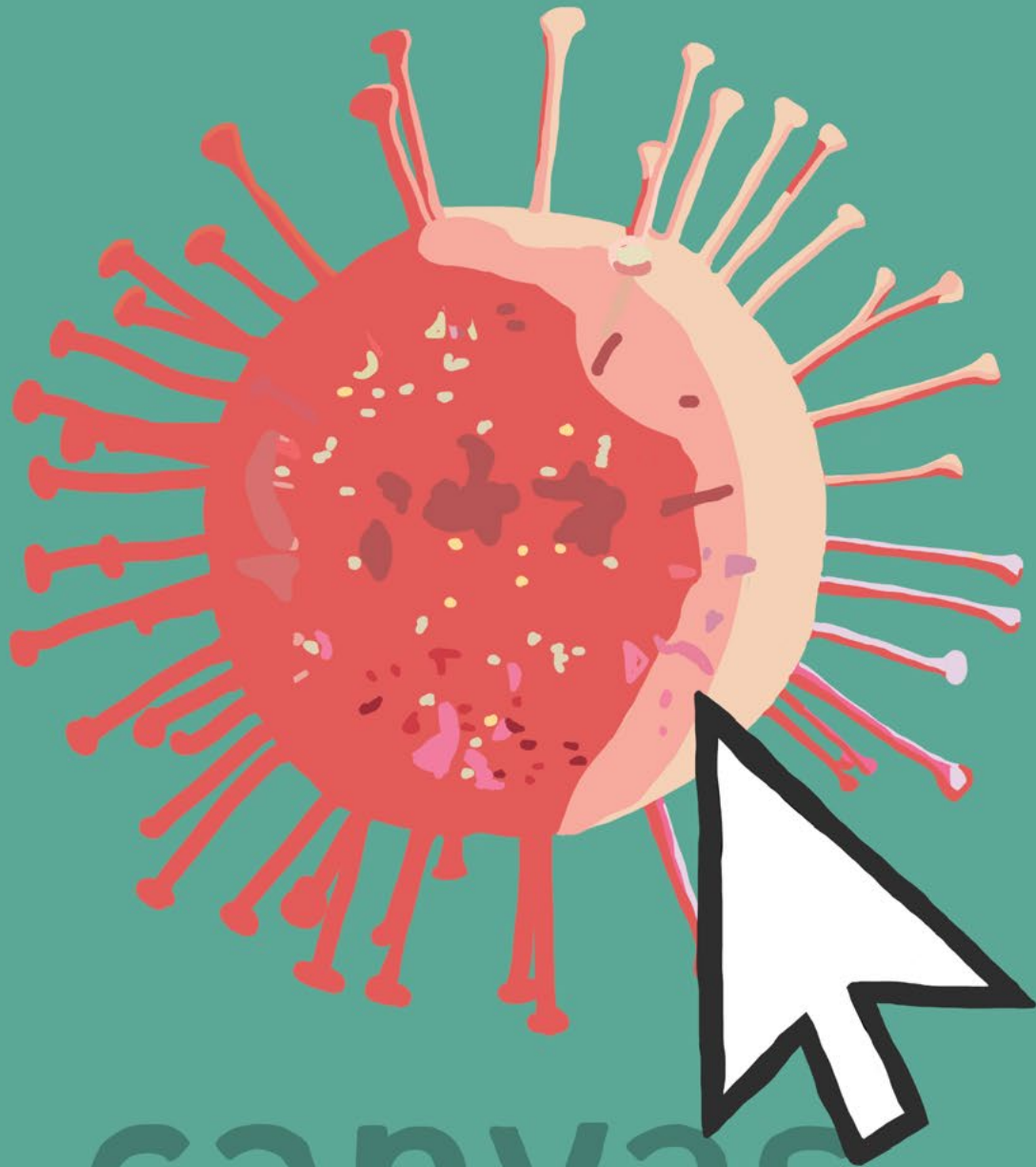


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ISSUE 04, 2020



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How Would Online Classes Actually Work?

It's looking like the university will cancel in-person classes - but what does this mean for you? Daniel Meech answers your burning questions. PAGE 14.

The Cursed Tik Tok of Time

Hey, it can't all be COVID-19 related. Madeleine Crutchley explains the science behind the app's addictive nature. PAGE 16.

Toilet Reviews

COVID-19 got you peeing your pants? Deb Rawson rounds up the best shit holes on campus. PAGE 32.

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Isolated

Cam Says:

The word isolated always makes me think of the Arctic. I'm not sure if it's just a cold sounding word or if I generally have some weird childhood memory tied to that but isolation makes me think of igloos and polar bears. If I was Co-Star (which I'm not), I might say that it's because I'm an extrovert, and the idea of being isolated doesn't quite resonate with my being. Alternatively, I could just be real and say I chat a lot and the idea of being left on my own for too long with my own thoughts makes me feel a bit depressed.

Isolation in itself is a strange concept for humans. We observe solitary living in other animals, but we humans aren't meant to live on our own. We live in complex networks of tribes, families, hapū, iwi, communities, work families, and chosen families. We seek others to bring us company, laughter, and comfort. We seek others to avoid isolation and so when we are made to isolate, we can then struggle

As I write this editorial I am packing my bags to move out of my home for two weeks. Two of the people I live with are returning from overseas travel that has been cut drastically short and they will take over the house to self isolate. I should specify that whilst it isn't a requirement that I move out, as a household we decided this would be best. It's a strange feeling, made only better by the large glass of wine I'm sinking to handle what is otherwise stressful and short notice.

Isolation is a strange - but essential - part of how we as humans deal with the ongoing pandemic around us. Please look out for one another, check in with your families.

Kia Kaha,
Cam



Dan Says:

I'll admit it: I was wrong.

Two weeks ago, a friend of mine asked me if I thought COVID-19 would change anything in our day-to-day lives. I looked them square in the eyes and told them they'd be crazy to think anything would be different.

Lol.

Since I made that grand pronouncement, the government has introduced mandatory self-isolation for all travellers, airlines have started closing down international flights, the 500-person rule has been announced, and a school in Dunedin has been forced to shut-down. Oh, and the number of cases in New Zealand has sky-rocketed from four to twenty-eight.

I think I've comprehensively proven I'm a terrible guesser. And yet, I'm going to predict one last thing: I really do think that by the time you read this, the university will have been closed. If I'm right, that probably means you're in some form of self-isolation. You're probably reading this from home, lying on the couch, or in bed, counting down the days until lockdown is lifted.

Normally, I'd make fun of this. I'd throw some jokes in - some shit about being careful to lock the door before you wank, or about how it's important to leave a fire screensaver burning on the Kate Edgar computers before you leave (you wouldn't want to lose your seat, after all). But it feels weird to joke right now. It's a strange and stressful time. Whenever I go to write something funny, I remember: people have died. People are stressed. People are being laid off, and cut off from family, and having their plans for the year cancelled and dismembered and destroyed.

So yeah. This week there aren't any jokes. Just a real, and sincere message: look after yourself. Look after the people around you. Not just in terms of washing your hands - although you should be doing that too - but mentally, emotionally too. If you are at home, stay mentally active. Keep in contact with your friends and family. Don't be afraid to reach out.

And keep your eyes on the Craccum facebook page. That's not a shameless plug; I'm serious. I have the feeling things are going to be changing quickly - and I promise we'll try to keep everyone as up-to-date as we can.

Cheers,
Dan

It's a wild time we live in, isn't it?

Who would have thought that 2020 would usher in a global pandemic that would sweep the world and all of our lives by storm? Well, other than Bill Gates four years ago?

As I'm sure it's been for you too, Covid-19 is everywhere I go. In its my news-feed, it's in my email inbox, it's the topic of all conversations. And, much like I imagine it has been for you too, it's ruining what sliver of a romantic life I have – Book of Mormon tickets from my Partner for my Birthday? No ma'am they said to her, they've had to cancel the show. Why? Covid-19.

In all honesty though – I'm exceptionally privileged. The disruption of Covid-19 in my life has (so far) been nowhere near what it has been for those in China, Italy, Iran and countless other places. I'm fortunate to have somewhere warm to stay during that impending lockdown people have been worrying about today (Thursday, March 19th) and so far, we have toilet paper.

I usually try to give a bit of an update in terms of what AUSA's doing but to be honest with you, the honest answer is we're not entirely sure. This week has been devoted to ensuring that all the essential services we provide (our Advocacy service, our Welfare Grants, our Class Reps System) are still capable of being operated online and remotely in the event that the University might have to shut down. And actually, I'm pleased to say that we'll meet that challenge and be able to deliver those services, as well as this, online.

The main thing I really want to talk to you about is looking after yourself. I am by no means an expert and it's definitely a case of "do as I say, not as I do" with me but I think that's the most important thing we can be doing for ourselves (and by extension, each other) at this time. You'll hate me but I have to say this first – wash your freaking hands. I know it's a cliché and I know you know this and I know that the Craccum Editors have probably already written this in their Editorials (damnit!) but it's so important you do this and it's so important that you're on others to do the same. We need to remember that Covid-19 isn't just a scary cold, it's a public health problem too. The true danger is that too many of us contract it and that suddenly the health care system we have is overrun, with those who could have been helped not being helped early enough or at all. So please, do what you need to in order to exercise health and safety best practice.

More broadly though, I think a big challenge for all of us in particular, as an age bracket that is fortunately less susceptible to the crueler symptoms of Covid-19, is keeping up mental wellbeing in an age of self-isolation and social distancing. We might be the generation most adept to do things online and remotely through our devices but we're also a generation that's doing it tough with our mental health and wellbeing and self-isolation may only make it tougher. I wish I had better advice for this one but the only tips I really have are (1) keep in contact with

people, share the memes around and try make yourself laugh at least once a day (2), video chat someone every once in a while (especially if you're in self-isolation) over messaging and (3) accept that it's OK to NOT be OK. The world around us is literally crazy at the moment and it's ok to be overwhelmed by it. What's not ok though is to keep that to yourself – the best thing about venting is that you can just get it off your chest and once you've done that, you will feel peace.

I've rambled for longer than usual this time but the key thing is to look after yourself during these crazy times, to reach out for help and yes, to wash those bloody hands.

Catch you by the Hand Sanitiser station,
George



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Exchanges Axed out of COVID-19 Fears

JUSTIN WONG

All University of Auckland exchanges for Semesters 1 and 2 have been cancelled, as the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide surged past 210,000 and the New Zealand government imposed more stringent travel restrictions.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced on the 14th March that every person entering New Zealand from anywhere in the world, except the Pacific, would be required to self-isolate for 14 days, while cruise ships were banned from entering the country until at least the end of June.

As of the time of writing, there have been 217,004 confirmed COVID-19 infections.

New Zealand has twenty-eight positive cases as of last Thursday, with the majority previously having travelled overseas in Australia, Europe and North America. Twelve cases are reported in Auckland, while the rest are spread around the Waikato, Canterbury, Otago, Southland, Taranaki and Wellington regions.

France, Italy, Malaysia and Spain have been placed in lockdown, while travel restrictions were imposed all around the globe.

In an email sent to students on the 15th March, the University said all students who are on exchange overseas are required to return to New Zealand immediately, while those who are on personal travel overseas are urged to return to the country as soon as possible. This follows about 70 Auckland medical students being recalled from their overseas work placements earlier this month.

An university spokesperson told *Craccum* last Wednesday that out of 148 students on overseas exchange, 43 were returning or had returned, 40 were still deciding, and they do not know the status for the remaining 65.

They also said some of those who returned may be able to re-enrol into the semester in Auckland, while some will study online with their host universities. However, some will lose this semester altogether. One student who applied for a Semester Two exchange to Asia said the decision was disappointing because they lost an opportunity and funding to make it happen.

"I had a Prime Minister's Scholarship Award (\$6800) and the Exchange

Award (\$1800). Because of the limitations of my degree, I cannot defer my exchange and I have to withdraw. Some students have already made preparations for the exchange by shaping their degree. It will impact how their study will go."

"Ultimately, I think it is a good decision by the university because the outbreak is out of control and 360 International is giving enough support for students."

One exchange student from the United States said they were returning home despite their home university having an option allowing them to apply to stay in New Zealand, saying they would rather be in isolation with their families than alone here.

The University has also confirmed to *Craccum* in a statement that "a number" of students have been tested for COVID-19, but all have returned negative at the editorial deadline.

The government announced last Monday gatherings of more than 500 people are banned to slow the spread of the virus and reduce the number of people affected. However, universities and schools were exempt, and told to await instructions from the Ministry of Education.

The statement said the university will follow the protocols of the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) if there is a positive case and it has detailed contingency plans in place to respond to different situations.

As of last Thursday, it does not have plans to suspend in-person classes.

Craccum understands that the university has a number of lectures with more than 500 students enrolled, including first year law, health science and engineering classes. Several students have reported being told by teaching staff that faculties have begun to prepare for an online-only teaching environment.

However, graduation ceremonies in May have been cancelled. The university said more ceremonies will be added to the September graduations, and graduands can choose graduating in absentia in April or deferring their graduation to a later date.

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

New Student Accommodation Development Receives Resource Consent

ELLA MORGAN

A new university accommodation development at 28-38 Stanley Street has received resource consent.

The building will comprise of ten stories, feature a central courtyard and will be host to retail space at ground level. The development will be located beside the existing Carlaw Park Student Village, one of the university's accommodation facilities for undergraduate and postgraduate students in their second year onwards.

According to architects Ashton Mitchell, the Stanley Street Development will house 203 apartments, with 903 bedrooms.

A spokesperson for the university confirmed the building will serve as a third section of Carlaw Park Student Village, and is planned to open in February 2023. The accommodation will be a self-catered residence, and will house returning undergraduate students as well as graduate students and older students who are not school leavers.

"It's a 10-storey building designed around a central courtyard comprising recreation facilities (volleyball and petanque courts, table tennis tables), outdoor seating, decking, a fresco kitchen and barbecue facilities

on recycled brick paving," says university spokesperson Lisa Finucane.

"The communal spaces around the perimeter of the courtyard will include a reception and waiting area, music and games rooms, the laundry, study and lounge spaces, bike storage and toilets."

Carlaw Park Student Village is currently the university's largest built-for-purpose accommodation facility for students who are not school leavers. The facility is home to just under 700 residents, according to the University of Auckland website.

Two to four bedroom apartments house students who live with flat-mates, while two and three bedroom apartments are available to students with children and other family members.

The new development comes at a time when large-scale construction and renovation is taking place on and around campus. This year the university opened a new accommodation facility, Te Tirohanga o te Tōangaroa at 128 Anzac Avenue. The building houses non-school leavers in individual rooms and provides a number of communal living spaces. The Recreation Centre also relocated to 70 Stanley Street at the beginning of this semester as development of the new Recreation and Wellness Centre begins.

University's Annual Report Likely to Shed Light on Māori Achievement

ELLA MORGAN

The University of Auckland is expected to release its annual report this month, which will include information on the achievement of Māori students in 2019.

The overall course completion rate for domestic University of Auckland students was 88.4% in 2018. Course completion rates for Māori students experienced a slight decline from 85.1% to 84.6%. The completion rates of Māori students for first-year courses also dropped to 77.8%.

The 2018 annual report details how Review Committees suggested the “inclusion of Māori and Pacific principles and content” as a future action to be undertaken by the university.

The Ministry of Education makes a number of recommendations around supporting the achievement of Māori students. These include building and strengthening relationships with Māori learners, developing connections with whānau and community, integrating Māori language and culture into the learning environment and exploring Māori perspectives on inclusion.

According to the Ministry of Education’s Te Kete Ipurangi website, “students are more likely to achieve when they see themselves and their culture reflected positively in subject matter and learning contexts.”

At universities around New Zealand, steps are being taken to support Māori learners. At the University of Auckland, Māori students can take part in the UniBound Program for school leavers, be involved in the Tuākana learning community and access dedicated scholarships for Māori students. The university also has a number of Māori student groups, such as Ngā Tairua Māori, South Pacific Indigenous Engineering Students, Te Mana Pākihi, Te Rākau Ture and the Māori and Pacific Health Students Association (Ngārehu O Te Mātauranga).

While all of these actions can be considered steps in the right direction, more can be done to ensure that Māori culture and language is reflected in the university environment. The university currently has official Te Reo Māori Policy and Principles, however unlike our neighbours in the Waikato, the use of Te Reo by the university around campus is not widespread. The university administered Postgraduate Māori Scholarships are heavily based on academic achievement, with the threshold for a guaranteed scholarship being a grade point average of 7.5 or higher.

In 2017, Universities New Zealand labelled the nationwide differences between Māori, Pasifika, European and Asian performance in tertiary education a “persistent achievement gap”. The Tertiary Education Commission decided upon setting individual parity targets for universities in light of the issue, however in a 2018 discussion paper Universities New Zealand (UNZ) said that they “do not support the sort of simplistic parity targets that have been set and continually missed in the past as those targets invariably disregard the unavoidable im-



part of the student pipeline through from the compulsory sector.”

The paper highlighted that “culturally-appropriate support” in the first months at university, foundation and bridging programmes and pastoral care and academic support are the three most effective ways of increasing first-year pass rates for Māori and Pasifika students, “noting that only a small proportion Māori or Pasifika students would need all three elements.” UNZ also mentioned how lack of cooperation between institutions and lack of investment into support targeted towards Māori students limit universities’ ability to achieve parity.

However, UNZ argues that in order to fully-address the issue, educational achievement must be improved prior to entering university. According to UNZ, factors unrelated to academics account for at most 10% of the difference in completion rates. Addressing this would take a united approach from the whole education sector, in which schools, the government and universities would collaborate.

NCEA Level 2 pass rates for Māori students steadily increased by 3.35% per year between 2008 and 2016, remained steady in 2017 and dropped slightly in 2018. In 2018, NCEA Level 2 achievement for Māori students was 13% lower than that of European students. At NCEA Level 3, the gap was even larger at 17%. Just 29.4% of Māori students achieved University Entrance, with this rate sitting at 55% for European students and 60.8% for Asian students.

Dr. Darryn Russell, Chair of UNZ’s Te Kahui Amokura Committee, highlighted in January the ongoing need for improvements in Māori achievement. “It should be of concern to Government as well as to... the wider community. The big concern I have is that if we don’t fix it, we have inequity in our society,” says Russell. “Through all this, we need to keep in mind the students. I know how important data is, but it’s the human element and organisational culture that need to underpin the change necessary to achieve parity. That’s a whole lot harder, but has to be a key ingredient for change.”

As the new annual report is released at the end of this month, the university’s reporting on the issue will demonstrate whether Māori achievement improved in 2019 and what action, whether new or ongoing, is taking place to address this.

University of Auckland Has No Plans to Suspend In-Person Teaching

BRIAN GU

Please note: this article was written on morning of the 19th of March, 2020. Although Craccum is a bastion of journalistic integrity, no-one on the team can see into the future (yet). There's a very real chance that the university will have reversed their decision by the time you read this. If that's the case, feel free to look on this article like a kind of historical artifact: a remnant of a time before all hell broke loose. Also, consider signing up to the Craccum facebook page - it's the best place to get university news as it happens.

In-person classes will not be suspended by the Ministry of Education despite growing concerns amidst the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

This follows the Prime Minister's decision to ban all public gatherings upwards of 500 people. Schools and universities were made exempt from this ruling, but are said to be liaising with the Ministry of Education in order to reduce the capacity for spread.

A university spokesperson confirmed to *Craccum* that a university shutdown is "not at this stage" in their plans, however they are "making contingency plans for a range of scenarios", including "if someone with COVID-19 is on campus". As seen with Logan Park High School in Dunedin, this will likely involve the campus being closed for

at least 48 hours while close contacts are traced and put in isolation.

The development of this outbreak continues at a worrying pace, and many question whether the university is doing enough to protect its constituents. At the time of writing, no community outbreak of COVID-19 has yet been reported in New Zealand, however this is looking less likely by the hour.

Students have expressed clear disappointment at the university's refusal to take emphatic action, despite the impending threat to public health. One particular petition to close the university has gained over 1000 signatories at the time of writing.

Ultimately, it seems too soon to predict whether community transmission is already occurring within the university at the time of writing - perhaps, by the time you read this article, it will have been confirmed. However, with the evidence of exported cases from our nation to Samoa and South Africa, this author (along with many others) believes it will be a quick eventuality.

The question will then be whether the government has done enough to protect students at this intermediary stage.

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

Auckland Students' Thoughts on the Cannabis Referendum

ELLA MORGAN

This week Craccum took to the Quad to find out what University of Auckland students think of the upcoming weed referendum. Should cannabis be legal? Why, or why not? Four different students tell us their thoughts.

Mary, 19, studying Commerce and Arts*

"Yes, I think it should be legal because of the economic benefits for our country. From an economic perspective its dumb not to. Think about how much money the government could make from taxing it. Also, alcohol is legal which has way more negative benefits from what I understand than cannabis. It seems like alcohol is related to a lot of aggressive crimes but from my research cannabis doesn't have the same link. But yes, it also could be a danger for people driving on it."

Jane, 20, studying Arts*

"I totally believe weed should be legal. The biggest reason for that belief is that we have so many people in prison for crimes related to cannabis, and it's a way of limiting people's potential in life and disenfranchising whole groups of people in society. I think we should decriminalise it. Thousands of people get put in prison every year over weed, but most people would use weed in their life. Does that mean everyone deserves

to go to prison because of it? Making that one decision could potentially ruin your life forever and I don't think it should be that way."

Alex, 20, studying Science*

"I don't think it should be legal. There's many other forms of pain management and non analgesic interventions that can be used for pain. There also isn't enough research on its effect on mental health and that's really important because that's a really big issue in New Zealand. It shouldn't be legal for medical or recreational use because it's too dangerous and hasn't been proven to be safe."

John, 21, studying Commerce*

"Where I'm from weed is already legal so I think New Zealand should do the same because nothing really bad has happened. Politicians against it scare people by saying it's dangerous but we haven't seen any real bad effects. It's actually safer because now people know their weed isn't going to be bad. And it's great because it creates a whole new economic aspect, like jobs and we can tax it."

**Names have been changed to protect the identities of each student*

They Are Us: University Remembers Christchurch Attack One Year On

JUSTIN WONG

A karakia was held on the University of Auckland campus on Friday the 13th of March by the university's Muslim Students' Association to mark the first anniversary of the Christchurch mosque attacks.

On March 15th, 2019, a gunman entered the Al Noor Mosque and the Linwood Islamic Centre in Christchurch, killing 51 people.

More than 100 people attended the service at the Pavilion across from Old Government House at the city campus.

Prayers were held and speeches were made during the event.

Anzar Chida, the Head of Statistics at Mount Albert Grammar and an alumnus of the University, spoke on behalf of the Muslim community, saying New Zealand must acknowledge the past and focus on the future.

"What we saw in Christchurch is extreme bigotry."

"We must remember the response [of New Zealanders] by ensuring islamophobia and bigotry is eliminated from New Zealand society."

"Our greatest challenge is to transcend that response into respecting dignity for all."

The Muslim Students' Association's President Omar Farhaan Khan said he is pleased to see the turnout for the service, especially the participation of non-Muslims.

"It is really nice. It really sends a strong message of that unity."

"I always felt we [Muslims] need to represent ourselves in more gatherings like this."

"A lot of people fear what they don't know...This is the best way to get over the fear of the unknown."

"Nobody is trying to push messages. We just want people to be inquisitive, ask questions and communicate with us."

Khan also said Muslim students have received more positive support and empathy when communicating with the university in the year since the attacks, and more conversations on important topics, such as Islamophobia and religious bigotry, have been raised amongst the general public.

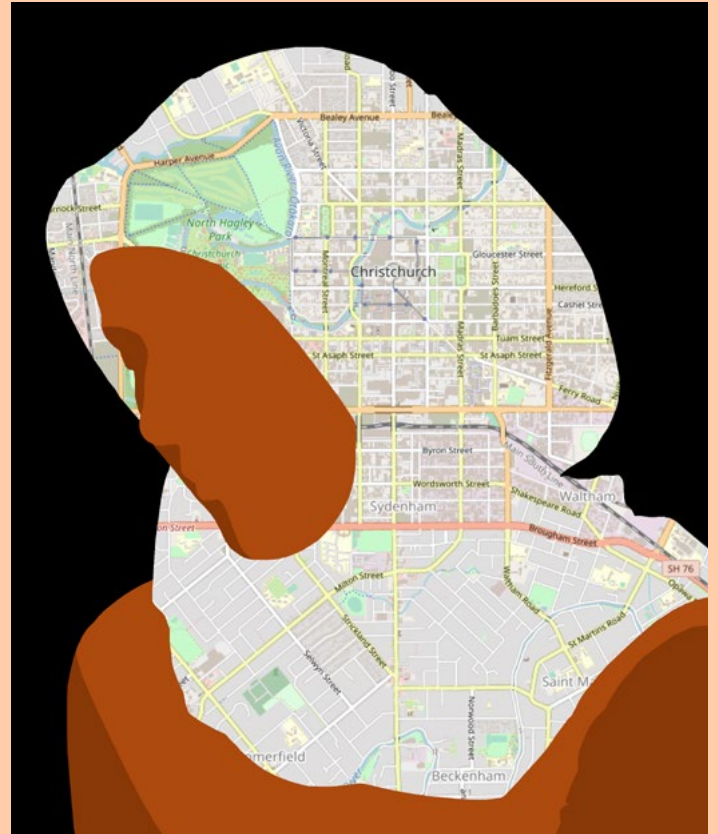
"There has been a jump to recognize that religion is something that people have, and we need to learn to co-exist. I think this is a silver lining in a very dark cloud."

"Any step forward is a net gain - I don't know if this will end Islamophobia in the country or in the world, but I think if we move forward in the right direction this is something we should be proud of."

Then Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon attended the service, telling *Craccum* it was important for the university community to recognize what had happened one year ago.

"One of the speakers commented the gunman wanted to sow hate, but what has happened was more people caring for each other and much more people engaging and understanding differences."

"There is no doubt that he failed and that it has actually brought



our community closer."

McCutcheon added that the University "has done a lot" since the attacks to support Muslims students and staff on campus, but it was "not finished by any means".

He was also confident that his successor Dawn Freshwater could continue on the current effort.

Auckland University Student Association (AUSA) President George Barton said that the service was a great way to get the university community together.

"It is a reminder that what happened on March 15th does not define us and we want to make sure that we are consciously working as hard as we can to make this university more inclusive than ever."

Barton also said AUSA will continue to support university efforts to be more inclusive by making sure every student is familiar with the new Code of Conduct, which sets out a number of standards for behaviour and acts as a guideline for university student and staff conduct.



From Russia with Love: Free Speech and the Far Right

KEEARA OFREN

Keeara Ofren takes a magnifying glass to how Russia Today (RT) operates, the good and the bad

Content Warning: Far-right discussion, homophobia discussion

If you ask me what love is, it's documentaries on a Friday night.

In a YouTube space littered with "Michael Jackson was killed by the illuminati!" and "Watch her eyes turn green! Queen Elizabeth is a reptilian!", I knew I might have found my safe haven with freely available documentaries, where hard hitting news may be the more obvious and reasonable of the options. Maybe.

RT, the national Russian news network had enchanted me with a short and informative documentary format which focussed on unusual news stories which were not condescending to their subjects.

They were neither sob stories, nor fit conventional storytelling tropes when it came to stories of children, crime and war.

However, RT is also notorious for allowing a platform for the far-right, encouraging conspiracy thinking and has even been dubbed as 'fake news'.

You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar, and despite such controversies, RT remains a free media honeypot. But is it the news network of the underdogs, a refreshing and nuanced break from dominant media conglomerate views? Or is it the news network of the anti-villain, deserving of being interna-

tionally detested as propaganda?

The answer may be just as tangled as an all too familiar debate here at our university of de-platforming the far right.

So, how was I charmed? And how do you be critical about what you may be reeled into?

The Underdog News Network?

In some aspects, RT has perhaps been an honourable bastion of the lay-person's view, with the unfiltered truth. Many documentaries on their YouTube channel offer matter of fact narration to stories of every-day lives of those in Russia. RT strikes me as wanting to show the lasting impact and implications of these different ways of life on children, families and those undergoing hardship. Subjects of RT documentaries tend to be humble, hard-working people with a sense of humour.

One great example of this is the documentary 'Big Sister', of Kristina, the eldest daughter of 6 in a rural Russian village who, at 19, had been made legal guardian to her younger siblings, postponing her culinary school to be both mum and dad. All voices, including those of children, were treated as necessary to the documentary as opposed to merely incidental. Similarly, for '#TrueLove', where the voices of people with disabilities are asked on issues on personal dignities beyond what we would consider, such as the feeling of being loved. This is a trope which I hope will become more prevalent in Western media, as the push for representation continues. We want media to be nuanced and meaningful as opposed to tokenistic.

On issues affecting children, in Kristina's documentary as with pieces on adoption ('Mama') and charter schools ('Children of the Tundra'), RT was perhaps the first news network who interviewed children at length and treated them with the same respect as adult testimonies. I could foresee this having a longer term impact in Russia, including criticisms on improving the Russian state care system and breaking traditional child rearing norms.

Coverage on developing countries was also neither child sponsorship ad-

vertisement, nor was it blaming of these nations uncritically. 'Mama Uganda', of Mariam, a mother of 38 children in a Ugandan village. It is an all too common view to portray her as a pitiful figure, but instead, the documentary shows Mariam as a survivor and educator against child marriage and sexual assault, as an enterprising and caring mother. Also, a certain dignity was given in the documentary, 'Tower of David', of the infamous abandoned Centro Financiero Confinanzas, which became a de-facto city for squatters. There is a focus on stories of survival, not made as individual tales, but as indicators of greater social problems of these countries. In this way, RT skilfully dances to the steps of NGO outputs, aiming to use empowering and unexpected stories to reveal larger systemic issues.

The Anti-Villain News Network?

Once you get sucked into the RT circle, it is not hard to discover that RT almost shamelessly offers a platform to those of the far-right and proponents of conspiracy theories. This has included 'climate alarmism', claiming that Covid-19 was a US biological weapon, nationalistic views with emphasis on minority violence (e.g Chechnya) and interviewing who would otherwise be on terrorism watchlists for hate crimes.

Conspiracy theories and the far-right go hand in hand. Once you believe in a conspiracy, this encourages extreme distrust and a misguided sense of grievance which may encourage feelings of isolation and violence. Yes, this is coming from me, who once gorged on the ridiculous magazine 'Uncensored' and ate up books on conspiracy theories from fringe authors. While I found these ludicrous, to a more naïve reader, this manipulation could easily feed into anti-semitism, xenophobia and complete aversion to political participation.

RT may not initially appear as such, but I will give an example as to why the honeymoon period with their YouTube channel wore off so quick. Documentaries on LGBTQA+ had themes where the sexually diverse person 'changed their mind'. Rather than being presented from

a scientific and emotional perspective of sexuality as fluid, they were used to spearhead harmful views that LGBTQA+ could be 'cured' and was an 'illness'. A reason as to why Russia is a poster image for those in far-right groups is because the dominant political narrative is to reject more inclusive politics. Before viewing such documentaries, consider having a profile of the country in mind as with what the dominant political view may be. Is the documentary coming from a view of a political party, media conglomerate or special interest group?

Is Aotearoa dissimilar?

Even in Aotearoa New Zealand, conservative politics has shifted from advocating stability to becoming reactionary, the point of being against what may be associated with 'liberals'. He who pays the piper plays the tune. It is inevitable that most media will have agendas of their own. But when that agenda in itself is disdain for facts, encouraging conspiracy and violence, that agenda should not be upheld as equal to the valuable and nuanced views that develop pluralistic societies.

This debate isn't too far off from one unfolding at our campus. Our former Vice Chancellor may say that certain white supremacist stickers and posters are covered by 'free speech'. By implication of free speech absolutism, all views are allowed for their democratic value. Then what he may be abetting is elevating the status of potentially harmful speech as having democratic value, the same as other social movements. The risk of giving extreme views a platform is that you make them visible and legitimise them. And with allegations of violent plans and dangerous affiliations between international far right groups, this is not a risk our university should be taking, lest it become as suspect as RT.

Are you ever enchanted by media outputs on a social issue? Consider media framing, story sources, if the piece is satire or not and what the agenda may be. For if you are too late, you may find yourself clinging to some of the more toxic and harmful sides of free media you love.

Opinion: Shane Jones vs. International Indian Students

SANJANA KHUSAL

Earlier this month, MP Shane Jones had an interview with Newshub to discuss a population policy in New Zealand. He was "astounded how quickly the last million people arrived." Jones is concerned about exponential population growth and how it impacts New Zealand's infrastructure. We can all see that Auckland is overflowing. Housing, motorways, public transport. Then, he comments that people from "New Delhi" arrive in New Zealand as "students", as a "backdoor to citizenship" and thus have "ruined so many of those [educational] institutions."

I watched this interview on the Wellington flatmates page. Even as a third-generation New Zealand born Indian, I felt like a cockroach. I knew I hadn't done anything, but the implications of this article would either be taken as racism or fact. Under Shane Jones' repost on Facebook, some of the comments included:

"I don't understand why New Zealand doesn't try to attract more people from European cultures. Why does NZ focus on Asian & Indian? Australia is a good example of this. The immigration numbers are heavily skewed this way."

Arguments (and counter-arguments) were marching through the comments section. The following day, the post had been taken off the flatmates page.

There is a stigma that Asians have infested the country, overthrowing hardworking kiwis. It is racial profiling. Jones is presuming that Indians are ruining the education system. However, barely two percent of the New Zealand university population arrives from India. In 2018, at the University of Auckland, only 536 out of 42,759 students were international students from India. This isn't a one-off situation. Statistics like these are shared across the nation. At AUT, 25% of the student population is Asian, national and international. At Otago University, 133 out of 21,108 students were international students from India. This may

be a lot of numbers to read at once, but that is the whole point. The most important numbers - 7,740 out of over four million New Zealanders are Indian international students. Jones' argument on Indians ruining our institutions by invading the education system is bullshit.

Whether or not he intended his comments to come across as presumptuous (putting it kindly), it is disturbing that these words come naturally, a slip of the tongue. For all you Freudian fans, this interview is a plummet into Shane Jones' mindset. Racial profiling is never okay. It collates the existence of race and boxes them into a (false) generalization. Without the facts, these comments are released as internalised ideas, ones that hurt the Indians community.

And if you're worried about me being too harsh, it's time to dive a little deeper. Last week, Shane Jones had an interview with John Campbell. Campbell asked him to

"name one institution that has been ruined by Indian students." Jones clarified that he was referred to "the language schools" which were "dodgy visa factories." Poor Jones felt he was being "talked down by the media." Campbell stated that Jones had focused on the Indian students more than the functionality of the actual institutions. Jones was making statements about Indian immigrants ruining the system, not that the system was faulty.

The general consensus among politicians is similar to my own. Jacinda Arden states, "It's wrong. Whatever label you put on it, it was wrong." Simon Bridges similarly says "his comments are racist and wrong." He paints a picture of Indians coming to the country as pests looking to drain every last cent from the government. Using Indians as an example of population growth disguises his racial profiling as facts. But, in reality, he has no substance to back up his comments.

"For all you Freudian fans, this interview is a plummet into Shane Jones' mindset."

A Message From Your Education Vice-President

Kia ora everyone,

My name is Emma, and I am your Education Vice President at AUSA for 2020! My main role is to represent students on committees within the university and ensure we have a strong student voice.

2020 is already a HUGE year for us as students with a new VC stepping in last week, elections coming up later this year and also dealing with difficult situations that arise in between. That being said, we have some really exciting stuff coming up so I wanted to share with you some goals and projects I have for this year! Here's what I'll be working on:

Continuing to Build on the AUSA Student Council: We want to make sure when we represent students we are as representative as possible! That's why last year AUSA established the AUSA Student Council that brought presidents of school or faculty associations as well as representatives of key groups on campus together to meet and discuss the important stuff. We engage with these student leaders to get solid feedback on what is going on and hear their thoughts on issues that affect students.

Optimising the Class Reps System: After hearing feedback from students, we now have some awesome class rep interns who are busy helping to ensure we are as efficient as possible and working directly with students! Temi, the class reps manager and I have also made some great changes to our website to make sure students can access the right information at the right time!

Working on the University's Strategic Plans: We have loads of other awesome projects including consultation on some pretty important documents like the UoA strategic plan as well as ensuring we are working with students to conduct meaningful consultation on stuff that affects us as students.

This is just the tip of the iceberg for education @ AUSA so if you want to get in touch to talk about education tings, or even just have a yarn come find me in AUSA House or (more likely) Shads where i'll be sippin on the best soy latte on campus. Our whare is your whare.

Stay safe kiddos, wash your hands and see you round campus.



A Message From Your Welfare Vice-President

Heya,

My name is Anamika, and I am your Welfare Vice President at AUSA for 2020! You may be familiar with my work, from hosting Speed Dating and Jager Bingo at Shads, to protesting white supremacy outside the Clock-tower, there really isn't much that I can't do (except Math, I'm an English major for a reason kids). When I'm not at Shads, or pretending to study in the Arts Student's Center, you can find me at AUSA house, trying to come up with another excuse as to why I can't attend Sunrise Yoga with Emma at 7am on a Wednesday.

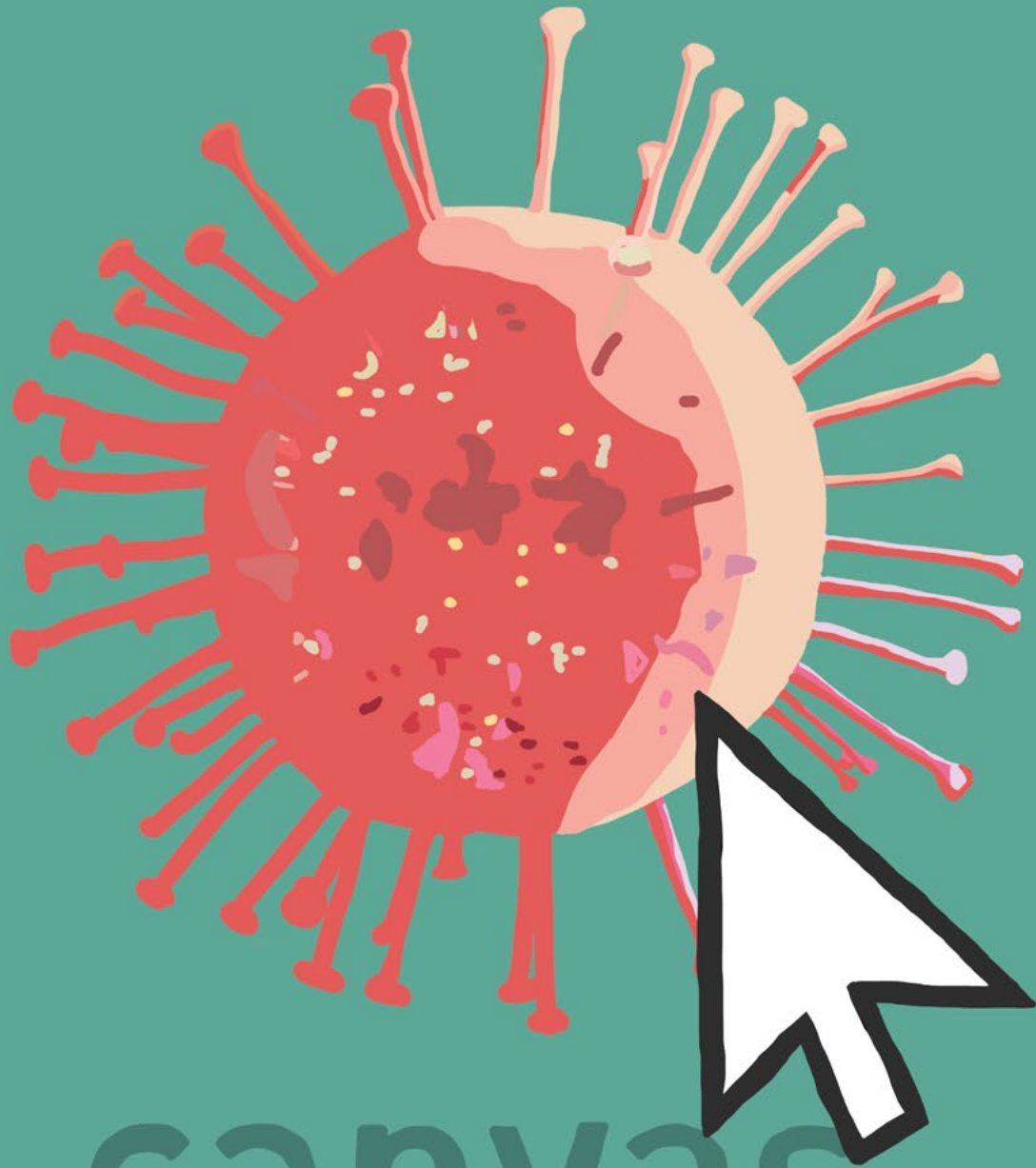
All Jokes aside, my role within AUSA is to provide support to those students who may be facing hardship, whether it be providing financial assistance through AUSA's Hardship and Childcare grants, or assisting with wider equity related issues, I'm your gal! Throughout this year, I am looking forward to working closely with the elected WRO, QRO, ISO, MSO's and PISO to ensure that the work we're doing is not only in the best interest of those students who may feel underrepresented, but also to ensure that our wider University community is truly safe, inclusive, and equitable. Here's a little sneak peak into what I'm working on:

Continuing to stock the AUSA foodbank in a sustainable, cost effective way: For years now, AUSA has been giving out emergency food parcels to students who need a little help to carry them over until they receive their paycheck, or until they receive payments from studylink. This year, I want to focus on creating long term partnerships with sponsors and donors to ensure that the AUSA foodbank is able to keep up with the increasing demand from students.

Creating safe, welcoming environments within AUSA spaces: Before I began my role as the Welfare VP, I was lucky enough to be AUSA's Women's Rights Officer in 2019. During my time as the WRO, it was a huge goal of mine to ensure that Womxnspce was safe and inclusive for all women. This year, I hope to work closely with the newly elected WRO, QRO, MSO's and PISO to ensure that the AUSA spaces we occupy are as safe and inclusive as possible for those students who use our spaces and that they are stocked with helpful resources and useful information.

Combating issue of Period Poverty on Campus: Period Poverty is a growing issue that many of our students have to address while studying here at UoA. Between paying for rent, food, transportation etc, sanitary items are a necessity, but unfortunately treated as a luxury for some of our students. This year, I look forward to working closely with Campus Life and other senior leadership members on ways in which we can address and combat this growing issue.

It's going to be a really exciting year here at AUSA and I can't wait to see the amazing work the rest of the team are going to do throughout our term! Remember to keep yourselves safe, remember to keep each other safe, and if all else fails, there's always time for a drink at Shads!



canvas

So the University Might Become Online Only. How Would That Actually Work?

DANIEL MEECH

Dust off your modems, motherfuckers - tutorial ice-breakers just got a whole lot more painful.

With new COVID-19 cases being discovered every day, it's looking increasingly likely that the university will have to cancel in-person classes. But what does this mean for you? *Craccum* answers your burning questions.

How likely is it that the university will just straight-up cancel the entire semester?

As much as my academic transcript would like it to happen, it's extremely unlikely that the university will cancel this semester. There's simply too much time, money, and administrative manpower invested in it to do so. If the university were to completely cancel classes, it's likely that the consumers guarantee act would necessitate refunds for all students. How much might that amount to? Conservatively, the university would be staring down the barrel of a \$400,000,000 loss. Suffice to say, should the university be forced to cancel in-person classes, we can expect online-only classes to pick up the slack.

Okay, so we're probably moving online. How would online classes actually work?

It's not entirely clear. Having spoken to staff, *Craccum* understands that the university is preparing for courses to be taught via Zoom, a "remote conferencing service" similar to Skype. This could mean that the university is following in the footsteps of the University of Washington, where lecturers now teach classes over drop-in conference calls. But that's not the only way things could be done. Lecturers could record their classes at home, or even in empty lecture theatres, and upload them via the Canvas recordings tab. Alternatively, they could release old lecture recordings (all lectures have been automatically recorded since 2018, although not all of them were released to students) from the university's archive of previous lectures.

Smaller classes - like tutorials, workshops, and labs - are a different beast to lectures. It seems likely that tutorials will be conducted over Zoom, with minor changes to the structure of lessons. Labs and

workshops are likely to be modified to make them suitable for teaching over videofeed. In science, for example, some students have been told that labs will be replaced by recorded videos of lecturers completing the experiments - students will just have to write a report based on the video.

What about clinics and tutorials that can't be taught online?

I wish I had an answer for this. In all likelihood, these classes would just be cancelled, and students enrolled in them would be given a refund for that particular class. Students would have these classes removed entirely from their academic transcripts.

Is the university going to shut my hall down? Where would I go if they do?

Halls probably won't be closed entirely, but it is likely that students will be asked to leave. In the states, where universities have already moved online, most universities have opted to keep their halls running in a limited capacity. Students who are able to return home have been offered financial incentives to leave the halls. Students who have been unable to return home - either because it is logistically impossible, or because they suffer from some kind of disability which would make it dangerous for them to leave - have been allowed to stay, with the expectation that they self-isolate as much as possible. Students who have been allowed to stay have also been warned that they will only have access to essential services.

Craccum understands that students in Canterbury residences have been told they may be sent back to their hometowns if the university is closed. This, coupled with the example set by universities in the USA, may indicate that the University of Auckland will employ a similar approach.

Does this mean I won't have to sit exams?

In Australia, Scott Morrison has warned social

isolation measures could be in place for up to six months. If New Zealand followed suit - banning all gatherings until August - the university would have to cancel any plans for in-person June exams.

Theoretically, it'd be possible to run exams for most courses through the university's computer based exam software (the imaginatively named "DigiExam"). But there's one obvious problem with that: students could cheat by referencing their notes while completing the exam. In the states, there have been rumours that universities are contemplating asking students to video themselves via webcam while taking exams - theoretically, this is supposed to help universities catch cheating students. We at *Craccum* are extremely skeptical that these reports are true, and we strongly doubt that the university will do this. It's much more likely that the university will scrap exams entirely. Instead, exams will probably be replaced by extra essay questions, quizzes, and assignments. Your grade would be comprised entirely from these assignments.

Will we still have access to university facilities like the library?

Based on what has happened with universities in the states (where many have moved online already) students probably won't be able to access facilities like lecture halls, study spaces, and more. Universities have been loath to employ staff members to patrol spaces, clean equipment, and generally keep things ticking over, because of the costs involved - I wouldn't expect this university to be any different.

In terms of the library: it's likely that the university would encourage everyone to use their online catalogue instead. A number of staff members have told *Craccum* that the university has been moving towards this for a while anyway - over the past two years the university has been allocating larger and larger portions of the budget to buying texts online (rather than in print) to make it easier for students to access them. The university might see this as a good opportunity to trial an online-only library.



The Cursed TikTok of Time

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

There are many, many apps that have attached themselves to me like techno-parasites, sucking at my fingertips to steal my time, money, and brain cells. The vampire algorithms of Instagram, YouTube, Vine (remember those simple days?), and now TikTok, have drained and exhausted me. Unfortunately for my reading lists and pending assignments, there is something that keeps me on my phone. I just can't stop fucking scrolling.

TikTok has become the butt of casual jokes among grumpy 20-somethings. There's a constant expression of despair aimed either at the stupidity of the app and its users or at their own 'ancient' misunderstanding of 'youth culture.' Early on in the TikTok trend, I found myself moaning about my grand old age, and despising the way it separated me from the 'kids' of today. My friends all made fun of me, saying I was ridiculous for even showing inter-

est in the colourful, post-emo land of e-girls. I just couldn't help it; the highlight reels I kept seeing on Twitter were so convincing, and I wanted to be in on the joke. So, to assure myself of my youthfulness (I'm a crusty 21 now) and to spite all of my mates, I cleansed myself of any doubts and downloaded the app. Immediately, I was hooked. My time on any other social media was brought to a standstill, as I sunk deeper and deeper into the never-end-

ing flow of content. Most nights, while in bed, I would jump on TikTok for 'five minutes' before going to sleep. I would then jolt up at 2 am, clutching my phone in hand, wondering how the time had gone by so quick. There's a certain kind of zombie-ish trance that the *Supalonely* dance can put you in.

TikTok has become known for its time-wasting ability. In conversations, and memes, TikTok is referred to as an addiction, like a dark hole to fall down. I mean, even in my own description, it seems like I've been sucked into *The Matrix* and stopped living in the non-virtual world. This popular discourse brings about moral panic about addiction; god-forbid the teens rot their brains with evil smartphones! However, the concern is not necessarily completely without merit; TikTok utilises particular app affordances to keep you scrolling through snappy, short videos for as long as possible. Affordances are the capabilities given to you through the design of a site or application, encouraging and allowing certain types of use. As in, the app design *affords* you certain types of activity. The affordances of an app are particularly useful in analysing the type of behaviour that designers hope to incite from the user. And so, the affordances of TikTok reveal the dark magic exercised by

developers to keep your dirty little thumb scrolling all night long.

There are a few key aspects of app design that reveal why TikTok is so seductive. The flow of content is endless and consistently available via a downwards scroll. There is no complex behavior that you have to engage in order to continue consuming content. On YouTube, you have to make active choices in the content you consume, and on Instagram, the actions of liking and commenting are much more centralised in the layout. TikTok simply asks you to flick your thumb up and rewards the action with fresh content. Consumption is made simple and entirely seamless. It would take you more energy to stop and look up from your phone, so, naturally, you continue to do what is easiest. The app also hides the time from view, unlike any other social media platforms. It's like you're in a casino, with no clocks and no windows, and nothing to do but give TikTok your attention, which they sell to advertisers for stacks of cash. Lastly, the ability to reuse audio lends TikTok users the ability to remix and reference content within the app, meaning trends grow and change very quickly. The constant newness of the platform means users never get bored and continue to add to the expansive library

of TikTok content, drawing more eyeballs to ads.

TikTok isn't the only platform to utilise sneaky app affordances; Instagram is increasingly moving towards a marketplace model, encouraging users to make purchases within the app. Facebook has become key for moving around the internet, and every time the site is used to create an account, Zucky gains access to your every move. It pays to be aware of how developers are encouraging you to spend your time because, in the attention economy, it is very valuable. I'm not going to be getting off TikTok any time soon though. There's a really interesting culture built on that app, with younger kids questioning ideals of beauty, impending climate change, and political unrest, with an insane amount of detached irony. At the moment I need the hearty laughs those teens can provide me. I've got my friends hooked too, so I'd have to avoid the group chat to shake the habit. And, when we are all in isolation, I'll finally have the time to learn all those dances! The next few weeks might give a bit of time to spare. Why not shill for a social media company and become a TikTok influencer? It's what I'm going to do to avoid my readings. Hopefully, I can find my way out.

Wash your f*cking hands



“Why is a particularly risky form of gambling being run by the government?”

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The Game of Lotto; One in a Million

AVINASH GOVIND

In late February, upon hearing the news that the Powerball jackpot had reached slightly over \$50 million, nearly half of our population rushed to buy a Powerball ticket and enter into a draw which would surely change the life of its winner. Following this, on the evening of the 29th of February, as the winning numbers were drawn on live TV (shortly after The Pussycat Dolls brought an episode of Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway to an end), two individuals, each of whom had won just over \$25 million, realised that their fortunes had just grown exponentially.

While the people who won the award were certainly pleased with the outcome, this entire episode laid bare an inconvenient truth about the game that nearly a million people play each week: Everyone that bought a Powerball ticket was bound to lose. Indeed, each line on a Powerball ticket has only about a one in 38 million chance of winning the jackpot.

Given this fact, it is worth considering why a particularly risky form of gambling is being run by the government? And why do people engage in a game in which they are likely to lose?

Why do we support it?

To answer this question, let's first briefly examine the history of the game. While

lotteries of some kind are described as far back as the mythologies of Ancient Greece, one of the first recorded public lotteries, of the kind relevant to our discussion, occurred in Brussels in the 1500s. During the Belgian lotteries of this time, people were given the ability to buy different types of lottery tickets, with the prize pool associated with each ticket increasing in value, along with the cost of the tickets. As would become common in the later iterations of the public lottery, all money generated from the lottery was used to fund public works projects and enhance the budget of local governments.

Similar lotteries, based on the model used in Brussels, would later arise during this period in France. Indeed, throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, lotteries were

regularly conducted throughout France as a means of raising money for charitable projects. These projects included the construction of orphanages, universities and religious institutions. The French Lottery was briefly abolished following the French Revolution, and then quickly reinstated by the state as a means of curbing excessive public losses. During this period, lotteries of a kind soon appeared across much of Europe and the United States, generally following similar models to those in France and Belgium.

Within the context of New Zealand specifically, the New Zealand Lotteries Commission (Lotto NZ) – a public entity – was established in 1987 for the purposes of administering our public lottery and distributing the earnings generated from the game to community projects across the country. In this respect, Lotto NZ has been an unmitigated success, having distributed over \$4.6 billion to communities across the country since its inception. Indeed, in 2019 alone, Lotto NZ reported having transferred over a quarter of a billion dollars towards grant-giving organisations, providing a clear benefit to a great many communities across the

country.

After our trip through the history of lotteries, the causes of our public support for the game suddenly make perfect sense: the lottery is a highly efficient, and voluntary, means of generating revenue for public and community projects across the country.

The phenomenon of the lottery was amplified in the case of Powerball in late February, and the history of the lottery helps to explain how the event came to be. However, our second question remains unanswered; Why do millions of people continue to play a game which they are almost guaranteed to lose?

Why do we play it?

The answer to this question is a complex one, partially due to natural differences in the willingness of individuals to take risks, and partially due to the extrinsic factors which may, overtly or covertly, prod us towards making certain decisions.

In the early 1970s a pair of highly respected psychologists, named Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky, conducted a series of groundbreaking studies.

They examined the specifically irrational decisions which people often make, like those in the game we're in the process of examining. One of the many breakthroughs that the pair produced was the development of the concept of an availability bias; the tendency for people to weight memorable experiences as being more likely to occur than less memorable ones, regardless of the reality of the situation. When people return from work, turn on their TVs, and witness people winning extraordinary sums of money, they believe that the chance of winning the lottery is higher than it is. However, in reality, someone occasionally winning the lottery is hardly surprising; when nearly a million tickets are sold each week, and two draws each week, probability suggests that someone should win the lottery every couple of weeks. This does not change the fact that playing the game is a losing proposition; indeed, it is merely a masterful work of advertising, which uses the vast number of lottery tickets sold each week to leverage the availability bias of viewers of the draw. This may help to explain why, according to a survey conducted in the United States, 25% of the general public view the lottery as being the most effective means of building wealth.

According to the same study, a more insidious reality exists; 38% of the least wealthy participants in the survey viewed the lottery as being the most effective means of building wealth, despite the fact that money spent on the lottery is money lost. A likely explanation of this fact can be found in the factors which have been present in this very article: the airing of lottery draws on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, and the primary focus of the programming is the positive impact of winning the lottery, as opposed to the losses incurred by nearly every other player of the game.

When the Lotto is drawn halfway through the week, and then again at the end, a false hope is provided to individuals living within a society where wages have

“One of the many breakthroughs that the pair produced was the development of the concept of an availability bias; the tendency for people to weight memorable experiences as being more likely to occur than less memorable ones, regardless of the reality of the situation.”

increased by a mere 1% each year, on average. Indeed, the drawing of the lottery on an early Wednesday evening, when people would be returning from work (tired and stressed while being halfway through the week), is likely to make people increasingly susceptible to the kinds of false financial hope that the game produces. This false hope further convinces New Zealanders to sink their wages in the abyss, rather than saving or investing that money for the future. A similar function is served by news organisations who continuously write articles about the winners of the lottery, with the statistical reality of the game being placed at the end of the articles, usually as a throwaway line.

What next?

When attempting to find a way to summarise my thoughts about the lottery, I found myself returning to the subheading of an article published in the New Yorker last year: "Permitting pot is one thing; promoting its use is another." While the premise of the line is hardly relevant to our discussion at hand, the point remains; publicly organising a lottery clearly provides some benefits, but the way in which the lottery is promoted does pose clear issues regarding the incitement of the public, and particularly working-class communities, to engage in financially destructive behaviours. Indeed, insofar as the lottery produces certain benefits to the public, it could certainly be argued that those benefits are undermined by the advertising of the lottery in a way that encourages poor decision making.

As mentioned earlier, Lotto NZ does provide some benefits and shutting it down entirely may not make very much sense. Besides this, within a free society, actively barring people from gambling isn't acceptable. People fundamentally have agency and should be able to make decisions about their own lives. However, regulating the lottery in a way that minimises the damage caused to the general public is not only sensible but vital to

"Going into a situation where vulnerable communities are likely to face significant economic hardship, it is more important than it has ever been to consider the impact of millions of dollars being wasted by individuals, often on the basis of false hope, each and every week."

maintaining a healthy society.

Two simple changes that could be made are as follows: move the Lotto to a single draw and inform people of the statistical realities of the game each time it is drawn. Drawing the lottery on a Saturday evening alone, when people would be well-rested and relaxed after a break, would likely reduce the likelihood of people clinging to false hope. Aside from this, demonstrating the realities of the game each time the Lotto is drawn will enhance people's understanding of their own action, effectively reducing the impact of people's availability bias on their decision-making abilities.

Permitting the lottery to continue in some limited sense may reduce the money that can then be spent on vital community projects. This is undoubtedly an issue, but also one which reveals the bizarre nature of the lottery itself. As opposed to instituting progressive tax policies, such as the capital gains tax, which are present across most of the developed world; successive governments have instead chosen to institute a deeply regressive tax which is reliant on individuals making poor choices. Instead

of allowing projects to go unfunded, would it not be sensible for the government to instead raise revenue in ways which do not have a vastly disproportionate impact on vulnerable members of our society? Would it not make sense to reallocate existing funds to benefit impacted communities? Or would it not make sense to simply think about alternative means of raising revenue for the state, unrelated to taxes? All of these questions are deeply important ones, which must be considered when dealing with the lottery.

As of this article's publication, the Treasury has suggested that we may be about to enter a deeper recession than we did in 2008. Going into a situation where vulnerable communities are likely to face significant economic hardship, it is more important than it has ever been to consider the impact of millions of dollars being wasted by individuals, often on the basis of false hope, each and every week. So, maybe we should rethink the way we view the lottery. It might be better to provide a path of mobility that uplifts our society and eliminates gambling for any purpose other than entertainment. Maybe we could guarantee that every day is a lucky one.



18 and Running for Parliament

CAMERON LEAKEY

This week Craccum speaks to Luke Wijohn, Green Party candidate for Mt Albert in the 2020 General election, about being 18, running for Parliament, and how he believes we can get youth political representation in Aotearoa.

You may have heard his voice on the radio or seen his face on the news, or you may have seen him at the front of September's historic School Strike for Climate March in Auckland last year. Luke Wijohn, previously one of the organisers of the Auckland School Strike 4 Climate, has just turned 18 but is ready to launch his political campaign as the Green Party candidate for Mt Albert in 2020. Up against Jacinda Ardern, gunning for your party vote, I spoke to Luke about

his journey into activism, politics and what we can do to encourage youth to vote at the upcoming September general election.

Luke's work with climate activism began in March last year, with a recognised gap between scientific evidence and political action. Luke has always been socially conscious. Aged 12 at an Anti-TPPA rally, then activist (and now Green Party Co-Leader) Marama Davidson handed him a megaphone,

sparkling a passion for activism that has since only grown. He was inspired by the philosophy of Greta Thunberg and by the notion that many single persons can create a movement when they stand together. Luke and his mates planned to ditch school in Auckland to strike for climate action. Luke believes that New Zealand has always been a protest nation, remembering our previous progressive stances on welfare, nuclear free and women's suffrage all of which stemmed from political protest and activism. But now, in the modern era, he is concerned this community action has been lost, something that the School Strike 4 Climate sought to bring back and awaken. In his own words, Luke asserts that young people are "not letting the world turn to shit without us doing something about it."

The first strike on March 15, 2019 was quickly followed by another on May 24 and then a third on September 27. Luke remembers the media flack that occurred following the first strike, with commentators in the mainstream news media dismissing protesters and the climate action cause, but to Luke, this represents the spirit of protest. "There's an idea held up that all protest of the past is justified and right as opposed to protest today and that's because we've seen the gains that these protests made and we as a culture moved on and decided these actions were the right things." Luke reflects back to the Nuclear Free movement, the 1984 Springboks Tour and other New Zealand political movements that at the time were extremely controversial. "We'll get a lot of shit for doing the right thing but I'm sure history will see that it was the right thing to fight for."

Already, evidence suggests that the School Strike for Climate is having a large impact on how New Zealanders view climate change. The last protest garnered 170,000 people across New Zealand and the strike itself has grown from being classified as a school student strike, to encompassing an inter-generational protest; teachers, university students, city councillors, businesses, grandparents and parents have all marched alongside youth to demand climate action. In July last year, 79% of New Zealanders said they felt Climate Change was important to

them as an issue. This percentage was up 7% from 2018.

Whilst the fight for climate action is far from done, Luke is now pursuing climate action through other avenues. Whilst he has only just turned 18, Luke is now the Green Party candidate for the Mt Albert electorate, up against National candidate Melissa Lee and Labour candidate (and current Prime Minister of New Zealand) Jacinda Ardern. Luke and William Wood – who is standing for National in Palmerston North – are two of the youngest candidates for New Zealand Parliament. Luke assures me he's not out to steal Jacinda's seat, but his campaign – as many Green campaigns are – is for the Party vote. Luke wants to advocate for change from within the House of Representatives. By the time this interview is published, the Green Party list ranking will be released, giving Luke a strong indication of whether he is likely to make it to Parliament.

For Luke, being in the House represents the ability to work towards progressive action from within the system. He makes it clear to me that he is not a candidate who wants to start a political career for life, rather if his political career is short-lived yet represents the best interests of voters, then to him it is a success. Unlike William Wood, Luke doesn't want to be Prime Minister.

Often, young candidates get disregarded. Mainstream media and voters can be seen to categorise candidates on their demographics. It does, however, help that with this election, parties from both sides of the political spectrum are putting up young candidates. This makes it harder to attack a specific party for choosing a young candidate. "Ultimately when you take partisan politics out of it then you're just left with weirdos who hate young people and want to ban Lime scooters."

Luke wants to be more than just a 'young' candidate anyway. "Youth are incredibly political now and, especially with the School Strike for Climate, we've seen an awakening of that. If young people can get voted in and show they have a meaningful point to make then surely that demonstrates a functional

and representative democracy." He speaks on lived experience, not just as a young person but as an organiser and as a passionate person from a generation with "the most to lose when it comes to the climate crisis." The average age of New Zealand parliamentarians is approximately 50 years old. Luke believes that the current parliament is composed of a lot of career politicians and that there is a failure to represent all New Zealanders. "It comes down to the question of whether we want our House of Representatives to actually be representative. We can make stronger decisions with more perspectives."

Youth voter turnout in Aotearoa New Zealand is traditionally low. At the 2017 election, only 69.3% of voters aged 18-24 cast their vote. This number only encompasses those who are actually enrolled to vote, meaning that the actual number of youth voting is actually lower. The 'youthquake' that the media spoke about with Jacinda Ardern coming to lead Labour before the 2017 election didn't result in a significant increase in voter turnout. Luke speaks of the common political science knowledge that voting behaviour is formed as a habit. Evidence says if you vote once, then you are more likely to continue to vote throughout your life. "Your first vote therefore is your most important vote."

Luke believes that, outside of auto-enrolling citizens, there is a need for everyone to cast their first vote whilst in school. "Here's the dream: A generation of kids wakes up on a day that feels like any other, but this one is a public holiday, they catch the same bus to school where they go every other day, they go to where they've been taught civics education and they cast their first vote." Luke believes that if youth voter turnout for one generation is increased, 90 to 100% participation could be achieved. This generation would continue to vote as they aged, leading to a generation of voters. "I think that when we get Māori, Pacific, low income and other minority and diverse populations voting then we truly have a representative democracy".

From School Strike 4 Climate to the campaign for Parliament, Luke Wijohn is on a mission to steer New Zealand towards decisive climate action. Kia Kaha.



HEALTH BITES

Busting COVID-19 Myths

PATRICK MACASKILL-WEBB

I know you're sick of hearing about coronavirus already. If you're reading this I appreciate it's more than likely you're now in isolation - you're bored out of your mind - and you've got nothing left to do. If you catch anything from this article, I hope it's some sweet truths that can boost your immunity to fake news at this trying time. I will debunk these COVID-19 myths, and leave you to binge Netflix with a bit more peace of mind.

1. China conspired to hide COVID19.

There's one important piece of information that makes it unlikely Chinese officials actually hid the truth about the outbreak. Genetic coding of viral strands from the early Wuhan victims of COVID-19 had no more than 4 point mutation differences between 10 coronavirus samples. For a continuously mutating virus, this means it had to be caught very, very quickly from the Chinese origin. The article that describes this science behind the virus was written by Chinese and Australian researchers. It may be better for any hardcore (and bored) conspiracy theorists to turn back towards the moon landing, or the Avril Lavigne double theory. Those are probably more plausible.

2. Face masks will save you from infection.

If there's not a perfect seal around the mask, then you're just sucking in the same air as usual. One School of Medicine lecturer is alleged to be blowing air into the sides of unwitting mask wearers at Pak n' Save to prove this point: most masks don't actually stop the air coming in. For those of you who have been in a country where mask-wearing is common, you would understand it's mostly just social pressure to wear them. You can still be infected while wearing a face mask.

3. Face masks will NOT protect you.

Okay, I tricked you a little here... Masks are still helpful on a larger population scale. They can stop infected people spreading their moist breath onto you. Don't put-down the masks too hard; the people wearing them are also trying to protect you, not just themselves.

4. There is a cure.

I'm sorry, but this has to be said. There's no miracle vinegar elixir that will stop COVID-19. There's also not a fast and easy test to say you don't have it - that's why self-isolation lasts 14 days. If you think you have the virus, call the health line (0800 611 116), and please don't show up to a clinic demanding a test without calling ahead. Chinese, American, and Canadian researchers are all currently working on vaccines, some of which have already started human trials. But officials at WHO are expecting a fully tested and proven vaccine will not be available till the middle of next year :(

5. You should carry on as normal if you are young and otherwise healthy.

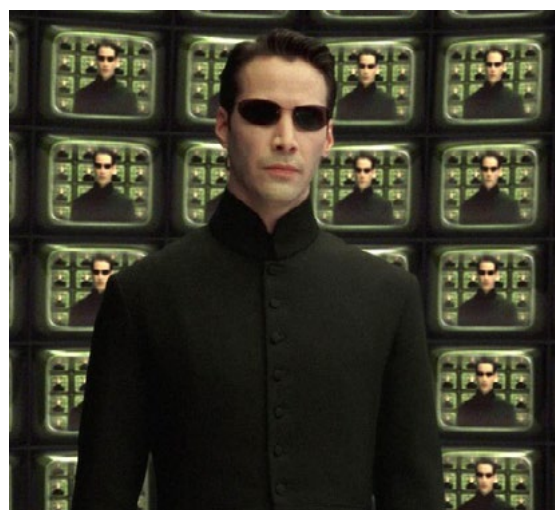
A slight change in the rate and speed of infection has a huge effect on the overall number of people infected throughout the whole community. This means that any small changes in our behaviour can literally save thousands of other people. There are some great infographics out there about flattening

the infection curve. We are now seriously considering what sort of infectious rates and behaviours we are setting for ourselves. Everyone should be improving their hygiene at this time. That includes those people who just pretend to wash their hands in the bathroom by splashing water on their fingers - looking at you gentlemen - it's time to step it up.

6. COVID-19 came from bats.

It's true that the current virus shares a lot of similarities with bat viruses, but there had to be an intermediate animal before humans caught the thing. First of all, bats were not found at the Wuhan market source. Also December is hibernation season for bats. It's likely COVID-19 followed the same trend of earlier viruses SARS and MERS which jumped through an intermediate animal before becoming the virus which infects humans. Currently, there is suspicion that it was a snake species or pangolin that first infected people. On a side note: go search up a picture of pangolins. They look like a cute cross between an artichoke and a hedgehog.

As isolation is becoming a new norm (my own flatmate has just returned home from Australia) keep in mind that you are doing your elders and parents who raised you a favour by self-isolating. Quarantine also helps to keep the front line health care workers from burning out as you do your bit to stop infections. Maybe for the first time in the academic year, you can wholeheartedly commit to one of Ro-salea's Weekly Pics (in the Lifestyle section), without feeling guilty.



THE MATRIX,
DIR. THE WACHOWSKIS
TALIA PARKER

0/10: Keanu is a smoke show but the movie is dumpster fire

I hate The Matrix, okay? There, I said it. Go home and cry about it. It's a boring, poorly acted, weirdly-coloured cardboard cut-out of a movie.

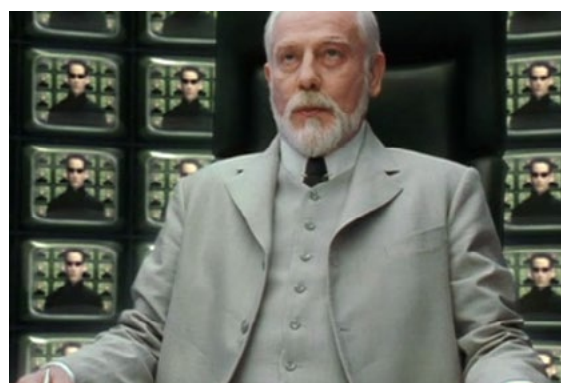
Bless Keanu's cotton socks, but the boy performs like a piece of wet lettuce in this movie. Making Laurence Fishburne wear those ninety-nine cent glasses is tantamount to a hate crime. Why does Agent Smith talk like British Arnold Schwarzenegger with a head injury?

The dialogue is awful. Why is everything green or yellow? "It's symbolic!" you cry. "It's stupid," I counter. Just because something is #deep doesn't mean it's not #shit.

The main thing that is wrong with it (of the many, many, many options) is Neo. We're supposed to believe he's the hero, **THE ONE**, here to deliver us from Hugo Weaving's terrible Agent Smith voice (literally who made him do that). But sci-fi fan boys, please, look me dead in the eye and tell me ONE THING that is special about Neo. ONE THING that is compelling, interesting, unique, or even vaguely different. And don't say his cheekbones – if having perfect facial structure was enough to make you the saviour of humanity, Chris Evans would be Jesus.

Dear God, it's just so DULL. Utterly lifeless, like if an AI had a deep thought. The actors are so dead behind the eyes they could be Melania Trump. It feels like nobody involved had any passion. No disrespect to Carrie Ann Moss; where are you hiding, my queen? Come back and rescue us.

The Matrix is atrocious, okay, go fuck yourself. And don't even get me started on Mission Impossible.



THE MATRIX, DIR. THE WACHOWSKIS

10/10: *To be redpilled is be true to yourself*

It would be easy to simply write off *The Matrix* as a forgotten byproduct of Y2K hysteria and anxiety over the vague level of existentialist thought that had bled into mass media in the two decades prior to its release. The first *Matrix*, released in 1999, was quite naturally perfect. It was a work of art, flawless, sublime. Keanu Reeves was carefully subdued in his brilliance, paralleled by the aloof sheen of Carrie Anne Moss at her cultural height. A triumph equaled only by the monumental failure of its sequels. The inevitability of *The Matrix*'s doom is as apparent to me now as a consequence of the imperfection inherent in every human being, despite Netflix updating their posters based on your viewing history to more accurately reflect the varying grotesqueries of your nature. I have since come to understand that understanding the beauty of *The Matrix* required a lesser mind, or perhaps a mind less bound by the parameters of perfection. But perhaps the typical human mind was too 'lesser than'. To a being not built to understand just how this movie changed the cultural direction of science fiction, this film may come off as limited. There is little the enlightened can do to change the minds of these lower vibrational beings; much like the average *Joker* viewer, we have ascended to a higher plane of existence, now that we understand society in its totality. It is up to you to decide whether you wish to join us in our intellectual paradise.



ANIMAL CROSSING: NEW HORIZONS

MAX LIM

0/10: THE PROLETARIAT MUST NOT SUFFER SUCH INSOLENCE

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LUCID RAVEENA

KATE

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

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

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



GHOST, DIR. JERRY ZUCKER

ROBBIE DELANY

Adjacent to Windows 95 and Gameboys, rom-coms were unquestionably the foundation of the 1990's. The apex of this genre was *Ghost*. After the abrupt death of young New York banker Sam (Patrick Swayze), the story follows the emotional aftermath of his girlfriend, Molly (Demi Moore). However, unknown to Molly, Sam stands among the living to fulfill unfinished business.

The narrative is not what the audience is interested in so much as the way it is told. The script is a dangerously effective tragic fantasy drama, expertly directed by usual comedy director Jerry Zucker. Cliché sentimentality is avoided, instead offering an odyssey of human emotion. Moore provides a masterclass in the art of crying, drawing the audience into her despair and leaving us to wonder whether she is acting in the first place.

Sam interacts with the living through whispers and shadows, frustrating Molly and the audience alike as we yearn for a final kiss or reunion. Zucker does not disappoint nor fail to reward us for our emotional expense. In the penultimate scene, a materialized Sam and Molly slow dance to "Unchained Melody" by The Righteous Brothers. In this bitter sweet moment, her pain melts away to reveal a long gestating acceptance of his death. With the exception of *The Notebook*, no film has quite toyed with our emotions since. As the reality of self-isolation looms, this classic demands a reviewing, accompanied by man-sized tissues and your other half in cuddling distance. Tears aplenty.

8/10: But can ghosts make their dick corporeal?



RECOMMENDATION: 80 DAYS

DANIEL MEECH

COVID-19 cancelled your Semester 2 exchange? Don't worry! Inkle games have got your back. *80 Days* is a video game loosely based on Jules Verne's novel *Around the World in Eighty Days*. The premise is simple: you, an aristocrat living in an alternate-reality version of 1800s England, have bet your friend you can make it around the world in 80 days. Now you have to make good on that promise, by picking your way through the spider's web of beat-up trains, wheezing steamboats, and rattly airplanes criss-crossing the globe.

On the surface, *80 Days* might look like nothing more than a fun little logistical puzzle: there's no one easy route around the globe, as different transportation methods cost different amounts, have different perks, leave at different times, have varying chances of running into unexpected stoppages, and more. But that's not the real game.

80 Days is actually a stylised choose-your-own-adventure book. Every location you visit, every character you encounter, every mode of transportation you take will unlock a new story which is displayed on the screen like an endlessly unravelling novel. The real game lies in these cute little stories - in one city, you might help a group of villagers fend off bandits. In another, you might uncover the forgotten treasures of a long lost civilisation. All these stories are vivid, funny, and extremely well written. Best of all, there's hundreds of them, and they all combine and interact in different ways, depending on which cities you happen to visit and in which particular order.

So, if the travel ban has got you feeling down, pick up a copy of *80 Days*. It's more fun than you would have had on your contiki, anyway.



Before You Start Jerking It, Consider This

Looking for things to keep you busy during the inevitable university shut-down? Lachlan Mitchell and Daniel Meech give you their top picks.

Ah shit, you've possibly been exposed to the harbinger of our economic destruction: COVID-19. Dystopia is much less interesting than we wanted it to be, didn't we? We couldn't even get to *Bayonetta 3* before the first global pandemic of the modern era came to finish us off. Well, you heard Jacinda – lock yourself away, and don't come up for air until you're either sick as a dog or totally clear of the virus. Unless you're an Italian tourist gladly threatening to flout the strict self-isolation policy, in which case, choke on our shit!

For those that either are or know they will be self-isolating in the oncoming days and

weeks, the threat of cabin fever may seem like a real possibility. But worry not – we at Craccum have devised a foolproof list of methods to entertain yourself and stave off the *ennui* of quarantine. Well, in the short breaks from fingering yourself that'll comprise the rest of your time. Just be sure to change the sheets every day or two, you rascals! Don't want some equivalent of trench foot from all the fluids that'll be omnipresent in your bedroom!

Alien Isolation - PC/PS3/PS4/360/ONE

You're playing the daughter of Ellen Ripley,

but how different is the setting, really? Think of it as an interactive experience with the situation you've found yourself in today - you're trapped in an increasingly cramped setting with no one to trust but yourself, and you must evade the single-minded pathologically-driven alien lifeform that seeks nothing but to eviscerate your body. You must avoid the Xenomorph at all costs, for there is no fighting back. You can only wait until you have the all clear. There is only running, and hiding. Sound familiar? Well, probably not the running. Might not be doing much of that for a while.

The Big Fat Quiz, various formats - Youtube

The British quiz show is either utterly incomprehensible and lost behind inscrutable Britishisms that make you wonder how they managed to see over countless genocides the world over, or it is an absolute cracker of an experience. The mad lads! Thankfully, the latter is what we have here; hosted by lifelike oak puppet Jimmy Carr, there are over a decade's worth of shows easily compiled into Youtube playlists. Each episode deals with a particular time period, but it's so easy that it's not about winning, unless you're Jonathan Ross.

Observe your neighbours Rear Window-style - Outside

Much like Jimmy Stewart, you've gone and put yourself in a situation where you're totally cut off from the outside world, except for what you can see from your little windows into the lives of others. When you get bored of getting killed by the xenomorph, why not take a little peek outside? If you live in a wealthy, gated neighbourhood, get out your binoculars and really close in on their faces - Janice has never had to spend more than three hours around her husband before, and the slow realisation that her life is nothing but a Douglas Sirk piece of crushing suburban sadness may be the breaking point for her fragile psyche. If you see a murder, you've lived an authentic *Rear Window* experience! Congrats! Now, don't send Grace Kelly over to investigate, because then she'd be breaking quarantine

and would have to be deported.

Flavor of Love: Charm School - Youtube

Look, it's misogyny through and through. Like, holy shit, the late '00s really were medieval - which is appropriate, because only a few years later, the plague is back. But can misogyny be... good? Do women be shopping? That is the question *Charm School* purports to answer. It's not right, but maybe it's not wrong. Sometimes misogyny makes some must-see tv.

Resident Evil 7: Biohazard - PC/PS4/ONE

Our knowledge of the known symptoms of this strain of coronavirus means that, unless you have a separate illness happening at the same time, you won't be shitting yourself to the point of dehydration. But *if* you want to do that, then look no further than *Biohazard*; easily the most frightening game I've played in a long time, and there's no better vehicle to explore the effects of a devastating bioweapon on a small group of people. Because that's what COVID-19 is, r/ conspiracies.

Monopoly - You definitely have one somewhere

Interested in figuring out just how we're in such a fucked situation, but can't put the words to your lips? Running low on snacks

in this post-apocalyptic environment, but lack a fair method of deciding who in your quarantine cell needs to die so that the herd may survive? Bring out that dusty board of Monopoly, and let the guiding hand of the free market decide who lives and dies! With Monopoly, the simulation will spell out all the answers; you better get lucky and hope you can afford the extortionate fine, or the greed of the unrestrained and deregulated capitalist cattle will rob you of your dignity, your health, and your life! Good luck!

Football Manager 2020 - PC

Ever wondered what would happen if Cristiano Ronaldo fucked an excel spreadsheet? No? Too bad! Football Manager (FM) is here to stay. FM is exactly what it sounds like: an excruciatingly accurate simulation of the tedious work that goes on behind-the-scenes at your favourite club. As manager, you'll be expected to control finances, interact with coaching staff, run training sessions, and more. The only thing you won't have to do is play an actual game of football. If it doesn't sound like fun, don't worry - that's not the point. FM isn't so much a videogame as a second (or even first) job. Between negotiating contracts and upscaling training facilities, this game sucks AND sucks up time like nobody's business - making it the perfect app to keep yourself distracted over the coming months of isolation. Best of all, it's free to download on Steam until the 25th of March.

"...easily the most frightening game I've played in a long time, and there's no better vehicle to explore the effects of a devastating bioweapon on a small group of people."

I'd Like to Thank the Academy

BRIAN GU

Brian Gu reanimates the corpses of Siskel & Ebert for one final piece

Modern film, music, gaming culture – it's just not all that fun anymore.

Yes, this is in essence a rant, and I make no apologies for that. But you all know that we here in the arts section are like senior citizens on an over-60s cruise – packed full of nostalgia, and waiting for coronavirus to hit us.

While *Craccum* should be noted for hosting a cultured mix of theatre, performing arts and indie film/music reviews, the truth is that out there in the wild entertainment world, most shit scrapes the bottom of the barrel. But don't get me wrong, I'm not talking in terms of quality here – I'm talking in terms of imagination.

The entertainment industry has been plagued by a lack of imagination. I'm sorry for not wanting a formulaic *Marvel* movie pushed in my face every four months without a break. I'm sorry for thinking the scaffolding around bFM has more personality than *No. 6 Collaborations Project*. I'm most definitely not sorry though for picking up my copy of the *FF7* remake, because that game deserves my pocket ten times over.

Jumping intellectual hurdles and pushing creative boundaries just isn't what the industry is about anymore, because that's not where the money lies. It's just not entertainment value anymore. All that is lost in the face of name value, nostalgia and cultural significance. No matter how much a director chooses to bring their skill to the table, it's out of their hands when a moviegoer chooses *Marvel* over a *Marriage Story*, or *Fast and Furious 68* or rather.

Perhaps it's just me growing old, and having my sense of enjoyment warped by the harsh reality of adult life. However, I can at least find some solace in knowing that I'm hardly the only one holding these opinions. In an interview with *Associated Press* four years ago, screen legend Martin Scorsese put it frankly that "cinema is gone. The cinema I grew up with, and that I'm making. It's gone."

Another way to craft the narrative is that

the entertainment industry is approaching its saturation. Very rarely do we encounter a production that is conceptually 'new' or 'groundbreaking' – it's all been done before. The art of sitcom was perfected by *The Office*, and then *Parks and Rec* long before *B99* came onto the scene. *FIFA* drains every last inch of the Playstation udder by releasing a new edition of the same game every goddamn year.

Yet these remain draws, because people choose to buy into what are functioning formulas choosing to transgress the execution of their art, and directly satisfy audience demands. So let me tie up this argument by saying that the entertainment industry can only drain the cash cow of nostalgia for so long before fans start wanting fresh ideas. We need to build from scratch the entertainment culture of today to preserve for the future.

But the big shocker of this article is that I'm arguing for what Hollywood already recognizes, and is trying to correct. But it's not to the credit of those tycoons behind the screen. No, it's those select few privileged in front.

Entertainment critics are the ones who spearhead the efforts of cultural preservation for their industry. I mean, just thinking about it over the last year, the few good things I've encountered are because they had publicized critical acclaim. I wouldn't have seen *Parasite* if it weren't for the movie's popularity at the Oscars. I wouldn't have heard *Social Cues* if it weren't nominated for Best Album at the Grammys. I wouldn't have touched *The Last of Us* if it weren't for the Game of the Year banner on its cover.

Word of mouth only travels so far nowadays in a saturated market, so we need to have a long-standing institution of critics to protect the integrity of the arts. When a director crafts a masterpiece like *Parasite*, no matter how perfect it may be, there is no trickling through to the international market without the platform of film festivals, and the passion of critics.

Yet every so often, Hollywood chooses to take

up the position of victim to harsh criticism, and undermine the work that critics produce. It's a problem covered in an article from *The Guardian*^[1] – 'Who needs film critics? Actually, we all do.' "The success of superhero blockbusters, which hauls in viewers by carefully catering to audience demands, may have obviated some need for the reviewer and led to a distrust of the critical class," writes critic Caspar Salmon.

"We need a full understanding of criticism," Salmon admits. "One that grants more credit than a tweet or a user review. Film critics are film lovers who have chosen this path because we believe in cinema as an art form." It's because of a need to use critical opinion like a shopping list, or search for a definite good or bad label, that critical opinion is so often disregarded or undermined. "The best film criticism is an art that can help to unfold beauty," as Salmon succinctly puts it.

And because of that, artists *should* care about what their critics think. They should strive for that Oscar-winning performance, Grammy-winning album or award-winning game. Because what happens otherwise is that stars will go where the money is – which from the frenzied world of football, we know, is China. Imagine Matt Damon flying over to pick up another ponytail Great Wall movie. Horrifying.

It's why we should celebrate the Oscars, the Grammys and *maybe* the Game Awards (it was always a stretch bundling it in with the former two). Hell, it's why we should celebrate the reviews in the Arts section of *Craccum*. Together, the world of entertainment critics make a collective effort to stop Matt Damon's hair from ever needing to be tied up again.

So unlike European backpackers after a single day of isolation, we're not going anywhere. We're going to keep telling you what's hot – and what's not – and feel good about ourselves when we score *Black Widow* a 6.

We'll take our thank you off the air.



Toast

SOPHIE BROWNING

Toast: a staple flattening food. She's cheap, she's versatile, but can she become luxurious? Well, with the latest technology (namely, the Mitsubishi Electric Bread Oven TO-ST1) this may be possible. This small segment introduces you to the "Rolls Royce of toasters" and advises you on how you can glam up your breakfast the student way.

Firstly, the luxury toaster. Valued at \$400, the TO-ST1 is no ordinary toaster, of course. The point of difference between a \$20 Kmart value toaster and the \$400 contraption is moisture. A basic Kmart toaster can leave you with dry, unevenly burned toast. Not a great start to your day. Whereas, the \$400 toaster of the future completely encloses the bread, locking in the moisture and resulting in evenly-cooked, fluffy toast. Or as Mitsubishi says, "the sheet of ultimate" bread. Sounds exciting, doesn't it?

The reviews on Amazon sure think so. Notably, one reviewer proclaimed that: *This toaster controls my life... friends now knock on doors to have this toast. I apparently keep my local bakery in business going through 1-2 loaves a day per person. Pretty sure it's making me fat.*

Even the one star reviewers concede to the deliciousness of this \$400 toast: *Once used, it cannot be used until the machine cools down. This is the worst item. However, the toast used at one time was **delicious**.*

Student option one: bakery-quality bread

But we don't all have \$400 to spare to lush out on an expensive toaster, like the TO-ST1. So I

have considered two alternatives to upgrade your breakfast. For all the bread aficionados out there, the second-best option is to simply purchase bakery quality bread. In Unbox Therapy's in-depth review of TO-ST1, they concluded that "good bread is good bread" and that a Kmart toaster will not

tarnish that.

I wish to note, if you're still keen on the \$400 toaster and want to add it to your course-related costs, wait a minute. It is not a good idea to splurge on the \$400 machine if you're going to put budget bread in it. The TO-ST1 is only meant for luxury bread and you will not witness the toaster's fullest potential by only toasting value bread.



Student option two: the sandwich press

Lastly, the other option is to purchase a sandwich press for your flat. No need for a flash one. My ol' Kmart one has been doing the trick for the past 2 years. The only thing is, with toasting bread it's probably going to squish it and dry it up since it doesn't lock in the moisture like the TO-ST1.

But the beauty of the sandwich press is that you can do a lot more than just toasting bread, like toasted sandwiches, eggs, pancakes, and last night's pizza. Even the most unusual things can be cooked on a sandwich press, so this machine is worth considering too.

The bottom line for uni students without the dollars is to either purchase glamorous bread for your budget toaster, or to invest in a sandwich press. My personal choice would be the sandwich press for all that I've put it



through with my cheese toasties, smores, bananas, and my shoddy, DIY egg McMuffins. But maybe one day, once my student loan isn't as scary as it currently is, I might consider the luxurious TO-ST1.

Sophie's famous sandwich press egg McMuffin

Yield: 1 amazing egg McMuffin

Total time: 10 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 egg
- 2 plastic cheese squares
- 1 English breakfast muffin
- A little bit of butter
- Salt and pepper
- As much tomato sauce as you can handle

Steps:

- Turn on the sandwich press
- Coat the sandwich press panels with a little bit of butter (or a cooking oil, if you prefer)
- Fry the egg on the sandwich press
- Place cheese squares on each muffin halve
- Rest the muffin halves on the sandwich press so they toast a little and the cheese melts
- Once egg fried and cheese melted slightly, put it all together with lots of tomato sauce and S&P
- If you're not a vego like me, you can add bacon to the mix! In which case, slap some bacon on that sandwich press before you cook the egg.
- Then, ENJOY!



Toilet Reviews of UoA

DEB RAWSON

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

Arts 1 / 2

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

Kate Edger

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

Level 0 Kate Edger

The level 0 toilets deserve a special mention, due to their convenient location for emer-

gency situations. I have fond memories of hightailing it into Munchy Mart at 9:30 p.m. on a Thursday night, and staring down the male cashier while purchasing my super tampons and coconut water. 8/10 location, but ew, still Kate Edger. 3/10.

Shads

Talking exclusively the old Shads here. I thought about visiting the new one for the sake of this review, but, honestly, ceebs. Also, going to Shads purely to piss rather than getting pissed feels wrong. Almost as wrong as the new location. Anyway, the old, shitty (ha) toilets built camaraderie. Many a time would a lock be broken, or toilet paper absent, causing us in the toilet to band together, pool our resources, and form life-long bonds. 5.5/10.

General Library

I think everyone has been to these toilets at least once. It often smells that way. Despite this, I find these toilets oddly comforting. A nice oasis away from catching up on the years' worth of lectures I didn't attend. Also once cried about my dead dog here. If you want some privacy, head to the level 6 toilets, which have their very own tiny staircase going up to them. Cool! 6/10 objectively, but, on a personal level, 7/10.

General Library Basement

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

shithole. 4/10.

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

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

New Science Building

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

Clocktower

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

OGGB

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

Engineering

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

Architecture/Conference Building

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

Commerce A

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

Law School

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

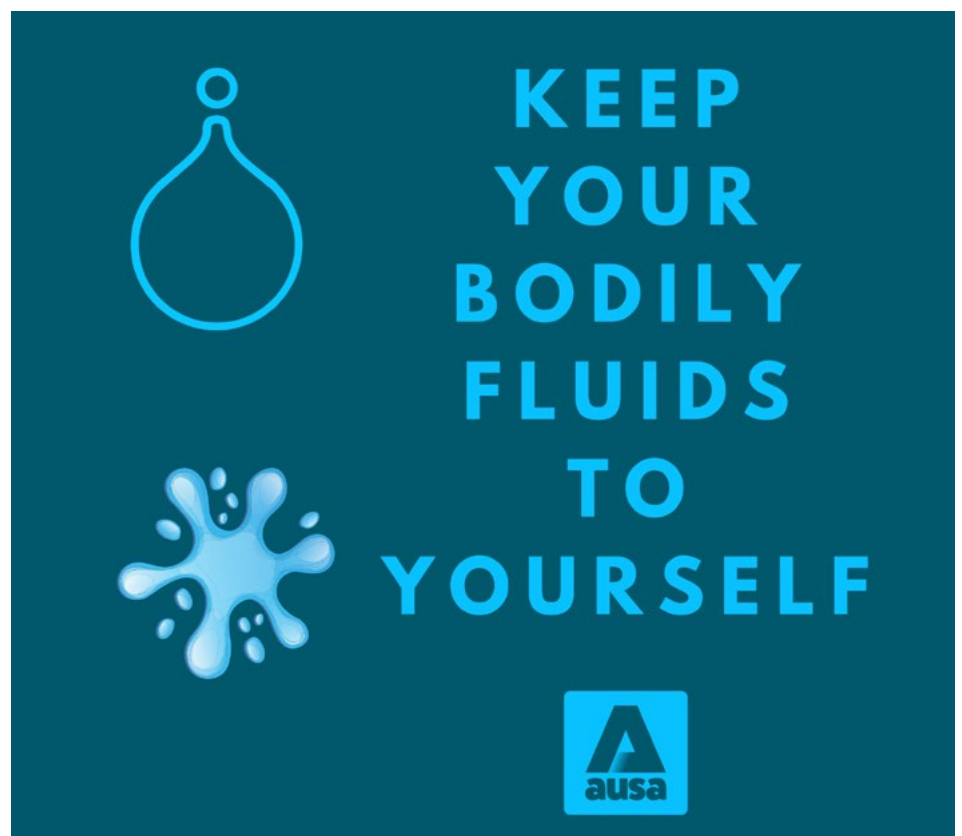
Albert Park

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

Guest Pee-er on unisex toilets:

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

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



ROSALEA'S WEEKLY PICKS

23RD-30TH MARCH

I sat down to write a gig guide and decided encouraging y'all to get out and about just wasn't the move right now. We live in an age of entertainment at our fingertips so I've compiled a virtual gig guide so you can stay safe and entertained at the same time.

Live-streams

There's a lot out there but some great ones you should check out are

1. San Diego Zoo's live cams. The zoo is livestreaming all their animal exhibits so head on over to their website for some quality entertainment.
2. Watching grass grow- yes this is a real livestream and it's as exhilarating as you would imagine.
3. Nessie watch- watch the tranquil Loch Ness from the comfort of your home. You could potentially be the one that finds her.

Other online fun

Netflix party is a google chrome extension that allows you to synch up films and tv shows with your friends online. With a lil chat function, this extension brings mystery science theatre into the future. We've all long ignored those podcast ads and youtuber's pleas to use their code for 30% off, but downloading a VPN and changing your location might be a good call right about now since American Netflix is full of gems we can't access for wholesome entertainment. On the other hand, also worth

noting is the fact that Pornhub is offering free premium membership to quarantined Italians, Molto buona 🍷

The original club penguin might be dead but the rebooted cracked dupe is still up. With memberships now free, there is nothing holding you back from living your 2008 dreams with all the puffles you never had. Despite the questionable new URL, there's always a gig on in club penguin, hit any server you want and head to the dance club or if jazz is more your vibe, waddle on over to the jazz club in the main plaza. Real ones know that if you're looking for more edgy on the fringe type activities, try flipping the iceberg for the rush of a lifetime.

Craccum's live laugh love lifestyle tips

1. Wash makeup brushes.
2. Rearrange spice jars in colour order.
3. Rewatch Kath and Kim, and hold a packet of toilet paper tightly.
4. Get high: If it's something the dutch have got right, it's the massive lines outside of Amsterdam cafes to stock up.

Feel like sh*t? Stay at home



~~YOUR BIG GIG GUIDE~~

FOR 23-30TH (FOR UOA & BEYOND)

HOT LOCAL TRACKS!

Due to recent government guidelines limiting events around the country and the ongoing need to avoid non-essential gatherings to limit the spread of COVID-19, Craccum is not in a current position to endorse events around Auckland due to possible cancellations or postponements. In light of this, The Big Gig Guide is taking a different shape this week. Cancellations are gutting, especially for those working in the entertainment and creative industry. Until things get back up and running, give these local brand new albums some love and support. Thanks to bFM's Jess Fu for sending us some hot local tracks.

Truth and Consequence by Yumi Zouma:

In true social distance energy, this kiwi electronic pop group began as a long-distance home-recording project (collaborating over email after the Christchurch earthquake). This new album is a much needed breath of fun and brightness in an otherwise tense time.

TRASH 2: THE OFFICIAL MOVIE SOUNDTRACK by WhyFi (band-camp):

Self-described as a coming-of-age anti-visual biopic, it's melancholy and lilting in all the right places. Stand out track 'THEME SONG' opens with a phat bass, and it's perfect for some cinematic late night drives. Also Instead of cancelling on your friends/partners again, just send the track 'FLAKED OUT ON DINNER PLANS.'

Kill The Sights by Ingrid and the Ministers:

Psychedelic 'frock'n -roll is perfect to blast in your bedroom, and 'love by proxy' makes

me want to yell out my window too (my lung capacity is not as impressive though).

WONK EP by Peach Milk

Lock yourself in your room, turn off the house lights and plug in some party beams. Or if you're me, this is also perfect for studying too (why not both?). A solid upgrade from lo-fi playlists on Youtube with the sad anime girl.

A love requited- The Remixes by Myele Manzanza

Myele Manzanza blends a mix of jazz and african rhythm, particularly focused on percussion. In particular the Theo Parrish remix for 'Itaru's phone box' is a stand out rendition. It's smooth, funky, and oh so jazzy. (yeah I took piano till grade 5... I know how to describe music). 'Family dynamics- Darkhouse Family remix' is also a favourite.

Man Alive by King Krule:

God damn I used to listen to this moody kid back in High School. The angst is back better than ever as UoA does its thing to us, and King Krule knows and provides with this sweet n sour, bitter album. It's very UK punky grungy vibes: makes me wanna stomp around in some Docs and get up to no good.

Heartbreak Weather by Niall Horan

Have we been sleeping on the 5th member of 1D? Idk, let us know your thoughts at life-style@ craccum.co.nz. I'm kinda into 'Small Talk.'

Here's bFM's Top Ten



1	So Good Amamelia (NZ)
2	Theme Song WhyFi. (NZ)
3	Samson Reb Fountain (NZ)
4	Living Is Easy P.H.F. (NZ)
5	Antipode Peach Milk (NZ)
6	Man After Man Ripship (NZ)
7	Pencarrow [Borrowed CS Remix] Myele Manzanza (NZ)
8	Waking Up Down Yaeji
9	Ibitlan Mdou Moctar
10	House Music All Night Long JARV IS...

WHO ASKED YOU

ISSUE #4

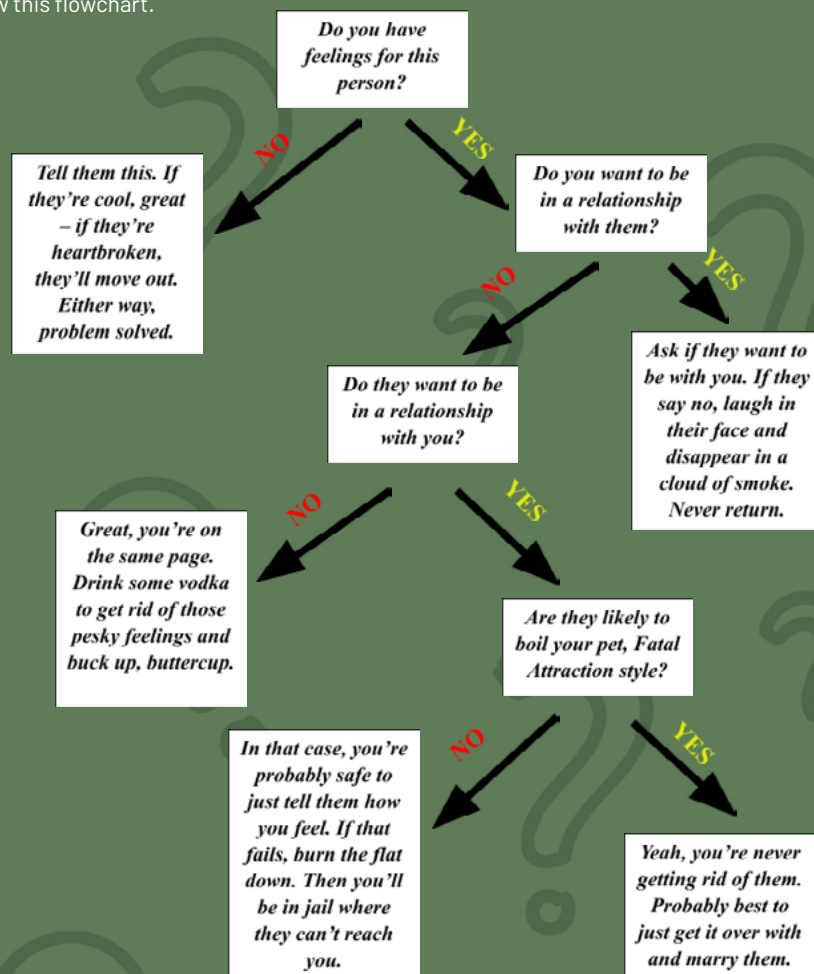
Welcome to Craccum, where we put the "agony" in "agony aunt." We're not qualified to deal with your problems, but neither are you.

I was taking an elevator from the 1st floor to the 5th floor of the General Library. Just as the doors were about to close, I saw someone walking up to me, gesturing to me to keep the elevator open. I smiled and pretended like I was hitting the 'open doors' button but I deliberately hit the 'close doors' button instead so that the door shut in her face and I rode the elevator up alone. Am I going to hell?

Oh man, this really made me laugh. Yeah, you definitely are, but you're going down there a genius. Nobody wants to spend a painfully silent thirty seconds breathing in somebody's germs and desperately hoping they don't talk to you, but most of us just suck it up – you did something about it. Mazel tov to you, my friend.

I slept with my flatmate. What do I do now?

Follow this flowchart.



What important item should you misplace based on your sign?

FROM THE CEO OF BAD ADVICE, SAMANTHA PUTT

ARIES



WALLET: You stingy ass. You don't need that Paper Plus loyalty card, when was the last time you even went to Paper Plus? Just to get a free eraser after 10 pointless purchases. Get a grip. Do you really need your ID card that has 'printing money' on it? Didn't think so. Go to Mount Eden and just throw your wallet as far as you can, you'll thank me later when you can just buy your shit and go.

TAURUS



ALL DATA ON THE COMPUTER: Stop being a hoarder, there's no point holding onto your year 11 To Kill a Mockingbird presentation that you've had on the cloud since 2014. NCEA level 1 called, honey, they don't remember you. The only thing you need is your important 2020 files, and every (Glee Cast Version) song you bought on iTunes using your dad's debit card in 2009.

GEMINI



YOUR HAIRLINE: Come to terms with getting older. You've recently downloaded Tik Tok and some kid just called you a Boomer for not knowing what a BBNOS is. It's okay, don't buy that hat. Just accept that the death express is choo chooing towards you at full speed. At least your parent's friends still think you're super young and cool. Have fun with the last shreds of your youth, maybe dye your remaining hair pink, how fun!

CANCER



BIRTH CERTIFICATE: It's time for a fresh start. Too many people know who you are, and smile at you when you are buying the 'sub of the day' for the fifth time in a week. That is humiliating. Leave your birth certificate at the train station of choice, flee to Nelson, and just stay there for the rest of your life. Adios!

LEO



EARPHONES: Fuck, this is probably the 5th time this year you've brought a new earphones. Honestly where do they go? And these costs really add up because Apple have tapped the money making scheme with it's usb-c lightney thingy whatcha-ma-call it. If not Apple, then somehow those \$9 ones from the tech store in the quad keep breaking. It's a rough time. How else are you going to listen to Craccum's playlists on spotify?

VIRGO



DEPTH PERCEPTION: You like to micromanage those around you, and when you see things you don't think in a specific location, you get upset. I've heard a rumour that the old biology labs have fumes that could permanently damage your sight! Loiter around there and wait for the corners of your vision to worsen. Just let your inability to see things clearly fade, and wait for the compliments to roll in about how chill you've become.

LIBRA



YOUR CAR BATTERY: drive to your nearest harbour and throw it in! It's safe, legal and easy! You've got enough energy as it is, you don't need extra help. Just get rid of that stupid lump of electricity and walk everywhere, god knows you need the fresh air!

SCORPIO



CAR: It's time to fight the council- you're sick of being told what to do. 'Pay and display' this, 'You can't park on the harbour bridge' that, leave your car somewhere that you know you won't remember and wait for the war to begin. You'll become a better negotiator and maybe get to go to court in a fancy outfit! If you don't own a car, hotwire someone else's!

SAGITTARIUS



WILL TO LIVE: Nothing is real, birds aren't real, gender isn't real, time isn't real. What structure are you clinging onto? Let it go and become your most relatable self. It's time to let go of the sweaty monkey bars of life and join the void like the rest of us.

CAPRICORN

THE CHILD YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BABYSIT HOLY SHIT OH GOD:

Give up some of your responsibilities, you're stretching yourself too thin. That kid keeps asking you questions about exponents you don't know the answer to and you're feeling like an actual dumbass for not knowing basic maths. You only agreed to do this because your fifth afterpay payment is due and your mum said her friend's gremlin son ripped the couch apart with his hands the last time she worked late. Just open the triple-bolted-child-proof-alarm-guarded door and set the kid free, take a nap, you deserve it.



AQUARIUS



THE CRUCIAL THIN SKIN THAT KEEPS YOUR EARDRUM INTACT:

Take a six to eight week vacation from reality. Yes, it hurts to burst your eardrum, but change always does. Your ears bleed listening to your shitty playlists regardless, so why not make it official by making your ears constantly bleed all the time. The resulting vertigo makes you super clumsy, which makes you soooooo quirky and adorable. I know you care about standing out from the crowd.

PISCES



PHONE: Stop checking your email in the club, the bouncer thinks you're a loser and Canvas isn't going to release your test grade at 11.37pm on a Friday. It's a grade weight change notification, let it go. The only texts you'll be receiving is a 'where are you' text from a friend who is standing right next to you. Throw it into the mosh, who cares, let it go.

the people to blame.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ella Morgan, Justin Wong, Sanjana Khusal, Brian Gu, Emma Rogers, Anamika Harirajh, Avinash Govind, Madeleine Crutchley, Cameron Leakey, Daniel Meech, Patrick Macaskill-Webb, Talia Parker, Robbie Delany, Kate, Lachlan Mitchell, Max Lim, Keeara Ofren, Deb Rawson, Sophie Browning, Rosalea, The Boys Are What, Sherry Zhang, Samantha Putt

COVER ARTIST

Eda Tang

ILLUSTRATORS

Nirvana Haldar, Sophie Sun, Julia Zhu, Eda Tang

EDITORIAL OFFICE

*4 Alfred Street,
Private Bag 92019
Auckland*

ADVERTISING

*Aaron Haugh
marketing@ausa.org.nz*

EDITORS

EDITOR IN CHIEF

CAMERON LEAKEY AND DANIEL MEECH

SUBEDITOR

BRIAN GU

DESIGNER

NICK WITHERS

NEWS EDITOR

ELLA MORGAN

FEATURES EDITOR

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

ARTS EDITOR

LACHLAN MITCHELL

LIFESTYLE EDITOR

SHERRY ZHANG

VISUAL ARTS EDITOR

EDA TANG

STAFF WRITER

JUSTIN WONG

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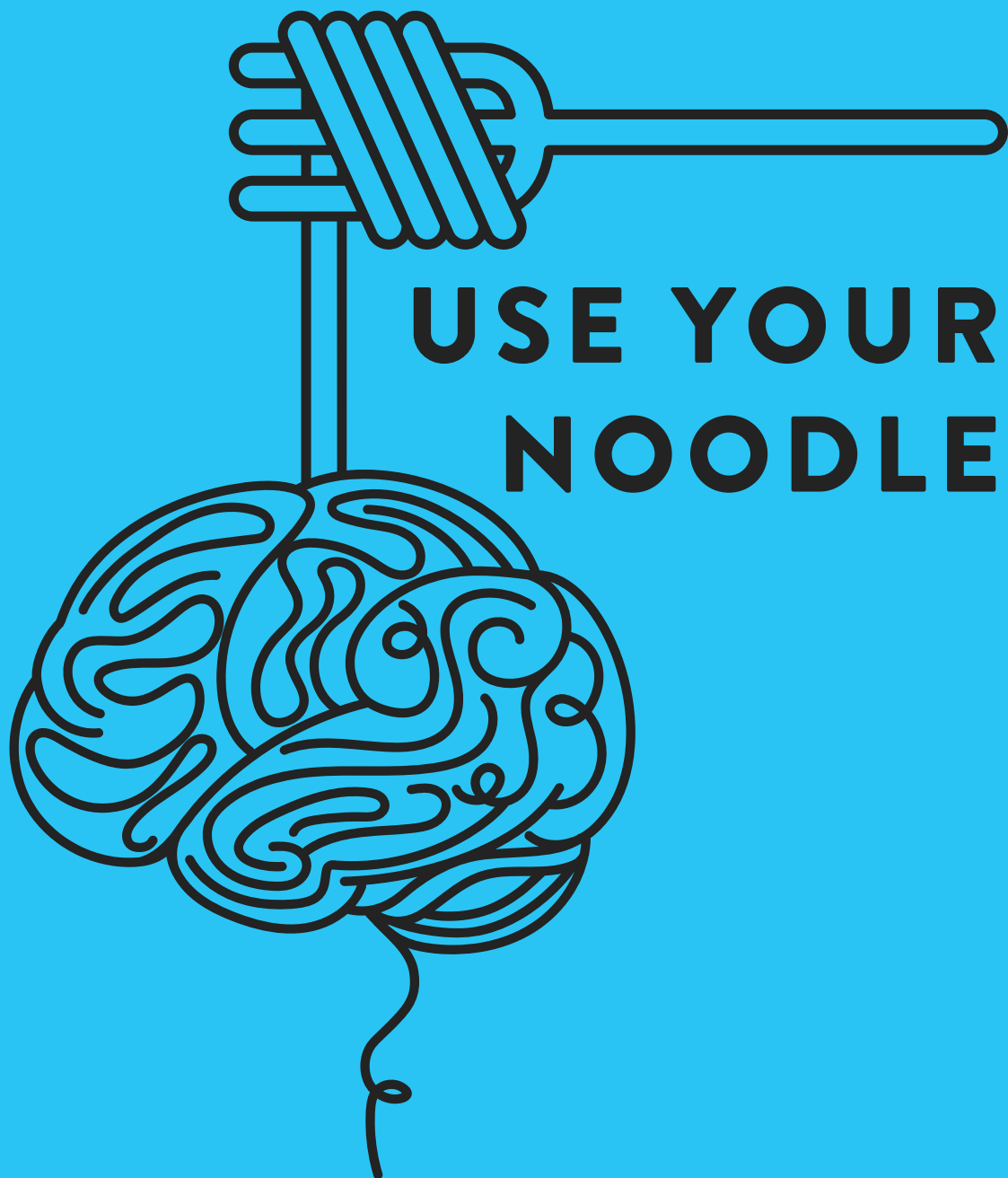
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ausa advocacy **📍 OLD CHORAL, ALFRED ST, CITY CAMPUS**
📞 09 923 7294 🌐 WWW.AUSA.ORG.NZ ✉ ADVOCACY@AUSA.ORG.NZ



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