yet some still call for mandates and vaccinations to end. Equality feels like oppression when you're privileged.

Hopefully, by the time this piece comes out, they'd have left and have taken their shit with them instead of pouring it into Auckland's rainwater drains.

*NAME HAS BEEN CHANGED FOR PRIVACY

WHAT SUMMER FESTIVAL ARE YOU?



MOVIE
FRANCHISE



TECH?



SUMMER
FRUIT?

COFFEE?



NORTHERN
= BASS =

You're definitely a munter, and you either do or have strongly considered doing one of the commerce degrees. There's no shame in that; up the bloody lads, aye? You've done a concerning amount of MDMA in your lifetime, and you're the life of every party. You're a serotonin machine, always bringing the vibes. That's why everyone loves you, even if they do get a bit stressed when you disappear into the mosh at every party

NEST FEST

Fuck, you're so cool. Honestly, like, so cool. Everyone has got a big fat crush on you, even with that vaguely mullet-y hair cut. They just want to suck on your tumeric vape and kiss every stick and poke on your body. Where did you buy those overalls? How's your EP coming? Do you want to meet my parents? No? Oh, that's fine. Text me later (please!).

SOUND
SPLASH

Listen, baby, it's time to grow up. Ditch the cruisers, leave high school behind, dump TikTok in your virtual rubbish bin. Do you have a beautiful youthful glow? Yes. Is everyone jealous of your optimism and kind openness? Yes. But, it's so annoying and it's time you join the Big Kids Table. You need to wvatch every Tarantino film, take a hit, and tell your parents to shut up. This is the University of Auckland, god damn it. Your best days are behind you.

SELTZER OF CHOICE?



COLOUR?



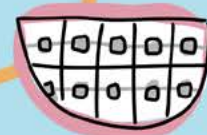
BEACH ACTIVITY?

FRIES?



MAKE YOUR BED?

PUBERTY?



RNA.

RNV's cooler younger sibling that's a bit posher, a bit sportier and a bit spoilt. You like good food and good drinks, but you're still down for a sloppy good time. You're the sort of person that'll buy \$15 mid-shelf wine at the supermarket instead of Cleanskin, but you'll still drink it all way too quickly and vomit. Oh, and you're probably really into the outdoors. But in the way where you do a bunch of acid on a tramp

RNV

You're outgoing, intense and entirely unreliable. You make promises that you can't keep and you refuse to confirm plans until the very last minute. People will hang around, because you're fun and a bit of a social tornado, but if you don't start showing up for the people who care about you, they will find someone better. Though, your constant ghosting does make you pretty mysterious, and therefore, sexy.

GOLD RUSH

You're the safe bet. You don't have any skeletons in your closet, no nasty surprises threatening anyone's good time. You're up for anything, to a point, and will make all your mates breakfast the morning after. You're the type of person that we dream about waking up to, and the type we rave to our friends about. You're neutral. Thanks for being you, you simple and predictable babe.



FILM

JACKASS FOREVER

DIR. JEFF TREMAINE



JAY ALEXANDER

Iso and Omicron's habit of ruining student rowdiness can easily be made up for with the Jackass boys back in town. It's been a decade since we last heard from these guys as a group and while we are missing the late **Ryan Dunn** and **Bam Margera**, everyone has returned for some stunting and... oh boy do they STUNT. This movie has some of their wildest and most dangerous acts ever seen on screen, and **Steve-O** tight-roped alligators! There are scorpions, taser chairs, bull strikes, and bees in the crew's toy box. At times you get tense thinking how close some of them were to death.

Not to shy away from the crazy are the new members, with **Poopies**, **Zackass**, **Rachel Wolfson**, **Eric Manaka**, and OF gang's **Jasper Dolphin** who are all wonderful. They meld so well with the legacy members to the point you'd think they had been there the whole time. Not to say the OGs are overshadowed. In fact, most of the hardest hits are shared between the classic members to teary eyed results. I looked away from the screen several times while never once staying silent in the theatre. And honestly, this is a much-needed movie to hit the big screen.

With all the current tensions lingering in our lives, we need a reminder that life isn't all that serious most of the time. What better way to prove it by watching these guys torture themselves silly, in the best way they know how?

Danger Ehren... dude I feel so sorry for your balls.



DOCUMENTARY

TAKEOUT KIDS

DIR. JULIE ZHU



NAOMII SEAH

Takeout Kids is the new observational documentary series from the team at The Spinoff, and boy did it take me out—emotionally, that is. Director **Julie Zhu** and the team scouted four families from Tāmaki Makaurau to Ōtutahi and created four, lovingly crafted 10-minute-windows into the lives of everyday migrants. At the launch party, **Daryl J. Wong**, the series' cinematographer, described how the team set up their cameras outside shop windows and in the cracks of door-frames, creating a unique and engaging cinematographic style. The end product is truly an honest, raw, intimate and rare glimpse into these families' lives.

Although I was never a takeout kid, as a second generation migrant, these stories were familiar to me. **John**, **Brooklyn**, **Martynique**, and **Rama** could have been kids I'd met in my childhood. They're kind, they're responsible, they're hard-working, but they're also cheeky, playful, and pensive. *Takeout Kids* is a uniquely human, uniquely New Zealand series, lifting the curtain on stories not often told or celebrated. I finished every episode in a night, and fought back tears after each one; it made me, and I'm sure countless others, finally feel seen. *Takeout Kids* is essential viewing for a modern Aotearoa.

Takeout kids will take you out.



TV

RAGS ARE RICHES

MĀORI+



MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

Rags are Riches is a show about making so-called 'high fashion' more accessible to rangatahi in Aotearoa. It celebrates a creative DIY mindset, and looks to challenge dominant, classist associations often made about what is fashionable. And the 'FITS people... they're going to be good.

Throughout the series, Mai FM radio host **Randy Sjafrie** and comedian **Courtney Dawson** will tour a rotating cast of celebrity guests through various fashion hot spots. The first episode shows the duo competing in a styling competition, dressing **Chris Parker** and **Lance Savali** in The Warehouse's finest threads. The team runs riot around the store, with some real kid-in-a-candy-store energy, before assembling some very cool looks. Cue a runway down aisle 13. Sjafrie and Dawson keep the creativity flowing as they pull in kid's accessories as well as some pieces of heavy workwear.

The rest of the series will explore secondhand fashion, with locations like Savemart, Titirangi's Re:Generate Markets, and Newmarket's Recycle Boutique, along with Aotearoa's own brands, like VNTGVAMP and EFFN. It's the newest piece from **Joe Daymond**'s Gen-Z focused media company WEST PARK, and the first episode is a promising launch. *Rags are Riches* is a piece for fashion fans to giggle along to, while penciling in their next opshop.

An opshopping guide to Tāmaki Makaurau.



MUSIC

BEACH BOY

BENEE



MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

Ahead of the release of her EP *Lychee*, **BENEE** has dropped a late summer single that squirms in the uncomfortable space between singleness and love and longing. It's a melancholic track perfect for those of you hesitantly kissing your summer fling goodbye (don't go baby!).

BENEE has enjoyed messing in the spaces of alt-indie and hyper-pop. 'Beach Boy' seems to lean more heavily towards that hyper-pop sound, with steady drums, dreamy guitar, and her signature sweet, soft vocal. The lyrics are easy and breezy, though they're dealing with themes of intimacy and anxiety. The simplicity and repetition of those lines makes 'Beach Boy' an easy listen, and a bit of an earworm for any pop fan. The music video for 'Beach Boy' makes a stark aesthetic contrast with the title of the song, playing with gothic, occult, vampirish imagery. It's pretty creepy, clearly pulling from *Twilight* and *The Lost Boys* and makes for a bit of a visual feast in set design, costume, and recording formats.

'Beach Boy' is a lighter and happier sound than her last release 'Doesn't Matter', which deals more closely with mental health and hopelessness. This shift stirs up excitement for the upcoming EP—perhaps we'll see BENEE experiment with more sounds, and a thematic tracklist structure.

Big luv for an Edward Cullen moment!



MUSIC

GOOD TASTE

CHELSEA JADE



BEN MOLLISON

If you've been to see a **Chelsea Jade** gig, you'd likely have been struck by her gangly, mesmerising dancing and how polished her live sound is—almost identical to her records.

I, fortunately, got to witness one of the first performances of 'Good Taste', the second single off her sophomore album *Soft Spot*, back in February of 2020. Plugging my headphones to revisit this song takes me straight back to Neck of the Woods, where she casually told the sweaty crowd that "the next song is about oral sex."

'Good Taste' doesn't front; there's no 'Watermelon Sugar' vagueness. Chelsea Jade wants to let us all know, plain and simple, how she feels about getting head. The single incorporates more of her slick electronic arrangements; tight, clean bass drums; sparse, hypnotic synths; and wry lyrical style. A particular highlight is when she appeals to her sexual partner to "feel me up with feeling" and compares being eaten out to mining for minerals—"so nutritional." It's fun, it's pop-y, and it's got just the right amount of quirkiness that sets it apart as distinctly Chelsea Jade.

If this song is just a taste of what her album has to offer, I'll be holding out for the main attraction.



- 1. TAWHITO**
Mokotron
- 2. Dial Tone**
Hybrid Rose
- 3. Sabbath Shirt (ft. fantasyluv)**
P.H.F.
- 4. Double Dutch**
Human Susan
- 5. Pride Of Silence**
For the Girl Who Has Everything
- 6. Clubbing in the Time of Cholera [deepState PureRave Remix]**
Baby Zionov
- 7. Morning Thunder**
Christoph El Truento & Lucky Lance
- 8. Everything Is Going To Be Alright**
Princess Chelsea
- 9. Toybox**
Current Bias
- 10. Island Time**
Erny Belle



Raroboy & Friends Exhibition

The Pasifika art collective shaping the future and visual style of Tāmaki Makaurau



OMNI ARONA NGĀPUHI, NGĀTI WAI

South Auckland based collective 'Raroboy' has opened an exhibition at Māngere Arts Centre alongside allied Aotearoa-based Pacific creatives. The collective was established "in celebration of independent work in independent spaces" and comprises ten artists whose multimedia art ranges from graphic design to photography and illustration. The collective has previously released two zines, with a third volume coming highly anticipated by the youth art community.

Raroboy artist @southsides is at the forefront of the show. His portraits of South Aucklanders outside their homes during lockdown garnered national attention. It is a glimpse into the lives of Auckland's cultural capital during a unique time in our world's history. The portraits have an innate and subconscious Aroha about them that can only be conveyed through the subjects present in his portraits.

The exhibition is a celebration of independent Pacific creativity. Raroboy chose to lift up the next generation of Māori and Pacific artists by allowing young artists to see their art on display.

Because of this, I was able to see my favourite piece of the entire exhibition. Young artist @alasvillainy brings forth a piece titled 'bungas and beyond'. It displays the Samoan flag standing strong on the masina (moon) with an astronaut wearing a lavalava. It is a strong image that highlights the strength and potential of the Pacific people. Art is as valuable as we deem it to be and the connotations of Pasifika potential in this piece are irreplicable.

The Raroboy & Friends offer a cultural and comradery-filled group of South Auckland-based artists. What makes this display is the works' uniform strength. The way all pieces are given the space to operate together makes for a proudly Pacific exhibition. The art features pieces by associates of the Raroboy collective. These associates are Pacific youth that the collective has uplifted by displaying their art in a place that lets them see their pieces in a real exhibition.

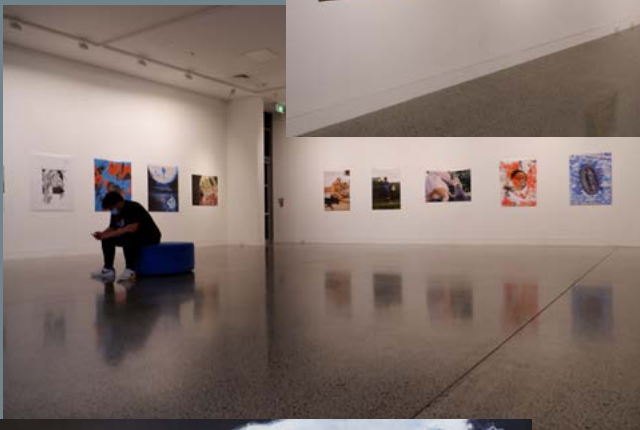
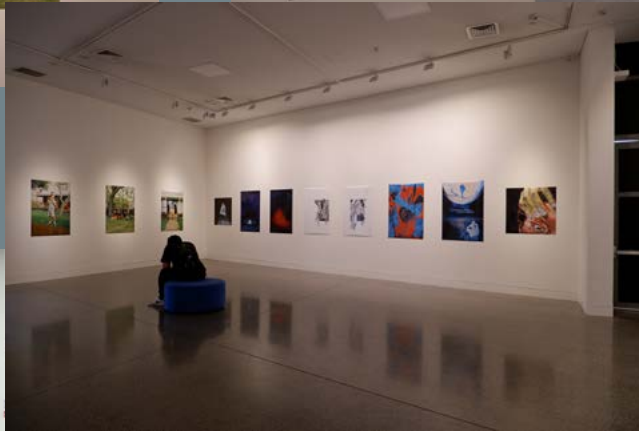
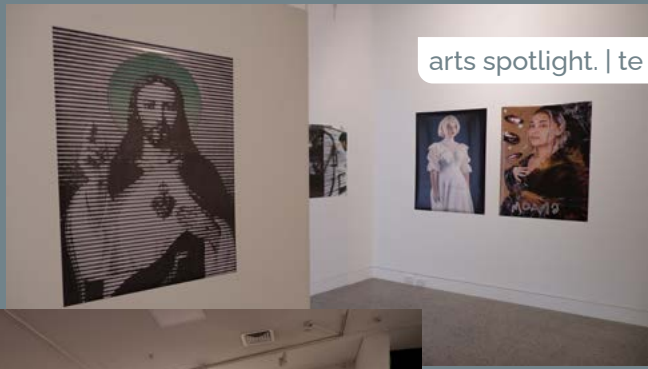
The Māori and Pacific art world are often notoriously underappreciated or advertised to a commercial world. This independent and Pacific-inspired

atmosphere for outsiders or new arrivals is both refreshing and highly entertaining. It was inevitable that when the collective released further volumes, it was met with a response coloured by intercultural, generational, and artistic appreciation. The art displayed here holds a youthful and inspirational disposition in its atmosphere. It is the calm before the storm for these artists who are only getting started

Raroboy & Friends are the artists of the future. Follow their @s, as soon enough, they'll be at the forefront of Auckland's art scene. I encourage you all to see the exhibition yourself. The artwork is beautiful, creative, and the foundation of Tamaki Makaurau's visual future. I only wish there was more, and can't wait to see what these artists do next.

Raroboy & Friends closes on Saturday the 26th of March and can be seen at Mangere Arts Centre.

Entry into Mangere Arts Centre is Free for all. Masks, distancing, and vaccine passes required for entry.





Why is *Euphoria* Such a Big Deal?

And should we defend it?

AMY CRAWFORD



Euphoria's Season 2 finale aired only last week and even if you didn't watch it, you definitely heard about it. Following the show's Covid induced hiatus, *Euphoria*'s return to air has brought along an inescapable social media discourse—documenting, celebrating, and ridiculing the show week by week. Unless you blocked the words "Nate" and "Cassie", your timeline likely was flooded by this cultural eruption, begging non-watchers to ask, "Why is *Euphoria* such a big deal?"

After only 16 total episodes, *Euphoria* has been hailed by some as the primary representation of young adulthood. Suburban melodrama punctuated by Hyper-Pop and neon lighting—*Euphoria* expresses a uniquely Gen-Z spirit. Beyond aesthetics, *Euphoria*'s diverse cast of characters stands out among a genre which has historically favoured the white and heterosexual. Capturing coming-of-age in intersectional and varied ways, the HBO show has answered the demand for more nuanced representation media.

More importantly, however, *Euphoria* does not just reflect current youth culture, but actively shapes it. *Euphoria* has become shorthand for a style as much as a show, used to evoke the vibe

of the makeup, clothes, and general atmosphere from the fictitious world. As Gen-Z and *Euphoria* continue to mutually influence one another, the need for the show to represent young adults in nuanced and accurate ways is critical. The question of why *Euphoria* is a big deal ultimately comes down to this relationship, as the show hazards making potential misunderstandings of its primary audience, perhaps isolating or even misleading young adults.

***Euphoria* does not just reflect current youth culture, but actively shapes it. *Euphoria* has become shorthand for a style as much as a show**

Despite criticism from its preceding instalment, Season 2 continues to capture these threads of young adulthood in hyper-stylised ways, straying from complete realism. Why are all of these high schoolers wearing Miu Miu? Why wasn't my teenage love life imagined as a René Magritte painting? Our immersion into *Euphoria*'s

gritty suburban reality is constantly threatened by these choices. The banal everydayness of young adulthood and student life is all but ignored by the show, despite being set in the final years of high school. UoA student Gabbie noticed this dissonance, saying, "These people don't have maths homework? These characters would never survive the IB programme." For others, despite relating to the content itself, felt such intense stylisation distances them from *Euphoria*, Veronika saying, "The cinematography of this show makes me disconnected from its content. Did I pass out drunk at my friend's house? Yes. Did I do that in a Tumblr-neon-glitter way? No."

Ironically, it is the demographic that *Euphoria* seeks to represent that will be first to point out the show's ridiculousness. The out-of-touch nature of the show has become an internet meme in itself, expressed in the shorthand "Euphoria High". TikTok users are especially quick to ridicule the show's inauthentic representations of young adulthood. Such discourse, however, is not evidence to the show being widely disliked, Bethany says, "We like it so much because it's not fully real, it's an entertaining fantasy. No one thinks 'Euphoria High' is an accurate depiction of high school in

real life.” As UoA student Kelly points out, such stylisation may not only be entertaining but also lends itself to representing young adulthood in non-literal ways, saying, “I think it captures how dramatic and blown out young adulthood can be—the dramatisation, whilst not accurate, speaks volumes to the overwhelming atmosphere and emotional turbulence.”

Where *Euphoria*’s aesthetics may isolate viewers, its subject matter may disturb more—a prevailing criticism from the show’s target audience. Though the show’s diversity and willingness to tackle relevant issues has been praised, its exhibitionist tendencies have been called into question—Why do we need to see a 16-year-old naked to know they are naked? Though *Euphoria*’s subject matter is real and pressing, casting them onto fictional underaged bodies has raised questions around the appropriateness of the show—especially for 16- and 17-year-olds, the supposed age of *Euphoria*’s characters. Such controversy has elicited a response from the cast themselves, lead actress Zendaya cautioning viewers, saying, “It’s a raw and honest portrait of addiction, anxiety, and the difficulties of navigating life today... There are scenes that are graphic, hard to watch and can be triggering. Please only watch if you feel you can handle it. Do what’s best for you.”

UoA student Hannah further affirmed these points, saying, “*Euphoria* is teetering on the border of glorifying drug use, toxic relationships, behaviours, and mindsets. I feel as though *Euphoria* should have been set in university. It would make so much more sense and maybe people, including me, would be more forgiving.”

This is not all to say that Season 2 was a failure. *Euphoria*’s already impressive ratings have doubled this season. Clearly, despite its criticism, *Euphoria* has been able to maintain a committed audience, credit to the show’s enduring and complex characters.

Notably, Rue—the show’s central

character—remains the emotional crux of *Euphoria*. Episode 5, *Stand Still Like a Hummingbird*, is a stand out of the season. Following Rue on a 24-hour long drug-fuelled escapade, the episode is intimate, anxiety inducing, and anchored to our devotion to the character, despite her evident flaws. Further, it forces us to bear witness to the worst effects of Rue’s addiction, which stands against accusations of *Euphoria* romanticising drug use. Though episodes like *Stand Still Like a Hummingbird* are emotionally confronting and potentially very triggering, they ultimately remind us of why *Euphoria* is so culturally relevant, bringing under-discussed and pressing issues to the forefront of pop culture.



Arguably, some of *Euphoria*’s most valuable representation has been undermined by the relegation of characters such as Jules and Kat to the show’s periphery. However, this absence has allowed *Euphoria* to provide much-needed exploration of previously understated characters, namely Lexi—a new fan favourite this season. Season 2’s overlapping plots finally boil over in Episodes 7, *The Theatre and Its Double*, and Episode 8, *All My Life, My Heart Has*

Yearned For A Thing I Cannot Name—the season’s final episodes—where Lexi stages a self-referential play chronicling the private lives of herself and her peers. Although the premise of her central episode is entirely unfeasible—UoA student Hannah says, “The most unrealistic part? The budget for Lexi’s play. We all know that high schools don’t give a shit about the Arts Department.”—her character is a rare inclusion of quiet normalcy amidst an ensemble of highly audacious 17-year-olds.

“Lexi feels like a godsend from all the overly gratuitous and impulsive characters in the show,” says Trevor. “It’s nice to see more calm and reserved types of young adults that don’t necessarily indulge in the highs of life, but merely act as passive observers to the going-ons around them.” Trevor continues, “I feel Rue and Lexi are the closest characters where I can see a part of myself being represented on-screen... [They are] a shining diamond of universality amongst the excessive alienating aesthetics of Levinson.” Such overwhelming positivity for *Euphoria*’s sole reserved character reveals our craving for relatability, fatigued by the show’s unwarranted aesthetics and overwhelming subject matter.

Simultaneously, *Euphoria* captures and confuses the young adult experience. Where coming-of-age literature often fails, often exclusively showing the white, cis-hetero experience, *Euphoria* makes some triumphs. In a singular episode, *Euphoria* can explore queer and trans experience, drug use, racial themes, abuse, mental health, and more. Amidst this complexity, maybe moments of inaccuracy can be forgotten. Perhaps, when more media is able to seamlessly integrate such representation, *Euphoria* will not bear the burden of being one of a few nuanced depictions of young adulthood. Until then, its singularity, and resulting responsibility, will continue to elicit criticism for *Euphoria*. *Euphoria*’s Season 2 finale makes it abundantly clear that Levinson understands this gravity.

If Lexi’s play is to be read as a synecdoche of *Euphoria* itself, Levinson ultimately responds, “It could be worse, it could be boring.”



How the Arts Can Make a Difference

ELAM Alumnus Tai Nimo on representation and Tautai's Fundraiser for Tonga



MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

"We're here for each other."

The Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Trust has rallied with a group of Tongan artists, based in Aotearoa, to create the Tautai Tonga Relief Fundraiser. Following the devastation of the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcanic eruption, this initiative looks to raise support for the people of Tonga. The fundraiser closes on the 20th of March, and features a long list of talented artists.

One name in particular stood out for us here at *Craccum*. Tai Nimo, a previous contributor and freshly graduated UoA alumni (she worked hard to kick Summer School's butt), has put forward a striking piece for the Tautai fundraiser. In the lazy hours of a Sunday afternoon, we greeted each other brightly across a Zoom link and chatted about all things *Craccum*, artistic outreach initiatives and the excitement that grows from Tai's creative process.

Reflecting on your time at UoA and ELAM, what kind of lessons and advice would you pass on to students now?

In my degree, we don't necessarily get set up for internships... in the Arts it's quite hard! Making friends outside of my degree was really awesome. Now I have friends that have different opportunities and being able to watch them do that, and to have that network is really awesome. That's also through *Craccum*, meeting everyone and seeing people go off on their own pathways. It was important for me to branch out and meet a mixture of people, and not just stay in the same boat.

You've mentioned that it's a little difficult to get involved in internships through some Arts programs. How did you get involved with Tautai?

I saw a post on their Instagram that said they were having these artist residencies, but all from inside your own house. I knew some people at ELAM who had done it, and when it

came around the next year I thought I would give it a go. I was like, "I have nothing to lose, who cares?" I didn't tell anyone, because I didn't want to get my hopes up in case I didn't get it... it was nice to have that little secret for myself. And then I got an email! It was really exciting.

Can you explain a little bit about the piece that you've chosen to put forward for the fundraiser?

Well, I have this really cool fan.

[Tai wiggles the fan and we both giggle.]

My parents went to Tonga, because they love to go travelling without me while I study. Basically the whole family has gone to the islands without me, which is fine. They brought me back this really cool fan. I looked at the details of how versatile the fan is in the Pacific and how it's used in everyday life, and how it protects us from the sun... real cliché, but I felt like it was still cool and relates to what we're doing.

I don't really have a name for the work, and left it up to interpretation, I guess.

I used more earthy browns and tones like that.

How do you feel about being involved in the fundraiser?

[Being involved] is so cool. Obviously, it's really devastating, and I felt really grateful to be a part of this because it's a way I could contribute and help out. [I could] contribute to something where people can get amongst it, and then have some really cool artwork in their home or office. I felt it was a beautiful idea. It's respectful as well, and they asked us to be mindful of the work we put forward. I'm really grateful to be a part of it.

It's really nice to be able to support the artists as well as the fundraiser itself!

Especially having that with a Pacific gallery driving this. That's really cool.

And have you got to see any other pieces from other artists?

Yes, I have. Obviously, they've put forward Tongan artists who are based in Aotearoa, so it's quite interesting to see the different styles, and how they portray themselves as Tongan through these pieces. That's really awesome, and it's so interesting to see how other people approach it! Such beautiful works—I'm so excited for when they come out because I'm going to get heaps of them too.

That type of self-portrait form seems to be really common in your work!

To be honest, sometimes I don't have a reference, so I have to use myself! I've had comments from people, "that's boring, why would you do yourself? You should use other people?" To me, I'm like, nah, that's more special. I'm letting people into a new world, of how I see myself, and allowing them to see that.

In using so much of yourself, are there moments that feel scary or exciting?

When my first fellowship came out, I had some messages from people like, "Wow, I'm mixed too, and I've never

been able to relate to someone else until I saw your work." I'm not saying that in an arrogant, egotistical way—it was just so nice to hear, because it was like, wow, finally someone actually gets it! For me, that's exciting because it's reaching another audience that didn't feel understood most of the time.

And you've also put forward illustrations for the Ministry of Health campaign too. How do you feel about this space in between your art and initiatives like these?

Yeah, it's almost like a mediator or a bridge. Honestly, I just thought let's do some fun little drawings, and I never thought it would be something as big as this. I've always been super active when it's something I feel compelled about, like racism, or Black Lives Matter. I'm really glad and happy to be involved with that [campaign]. I think it was nice to have that representation out there too, from one of our Pacific mixed kids.

There are heaps of people that are visual learners, and I don't think we were recognising them in this type of education and commercialised art. I've always wanted to be in commercialised

art, advertising, and marketing, because people need to see visually as well. I really believe in the power of visualisation, in that way!

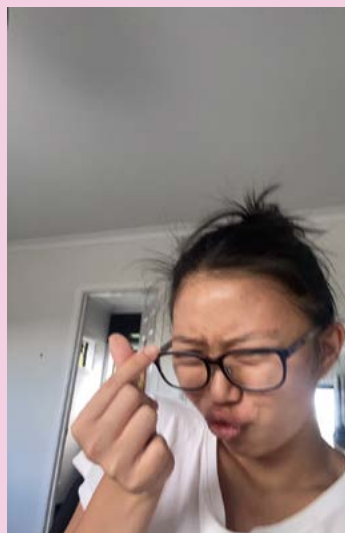
What are your reflections on this Tautai fundraiser?

I think it's a great opportunity to give back to our Pacific brothers and sisters. I think it's important to acknowledge what has happened and to try our best [to support]... if you can. You receive something, when you donate, which you normally don't. [Here], when it comes to supporting Tonga as well as Tongan Aotearoa-based artists, you get to receive a little bit of them. I think that's a really beautiful way of support. We're here for each other.

YOU CAN FIND TAI'S WORK ON HER INSTAGRAM @TAIZ.ART

CHECK OUT THE TAUTAI FUNDRAISER AND PICK UP SOME BEAUTIFUL PRINTS HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.TAUTAI.ORG/NEWS/TAUTAI-CONTEMPORARY-PACIFIC-ARTS-TRUST-COLLABORATES-WITH-AOTEAROA-BASED-TONGAN-ARTISTS-TO-RAISE-FUNDS-FOR-TONGA-RELIEF](https://www.tautai.org/news/tautai-contemporary-pacific-arts-trust-collaborates-with-aotearoa-based-tongan-artists-to-raise-funds-for-tonga-relief)





Self Isolation is Hot: Your *Craccum* Editors' Self-Iso Diaries

No fomo bro!

NANCY GUO, MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY, AND GABBIE DE BARON



Nancy Guo

When I first got close-contacted I was stuck at my mind-numbingly boring summer retail job, hiding (totally inconspicuously) in the changing rooms, killing time on my phone before my much deserved one-hour lunch break. As you can probably already infer, I was obviously the employee of the month. After about 45 minutes of panic, denial, and furious scanning of the COVID-19 government website—it finally became apparent that this was NOT the type of ~positive vibes ~ I initially envisioned and manifested for the month.

When I arrived home, it was time to break the news to my Asian mum. To put it politely, I'd describe my mum as someone with an intense and uh, fiery personality—who also happens to be an active subscriber of WeChat's hypochondriac discourse. So, after making her promise she would NOT have a heart attack, I dropped the truth bomb, emotionally preparing myself

for the chaos that would soon follow. Unsurprisingly, I was given a lengthy and condescending lecture that was backed by citations from her fellow scholars at WeChat University. In my mum's eyes, I had not only personally summoned the disease into my lungs, but also did so with the sole intention of passing it onto her.

Despite having no symptoms, I still had to set up a COVID-19 ward in my bedroom. Armed with enough bottles of strange supplements to put Vitamin C poisoning on my autopsy report and some trusty 15-year-old Tiger Balm (expiration dates are a myth in my family), I was set to be confined to my room for the next four days. Not gonna lie, the FOMO set in pretty quickly—especially since I had to drop out of a three-day Uni club trip to Rotorua. But hey! At least I could now catch up on all the hobbies I had neglected during Summer School!

However, classic me became paranoid very quickly. All of a sudden my throat

kinda tickled. I started getting "hot flashes" and sneezing "more than usual". I leapt to the conclusion that my tiredness must be a result of Covid fatigue and not because I only got five hours of sleep that day! Sadly, this weird anxiety lasted 'til I got a RAT. After weeping like a pussy when I had to nose swab myself (I have sensitive tear ducts okay)—you bet I was THANKING my lucky stars that I was negative.

Here's the part where you're probably expecting me to say that I was super productive with my time. Nope. I sowed wheat on Farmville, swung on a swing (masked) by myself at the playground while little kids watched on with pity and actively avoided cleaning my room. I did however finally get around to watching the *Before* film trilogy and AHH I HAVE NEVER FELT SO SIMULTANEOUSLY EMPTY AND ALIVE IN MY LIFE. The series is BRILLIANT. Would highly recommend watching if you find yourself in self-iso or just any time for that matter.



For everyone currently isolating—don't feel obliged to be productive. Being by yourself is already hard enough. You can get through this!!!

Gabbie De Baron

Self-isolation is what hot girls do. I guess the fact that three of us on our *Craccum* team—of eleven people—were self-isolating at the same time, is just a sign of the times, honestly. I was stuck in MIQ from February 9 to 17, because midway through, the government decided to turn my 10-day quarantine to 7; as long as she had a negative result, and this bitch did. The government really said: 'She'll be alright' and she was fine asf!

So, that meant I could attend my uncle-slash-cousin's wedding (he's an uncle that's my age), whom I adore! But behold, there was a positive case in the wedding, and my two-day freedom streak plummeted; I was back into isolation. For background context: in early January of 2022, my family and I already caught the Omicron variant in The Philippines. So, we isolated for about three weeks and it was testing galore. So, to say that last week was my third isolation of the year? In mid-February? Bonkers, but hopefully it's an end to this whole Covid series.

But this third isolation was pretty fun.

Isolations are generally easy for me. I've grown to my introvertedness, and it helps me take time to just crochet and watch dumb shit, like the wreck that is *Emily In Paris*. It also helped that I was coming from my summer back in The Philippines, and I needed to settle back into my Auckland flat. It helped that other members in my family were isolating too; some sort of sense-of-community being built, I guess. I did miss the fact that I couldn't go out to the beach, considering the weather was so nice, but my bed provided the same amount of comfort anyway. I also got downtime to make money on Depop! So, win-win.

Madeleine Crutchley

Oh, the sweet sound of a Covid App ring. After a rocky few days of potential Covid exposure, it was confirmed via an extremely rude push notification. I was thrust back into lockdown mode, ready to have some unscheduled sleep-ins and attempt to expel health anxieties via movies and hugs.

Due to the long months we spent in Level 4 and 3 last year, I've sort of honed in on what my ideal isolation entails. Going into those seven days, I knew I needed to establish some sort of routine, dedicate some specific time to work, stay out of bed during those hours, and reserve some time

for no screens. Did I do all of that successfully? Definitely not. I tried my best. I was active on my emails and slumped at my desk for a few hours a day (nothing stops for *Craccum* deadlines), but also allowed myself time to just chill out. I was bummed to be missing out on some catch-ups with friends and events I had planned out, so I definitely allowed myself some time to be glum too.

However, I did get some lovely time to work on my 'grandma hobbies' as my loved ones like to call them. I busted out my long neglected knitting, cracked into some dusty board games, and tried playing some Pétanque (just kidding, that last one is not real). Good news is I'm halfway through my scarf, and might even get it finished for this winter. Bad news is my partner has seen more of my scary and grumpy competitive side: "BABE, you HAVE to say 'Uno!' It doesn't count otherwise!!!"

Thankfully, no Covid had squirmed its way into our immune systems, and we'll go on to fight this virus some other day. While I won't be jumping at the opportunity to return to isolation again, I'm grateful for the time I got to spend with my partner, right before uni steps in to kick our butts. It did take a long six days to get my PCR back though, so I will not send that energy on to anyone out there still waiting on their own.

Spending Sugar Daddy Phil Goff's \$\$\$\$: Exploring Tāmaki Makaurau Vouchers

Phil has Goff your weekend plans covered xoxo

NANCY GUO



It's no secret that everyone fucking hates Aucklanders. Hell, we give all of our suburbs silly pet names like 'Newy', 'Manix', 'Taka', and a personal fave, 'Titters' (coined by the lovely people of Titirangi, of course). Even Aucklanders can't stand Aucklanders. The next time I'm fortunate enough to flee this sad dump of a place—you best bet I'm telling everyone that I hail from cool artsy Wellington.

But, in our (measly) defence, we've been through a lot. From the skyrocketing housing market, long lockdowns, the shit show that is AT Transport, to the existence of Grammar boys—Auckland has endured many crises. Luckily, our dashing and generous mayor Phil Goff decided us Jaffas needed a special treat after being brave little girls for so long. On December 15, 2021, the "Explore Tāmaki Makaurau" Voucher programme officially launched, allowing Aucklanders to register for the chance to receive one of 100,000 vouchers that could cover or contribute towards the cost of an experience at an Auckland attraction. The vouchers would be randomly allocated through four monthly draws from January to March.

Winners can choose from an eclectic range of experiences. You've got your classic options like mini-golf and Rainbow's End, but also a few more indie picks too. Ever fancied spending an hour with a car bro skrrt skrrting around Auckland in a Lamborghini

for \$799? With an individual voucher, Phil will cover a whopping 15% of your modest bill! If riding with Chad as he zooms around at break-neck speeds while mansplaining his Bitcoin stocks isn't quite your cup of tea—there's also the option to be ushered to the Clevedon Village Farmers Sunday Market in a luxury vehicle. I know what I'm doing on the Lord's Day!



But enough of me taking the piss. The fact that the campaign subsidises or even fully covers the cost of individuals and families taking part in a fun activity is pretty noteworthy. Especially after last year's lengthy lockdowns and the current rise in the cost of living—we're all deprived of disposable income and outdoor leisure.

Doris, for example, was able to use her individual voucher to score a standup paddleboarding session at

Mission Bay with a friend. She found that the booking website not only had many experiences she wanted to try, it was also really easy to use. The only downside was that many of the options, like the wine tours, are quite pricey and out of the student budget, even when the voucher was factored in.

Jenna won a family voucher and went to see the Kaipara sculpture garden in a group of six. She thought the experience was fun but would not have attended if she had to pay with her own money. Jenna also believed that the voucher "wasn't really worth it" for bigger families as most activities were priced \$60 and up and required a minimum booking of three individuals. Although the website offered off-peak tickets, the discount only applied to one ticket and the booking times were during school hours, hardly "appropriate for family time".

Hayley won an individual voucher but decided not to cash it in. She found that the restriction of two weeks to book was too short of a timeframe. The options were also too similar—many of the more "attractive" options were quickly booked out, leaving choices she wasn't too keen on. She states that she will likely book something anyway with her parent's voucher.

For students, it seems like while the Exploring Tāmaki Makaurau vouchers is a mixed bag, it's still worth checking out. So, with the campaign's final draw of winners this month—be sure to keep an eye out in your inbox for Phil's goodies!



Where I take a headline from “The Onion” and write an objectively finer article



SOPHIE SUN

“World Leaders Vow Regular People Just Trying To Live Their Lives Will Bear The Consequences” – The Onion, 24/02/22.

In defence of Ukrainian Twitter, memes are a perfectly valid coping mechanism. During history in high school, I used to always wonder why people never did anything before majorly devastating events. Then I realised that I get paid a whole lot of nothing to stress out about a whole lot of life-altering stuff. Part of me gets why Putin feels the need to invade Ukraine because it's a whole lot of NATO involved bureaucratic power play. But at the same time, I don't even tell hospitality staff when they get my food order wrong. As a relatively normal twenty-something year old with a fun-sized sprinkling of trauma, I would much rather sit and drink the most disgusting coffee in my life than disturb a minimum-wage worker. So, you can probably tell that I will not be invading a neighbouring country anytime soon.

That's the kinda fucked up thing about governments. Ultimately, they're hierarchical and as much as Politics 109 students want to argue Rousseau's common good—world leaders will never experience the consequences of their actions as directly as the people they govern. I know Jacinda probably doesn't shop at Kmart, but I'm just saying if she did, ma'am would not have had to line up for 45 minutes or wait two months for her online order to be delivered.

The pandemic is that classic action

movie trope where the main character looks at the camera and asks, “What's the worst that could happen?”. Only Putin has become some hairless version of Lord Farquaad, and everything is really expensive (sidenote: \$2.80/L for petrol?????). Also, no one has dental insurance yet. Even though Aotearoa is comparatively progressive in offering equal rights and opportunities, we are not immune to the capitalist guilt-tripping of individuals. Whether it comes to environmentalism or literal warfare, there's some kind of messed up thinking that blames the people as opposed to the world leaders in charge. Sure, buying a bamboo toothbrush or reusable metal straw will lower your individual carbon impact and save some poor sea turtle from living a life on a ventilator, but ultimately you are only responsible for a teeny-weeny fraction of the blame.

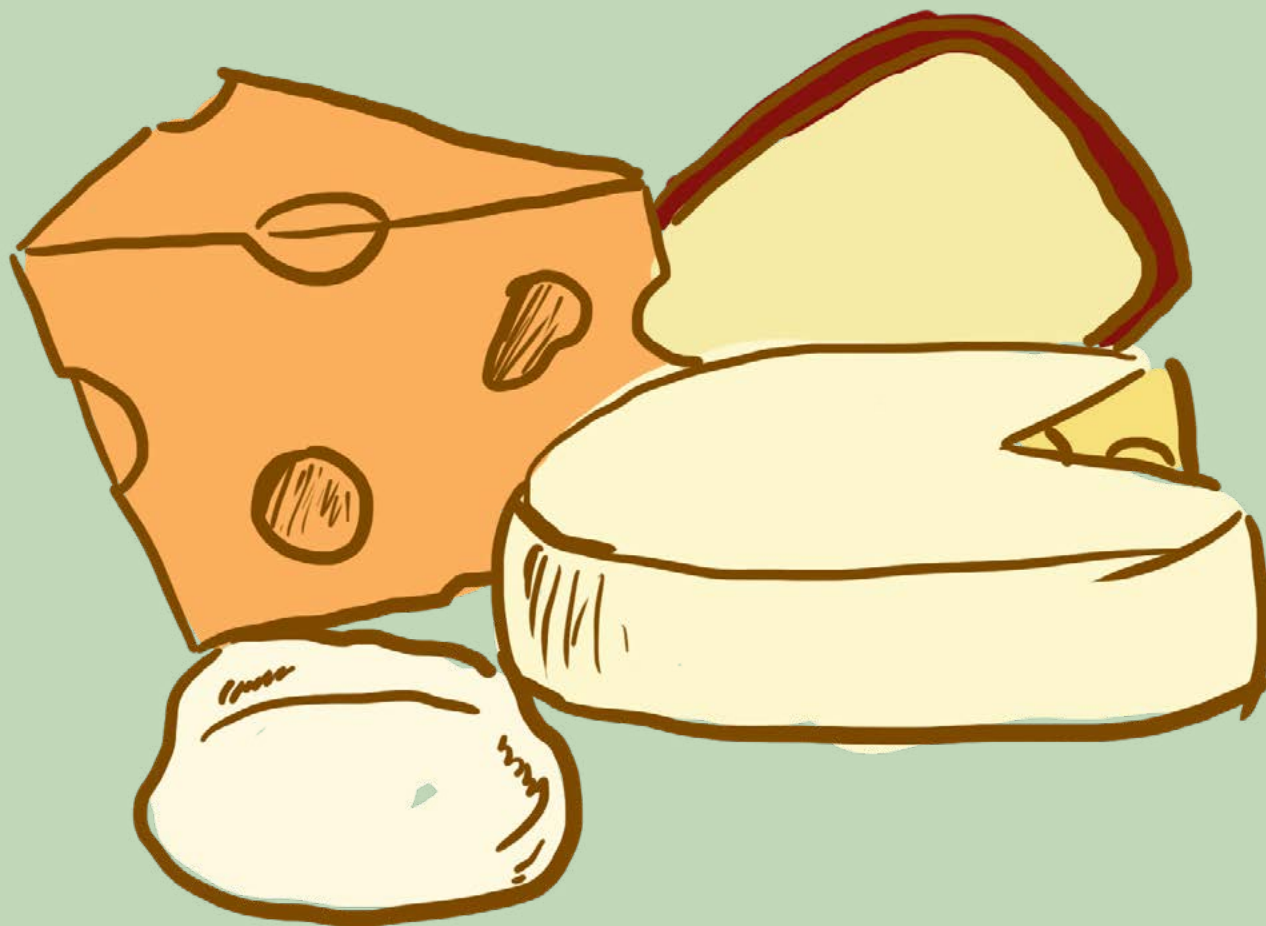
Similarly, you are not responsible for the war in Ukraine even if you went to Europe that one time and made that one communist Russia joke to fit in with the Reddit guys in high school. The rise of technology and social media makes it so easy to be up-to-date, but sometimes we overwhelm ourselves with all the available information. It's important to differentiate between the institute and the individual. Unless you're Vladimir Putin himself, the

nuclear arming of Russian missiles is hardly your fault. And if you are Vladimir Putin, idk bro. There's got to be better things you can do than reading the rambling thoughts of some Auckland University magazine.

There's a lot happening in the world right now. Yes, you're the main character of your own life. But also, you're not responsible for everyone else's. Separate the idea of you as an individual from any and every organisation or group you belong to and make sure to keep yourself as your number one priority. Mental self-care and sticking it to the man (or woman) has never been this sexy.

Donkey's conclusion: Take a nap bestie, you deserve it.





\$18 Blocks of Cheese: Rising Cost of Living For Students

SZA, gouda days are not on our mind right now

NANCY GUO



Even if you aren't lactose intolerant, a 1 kg Countdown block of cheese's hefty price tag of \$18.50 is enough to make anyone's stomachs churn. My milk-rejecting genes must be a secret blessing from my frugal Asian ancestors who were probably just trying to save me an hour's worth of pay every week.

Of course, cheese is just the tip of the iceberg. Increasing costs in food, fuel, rent, tuition fees, in combination with stagnant wages, has made being alive in New Zealand more and more fucking expensive. As students, the majority of us work part-time jobs that pay minimum wage (or a few pennies over) to cover the cost of our existence. Not

only are most students paid the legal bare minimum, but the pandemic has made it more difficult to find part-time work. In a recent Stuff article, the New Zealand Union of Student Associations President Andrew Lessels states many of the jobs students typically work "have dried up because of Covid. Hospitality is bleeding, and we are seeing a lot of job losses across the scale" (Ruru, 2022).

Many of us also supplement our income by begging for Studylink's meagre handouts—sitting for hours on the phone as our ears are tortured with the same five-song loop or having to re-confirm that yes, my parents have not gotten back together, every single year.

From April 1, Finance Minister Grant Robertson announced that both the student allowance and living costs will increase by \$25 per week. While this increase is expected to benefit 63,000 student allowance recipients and 86,000 student loan living cost borrowers, the new amount has minimal impact on the financial burden many students carry.¹ Implementing a blanket increase for Studylink's financial aid is hardly reflective or supportive of the diversity of students' financial needs, responsibilities and backgrounds. And not everyone qualifies for student allowance entitlements or wants to take out living costs.

For young people that live away from home or are financially independent from their parents, the pressure to make ends meet is particularly significant. Candice, a recent graduate who is now living alone in Tauranga feels that the rising cost of living is not confined to Auckland. Despite working three jobs and receiving a salary, she feels that the increasing cost of food and fuel significantly impacts how she budgets every week. Over the past fortnight, Candice noticed that her grocery bill has almost doubled. To compensate for this spike, she has taken cost-reducing measures like buying cereal for breakfast instead of the nutritious, but more expensive option of eggs.

Abby, an Education student who has moved out from her family home in Auckland, says that her "overall budgeting has plummeted" due to the skyrocketing prices of fuel and food. This is particularly stressful as her "payday has stayed the same", but her expenses have only increased. Abby also feels that "trying to pay for uni without a loan is becoming more impossible" and that it "almost feels like the government is pushing for people to take loans for students to make life easier."

Dennis, a Design student who lives in a granny flat by their parental home, feels that buying takeaways may be a more viable option once you factor in

the preparation time and the expensive cost of groceries that goes into cooking home-made meals. They now buy frozen fruit instead of fresh fruit as a cost-reducing measure. For Dennis, they feel that their situation "is much better", in comparison to many of their friends who are forced to live paycheck to paycheck.

However, young people still living in their parental homes are not exempt from financial burden either.

JJ, who lives in a single parent household has found that their pay is not enough to bulk buy groceries. This has resulted in them having to make frequent trips to the supermarket to top up. Over time, they have also noticed that their pay covers less and less food, making "it hard as fuck to get by and just eat everyday."

For students in courses where full time practicum and placements are mandatory—their financial struggles have not only increased with inflation, but often go unnoticed.

Jules, a third-year student nurse, says that during hospital placements, students are virtually "unable to work during the week". During her last placement period, she recalls being rostered on for 8 hour long shifts, 5 days a week, often with early morning starts or late night finishes. On top of the full time schedule, Jules says that nursing students still needed to juggle studying 2-3 papers—making part time work on the weekend especially difficult. Fortunately, she was able to work part-time as a healthcare assistant for income. However, Jules notes that her paid work as an HCA was a much "lighter load than placement work."

While Jules feels that placements were "easier" for her as she did not have many personal financial responsibilities—costs like paying "\$20 a shift for parking" and spending "\$80 in fuel to drive to the hospital every week" added up significantly. She recalls that some students studied or even slept overnight in their cars to save on parking costs.

For students in courses where full time practicum and placements are mandatory—their financial struggles have not only increased with inflation, but often go unnoticed.

For nursing students with children, placement periods were particularly stressful. Many of Jules' peers who were mothers often relied on their partners for financial support and childcare due to the long and inconvenient shift times.

Given the rising cost of living, it is extremely unethical and exploitative that students on placements are not compensated for weeks of full-time work. This isn't even about morality, it's an issue of equity.

But regardless if your living costs are supported by Studylink, earnings from a part-time job, or even both—it's clear that with the increasing prices of basic necessities, many students are struggling financially. Especially with barriers like full-time placements and Studylink's eligibility requirements for financial aid, it can feel like we've been left to fend for ourselves.

So, if you've got a mate who seems like they're stressed out because of bills, it doesn't cost anything to lend them a supportive shoulder. While we can't stop blocks of cheese at the supermarket from retailing for the price of your first-born child, what we can do is be there for one another.

References

¹STUFF, 01.03.22, "STUDENT ALLOWANCE TO INCREASE BY \$25PW, BUT STUDENTS STILL 'JUST SCRAPING BY'".

Abby also feels that "trying to pay for uni without a loan is becoming more impossible" and that it "almost feels like the government is pushing for people to take loans for students to make life easier."

Do *You* Have What It Takes to Be a Business Student?

B stands for bigheads, bullies, and basic bitches. Mix that all up and you get UoA's business students. You've got your finance bros, wannabe influencers, case comp connoisseurs, girlbosses, and people who didn't know what to study in uni so they just picked the default option of business. Regardless of which business students you unfortunately encounter on Piazza or campus, they're all just as cold and bland as their stomping ground—the OGGB building.

But do YOU have what it takes to be a business student? Take the quiz below to find out! (Spoiler alert: you probably do, there's a reason why they're so abundant)

What is inflation?

- A. No idea! Why can't we just print more money, I don't get it...
- B. Great for the economy! Idgaf about poor people!
- C. A type of bouncy castle

What is Elon Musk best known for?

- A. Being the ugly ex bf of Grimes
- B. Uh, the mans is a GENIUS AND GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD! I KISS MY LIFE-SIZED PLUSHIE OF HIM GOODNIGHT EVERY DAY BEFORE BED! ELON, YOU ARE MY IDOL AND THE LOVE OF MY LIFE <3333
- C. A rare type of deer???

What is profit?

- A. As daddy Karl Marx would say, PROFIT IS THE APPROPRIATED SURPLUS VALUE REMAINING AFTER THE CAPITALIST PAYS WAGES
- B. My life's purpose! It forms the heart of my morals and values :))
- C. Profiteroles??? Yum! It's a French dessert pastry ball with whipped cream inside!

How do you feel about tax?

- A. TAX THE RICH!!!
- B. It's something I actively evade.
- C. Taxidermy? Not gonna lie, it's kinda weird that we stuff dead animal skin like we run a Build a Bear factory or something...

What does your wardrobe look like?

- A. I try to buy clothing that reflects and accentuates my personality!
- B. Patagonia vests. Navy blue suits from Hallensteins. Oh and shorts year round.
- C. It's around 70 cm deep and 2 meters long! It's also complete with rainbow hangers from Kmart!

Results

Mostly As

PHEW! What a SIGH OF RELIEF! You do not have what it takes to be a business student. Go ahead and count your lucky stars!

Mostly Bs

As part of your initiation into the Business school, we present you with your official sense of entitlement! Congrats!

Mostly Cs

Bestie, I'm worried. But hey! At least you're exempt from studying something that no one (including the lecturers) enjoys!

WORD SEARCH

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

EUPHORIA
 FRESHERS
 SWINDLER
 ZOOM
 OWEK
 BREAKTHEBIAS
 EXPLORE
 FAECETHROWING
 BOOSTER
 EOMO
 ISOLATION

PLAY THIS PUZZLE ONLINE AT :

[HTTPS://THEWORDSEARCH.COM/PUZZLE/3357172/](https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/3357172/)

SUDOKU

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

HOROSCOPES

This week *Craccum's* **Polly Prophet** has been protecting her psyche from the scary outside world. She has been self-isolating in her bath, and drinking box wine until she resembles a Sunmaid prune. Gazing into the future is an exhausting business! All donations to the *Craccum* office of Tatcha skincare and Dyson Airwraps are accepted during this tumultuous time.

ARIES

Think carefully about your decisions this week as there may be serious (ram)ifications on the horizon... see what I did there my little sheep! Do not act like first-year boys at halls. Utilise your prefrontal cortexes. They're there for a reason.



TAURUS

My sweet Tories you are not important enough to take 3-5 business days to reply to your messages. And yes, I did just refer to you as a Tory. There's just something about your flaky tendencies that strangely resemble Boris Johnson's untameable flyaways...



GEMINI

Just like your two-faced personality, the near future looks riddled with contradictions. Expect mood fluctuations and cryptic texts to be heading your way. Have fun deciphering the universe's confusing signs! Maybe you'll finally experience how the other astrological signs feel figuring you out.



CANCER

You precious souls have, alas, yet another week of melancholy ahead. It seems the stars have chosen you as their designated punching bag this month. As much as I would love to send positive vibes to my sensitive little crabs this week, given the current worldly climate, that may not be appreciated...



LEO

From my wine problem to the rest of the universe's burdens, there seems to be one common denominator... yes, it is indeed you, my furry friends. So, spare your loved ones a little less obnoxiousness this week, and the higher powers will reward you in the near future... maybe.



VIRGO

Virgo darlings, my thrifted crystal ball has conjured up a few bad omens! Err on the side of caution, stay vigilant, and if someone tosses you salt at the dinner table, make sure it flies over your left shoulder...



LIBRA

I sense a lot of garbage floating around in my visions this week my Libras. The stars are calling for you to Marie Kondo that stubborn emotional baggage... After all, isn't it a bit early in the year to be on an episode of Hoarders?



SCORPIO

Sexy scorpions, alas, it is time to stop brooding in your horny corners of angst. Bright and happy days await you, I see big opportunities just outside the door... if only you'll crawl out of those man caves and grab them with your clammy claws!



SAGGITARIUS

Unfortunately, I bring unlucky news my archers. The crystal ball predicts a week of responsibility and self-control—two attributes I know are particularly challenging for you toddlers to implement. But, I have faith that you can resist eating your gluestick this week.



CAPRICORN

Cappies, get ready for another week of gaslighting, gatekeeping, and girlbossing. The lecturers can hear your \$80 acrylic nails tapping away on that loud ass keyboard before class has even started! Remember it's okay to take a break, your loved ones sure need one.



AQUARIUS

During these ~unprecedented~ times, your humanitarian spirit may be deflated. You may feel a sense of defeat. Hopelessness in the future of humanity. And that's okay, that's exactly how I feel. Let's hope next week is a little less gloomy.



PISCES

You are no ordinary girl from the deep blue underworld. This week the world is your oyster! Embrace all the spontaneous thoughts and ideas swimming around in that brain. It's time to manifest your goals and the universe will do the rest...



RED BULL PAPER WINGS.

WHO CAN REALISE DA VINCI'S DREAM OF FLYING?



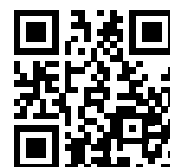
NATIONAL QUALIFIERS 14th - 22nd MARCH 2022

Calling all paper engineers and aerialists for the paper plane world championship.

Sign up now and compete with your very own
paper plane for longest distance, longest airtime and aerobatics.

Find out more at:

redbullpaperwings.com



Your COVID-19 walk-through



Got symptoms? Cough, sneezing and runny nose, fever, sore throat, temporary loss of taste, shortness of breath.

No

Unless you are a household contact, there is no need to get a test.



Yes – get tested

Order a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) online at RequestRats.Covid19.health.nz or get one from a participating local pharmacy, GP or testing centre. Take your RAT test.

No

If you test negative but have symptoms, stay at home and test again 24 hours later. If you test negative again and still have symptoms, contact a health professional for support.



Yes

Tested positive?

Report your result

Enter your positive RAT result at **My COVID Record** or call 0800 222 478.

You'll get a text within 24 hours with further info and support.

Isolate with your household

Your whole household needs to isolate. Food and supplies must be delivered contactlessly.

Your household needs to get tested too

Find info on tests for household contacts at Covid19.govt.nz/household

Monitor your symptoms

For most people, COVID-19 will cause mild to moderate symptoms that can be managed at home. If symptoms get worse, call Healthline for advice on 0800 358 5453.

If it's an emergency call 111 immediately.

Yes

They need to report their result and restart their isolation period from the day of the result. If you've already tested positive, or you tested negative after the initial isolation period, you don't need to isolate longer.

Did someone in your household test positive?

No

You can all leave iso at the same time.

Extra support

If you need extra support while you're self-isolating, you may be able to get money to pay for urgent and essential costs, like food, medicine and some bills.

COVID-19 leave support

If you're an employee who can't work from home while self-isolating, talk to your employer about applying for the Leave Support Scheme to help pay you.

Financial support

Call Work and Income's COVID welfare line on 0800 512 337, 8am–8pm, 7 days a week. You do not need to be getting a benefit.

Thank you for helping keep yourself and others safe.
For more information, head to Covid19.govt.nz/positive