

# CRACCU M

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND STUDENT MAGAZINE

ISSUE 05, 29 MARCH 2021

## Drugs Deal When Studylink Doesn't

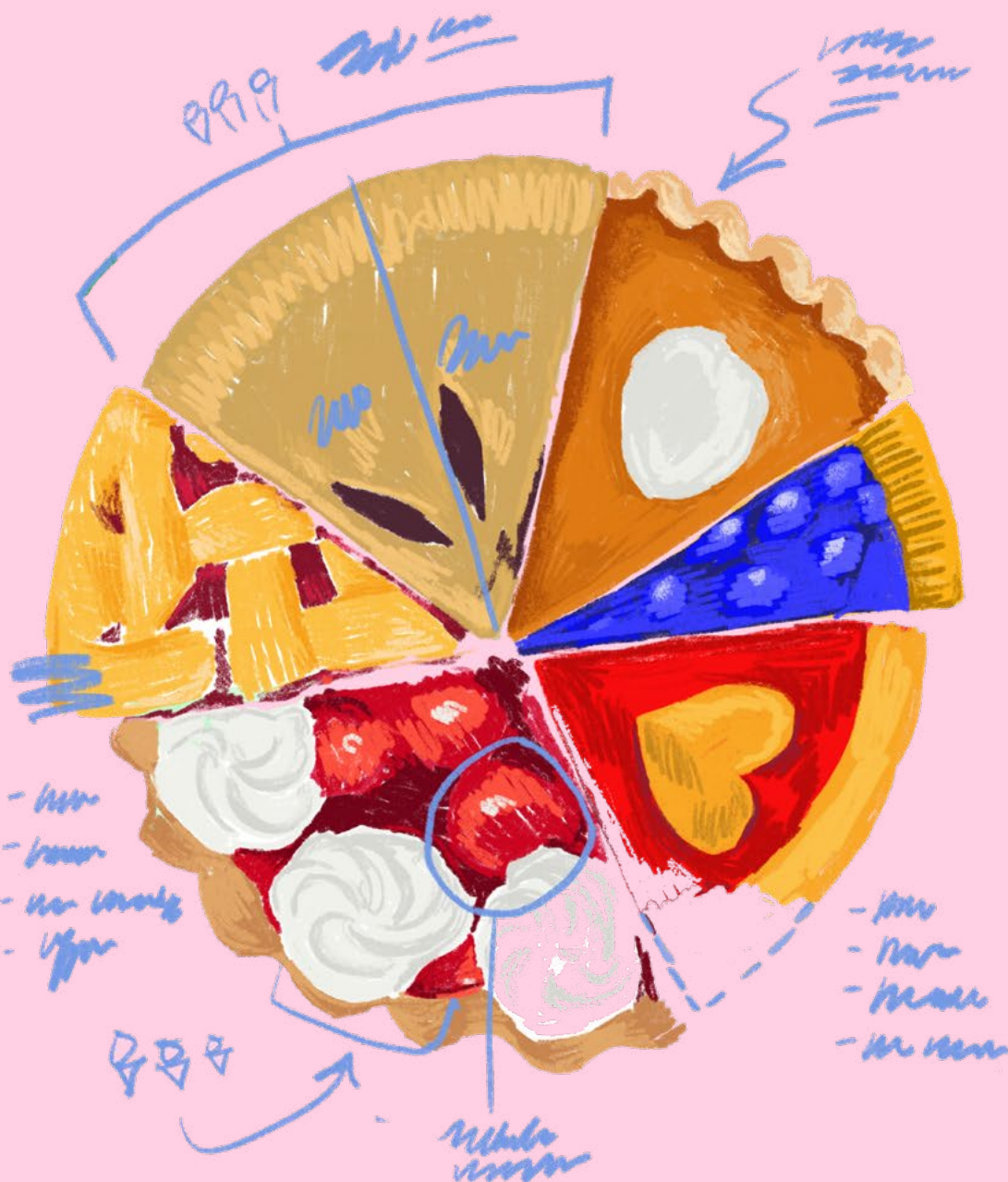
In an interview with a student dealer, Mairātea Mohi explores why selling drugs to students is easy business when you've got bills to pay.

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## Still Paying \$250 Weekly for Rent?

You can do better. Naomi Seah, our ex-*Critic* writer, explores flats in Auckland at Dunners rates for under \$130 a week.

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## Labour Makes No Allowances for Postgrads

Three years after the Government's policy promise, Labour still haven't delivered on postgraduate allowances. News Editor Ella Morgan speaks to education spokespeople lobbying for change (literally).

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# BUDGET ING



UOA STUDENT TICKETS \$45

AUSA AND UOA  
PRESENT

# PARTY IN THE SPARK

SHAPESHIFTER [DJ SET] • QUIX  
JESSB • WATTSSON

WEDNESDAY 31ST MARCH | SPARK ARENA  
TICKETS FROM TICKETMASTER



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## The People to Blame

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**SHADOWS**  
BAR & EATERY

**CONTRIBUTOR OF THE WEEK**

**CHARLIE PARKER**  
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**WINNER OF \$50 SHADS VOUCHER**

**TE AO MĀORI EDITOR**  
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# Money Could Buy My Happiness

PHOTO: NATHANIEL PEACOCK

This week, *Brian and Eda* discuss the difficulty of budgeting within a student lifestyle.

**Budgeting is always** a difficult discussion to have. We all have different needs, and we're saving for different things. Perhaps you're leaving enough spending money so you can buy tickets to a gig on Friday night. Or maybe you're genuinely worried about getting by each week. While we can't speak for everyone's needs, we're here to empathise with the difficulty, and discuss the reasons why your needs aren't being addressed.

Just being able to wake up in your own flat is already enough of a challenge. Entering the Auckland flatting market seems to be akin to entering medicine from first year biomed. In this week's issue, our Features Editor Naomii Seah takes a look at the cheapest flats in Auckland. While it's interesting to consider what constitutes the lower end of the rental market, it's also distressing to know that some students have to resort to these conditions.

Then, from the moment you step out the door in the morning, your first enemy appears (ten minutes later than scheduled) in the form of Auckland Transport. A fare increase earlier this year has seen some trips increase in price as much as 10%. Living away from home, many students don't have an alternative for modes of transport. For those who have access to a car, they shouldn't be pushed towards the sky-high cost of CBD parking.

When you get to uni, the situation isn't much better. A routine of packing mason jar salads had dissipated around Week 3 when everything in your fridge went off and your packed lunch spilled all through your bag. Vendors in the campus centre entice us with Bubble Tea, Fried Chicken, and Butter Chicken Hot Chips. Why the University chooses to be complicit in providing students with costly and low nutritional value

options is beyond us. Shouldn't it be responsible for providing cheap, nutritious food stalls to students?

Many of us wish to be conscious consumers, making sure products aren't sourced from slave, sweatshop or prison labour, and from environmentally sustainable and ethical sources, while being as waste-free and leaving behind the smallest carbon footprint possible. But once you purchase your bar shampoo and a bamboo toothbrush, that's half a week's worth of groceries out of your wallet.

On Thursday, minimum wage will be rising to \$20 per hour from \$18.90 per hour. We don't know much about money but even though this hike seems like a positive step for us, it's still indicative of our financial wellbeing that minimum wage is not matched with living wage at \$22.10. With many students, us included, working at minimum wage, it's no surprise that money stress is a defining feature of what it means to be a student.

Ultimately, this demonstrates a pattern of neglect for the financial difficulty of students, and the eventual compromise proves to be student wellbeing. So yes, if money can buy us a place to call home, time away from commuting, nutritious kai, professional mental health support, and enjoyment with people and things that fill our cup, then money can probably buy our happiness. That's capitalism, baby.

Yours faithfully,

**Eda Tang (she/her) and Brian Gu (he/him)**

Co-Editors of Craccum 2021

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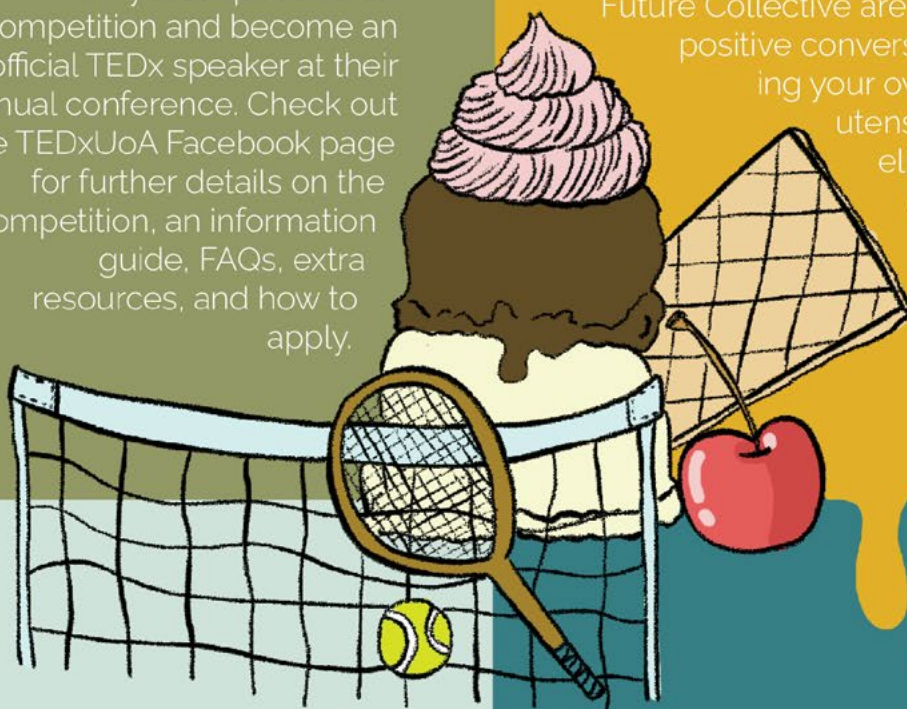




## TEDxUoA, SpeechCraft: Your Road to the TEDx Stage!

Applications close 11:59pm,  
Friday 16th April

Are you passionate about an idea? Have you participated in any work you found impactful? Do you have a unique story to share? Take part in TEDxUoA's very first SpeechCraft competition and become an official TEDx speaker at their annual conference. Check out the TEDxUoA Facebook page for further details on the competition, an information guide, FAQs, extra resources, and how to apply.



## UoA Tennis Club Club Days

Fridays 7-9pm, Gladstone Tennis Club

The UoA Tennis Club run weekly tennis sessions catered to all skill levels throughout the university year.

With beginner coaching every fortnight, and a variety of games for intermediate and advanced players, they aim to offer something for everyone. Their tennis sessions are a great way to meet a variety of people across a whole range of majors at university.

## The Sustainable Future Collective: BYOB Free Ice Cream

12pm 30th of March, John Hood  
Plaza, OGGB

Do you like ice cream AND the environment? Enjoy both by bringing your own bowl/cup/container and spoon in return for delicious vegan ice cream sourced from WaHiki. The Sustainable Future Collective are aiming to start a positive conversation around bringing your own containers and utensils to university and eliminating single-use culture. Be a part of the sustainable movement and contribute to a more sustainable future.

## The Postgraduate Students' Association Easter Picnic

4.30-6pm 1 April, Domain Wintergardens

The Postgraduate Students' Association invites all postgraduate students to join them at an Easter Picnic. Get to know other postgraduate students, enjoy some snacks, and participate in an Easter egg hunt. This event is free, but you will need to register online for health and safety purposes. Check out the PGSA Facebook page for further details.



# Arts Staff Raise Concerns Over Reduced Funding

JESSICA HOPKINS

Several departments and faculties are experiencing reductions in discretionary spending. *Craccum* talked to staff in the Faculty of Arts about how funding reductions are affecting Arts specifically.

Faculty of Arts staff members have expressed concerns over the University implementing changes to course management. One staff member told *Craccum* they are worried about how budgetary constraints will affect the faculty over the next few years and says that 'students should be concerned.' The staff member says the University aims to increase the staff to student ratio from what they believe is currently 1:21 to 1:27.5 and reduce discretionary spending. 'We have been told to reduce contact hours next year, so they don't have to spend so much money on Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs).'

Martin White, an adviser of Academic English studies, shared similar concerns. 'One trend which I am disappointed to see is the steady increase in class size motivated by revenue concerns rather than best pedagogical practice.' White says the University has asked staff to consider new approaches to delivering tutorials. 'In a move to counter any actual budget cuts in the future, we have been asked to look at implementing blended learning starting next year.'

Ethan Cochrane, Convenor of Anthropology, says there has been a reduction in the number of GTAs. 'Over the last five years, discretionary spending has declined, and there is less money to spend on GTA support.' A stage three class Cochrane teaches previously had a GTA run one of two tutorials. Now Cochrane runs both tutorials. 'Funding changes have changed tutorial structures and how students learn. We're trying to create Anthropology graduates with less resources than we had previously.'

Cochrane says blended learning is an approach that responds to new ideas about how students learn best. Changes to the way courses are being run is not necessarily due to budget cuts, and that these decisions are not revenue-driven. 'Universities are not in the business of making money.' He assumes the University has made these changes for efficiency and similarity across faculties and disciplines. However, he questions whether Arts requires a different approach than other faculties. 'My colleagues around the world are facing similar issues, and it's not just COVID inspired. COVID has just made some of those issues come to the floor.'

Natalie Dolan, a social events officer of The Arts Student Organisation (ASO), told *Craccum* that 'there is a history of these cuts happening.' 'It's very easy to get indignant in Arts as we've traditionally felt like we're being ignored. Our student association and advocacy hasn't always been as strong as it currently is. But I do think there is definitely a tradition of STEM subjects, in particular, receiving more donations and thereby given higher priority by the University.'

**“My colleagues around the world are facing similar issues, and it’s not just COVID inspired. COVID has just made some of those issues come to the floor.”**

As a graduate teaching assistant (GTA), she is concerned about tutorial size or courses no longer having tutorials. 'Previously, almost every class would have a 20 to 30 person tutorial. As the years have gone on, tutorials have turned into discussion hours, and those discussion hours are now no longer being held primarily by tutors but by lecturers.' She says limiting GTAs means accessible lines of communication for students are closed off. 'GTAs and tutors are meant to be facilitating more complex and nuanced discussion from a different point of view. They can be a more approachable person for when you have questions to go to.' She also suggested reducing contact hours may result in lower grades, with less comprehension and understanding gained with the absence of nuanced discussion.

Dolan says that with the lack of international students, all departments' faculties are facing cuts. 'They're trying to make cuts where they can. While it is understandable that Arts is an easy place to cut, it does have a massive impact on the Arts community.' She says reducing teaching staff additionally affects graduate students because it takes away opportunities to go into teaching or academia.

She says Arts will continue to be a subject offered at the University but expects the faculty to experience significant changes. 'If you look at where Auckland Uni sits in the world rankings, one of the reasons we are in the top 100 universities is because of the strength of our Arts. People will always gravitate towards those subjects. There will always be space for Arts, but the quality and desirability of it as a stand-alone subject is at risk.'

Dolan emphasised the dedication of the Faculty's staff to help students. 'Those who are lucky enough to be employed by the Arts are doing the best they can. The staff in the Faculty are troopers, they are doing so much great mahi, and there are so many resources that they are trying to make available.'



# Large-Scale University Construction Projects Underway

CHARLIE PARKER

**SHADOWS**  
BAR & EATERY  
CONTRIBUTOR OF THE WEEK

The University of Auckland is currently rebuilding its Recreation and Wellness Centre and Humans Sciences building, with both projects due to finish in 2024.

The Recreation and Wellness Centre at 17 Symonds Street is in the middle of its demolition phase, with the full clearing expected to be completed by April 2020. The purpose of the rebuild is to be able to provide the students with a facility that has space and the right services to maximise what is needed for students wellbeing in today's society. The original Recreation and Wellness facility was established in 1978 with the University's website noting that there are now 40,000 students at the University, in comparison to just 10,000 who studied at the University when the building was opened.

Under the concept design document released in September 2017, the rebuilding "is driven by functional performance". The floor plan's key list shows the space provides public areas, studios, gyms, sports courts with a turf, and an aquatic hall/swimming pool. In October that year student/staff consultation occurred, with feedback showing that 78% of respondents were in support of the proposed design. A significant amount of feedback was in favour of the swimming pool.

The university has provided interim facilities of sports courts and a Recreation Centre in order to allow students to maintain or improve their health and wellbeing. The interim sports courts are located on Wynyard Street, and the interim Recreation Centre is on Stanley Street.

In addition to this the HSB building is currently being torn down

following the government's agreement to help fund and finance the redevelopment and relocation of the Faculty of Education and Social Work, as the faculty currently resides in Epsom. The university website states the building is being stripped down to its framework in order to allow for the building that was in "poor condition" to be developed, so students can move to a more modern and environmentally sustainable learning environment.

The Dean of Education and Social Work, Associate Professor Mark Barrow, said that a marae, a Pasifika Success facility, virtual learning spaces and specialist support education (in regards to social workers and counsellors) will be a key aspect of the redevelopment.

For future updates on University of Auckland's construction projects, visit the University website and find the "What's On" section under "On Campus".

**The floor plan's key list shows the space provides public areas, studios, gyms, sports courts with a turf, and an aquatic hall/swimming pool.**

## Three-Quarters of Compassionate Consideration Applications Approved in 2020

ELLA MORGAN NGĀTI RAUKAWA KI TE TONGA

A recent OIA request revealed that 75% of compassionate consideration applications were approved in 2020.

The University of Auckland received over 2,500 applications for compassionate consideration across summer school, Semester One and Semester Two last year. 1,889 of these were received in Semester Two.

1,444 COVID-related fee exemptions were granted in Semester Two of 2020, after the University announced that the usual \$30 application fee would be waived for applications related to COVID-19.

It is unclear how the application and approval figures can be compared to past years, however notably three-quarters of applications for compassionate consideration last year were received in Semester Two.

Over 3000 applications for aegrotat consideration were also made in 2020, with 78% of these being approved. Again, the vast majority of applications were made in Semester Two.

In order to be considered for aegrotat or compassionate consideration, you need to meet a number of criteria as detailed on the University of Auckland website. Last year, a number of students expressed online that they felt their applications were rejected despite experiencing circumstances that may have greatly affected their performance.

For both end-of-semester examinations and in-semester tests, students' "preparation and/or performance" must be "seriously impaired" to be considered. Circumstances "must be temporary (i.e. 2 weeks prior to exam date), unforeseen, exceptional and beyond your control". Students must also provide evidence to support their claims.

# Postgraduate Student Allowance Issue Still Untouched Three Years After Election Promise

ELLA MORGAN NGĀTI RAUKAWA KI TE TONGA

More than three years after the 2017 election, the issue of postgraduate student allowances has stalled.

In 2013, the National government scrapped student allowances for postgraduate students above Honours level, and since then postgraduate students have been unable to receive student allowance payments.

Prior to the 2017 election, the Labour Party announced a policy to reinstate student allowances for postgraduates. Following the election, those advocating for restoring postgraduate financial support were hopeful that their calls may be answered. However, the newly-elected government did not immediately commit to a start date for the allowances to be reinstated, and ruled it out of being included in their '100 Day Plan'. Now in 2021, the Labour government has not yet taken action on the issue, and attributed this inaction to COVID-19.

In a Tertiary Education Union livestream last October, Hipkins said that reinstating postgraduate support "remains an aspiration, the timetable for [this] has changed obviously because of COVID-19, but it is still something that the Labour Party wants to do in time."

"In the immediate response to COVID-19, our focus really has to be on [keeping] people in work and supporting those who lost their jobs, and that's where our current support really is going."

Speaking to *Craccum*, Green Party MP and Spokesperson for Tertiary Education Chlöe Swarbrick said that in the last term, restoring postgraduate student allowances alongside increasing the student allowance were key issues she pushed to Minister Hipkins.

"I accepted petitions on this basically every single year across those three years, and made it a point on the agenda for literally every single meeting that I had with the Minister. I constantly got told 'don't worry, we're working on it' and became really gutted that at the end of

the term, when obviously COVID-19 came along...that the postgraduate student allowance was completely off the table, and was not a priority," Swarbrick said. "It had been intended, in my understanding, to come up in that 2020 budget, which instead became the emergency COVID-19 budget."

Swarbrick highlighted that a number of steps could be taken this term to progress the issue further, such as utilising question time, the Greens' relationship with the Education Minister and the Education and Workforce Select Committee. However, she believes that there is a need for political organisation from students to place pressure on the government from outside of Parliament.

"The challenge is that there has been a real decline in student organisation and mobilising, particularly for political rights, as subsequent to the last National government's decimation of student associations by virtue of voluntary membership. So we have to figure out a way to circumvent that, and in order to try and do so from my part I'm doing everything to reach out to all of the student associations."

**Speaking to *Craccum*, Green Party MP and Spokesperson for Tertiary Education Chlöe Swarbrick said that in the last term, restoring postgraduate student allowances alongside increasing the student allowance were key issues she pushed to Minister Hipkins.**





Despite inaction on the issue being attributed to COVID-19 by Minister Hipkins, the fact remains that for the first two years of the last term little was done to progress the policy any further. This fact did not go unnoticed; in 2018, the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) launched a petition to the House of Representatives to "recommend to the Government that it keeps its promise and gives us a commitment that the postgraduate allowance will be restored before the 2020 election". The petition gained over 5,000 signatures.

NZUSA President Andrew Lessells says that they are still actively working to get postgraduate student allowances back. "It is unjust that students can't access support simply because of their level of study," Lessells told *Craccum*. "Postgraduate education is a vital part of Aotearoa's future and there needs to be financial support to ensure students succeed. Those who go into [postgraduate study] usually already have significant levels of debt and have to borrow living costs on their student loan to survive."

"The debt postgraduates end up with means that their lives are set back by decades. They can't afford to start a family and buy a house till their 40s, and some are even dying with debt."

The University of Auckland Postgraduate Students' Association echoed Lessells' sentiment, saying that they are in full support of a restoration of the postgraduate student allowance.

"Overcoming financial barriers is a key part of making university education accessible to all, as acknowledged by the undergraduate student allowance, and students wishing to continue to postgraduate study deserve the same opportunities as their more economically-privileged peers," say the PGSA.

"Furthermore, postgraduate students are less likely to have financial support from whānau and are more likely than undergraduate students to have extra financial commitments such as children or a mortgage, especially students who are returning for postgraduate study after time away from university. Postgraduate study is also generally more intensive and rigorous than undergraduate study, making it harder to combine with part-time employment without compromising academic quality."

## **The University of Auckland Postgraduate Students' Association echoed Lessells' sentiment, saying that they are in full support of a restoration of the postgraduate student allowance.**

In 2020, the NZUSA in partnership with Te Mana Ākonga and Tauira Pasifika also launched a campaign to establish a 'Universal Education Income'. The proposed policy would mean that all students, including postgraduates, have access to a universal student allowance payment. The NZUSA plans to continue pushing for a universal allowance in 2021.

The Green Party and the Māori Party have both signalled support for establishing a universal student allowance, with Swarbrick telling *Craccum* that reinstating postgraduate allowances is just one step toward the eventual goal of universal financial support for students.

With support from multiple parties in Parliament and a number of student groups, it is clear that the issue of restoring postgraduate allowances is still a priority to many. While Education Minister Chris Hipkins has signalled that reinstating the allowance is still on the cards in the future, it remains to be determined when the issue will move forward.



anyone got  
a lighter?

nah you always  
steal them



# Full Time Student, Part Time Dealer

Accounts from student drug dealers



MAIRĀTEA MOHI TE ARAWA

**Sitting down to** listen to some accounts of hustling here at UoA, what we are constantly hearing is that students only started selling drugs out of necessity. It was the ever constant presence of hardship in these students lives that led them to start selling. It was the fear of missing a rent payment; it was the anxiety about not knowing where the next meal was coming from that led students to desperate measures. In a weird turn of events, the real victims are not only those susceptible to addiction, but the dealers who have fallen prey to the expensive city of Auckland. Student dealers are risking their lives, their academic career and their safety to stay afloat. The reality of drug dealers is nothing like the glam of narcotics; it's making a sale and still having to eat at club meetings cause it's free. It's watching your mate give their last 50 dollar note so you can use it to go pay power that week. It's desperateness that's come from living in the fourth most expensive city in the world.

## An Interview with Geraldine

*You're a full time student and manage a quietly successful side hustle. Can you explain why you picked up this work and how you started it all?*

Well I fell into the business pretty naturally. I've always had access to my parents personal harvest. That weed was used for medicines

and balms and very little of it was actually smoked. I first started selling on my own when I was in highschool; I was selling to my mates. I'm from a very small town you see, so all teens could get up to is binge drink, bum around our village centre and get high. It's very easy to fall victim to the rampant binge culture in our country and I've watched good friends struggle with substance abuse.

When I left for uni, I thought I had left that lifestyle behind but everyone in my hall was asking for hookups. Since I had easy access to weed, I naturally just got into selling at the halls. Just by word of mouth my business was constant and by the end of the year I had lines out of my door.

*You say you've seen substance abuse first hand. You talk about witnessing its effects but continued to sell drugs anyways. Can you talk us through your thought process when you first started selling?*

When I first arrived at uni what surprised me most was how bad my peers wanted to try and explore drugs. People were always looking and if it wasn't me it would be someone else willing to take advantage of students. The majority of people who bought from me were sheltered middle class students who believed \$20 for a gram was reasonable (lmao) and didn't know the signs of an overdose. Seeing the first hand effects of substance abuse, I took it upon myself to impart some drug safety. I would tell kids to stay hydrated, only do drugs with trusted people and to remember at the end of the day, the drugs will wear out of your system and you WILL be fine.

I didn't feel guilty about selling the drugs. I only felt bad taking money from equally struggling students.

*The life of a drug dealer sounds risky. Surely the rewards make up for all that you're putting yourself through?*

I don't actually make that much money. I only make enough to pay my bills and treat myself

to one on campus lunch. I live in the city and my rent is 250 a week, which Studylink barely covers. So the money I earn from selling goes straight to bills and groceries.

I stopped selling in second year and struggled throughout the whole year. I was the brokest I had ever been. I was looking for jobs but at 18 with no work experience, unless you counted 'trading merchandise', I wasn't getting hired anywhere. I was jobless that whole year and it got to the point where I would come to school to eat at networking events or club meets.

I took up selling again the next year but only out of necessity. I did it to support myself through school. I'm often putting myself on the line by selling to so many people so I'm always on high alert. I don't know how long I can keep up this hustle but I'm due to finish soon so I can start relaxing.

## A Personal Account From Adrian

I applied for my first job at 15. I had no qualifications, no networks and no experience. Suffice to say, I didn't get the job. Or the next three I applied for, not that it was ever an issue. I only wanted a job to get a savings, I didn't need it. My parents both had full time jobs and whatever I couldn't buy for myself, my grandmother would get for me. I didn't need the money is the thing.

By the time I was 19 a lot had changed. I was still applying for jobs with no quals, no experience, no networks. Instead of my small hometown however, I was living in the bustling city of Auckland. Here is a universal truth about living in Auckland. That shit's expensive.

In addition to that painful truth, my parents had some midlife crisis that led them to quitting their jobs late 2016, and by December 2017, my grandmother had passed away. Study Link was as always a revolving door of on hold, unhelpful phone calls. In short then, I needed the money now. So I turned to selling weed. My class schedule was a mess of 9AM's

**"I would tell kids to stay hydrated, only do drugs with trusted people and to remember at the end of the day, the drugs will wear out of your system and you WILL be fine."**

and 5PM classes, not many places wanted to hire someone with such a flaky schedule, so if I wanted to dedicate myself to my studies, selling was the easiest, most direct method to earn this money.

It's kinda fucked up how easy it was to sell weed, if I'm being honest. It's not like sketchy drug deals in the dead of the night, or in a random park in bulky, figure-hiding clothes. For the most part people would slide into my dms, friends of friends, classmates of this person or that person, someone who heard through the grapevine that I was in. It was Facebook messages and Snapchats of people inviting me to their house, or the hall they stayed in, or the stairs at the cafe next to this building. It was bank transfers with no references and casual walks to the nearest atm. Selling drugs at uni wasn't hard: stoners know stoners who know parties who have friends who know you - a whole spider web network of teens who wanted a high.

And honestly, I didn't mind giving that high.

Even when I worked 20 hour weeks, when I received Studylink and money from selling, I was still just getting by. My savings account was low and untimely health issues didn't help. If my grades hadn't dropped to B-Minuses and C-Pluses, I probably would have kept the weed side hustle up, but with my studies being the reason I moved to Auckland, I just decided to take a gap year and work full time. Better to solve my financial issues than to risk lowering my GPA.

I understand that maybe my GPA should have been a lower priority, like maybe the whole selling illegal drugs should have ranked higher on my problems list. And I won't lie, I still have mixed feelings about selling. I'm not a smoker, mostly because I've seen how quickly addiction can be born from people wanting to 'relax' and 'have a good time.' Ultimately however, I sold drugs to survive. I can pretty it up by talking about how easy it was, about how many genuinely good people you meet, how many strangers become almost-friends.

But Auckland is expensive and I had two options without weed: it was work in the hometown I near hated, or study in a city I couldn't afford to live in.

The choice was weed or my future. To afford the better life that my degree will supposedly give me, I placed my own personal misgivings about weed to the side. Personally, I don't believe I was in the wrong to sell weed. Maybe part of me can quietly regret the not so fun times, when I was faced with friends who were dependent on weed, when I had to decide whether or not I should sell to them when I knew the \$50 they had was all of their spending money 'til next pay. In the end, I became a product of my environment and when tasked with being able to survive, I found my solution, however morally-grey it was at times. And in saying that, I met a bunch of cool people while selling: people with different degree pathways and in different years that I never would have met otherwise.

Like I said, I was 19 and I needed money; I did what I had to and I don't particularly regret it.



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# Distribution Sites

## Branded Table Boxes

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Strata (Kate Edger)  
Tank (Kate Edger)  
Shadows Bar & Eatery  
Hal Poke  
Academy Cinemas  
UBIQ  
Quad Cafe Epsom  
School of Music  
Unleash Space  
AUSA Reception  
City Campus Health and Counselling  
University Hall  
O'Rorke Hall  
Carlaw Park Student Village  
Grafton Hall  
Waiparuru Hall  
Te Tirohanga o te Toangaroa

## Freestanding Boxes

The Quad  
Kate Edger - next to UBIQ  
General Library  
Symonds St Underpass  
Arts 1  
OGGB 260-098  
OGGB Level 1  
Grafton Campus  
Davis Law Library  
Science Centre  
Engineering L3  
Rehutai Block  
Fale Pasifika 273  
Clock Tower East wing  
Main Fine Arts Building



## LEGEND:





# The Cheapest Rooms in Auckland

A trash / treasure hunt



NAOMII SEAH

Flatting is f\*cking expensive. Even with StudyLink maxed out, most people find it difficult to cover \$200 or more in rent every week, plus expenses, plus groceries, plus travel costs, plus self-care money (aka sushi and iced-coffee every day. Yes, I see you). As a result, lots of us live at home with our parents. There's no shame in that, but sometimes living with your parents can feel like an awkward flashback to your angsty teen years. For some, it's not even an option.

**Coming from Dunedin to Auckland was a huge shock to my bank account. For those who don't know, the rental market in Dunedin currently averages around \$130 per week.**

Coming from Dunedin to Auckland was a huge shock to my bank account. For those who don't know, the rental market in Dunedin currently averages around \$130 per week. I love Auckland, and my new flat. But it's hard to ignore that suddenly, I'm paying \$70 more in rent *every week*.

Luckily, I have the support of my family. I know that I can always move back home, to the North Shore. But what about those who are less privileged? What about those who didn't have family in Auckland, or have to move out of their home for safety reasons? It got me thinking. I was sure there would be a cheap room out there. Was it really possible to find a flat in Auckland for \$130 or less? Would a room at that price be liveable?

To answer these questions, this intrepid journalist put herself out there on the flatting market. To make this manageable, I set some parameters: the flat had to be no longer than a half-hour bus ride to University. From what I gathered from my friends, this was the preferred zone for flatting in Auckland while studying. This meant Sandringham, Mount Albert, Grey Lynn, etc. As someone looking for a cost-effective flat, this was essential as travel expenses rack up quickly.

**It got me thinking. I was sure there would be a cheap room out there. Was it really possible to find a flat in Auckland for \$130 or less? Would a room at that price be liveable?**

I hopped on TradeMe. Facebook Marketplace had rooms starting from \$160, but I was on a mission: flats \$130 and under or bust.

Surprisingly, I found some.

The first flat was located in Sandringham. After a brief email exchange with the owner, we set up a flat viewing. I was apprehensive from the start. The owner emphasised that he would be able to change anything I had a



complaint about, because he really wanted to fill the room. Nervous that I was about to get murdered, I roped in our Arts Editor, Maddy, to come with me and provide a second critical eye.

From the outside, the structure was imposing. It was an old villa-style house that had obviously been extended to increase capacity. There was mould on the roof, and the whole place was fortified with a 2 metre high fence. It was also huge—not surprising given there were seven rooms.

I was pleasantly surprised to find a nice lounge and big kitchen, albeit with an ancient fridge. There were two bathrooms, separated by gender. The female bathroom had adorable black and white vintage tiles. The carpet was old, but the room itself was nice. There were no signs of mould, but the ceilings were high, and there were a few cracks in the windows. According to the owner, the flat is fully insulated. However, the height of the ceiling made me feel as if that would be redundant in winter. The room also had big North facing windows, so the pleasant afternoon sun possibly clouded my judgement. There was room for a double bed, a sizable wardrobe, a chest of drawers, and a desk and chair. All of the furniture was provided. There was also a big backyard, and a bike shed. It would be entirely possible to bike to University. Maddy noted that the inner corridor was extremely dark, even on a bright afternoon in summer. We suspected that it would be damp in winter.

Another red flag was the high turnover. The flatmate that showed us around had only been there for a month, although he said he had been keeping an eye on the property for three months before that. He promptly told

us that there were people he didn't speak to, and they all cooked their own meals. This was emphasised by another flatmate walking past, very obviously ignoring us and shooting intimidating looks. However, the most expensive room clocked in at only \$135. The flat manager kept a cleaning roster, and grew beans and mint in their garden. Cute.

The next room was rather more dismal. It was on Symonds street, in an apartment complex, so I was expecting the space to be tight. It was even worse than I anticipated. In a narrow room, they had squeezed in a bunk bed, and a desk. It was \$125 to share with a friend, or \$190 for a single occupant. That wasn't bad. Even for a single occupant, it was cheaper than what I was currently paying, and it was right beside the University.

However, they had built a cardboard wall to partition off another "room," and as a result, there was almost no living space. A minute dining table was pushed against the wall, and there was a small—albeit functional—kitchen adjacent. Two other boys shared the adjoining room, meaning the total occupancy of the flat was five people. The apartment was on the fifteenth floor; I was sure it was a fire hazard.

But expanding the occupancy of a property beyond recommended (or even legal) limits is common—not entirely surprising considering the state of the housing market.

Richie\*, is currently living in a room that clocks in at \$70 a week. Yes, you read that right. The property was another expanded colonial villa, in Mt Eden. It was just off Dominion Road, making it an accessible location for University students. From the outside, the property was beautiful, if run down. There was a huge front and back-yard, across which were strewn colourful washing lines and no less than four raised garden beds.

Richie's room, however, wasn't a room so much as a corridor, added as storage space beside the main living area. He explained that he had been allowed back into the flat as a favour, after having vacated a (proper) room a few months ago to live with his partner. The \$70 "room" had large windows, though they were uninsulated and old, having wooden frames with peeling white paint—you know the kind. It wasn't huge, but it was passable. He had fit in a double bed and a closet.

It wasn't meant to be a room—Richie told me

**But expanding the occupancy of a property beyond recommended (or even legal) limits is common—not entirely surprising considering the state of the housing market.**

that he would have to move his bed and hide his things if the landlady ever decided to pay a visit. But it wasn't the first time he had lived in an arrangement like this. In a previous house, where the rooms were all \$100 or so each, he had someone move into their second lounge, where there was an arch demarcating the space. They had simply partitioned it off, and called it a room.

"I think [students] fill this niche in the housing market," he said. "Where there's a huge property but it's a bit run down. It would be too big and expensive to get a family in there, or renovate." And that description fits perfectly with what I had seen, and what others had told me.

Nadia\* lived in an old colonial villa that housed nine in Epsom. "Someone had renovated it badly," she said. "The bathroom was super ornate, and had gold details on the taps. There was a sauna."

"I could cycle to Uni in half an hour," she said. Her room was priced at \$130, though she said the maximum price would have been \$180 for a big room. The biggest downside was the cold, said Nadia. "In summer it was wonderful because it stayed cool. I was there from September 'till March... the house [is just] a bit cold and shitty [in winter!]." When she moved in, the tenants said there were legal levels of insulation, but she suspected that the high ceilings negated that.

Additionally, there was a "huge" turnover at

**However, they had built a cardboard wall to partition off another "room," and as a result, there was almost no living space.**

the house, with two tenants moving in at the same time as Nadia, and four tenants moving out within two months when she left. It was the cheap rent that attracted her initially, but "I wasn't happy enough to stay... it was \$130, it didn't matter what the place was like."

"It attracts people who just need a place quickly, and then you move on. It's not the type of place that you stay," she said. However, she did note that "I will look back on my time there with a bit of nostalgia."

Of all of the places I had seen and the people I had spoken to, it was clear that you *could* get a room for way below the market price if you had the stomach for substandard conditions, and/or a shared room. Flatmates would be luck of the draw. At these prices, privacy went out the window, and the cold would be inevitable.

It brings to light the fact that students are among the most vulnerable to the current housing crisis. I'm fortunate enough to be in a position where I didn't have to seriously consider any of the proposed rooms—but I know it would be a different story had I been searching a few years earlier.

If you're in the market—good luck. In whatever price range you're looking at, there's likely to be houses that are old, badly insulated, or poorly renovated and damp. My friends rented a property at \$200 per person per week, and they were still constantly sick from bronchitis, and didn't have a back door for six

weeks. Even with the new Healthy Homes legislation taking effect in July of this year, landlords don't need to comply unless there's a new tenancy that occurs within 90 days of the law coming into effect. This means that those in a current shit house—with a tenancy that started before July—won't get the changes they need. Existing tenancies don't need their landlords to comply with the new standards until the 1st July 2024. So if you are about to rent, make sure the house complies with the new standards *before* you move in.

The state of the housing market, and the options for affordable housing can honestly look quite dismal. But until the government stops playing fast and loose with the housing market, and leaving loopholes for landlords to take advantage of, it seems these are the best options we have.

*\*names changed for privacy*

**Even with the new Healthy Homes legislation taking effect in July of this year, landlords don't need to comply unless there's a new tenancy that occurs within 90 days of the law coming into effect.**

**Of all of the places I had seen and the people I had spoken to, it was clear that you *could* get a room for way below the market price if you had the stomach for substandard conditions, and/or a shared room.**



NADIA'S \$130 BEDROOM.



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# We need to hear from you.

**Kōrero mai, kōrero atu: A Call for Compassion** is our Mental Health campaign, run by students, for students. We want to give you a platform to share your voice and your story, but we also want to give you the opportunity to be a part of the solution. From University Health and Counselling, to Faculty Student Centres, to AskAuckland, through our online survey, and through our face to face workshops, we want to hear about your experience when accessing support services, and we want to know what you wish would have happened instead. As your Students' Association, it is our job to advocate on behalf of our student body, but if we want the University to listen to our concerns, we need to use our collective voice. This is more than just a campaign, it is a movement that we are creating, together.

More information on our campaign can be found on our Facebook page.

To share your voice anonymously, you can find our online survey here:

<https://forms.gle/r7nrXW6QdshQYEiD6>

If this has raised any unsettling feelings, you can call or text 1737 to access support, completely free of charge.



**Kōrero mai, kōrero atu:**  
A Call for Compassion





# The Strangest of Student Job Search

## Making Funny Money



MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

**Long term**, stable work for a student seems like a distant dream. Awkward semester schedules, timetabling nightmares and exam periods are a nightmare when you're trying to establish some consistency with your much needed income. My work has been notoriously unstable over the past two years, so repetitive job searches have been a necessity in covering my expenses. While I would have loved to keep something more consistent, my priorities have worked as gatekeeper from regular paychecks. Personally, in an effort to navigate the complex relationship between uni and work, and fill the gaps between employment, I've turned to Student Job Search, a platform that claims to be the "leading source of student jobs, employment advice and emerging talent". Spending hours and hours on the site over the last five years has yielded some bizarre results.

### Flower Store Retail Assistant

This is, hands down, the weirdest job I've ever booked through SJS. The job advertised a fixed term position at a flower shop leading up to the busiest day of the year, Valentine's Day.

The role required

45 hours of work, within five days, and promised \$16.50 an hour (at the time that

was minimum

wage). The long hours of the week chugged along slowly until a terrifying confrontation.

On Valentine's Day, in maybe the busiest period of the day,

a customer came in and started

SCREAMING at all the staff. He was livid

because, apparently, he had bought two arrangements, one for his wife and one for another woman he was seeing, and upon delivery the labels had been switched. His

wife, the poor lady, had obviously caught on to what he had been up to behind the scenes. The man claimed that we had ruined his marriage (I would argue that cheating on his wife was probably to blame) and refused to leave the shop. He was eventually escorted out by some customers who called the police. Safe to say, he did not get a refund. I was underpaid, under the table, and walked away with much less money than I deserved for dealing with all of that.

### Editor for Roleplaying Games

I went to a job interview for this position over the summer with next to no information. The listing, when I first applied, just said they

were looking for someone with an English

writing related degree, and someone

who knew a little bit about character

writing for larping games. I visited

the 'offices' on Lorne Street and was

pleasantly surprised by what I found.

The company was essentially a live

roleplay start up, with different game rooms

for different stories. They were looking for

someone who could draft those stories

for them. Due to the shakiness of

the position, with no

contract offered and

no real security of

income, I declined the

offer. However, that

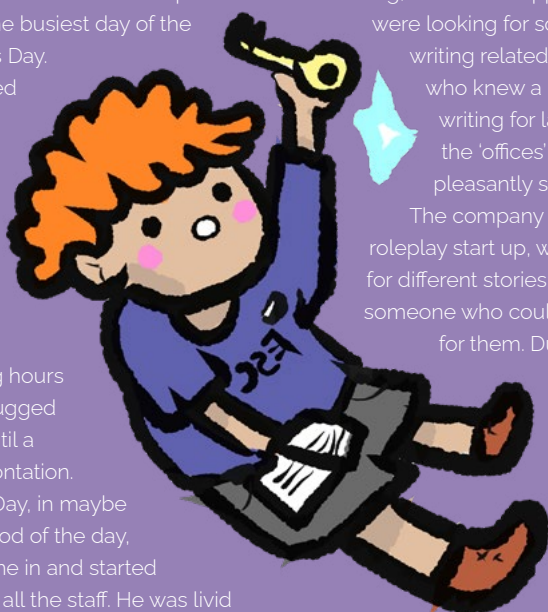
interview remains

one of the most

memorable I've ever

had. If anyone wants to play

murder dress-up, I'm down.



### Pokémon Trader

This one is pretty wholesome. The position was not asking students to cosplay as Ash Ketchum, but was instead posted as a call for a mentor for a young boy.

A central-based family wanted a student with childcare experience to walk the streets of their suburb with their son, playing Pokémon GO and

keeping them company after

school. Much more tame than the title would suggest but it definitely stood out to me amongst the hundreds of nannying positions you can find on the site.

### Escape Room Expert

This one is pretty self explanatory. With the boom of Escape Room businesses in the CBD, it's unsurprising that some jobs would jump onto SJS. The listing asked for applications from 'escape artists' who had a craving for adrenaline and a tendency to excel at puzzle solving. That peaked my interest but then further explanation clarified that the job required patience. That counted me out.

### Modelling

Looking for models? Look no further, SJS has you sorted. This job, which I was initially interested in, turned out to be a gig where the given student would model stick on bras. There were two deal breakers here.. number one was my absolutely massive jugs (only B or C cups were welcome) and number two was the non-specific, ominous sounding location of 'a studio in Howick'. Felt a little high risk to be honest, and I wasn't about to whip out the girls for only \$50. They're worth AT LEAST \$50 each. It doesn't look like they found anyone on the site, and I'm very glad. Stay safe team.

# Putting Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

Ways to Save for your Sustenance



BRONWYN WILDE

**I like food.** I like eating it. I like thinking about eating it. Chances are, you like food too. Yet, we waste around one third of the food we produce globally. That doesn't sound like we like food very much. And while it might feel like I'm saving money by buying that jumbo-sized sack of potatoes I will never finish, our food-wasting habits cost us \$117 billion as a country every year. The solution seems simple: the less food we waste, the less money we waste too. Even better, by reducing the amount of food sitting rotting in the landfill, the lower our methane emissions - you know, the big no-no cow bum stuff which is kind of fucking up our planet. This list of apps, hacks and charitable acts will see you saving money and the planet while you eat.

## Foodprint

If you haven't already gotten on the Foodprint buzz, who are you and what do you have against cheap food? Foodprint is an app

**Their mission is to reduce the 50,000 tonnes of yearly food waste from the hospitality industry, most of which is completely avoidable. It's a triple threat of saving money, saving perfectly good kai from the landfill and supporting your local cafes.**

which allows cafe's to sell the food leftover at the end of the day for seriously reduced prices - a minimum 50% discount. Their mission is to reduce the 50,000 tonnes of yearly food waste from the hospitality industry, most of which is completely avoidable. It's a triple threat of saving money, saving perfectly good kai from the landfill and supporting your local cafes. Eateries on the app that are close to Uni include &Sushi, Scarecrow, Raw Power and Shortland Street Cafes. Revive is also prolific on Foodprint, and for just a short walk through Albert Park you can get their large meal (normally \$15) for as little as \$6!

## Olio

Imagine: you and your flatmates each get given a free bottle of Trident Sweet Chilli Sauce from AUSA at O Week. What a steal! Except now you have 6 bottles of sickly sweet syrup clogging up your much-needed pantry space, expiry date looming. As you frantically google "uses for sweet chilli sauce" other than dunking, you begin to realise how Sweet Chilli Sauce really is not the most versatile of condiments. You are dangerously close to drenching your entire body in the stuff when thankfully you hear about Olio.

Olio is an app which lets you list your excess food for people to come and rescue. That means not only can you get rid of your unwanted condiments, but you can help your neighbours clean out their pantries too. As I write this there are various canned foods, noodles, tea and snacks up for grabs. Get in quick though! These items are in hot demand because it's all completely free.

Speaking of hot demand, Olio could

**Olio is an app which lets you list your excess food for people to come and rescue. That means not only can you get rid of your unwanted condiments, but you can help your neighbours clean out their pantries too.**



ILLUSTRATION BY KIKI HALL



even double as a dating app as you scope out the cuties that live in your area while you lend them a cup of sugary-sweet chilli sauce.

## Local Produce

Let's be real, supermarkets are a rip-off for fruit and veges. Instead, look up your local farmers' market. And if the words "farmers' market" have you in a cold sweat envisioning kombucha and gluten free sourdough, then think again. This isn't Matakana sweetie, I'm talking about the Avondale Racecourse or Wesley Park in Mt Roskill/ Sandringham. Just good, local, seasonal produce at super cheap prices. Yes, that carrot might have slightly more 'personality' than the ones at Countdown, but they can keep their carbon-emitting, refrigerated aisles, these veges are chilled by the crisp morning air.

On a smaller scale, look for maps online of your local community gardens. Rather than buying that Superb Herb potted plant which will inevitably meet its untimely demise on your kitchen windowsill, take only what you need from a local herb garden. It doesn't have to be an established community garden either; herbs like rosemary are rampant. Auckland suburbs are also littered with fruit trees, from apples to avocados, figs and feijoas. Save the little ones from rotting on the ground and make some feijoa wine for when even the goon gets too expensive.

## Refilleries

Food stores where you can refill are another way to save money and ensure you are only buying exactly what you need.

It's like an adult version of the pick and mix aisle.

They are also often wrongly classed as being expensive or bougie. However, places like Bin Inn are miles cheaper than the supermarket, and even the more up-market GoodFor is releasing an essentials range at lower prices. Indian supermarkets like Lotus in Mt Roskill, or Arjun in New Lynn have self-serve bins of all the essential grains, nuts, seeds, pulses and spices for a mere few dollars a kilo. Remember to bring your own containers or bags to earn your real eco badge of honour and hours of fun at the check out trying to remember if that was flour in that bag - or cornflour? Or was it baking soda? How about icing sugar?

## Everybody Eats

The Everybody Eats pay-as-you-feel restaurant started as a pop up in St Kevins Arcade on Monday nights, and now also has a full on restaurant in Onehunga Mall, five nights a week. As the name says, everybody and anybody is free to come and enjoy an amazing three-course meal, cooked by some of Auckland's greatest chefs. The concept is simple: make a donation of whatever you feel comfortable paying. It's also a charity though, so don't take the piss. A good starting point is what you would have paid for that meal on a night out - somewhere between a chicken on chips at Sensash and a chargrilled crayfish at Amano. And, with most of the food they use being rescued or donated from supermarkets,

bakeries or growers you can walk away with a good feed, and a good feeling inside. Everybody wins!

So next time your Studylink is low and your stomach is rumbling, think about how you can do good by the planet, and your bank balance, at the same time.



**On a smaller scale, look for maps online of your local community gardens. Rather than buying that Superb Herb potted plant which will inevitably meet its untimely demise on your kitchen windowsill, take only what you need from a local herb garden.**



# Why You Should Buy That Damn Ice Coffee

#treatyo'self



NANCY GUO

**Gulp.** The sound of my daily iced oat latte from a trendy Auckland café washes down my throat, quickly leaving the burnt aftertaste of guilt in my mouth. *Well, there goes another six dollars,* I sigh to myself, disappointed once again by my lack of self-discipline. *Someone take my wallet away from me, please.* Unable to enjoy the rest of my slightly-overpriced but still delicious coffee, I swear to myself that from now on I'm only drinking that grainy Nescafé coffee gathering dust in the back of the cupboard, and never purchasing another takeaway

**Yep, I know I have a problem—and nope it's not the iced coffee. I'm talking about the shame and guilt we've been conditioned to feel when treating ourselves.**

coffee ever again. Why? Because I'm better than frivolous temptations: I'm responsible with money—right?

Let's be real here—while it is definitely humanly possible to live without a daily cup of glorified bean juice, every time I pass a cute café my brain can't help but light up with serotonin. Without thinking, I'm compelled to hand over my hard-earned money for an unnecessary luxury to pretentiously "start" my morning. Yep, I know I have a problem—and nope it's not the iced coffee. I'm talking about the shame and guilt we've been conditioned to feel when treating ourselves.

Before I continue any further, I want to preface this by saying that I am not advocating for careless and mindless spending. Please do not spend your week's paycheck on one wild night out in the name of treating yo'self. Financial responsibility is also very important. Secondly, while I like to think I'm reasonable with money, I do not claim to be perfect with money or qualified to give out financial advice. I also recognise the incredible amount of privilege I have to be employed, and have a weekly disposable income.



With that being said, I would like to destroy the stigma around allowing yourself to indulge every now and then. I'm talking about budgeting for little things that bring you small but precious moments of joy in your week. Whether that's paying for a gym membership, or a new lipstick that makes you feel confident, putting money aside to treat ourselves to little pick-me-ups throughout the week is important for overall well being.

There is too much pressure surrounding financial responsibility. We're taught there's only one way to "adult." Many of us carry around toxic and restrictive mindsets taught to us by our parents, the media, and those weird financial guys that appear in obnoxious, too-long YouTube ads (frankly, I don't care about how you got to live in your flash mansion—let me deep dive YouTube at 3 am in peace thanks).

As practical and logical as these budgeting tips may seem, they often fail to acknowledge the value in finding space for those "unnecessary" costs in our everyday lives. The discourse around budgeting often demonises that odd bubble tea or a meal out as the sole reason we can't afford a house or a car (let's just forget about inflation and other economic factors that are out of our control—it's obviously brunch with the girls doing all the damage).

The restrictive mindset around money not only increases stress and makes finance taboo, it also leads us further away from the true purpose of money. Don't get me wrong—saving for that future trip abroad or that expensive laptop is great and necessary, but what about the present moment? If we constantly restrict ourselves from little everyday indulgences, we increase our chances of giving up on our financial goals altogether and making crazy irrational decisions further down the road. Forcing yourself to eat stale muesli bars for lunch every day to save money—among other unsustainable financial strategies—only sets you up for failure and avoidable stress. We need consistency, not quick fixes that'll leave us nutrient-deficient.

Let's move on to the "b" word. Nope, not the one you're thinking of—but you're right, budgeting can be a bit of a b\*tch. While I have mad respect for the people in committed relationships with their personal finance spreadsheets, can we all agree that tracking every single expense is unrealistic for most of us? It's boring, it's stressful and turns budgeting into a numbers game that easily becomes obsessive and unhealthy. Personal budgeting encompasses so much more than a bunch of numbers in Excel—it needs to reflect and honour all aspects of our wellbeing. After all, isn't that kind of the point of money? If we aren't using it as a tool to support our overall welfare, then what's the point of having savings goals? It is not a flex to compromise your physical, mental, or social wellbeing for the sake of seeing numbers grow in a bank account.

So how does advocating the whole "treat yo'self" message come into all of this? Doesn't buying little pick-me-ups throughout the week make you less financially responsible? I used to view budgeting in the same light until I gained a deeper understanding of what it means to indulge every now and then. *You* are an investment. Those small things/services that bring you joy are worth every penny. Whether this means spending a little more on a pair of shoes you know you'll be wearing every day, or buying supplies for a hobby you've been meaning to try—we all need to stop feeling guilty for spending money on ourselves. Who says gift-giving is only for others? If you have the means to reward yourself for that achievement or just making it through another week, please do! We should be proud of ourselves and unafraid to celebrate all of the cool things we accomplish.

Spending money is not the only way to show yourself some love. As great

**So allow yourself to incorporate little moments of joy in your week. Buy that damn ice coffee! Enjoy every last sip too, because life is too short and hectic not to enjoy the small things. It is possible to be financially responsible and treat ourselves to the things we love.**

as presents are, being kind to yourself extends beyond material items like a face mask or a bath bomb. Other ways to practise self-love could include cutting down how many hours you work (if you have the means to do so) or taking time out of your schedule to relax, or work on a hobby. Actively being nice to yourself in a society obsessed with toxic productivity and hustle culture is honestly a revolutionary and bad-ass move.

So allow yourself to incorporate little moments of joy in your week. Buy that damn ice coffee! Enjoy every last sip too, because life is too short and hectic not to enjoy the small things. It is possible to be financially responsible *and* treat ourselves to the things we love.



## On the 10-year plan for Auckland's transport network

### Regional Land Transport Plan (2021 – 2031)

To learn more and tell us what you think, go to **AT.govt.nz/haveyoursay** and click on **'Regional Land Transport Plan'**.

#### Come talk to us

Speak to someone in person at one of our drop-in sessions.

Visit **AT.govt.nz/haveyoursay** for a list of all events and event updates.

(These events will not be held if Auckland is at COVID-19 Alert Level 2 or higher).





# Reviews.



## FILM **CHERRY** DIR. RUSSO BROTHERS

CAITLIN KELLY-MCGAFFIN

*Cherry* is based on a book about the life of **Nico Walker**. Walker, who wrote the book while he was serving time in jail, is an ex US Army Veteran who committed several bank robberies after he became addicted to drugs following his return home from the Iraq war.

The film, directed by the **Russo Brothers** (*Avengers: Endgame*, *Captain America: Civil War*), is a fine masterpiece based on Walker's life. Hollywood's newest and favourite movie star **Tom Holland** (*Spider-Man: Far From Home*, *Chaos Walking*) and the uprising actress **Ciara Bravo** (*The Long Dumb Road*) both give spectacular and memorable performances, depicting a difficult relationship between lead characters Nico and Emily. The film follows their struggles with PTSD and drug addiction. The connection between Holland and Bravo is amazing, aiding the realism of their acting on screen. Every scene with the leads is quite powerful, whether it is portrayed as a good or bad moment.

*Cherry* is a film that explores the reality of war, mental health, PTSD, drugs and violence. The Russo Brothers craft this film in a unique way, playing with different colours, non-linear storytelling, breaking the fourth wall and changing the aspect ratio in certain scenes. The techniques support the impact of emotional cues at different points in the film.

While watching this film, there were moments where I needed to look away because of how uncomfortable I was with specific scenes. That aspect is inherent, due to its hard topics.

"I was so impressed by its beautiful ending."



## CRACCUM STAFF PICK **PODCAST BUT OUTSIDE**

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

Yoyo-ing in and out of lockdowns over the past year or so had really done some damage to our collective social lives. And, more generally, the ever growing demands of work and uni tend to consume much of our daily life, making it difficult to prioritise new connections. If you are feeling a little isolated, and tend to think that the world is just a little too small (this is Auckland after all), then 'Podcast But Outside' may be the perfect show to draw you out of your rut. It's pretty self-descriptive: two L.A. based comedians break the usual mould of podcast production by setting up a table in different outside locations. They invite guests to join them, with little to no criteria for entry, and indulge in conversations about whatever they'd like to talk about. Though there are occasionally themed episodes, the hosts, **Andrew Michaan** and **Cole Hersch**, are happy to let the discussion lead in any direction (while employing some deadpan quips), making for some sporadic moments of brilliance. Due to the nature of the location, the topics they cover range far and wide, with work, relationships and politics being recurring markers in their conversations.

'Podcast But Outside' is available on YouTube and audio streaming platforms, but it's definitely worth taking the time to watch the full hour online. There's so much fun visual comedy that takes place in each episode that you'll be disappointed to miss with just the audio.

"Dry, irreverent, and, at it's best, wholesome."



## NEW TO STREAMING **BILLIE EILISH: THE WORLD'S A LITTLE BLURRY** DIR. R. J. CUTLER

OGGY NWEKE

**Billie Eilish** is one of the music industry's most powerful forces with her smouldering image, silky smooth vocals and commercial and critical success. Cutler's documentary aims to give fans and curious audiences an intimate look at her success, while detailing her origin, the blow up of 'Ocean Eyes' and the creation of her widely celebrated album *When We All Fall Asleep Where Do We Go* - but doesn't give much of a peek beyond the carefully curated Eilish story.

The documentary does have fascinating moments. Eilish speaks candidly and in a refreshing manner about mental health, struggling with criticism, injuries as well as the challenges of being incredibly famous at a really young age. These discussions endear her to viewers and paints an incredible picture of the gulf between Eilish the person and Eilish the star.

However, the documentary continues to feed the narrative that stardom like Eilish's is only a SoundCloud drop away. It promises that anyway making music made in their bedroom is capable of reaching the heights of stardom. Eilish was the benefactor of pre-record deal support from Apple music owned Platoon who also packaged and prepared stars like British talent **Jorja Smith**. The exclusion of Platoon's presence from the documentary is very, very convenient. It's important to understand that Billie Eilish is as much a creation of marketing as your favourite Top40 generic popstar. This realisation leads you to question the intimacy and organic growth journey that this documentary attempts to show.

"Doesn't give much of a peek beyond the carefully curated Eilish story."



## LIVE MERMGROWN - TĀMAKI MAKAURAU

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

There's nothing like an actual real life show to celebrate coming out of another lockdown. The much awaited Mermgown, hosted by **Mermaidens**, finally graced the stages of Karangahape Rd after the band toured their way up from the festival in Pōneke. There was a long list of acts crammed into Whammy, with a great variation in sound and mood. The main room was home to the hosts, as well as **Kane Strang** and **Wax Chattels**, making it a good spot for a dance as well as a headbang. The Backroom was also perfect for a bit of a boogie throughout the night, as there were some 80/90s motifs playing pretty much all night with the likes of **Leaping Tiger** and **Party Dad**. **Samara Alofa** opened the night in the Backroom with their debut album *Earth Punk*, a pretty transcendent, earthy, electronic experience that launched into the line up beautifully. Moving next door, into the Wine Cellar, we found the likes of **Charlie OPI**, **K M T P** and **Phoebe Rings**, who all took advantage of the intimate setting. The tones in Wine Cellar remained pretty dreamy and light all night, making it a perfect place for sway and a smile. Nothing quite beats being back in a bar, with live music ringing in your ears, and Mermgown toured through so many sounds that lockdown had left me craving.

**"Left me absolutely buzzing and excited for more."**



## FILM JUSTICE LEAGUE: THE SNYDER CUT DIR. ZACK SNYDER

JAY ALEXANDER

Zack Snyder really looked at his chips and said, "double or nothing". With twice the amount of run time, familiar characterisation and everybody's favourite fan-service, this new cut of the infamous *Justice League* is ripe for anyone's enjoyment. The 2017 cut was embarrassingly shallow and wrapped in tonal shifts that caused a mental whiplash, leaving it anyone's guess to how it could be saved by another cut. Sure, the new runtime is a lot to ask from any viewer, but it's somewhat earned for the depth and ideas Snyder has built for this hero team. It's great to see the initially missed potential of characters such as Cyborg, Steppenwolf and Superman to be realised and played out with a lot more care. The characterisation in Snyder's version is more natural, fleshed out and focuses on building the audience's understanding and endearment to the team. Our eyes are given a treat too, with slick 4:3 framing showing off every expensive visual and detailed set. None of the action spectacles let up or tank any of the character and story pacing that surrounds them. This release is also a real triumph for the future of streaming service films. There is no way a movie of this length would work in theatres, but the steady rise of streaming has made longer and bigger projects more accessible to audiences at home. And with the first, of hopefully many, being a fun hero romp? The future is bright for sure.

**"Seven out of ten, but it's missing a mention of society."**



## PLAYING AT ACADEMY'S \$5 WEDNESDAYS: THE GOONIES DIR. RICHARD DONNER

THOMAS GIBLIN

Nostalgia is a powerful force. It reminds us of 'better' and more 'simple' times, so we often yearn for a return to this time or place. What can also be said of nostalgia is that it clouds and impairs our vision, so we look back at a film or TV show, we see it not as it is. Instead, we see it through fogged lenses, not recognising what it is. *The Goonies* is such a film that we see through fogged lenses ignoring or choosing to ignore the film's casual racism, one-note characters, incoherent plot and cringe-inducing lines. A particular lowlight of these lines includes, "Why don't we just put chocolate all over the floor and let Chunk eat his way through?". It's not funny nor necessary; it's bullying hidden behind the veil of alleged camaraderie. Viewing through fogged lenses allows for those prejudices and stereotypes to be ignored and is the only way to enjoy the film's highlights.

These highlights, for many, are enough to give the film cult status. Its youthful innocence, antagonists that are as iconic as they are confusing, the cheesiest of cheesy scenes, and a young **Josh Brolin** are enough to derive some enjoyment from the film. However, the real enjoyment comes from revisiting a childhood classic and seeing if it matches the version that you remember. So when remembering and revisiting a film like *The Goonies* that is so steeped in nostalgia, is it possible to overcome that powerful force to see the film as it is in the present day?

**TO GO INTO THE DRAW TO WIN A DOUBLE PASS TO THE GOONIES AT ACADEMY'S \$5 WEDNESDAY, EMAIL ARTS@CRACCUM.CO.NZ AND TELL US ABOUT THE LAST FILM YOU WATCHED!**



# Pocket Change Movies

## Budget Entertainment



ANNIE KANG

**Who the hell** can afford \$20 movie tickets in THIS economy? Not broke uni students, that's for sure. Luckily, quality entertainment doesn't have to cost you your first-born child (though feel free to offer them up as sacrifice)! Here are a few deals that guarantee good times, fun shows, and money left over for mini donuts and drinks. Kai is key.

### \$5 Wednesdays at Academy Cinemas:

All film showings on Wednesday are \$5, excluding film festival weeks! The last \$5 movie I watched there was *Promising Young Woman*, which is now Oscar nominated, making it a pretty good deal. Popular sessions may sell out, so check the seating online in advance. Academy Cinemas also have special events, like the \$10 Paddington double-feature a couple years back (easily the best cinematic experience of my life). Count up your pocket change and treat yourself to a mid-week night off.

### \$10 movies with Event Cinebuzz for students:

If you love movies, then the \$10 annual fee for a Cinebuzz student membership is well worth your investment. For one year, you'll pay \$10 for any standard 2D movie at Event Cinemas, down from the usual \$18 for students! You'll also earn points toward free movies and get some highly ~exclusive~ invites to advanced screenings.

Just don't forget to bring your student ID to the cinemas. Only place you'll need to use it outside of the library.

### \$9 movie of the week with Cinebuzz at Rialto, Newmarket:

Venturing outside CBD for a minute - a ten minute bus ride down the road, Newmarket's Rialto is a cosy cinema that screens a wide selection of blockbuster and indie films. Cinebuzz members get access to a \$9 movie of the week, as well as \$13 movies all-day

on Tuesdays. Rialto is located right next to the food court, with a decent drinks menu that offers soda, coffee, tea, and wine. That's your whole night sorted! A glass of wine definitely doesn't feel out of place in the Rialto theatre.

### <\$15 movies at Hollywood Cinema, Avondale:

Built in 1915, the Hollywood is an iconic independent theatre in Tāmaki Makaurau. It hosts cult, classic, revival, and marathon screenings, and in the more extreme, including an annual 24-hour movie marathon spread across two days. Sometimes they even play 35mm films for all you cinephiles out there. There's also live music and concerts on certain days! Once they even hosted one of the 'Morning People' events. They don't run films very consistently, so it's important to keep up online with the release schedule. Tarantino once called it the "Best Cinema in New Zealand" and that guy has probably seen quite a few.

### \$10 movies on Tuesdays at The Vic, Devonport:

The Vic is another independent and historical cinema, located, this time, on the shore. Established in 1912, the Vic offers \$10 movie tickets on Cheap Tuesdays and \$12.50 student concessions every other day (you can save a further \$1 if you opt out of the automatic donation tacked onto the ticket prices. If you're down to be looked at as an asshole). Their choc tops and gelato are to die for!

### \$5 Student Mondays and Tuesdays at Bridgeway, Northcote:

The Bridgeway is a gorgeous arthouse cinema that's looking out for us kids! Tickets are \$5 on Mondays and Tuesdays, as long as you bring your student ID. If you can't make it, student tickets are only \$12 from Wednesday to Friday before 5pm, and \$12.50 at any other times. Maybe North Shore isn't so bad after all!

### Free Beamafilm streaming with Auckland Libraries:

beamafilm.com lets you stream movies and TV shows with your Auckland Libraries card. And what's

cheaper than free?

Though the site definitely lacks mainstream titles, there's plenty of gems to choose from (including *Drive*, *Carol*, and *Boy*). Great for days when you want to stay home and Beamafilm and chill.

### \$5 Raw Comedy Night at the Classic (2 for 1 student deal):

Every Monday at 8pm, the Classic comedy club invites rookie performers to test their comedy chops. If you're lucky, you might catch a breakout star. If you're unlucky, you might see someone bomb, crash, and burn. Either way, you'll be thoroughly entertained. Tickets are \$5 at the door, or \$2.50 with a date and your student ID!

And finally, if you want to put on a show yourself...

### \$2 karaoke coin booths at Chancery:

With prices ranging from \$2 for one song to \$12 for 20, the Chancery karaoke coin booths are perfect for dates, hanging with friends, or solo concerts after class (though splitting costs with more people is cheaper)! You're the star now!



# BUDGET

08.06.19

Weekly	Monthly	Yearly Income
170.00	680.00	
\$ 170.00	\$	





# The Art of the Side Hustle



MELANIE DUFF

**Being a student** can be pretty tough, financially. The stereotype of broke young people living off garbage food, like two minute noodles and leftover pizza foraged from random campus events, exists for a reason. Rents are high, travel is expensive, and there is no hope that the measly \$240 from the student living costs loan will cover it all. The allowance isn't much better. Most of us spend our evenings waiting tables at a hospo job or spend our precious free days working retail. However, a few monetise their creative skills for student side hustles in the hopes that they can earn some cash doing something they find more fulfilling.

Melissa has been teaching dance for four years now. She danced throughout her high school years, and after a short hiatus, realised that she missed dancing and returned to teach the skill. At first, there were just two classes on her roster, but now Melissa teaches five every week. As for scheduling, Melissa says that the dance studio isn't very flexible; they have set times for each class, and they are all after school hours. She tailors her uni classes to fit around her teaching schedule. Despite the half-hour commute to and from



**She tailors her uni classes to fit around her teaching schedule. Despite the half-hour commute to and from the studio, which cuts into her already hectic schedule, she truly loves teaching dance and watching her students grow.**

the studio, which cuts into her already hectic schedule, she truly loves teaching dance and watching her students grow. Melissa says she's "taught some girls since they were really young, and now they're almost at the age where they've finished all the grades. It's so sweet to watch that progression."

Melissa also does coloured pencil pet portraits, which has been less of a smooth journey. When she was in year 11, she saved up her pocket money to buy some nice coloured pencils and began to hone her portrait skills - first starting with people, then moving into animal subjects. In her first year of university she began taking commissions, and in the summer of 2019, she ramped up her marketing efforts. An ad on the Facebook page NZ Made Products (now Chooice) during the first lockdown took her business to the next level. Melissa was suddenly booked for months in advance. Melissa works on portraits at home, on campus, or at cafés, and

it's something she can do while catching up on her favourite podcasts. Still, she has learnt to manage her time carefully. Accepting too many projects at once can interfere with her academic deadlines and other responsibilities.

The biggest downside of the portrait gig, Melissa says, is nitpicky customers. She is happy to make changes but says some clients "expect me to be like a photocopier rather than an artist." She recently had one particularly frustrating customer who decided, after sending a "glowing email about how [the portrait] was looking so good," that the piece wasn't up to her standard. She suddenly changed her tune and became very rude, refusing to pay the full price because one of the cats was based on the wrong reference picture (the customer had sent multiple references of each animal and not specified which she preferred). Despite this, Melissa loves the feeling of seeing her customers happy with their artwork. She has received

photographs of her art pieces with their real-life counterparts, and heard heartwarming stories of family members crying when they receive the portraits as gifts.

Melissa's top tip for student side hustlers is to keep a record of all expenses and save all the receipts so that the costs can be deducted at tax time. She also recommends blocking out time in your schedule so that you don't spend too much time on your side business and fall behind in study.

Ping got her first taste of tutoring when helping her friends in high school and has been doing it ever since. She says that she never made it to the interview round when she applied to the "traditional" student jobs like retail or hospo because she doesn't have experience, so tutoring was a better fit. Her tutoring schedule is very flexible to work

around her study, especially because a lot of her students are online.

Ping, like Melissa, says that watching her students develop over time is one of the most rewarding parts of the job: "My favourite thing is when students go from 'oh my gosh, I hate this subject/hate the teacher/I'm here because my parents made me do this' to 'wow, I'm not a total disaster at this'. Reflecting on her time tutoring, Ping recounted one of her most entertaining tutoring moments: "My ESOL student in China used English to tell me about what Chinese poems he's been learning in his Chinese class. The poems were about a guy swooning about his dream girl, and our discussion went on a tangent about ideal partners and how to be a good relationship partner ourselves. Completely unplanned, utterly impressive, and absolutely hilarious."

Ping says that the most frustrating part of the job is when parents aren't communicative. Because most of her students are children and young teens, she relies on the parents to relay messages, so a communication roadblock can cause big issues with her students' learning.

Despite enjoying her tutoring work, Ping says that she wishes someone had told her to look for job openings in the industry you want to get a job in. Otherwise, job applications after graduation are even more difficult. Relevant experience, as well as connections with potential future colleagues, are invaluable in getting a job in a specific field.

I have had a fair few part-time gigs over the years - your basic retail and customer service jobs, dressing up as a princess, mermaid or fairy to host children's birthday parties (good money, but not many hours), coaching gymnastics (crap money, but good hours), tutoring, taking on commissions for various textile and craft projects (I once made a poop emoji costume for a Halloween party), and making masks, like every other crafter, during the 2020 lockdowns. I was even a mall Christmas elf last holiday season. I've made many mistakes in my years as a serial side hustler. I've overcommitted myself, pulled

multiple consecutive all-nighters to meet deadlines, undercharged for my labour, and barely broke even on projects I spent hours on. However, I've learned a ton, and made a decent chunk of money doing it.

My best decision was hiring an accountant (shoutout to Sam from SH Advisory). It's something I could theoretically do myself, but the small fee is an easy substitute for all the hours it would take me to wade through receipts, calculate deductions, and spend several hours swearing at MYOB. And I get to support a friend's small business in the process! I also have a diary that I don't leave the house without, and schedule *everything* meticulously - with colour-coding for uni, different work deadlines, personal responsibilities, and even blocked-out time to catch up with friends.

I think the stress of side hustling can be worth it. There is some serious satisfaction that comes from watching your business grow and getting all the experience that comes with running a small business, but it's definitely not for everyone. Sometimes the stability of having the same work hours and the same paycheck every week is more important than flexible timetables. Of course, there's no reason you have to stick with one path. A couple of hours on the weekend, stacking boxes on shelves (or whatever mundane activity part-time work demands), can give you the extra room in your budget to invest in your side hustle. Maybe you want to spend it on coloured pencils, like Melissa, or mask-making supplies, like me. Or maybe you want to spend it on hotpot with your friends. Uni is hard. You deserve a treat.







# Unethical Financial Advice for Unethical People

Your guide to criminality.



CHRISTINA HUANG

**Search up money** tips and you'll be overloaded with advice on budgeting and investing but there's an issue: they're all tips for law-abiding citizens with self-control and worse, they assume you actually have money. How the fuck are you supposed to invest your savings if you blew it all on a gram last weekend? Here are six financial tips for horrible people because being good hasn't gotten you anywhere.\*

## 1. Don't pay your taxes

If someone like David Seymour is your role model, this one will already be on your radar. Why should you give up your hard-earned money (but let's be honest: you just watched TikToks all day, didn't you) for lazy buggers (also you, claiming course-related costs for piss and drugs)? Fuck the social contract, and fuck the IRD.

**Pros:** The entire country could know you're a tax dodger and you could still stay out of prison, even if you were the president or something.

**Cons:** You have to be relatively financially savvy to get away with it and if you were, you wouldn't be reading this, would you?

## 2. Self-checkout fraud

Whatever you have in your shopping basket, it is now a bag of brown onions. Eggs? Brown onions. Instant ramen? Brown onions. A family-sized bag of Doritos that you're probably gonna finish in one sitting? B.R.O.W.N O.N.I.O.N.S. This is how you ACTUALLY shop smarter. But if you hear "unexpected item in the bagging area", you should probably run.

**Pros:** The dead-eyed and overworked cashier isn't being paid enough to give a shit.

**Cons:** You can't put alcohol through unless you want to draw unwanted attention from an overzealous manager.

## 3. Throw yourself in front of a car

In a smart, calculated way, of course. The car

can't be TOO nice (a Porsche driver will sue you into oblivion), but if it's not nice enough, you'll walk away less damaged than the car. Choose wisely. A Mercedes is a safe bet. They're built solidly enough to give you a non life-threatening injury, and the driver is probably a busy business person driving around doing business things. With any luck, they'll chuck some cash at you to make the problem (you) go away.

**Pros:** You might meet the love of your life. Every great romance starts with a motor vehicle accident, right?

**Cons:** If you get hit by a BMW they might drive away, and you don't get any money if it's a hit and run.

## 4. Sell clean urine

Picture this: one of your dear friends has to pass a drug test tomorrow to obtain their forklift license. But there's one problem -they were absolutely cooked two days ago, and just found out that some illicit substances

can stay in your system for at least three days. That's where you step in and sell them your clean piss. Sure, it might not be very healthy, after all, you're severely dehydrated and consume far too much sodium on a daily basis. But you can't afford drugs so it'll be clean at least. To prepare a batch, simply drink five litres of water and coffee, piss into your least favourite flatmate's mug, and distribute the contents into little containers. Liquid gold.

**Pros:** You could diversify your market and sell it to the same freaks that will literally spend hundreds of dollars on bathwater.

**Cons:** What if you give clean urine to someone like a truck driver and they get behind the wheel while still under the influence? What if there's an accident? The guilt will haunt you forever... just kidding. But you might get pee on your hands, which is arguably worse.

## 5. Sell an organ

Are you *really* gonna use that second kidney? Start thinking about your priorities. You're not gonna be sitting around appreciating your pancreas if you can't afford to eat. Now, you might be thinking: "Christina, where the hell am I supposed to sell my organs?" Easy! Depop is a great platform to unload secondhand crap at astronomical prices. Simply tag it as #vintage and #y2k, caption it as "the cutest liver ever! Used a lot but still functional!" and watch the money roll on in. They're desperate, you're desperate, it's a win-win, really. Of course, you could always donate organs to someone in need but since when do charitable acts pay your bills?

**Pros:** Buyers won't care about the quality of the organs from your drug-addled, car-damaged body if they're desperate.

**Cons:** Potential of sepsis from your DIY hack job.

\*For legal reasons, this is all a joke. Mostly.

**Are you *really* gonna use that second kidney? Start thinking about your priorities. You're not gonna be sitting around appreciating your pancreas if you can't afford to eat.**

# SHV DOWS

## BAR & EATERY

### MONDAY

FREE POOL  
2 FOR 1 TOASTIES

### WEDNESDAY

PROJECT S  
2 FOR 1 PIZZA

### FRIDAY

#### BLOWOUT

GARDEN SESH

### TUESDAY

BURGER & PINT  
NIGHT

### THURSDAY

COCKTAIL NIGHT  
HOT WINGS

### SATURDAY

ODD  
SATURDAYS



# Zoomers Don't Know How To Torrent



LACHLAN MITCHELL

You know, I absolutely would download a car. I'd download a lot more shit if it was feasible, or if I had a Star Trek matter replicator that would let me pirate with ease. And I'd even download Lucy Liu into a robot, sure, whatever. The point is this - piracy is good. Now obviously, there's an asterisk. I'll get to that later. But right now is the time for my Michael Douglas rant about why taking advantage of the fabulous internet piracy networks is A Good Thing. Well, Michael Douglas before eating pussy literally gave him oral cancer. Remember when that happened? Wild.

I suppose I don't have any qualms with the idea of using the internet to get what I want, because I've done it for over half my life. I started doing this in the golden era of internet

piracy, so I find it mind-boggling that there is any sort of resistance to the topic. Like, I was taught how to torrent Britney's *Circus* album when I was 12, and I never looked back. Love Britney! But I was not paying \$24 so I could listen to "Womaniser" on a broken stereo every two nights. P-P-P-Pirate Bay, baby!

To speak in generalisations, I have absolutely no fucking idea why zoomers are so hesitant and pearl-clutching about the idea of torrenting, and piracy overall. Do you not want to save money? I'd like to think it is because they don't know how it works, like sloping forehead cavemen mystified by where the sun goes when it disappears over the horizon. uTorrent, with all of its bars and Seed/Leecher ratios, is apparently an insurmountable obstacle. But that doesn't explain the pearl-

**To speak in generalisations, I have absolutely no fucking idea why zoomers are so hesitant and pearl-clutching about the idea of torrenting, and piracy overall.**



clutching, confusion doesn't explain the seeming Disney-approved talking points they pull out on their Notes app whenever the topic comes up. No, there is a deep-rooted problem that is ingrained within far too many of our age group today, a seeming need to play lantern-jawed hero to WarnerMedia's damsel in distress. She is so virginal, so helplessly tied down to the traintracks, certainly going to be run over by the illegal streaming train. "Don't worry, WarnerMedia! I will save your profit margins from that dastardly menace!"

Before you think I am being too harsh out of nowhere, I do understand that torrenting in particular is confusing to the new person. It is! Which button is the ad, will I get told off for doing so, how can I be sure there aren't any viruses, etc. To answer in order: if you can drag the button, it's an ad; New Zealand has an official policy of ISPs chasing down copyright infringements, but you'd have to have worse luck than a Final Destination character to actually get a message about it, and lastly, a working antivirus will simply abort any torrent or package download with a known virus, especially if you are on a well-known site. But for those that go out of their way to not learn, I don't know. Is it a matter of simply preferring to pay more, so that you don't have to think? Piracy went down when Netflix was the dominant streaming service and had a practical monopoly on easily accessible content. Not having to think is a premium service that I would pay for - I've never paid for Netflix, but it was a practical utopia back then. But I don't know, that seems too simplistic. The cynical part of me simply wants to say that this preference for simplicity simply masks a lack of creativity, a handy desire to simply hand your wallet over and consume, rather than think more about where we get our content, and how much is waiting out there if you just took the time to think.

Again, speaking with generalisations! Obviously, I am doing my Bob Ross watercolours with a broad stroke. I think it's too easy to simply say all this is a matter of confusion. Rather, it's a problem about how closely media consumption is tied to our personality and our morality today. Too many of us simply define our virtuous nature by what we consume, and to do the heinous act of not paying the, like, five companies that own all of media today is a stain on one's soul.

Identity is naturally formed by much of the media we consume, we seek out the art that

reflects who we are or what we believe in. We cherish the movies that gave us comfort in our youth. But in an era where so much new media is just nostalgia farming, strip mining out the crystallised blood diamonds of our cherished youth and plopping them on our tray like Victorian gruel, I find it hard to maintain that emotional connection to, say, *The Little Mermaid*. However, there are others who differ from me there. Because of all the heightened emotions that naturally arise from these companies holding the keys to your treasured memories, there are a lot of people that feel the need to play white knight and defend their childhood by trotting out the various justifications for anti-piracy. Don't turn against your fellow torrenter-in-arms! We are family, and blood is thicker than the castor oil the HBO NKVD could ever force down our throats. Nostalgia has long weaponised against you as an excuse for the scarcity of creativity in the current era, but there's no need to in turn weaponise that, all in defense of the draconian copyright policies that are killing media production! There's a sick need to suckle on Disney's teat, feeling the nourishment of youth dribble down one's chin, and I will have none of it.

However, for those of us not so Oedipally driven, there seems to be the idea that you are personally putting a bullet in the skull of every production assistant, every unpaid intern, every animator and every singer if you dare to enjoy their content without personally connecting it to your streaming account. This is simple dog-brained nonsense. As if Jack Antonoff will collapse overnight and die of severe malnutrition if you torrent that Taylor Swift album. Metallica conducting a Jonestown-style ritual suicide because Jason Dalloway, 17, in Henderson didn't stream Enter Sandman legally that one time. It's nonsense that so many otherwise intelligent, savvy young people buy into this so much. This is stolen rhetoric that was born years ago from the much more reasonable claims of indie artists - though many of them are simplifying LARPing trust fund kids now - who are fundamentally reliant on consistent income from a small base, whose continuation in the business relied on honest payment. But in the Spotify era, where even the Taylor Swifts of the world have to prostrate themselves on their knees to get a fair deal from these licensing giants, many of these smaller artists just straight up say to buy merch since that'll be the only way they'll get a cut of their earnings, and are openly blasé about torrenting. Like, that's pretty damn real. So yes,

**The cynical part of me simply wants to say that this preference for simplicity simply masks a lack of creativity, a handy desire to simply hand your wallet over and consume, rather than think more about where we get our content, and how much is waiting out there if you just took the time to think.**

there is nuance, but don't kid yourself. Think about where you actually got your stated beliefs from, before you go stand in front of a steamroller for Apple Music. For people that call themselves anti-capitalist or totally reject the Boomer world, there is an awful lot of pleading to consider the starving Sony Music executive.

So, I don't know. Am I expecting too much? It's hardly an act of radicalism to download free Photoshop. But if you can get away with it, surely it would be better than forking over endless and ever-increasing subscription rates for something you legally do not own anyway. Is that not extortion to you? Is that not broken? I was going to include a guide of how to torrent, but you can just look that up. Many guides. That's what I want you to do. At least look it all up - and look up how Michael Douglas got oral cancer from eating pussy - and find out what you really think all this. If one person downloads Mad Men [FULL SERIES 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 ENG/RUS SUB] as a result of this, I will be happy. Just do me this one thing and try, please.

# How To Eat Boujee For \$20



MATT YANG @KOWIKAI

**It's probably not** surprising that whenever there's 'Cheap Eats' clickbait on Facebook that takes you to the *Denizen*/*Urban List*/other lifestyle sites for rich people, I click. But my reaction is either "but everyone's been there before" or "that's not that cheap". Sometimes it's "that's affordable, but I don't feel like Dominion Rd rn". I want affordable food, I want it close to the city campus, and I don't want a Budgie Meal. Is that too much to ask?

It's kind of obvious that a lot of these lists are those sneaky paid promotions, and they always talk about the same places. Case in point: **Bannsang** on High St. Not that there's anything wrong with Bannsang! A classic student haunt, and it's not too far away from campus. They write about it all the time, and it's a **Metro Cheap Eat**. Tick. Everyone knows about Bannsang, and you always see heaps of Asians there...so that's a good sign, right? That'll be \$17 if you want the full meal. Not a tick.

Not to be that guy (but I totally am, who am I kidding), but a *real* Korean restaurant always gives you unlimited rice and sides as part of your main (please contact your nearest Korean if you need a fact check). I'm sure a lot of you might say, "OK Matt, but \$17 for a meal out is not too bad", and yeah, you're not wrong...but I'm here to tell you that you could be doing so much better.

## Boujee: First Table (firsttable.co.nz)

I'm more than extremely sure that almost everyone on campus has expensive taste, but a bank account that says no. You have two choices. One, you spend heaps anyway for a good night out or two, you spend not much and go home hungry (and nobody does option two, so checkmate, wallet!). This is where **First Table** comes in. \$10 booking fee, and up to four people can get 50% off the food bill at restaurants all over Auckland for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Notable CBD restaurants: **Yume** (sashimi), **Mexico**, **Wildfire**. **Holey Moley** is even on

here (mean bar food!) and a bunch of fancy Viaduct spots. Split the fee with your mates, and share everything? I have literally had a 3 course meal for \$20 on here. No joke. \$17 small bulgogi vs \$17 angus ribeye steak (**Wynyard Grill**)... your choice.

(Extra for experts: they also have a 'Last Table' which gives you a late night evening booking).

*Pros: Excellent value for money*

*Cons: You have to book in advance and organising friends is difficult difficult lemon difficult*

## On the Go: Evouch App

Story your meal on Instagram, pay in-app and get a discount on a bunch of places around town. Easy to use, and it has some places I really like (all 20% off) - Seoul Night, Twelve, Wise Boys Burgers, Sumthin Dumplin, Hawker and Roll, Nobibi and One8Tea is 30% off. There are heaps of cute city cafes on here, and Everybody's is 50% off. Woaw.

*Pros: Super easy to use, and you can pay in-app.*

*Cons: You have to story it, and you might want your privacy sometimes. Also, it's not the biggest discount so you can't go too crazy.*

## Snacks (and save the world!): Foodprint App

A very clever lady by the name of Michal Garvey invented an app that connects eateries around town that have surplus food to sell it for very cheap. It's pro-sustainability, pro-environment and pro-affordable. \$2.50 gourmet cabinet items (take that, Munchy and your price hikes!), \$6 Revive salad meals, \$5 banh mi (Luna Café) and more!! They also sometimes do non-menu items, and by that, I mean one time I bought a 1L carton of soy milk for \$1.50 from Luna Café and took that lil' boi home with me.

*Pros: Heaps of places close to campus, you can buy individual items for snacks and lunch. It*

*also combats food waste!*

*Cons: Vendors and what they sell change daily :(*

## Honourable Mention: Giapo App

Giapo does some pretty delicious gourmet ice cream, but a single scoop for almost \$10? Yikes. It's very much a treat yourself kind of place and I am here for it, but I am a little more here for it after discovering that they have an app where you can get cheaper prices if you order in advance. \$7 for a cone sounds way better, and they keep you updated very well via text for the ice cream-to-mouth ETA. You also get an extra 10% off on top of the lowered price (so \$6.30), and you collect points for credit. It's boujee, but you'll feel a lot less guilty. I see that as an absolute win.

**Not to be that guy (but I totally am, who am I kidding), but a real Korean restaurant always gives you unlimited rice and sides as part of your main (please contact your nearest Korean if you need a fact check).**



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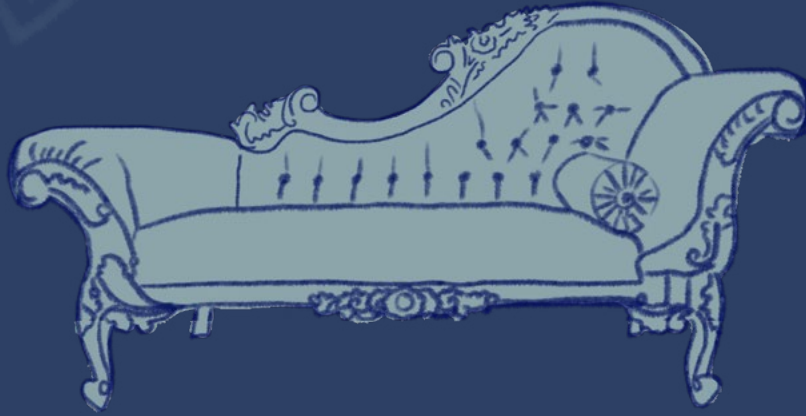


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# Psychology and Me

## How To Change Your Habits



FLORA XIE

**We probably all** have a bad habit — or perhaps know other people with bad habits. It's all fun and games until it starts affecting your life and the people around you in a negative way. Why are bad habits so hard to get rid of? Habits are mindless acts and require essentially no effort from us to maintain. That's why they're so easy to do.

So, this week, let's take a look at how you can train yourself (or someone else) out of these bad habits.

A fundamental law of behaviour is that if what you do (a response) is followed by a favourable consequence, then you'll more likely do it again. For example: if you drink some coffee when you're really tired, and that caffeine wakes you up, allowing you to do what you need to do, you'll be more likely to drink coffee again when you're tired to achieve the same favourable outcome. This favourable outcome is called a reinforcer. On the other hand, if a response is followed by an unfavourable consequence, then it will be less likely to happen again.

What this means is that responses that are followed by a reinforcer, like drinking coffee to wake up, will increase. Other responses will decrease because it has not given you the same favourable outcome!

Moreover, reinforcement is most effective when it immediately follows the response. If you're training an animal to do something, you should reward it with something positive immediately after it successfully does the act. When you tell a dog to sit and it does, but you

then tell it to come to you for a reward, you're actually reinforcing the act of the dog coming to you and not the act of it sitting down.

So, what you should do instead is reward the dog immediately after it sits, so that it knows the positive reinforcement of the reward is for its act of sitting down and not anything else! Positive reinforcement, like the examples above, is one way of producing new or altering old behaviours. Some other ways are through negative reinforcement, positive punishment, and negative punishment.

Negative reinforcement is when something negative is withdrawn after an act occurs, which encourages that act to occur again. For example, if you've got a flatmate who's really messy and you constantly nag them about cleaning up, that is an unpleasant event for them... and you. Once they do clean up, your Marge Simpson nagging will stop, which removes the unpleasant event. That would be a negative reinforcement, because now your flatmate knows that as long as they clean up, you won't nag them about it, thus removing something negative from them.

Positive punishments are not what they sound like. This is when something aversive is added when you do something. If you were a smoker and you wanted to quit smoking, snapping a rubber band on your wrist every time you wanted to smoke would be something that might steer you away from thoughts of smoking because the feeling of the rubber band snapping on your wrist is unpleasant — unless you're into that kinky shit! Naturally, the aversive event would have to outweigh

your desire to continue with your bad habit. Conversely, negative punishment is when something positive is withdrawn to prevent an act from happening again. This is the classic method that your parents might've used on you, like grounding you after you've done something bad. Something like a swear-jar would have a similar effect, where putting your money in a jar acts as a deterrent from swearing because you don't want to lose your money.

To change an old or produce a new behaviour would require some shaping, where you reinforce responses that build up and get closer to your end goal. You need to firstly become conscious of these mindless acts, and monitor when and where they tend to occur. Getting rid of bad habits and forming good habits is a slow process, but it will pay off in the end.

In order to successfully shape your behaviour to be the behaviour that you want, you should firstly find a reinforcer that is the most suitable to you (or whoever/whatever you're trying to train). Once you've made that decision, be sure that you're clear on what behaviour you will be reinforcing, and make sure to reinforce it as immediately as possible.

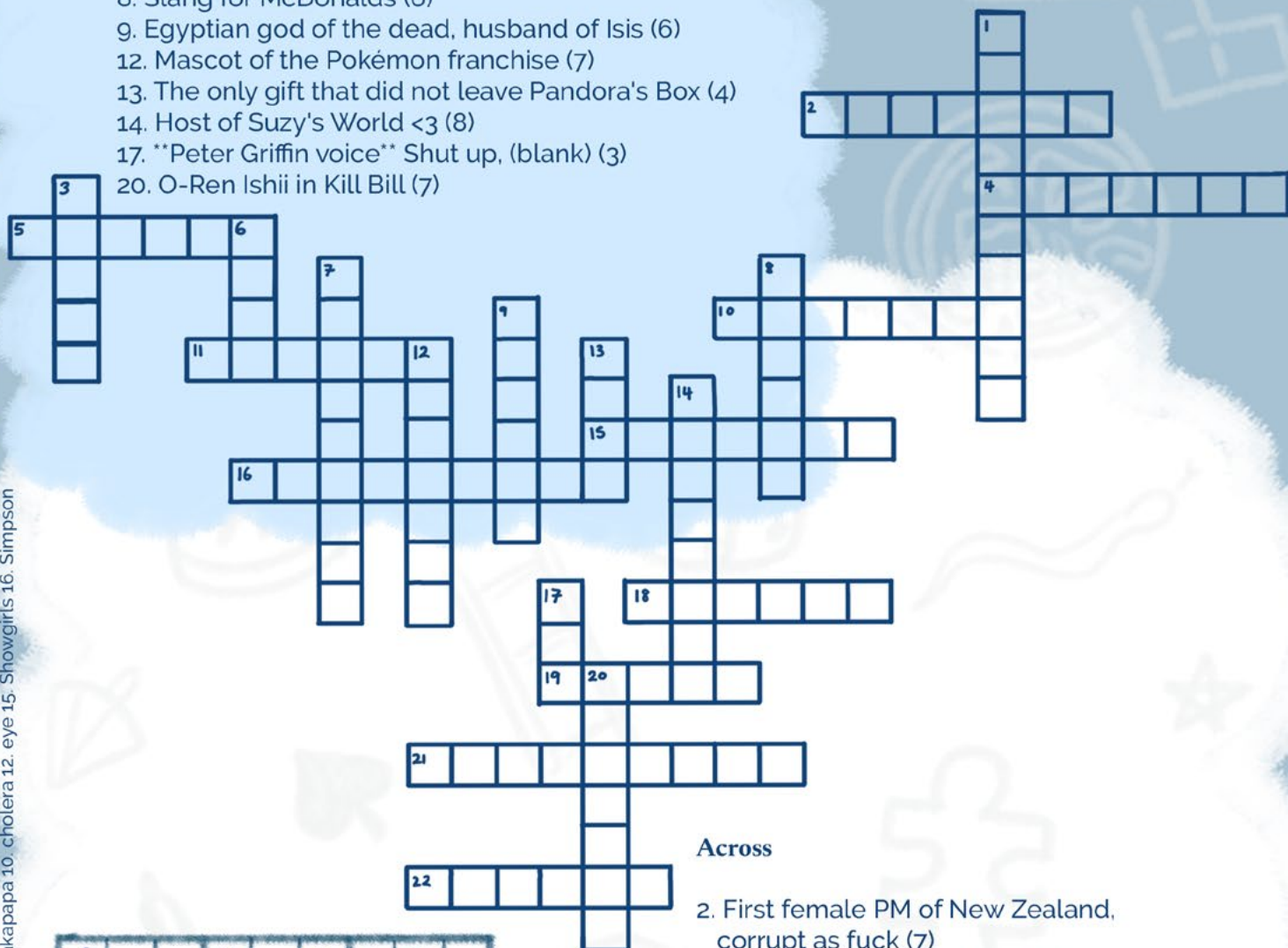
It's important to note that too many reinforcers will lead to satiation, and you'll lose interest in the reinforcer. On the other hand, not enough reinforcers will lead to a lack of response. So, a balance needs to be struck. Ideally, you'll find something that will keep you going in the long-term. So you can be more than a dog.

# PUZZLES

## Down

ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIE SUN

1. Revolutionaries that established the USSR in 1922 (10)
3. Norman (blank), famous shower murderer
6. Title for the ruler of Iran, pre-1979
7. Lady of the woods in LOTR; Cate Blanchett
8. Slang for McDonalds (6)
9. Egyptian god of the dead, husband of Isis (6)
12. Mascot of the Pokémon franchise (7)
13. The only gift that did not leave Pandora's Box (4)
14. Host of Suzy's World <3 (8)
17. \*\*Peter Griffin voice\*\* Shut up, (blank) (3)
20. O-Ren Ishii in Kill Bill (7)



## Across

2. First female PM of New Zealand, corrupt as fuck (7)
4. Leia's bf (super dead now) (7)
5. The city where JFK got fucked up (6)
10. Capital of Kenya (7)
11. A prince who needs to stop living in 2021!!! (6)
15. Māori word for greenstone/jade, carvings usually have emotional significance
16. Butter replacement (9)
18. JonBenét (blank) (6)
19. Augustus (blank), sucked down Wonka's chocolate chute (5)
21. Gradual increase in dynamic volume during a section of music.
22. Jamie Lee (blank) (6)

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

CAN YOU BEAT OUR CO-EDITOR,  
BRIAN'S TIME OF 3 MIN 30 SECS?



# Horoscopes

**Delma Vinkley** was all over the nine realms this week, so she reached into the multiverse and pulled out fellow seer **Baphne Drake** to show you your fortunes based on your Monopoly token.

## Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

You're the prettiest Ram at the ball Aries. This week, find yourself a sugar daddy and enjoy the view from his American-made convertible as you cruise down Symonds. Don't worry about University, just get your glucose guardian to buy you some sexy lingerie. Who needs a good grade when you have a good gig instead? Your lucky numbers are 49 (just off a pass, sorry) and 60.



## Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

This week, you're a wheelbarrow. But you're not just any wheelbarrow - you're specifically the one used in the music video for 'Work From Home' by Fifth Harmony ft. Ty Dolla \$ign. You're dirtier than the University denying a grade bump. But sometimes, it's playing dirty that'll win you the game. Your lucky numbers are 55 and 69.



## Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)

Oo baby, this week you've run out of coins for your coin purse. That's ok, it happens to us all sometimes. Your dual nature means you'll still find ways to have fun on a shoestring budget. No money for brunch on Sundays? No worries, just pour some leftover vodka in that not-quite-mouldy orange and call it a mimosa. Your lucky numbers this week are 0 and 5.



## Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

Like a cannon, this week you'll have a big bang. Get it all out in one go, God knows you need it. Stay hydrated though, an 18 hour fuck-a-thon tends to rob you of your fluids. If you're not lucky enough to get laid, then you'll likely implode on other ways. Keep your cool, and maybe just have a wank. Your lucky numbers are 6 and 9.



## Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)

Woah Leo, someone's been taking it easy. With the mid semester break approaching, you'll have to find a way to get all those assignments done, ASAP. Maybe settle down with a coffee, a No-Doz or two and your phone alarm. Close your eyes. Repeat after me: *I am speed*. It's time to pull a romantic all nighter with that essay. Your lucky numbers are 75 (B+ baby!) and 90.



## Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

Virgo, it's time to make yourself heard. No more of this nonsense, stand your ground! Like the yippy scottish terrier, your effort will be rewarded with respect and a willingness to listen from those around you. So next time Susie won't shut up about her gross boyfriend, you tell her no one cares anyway. It's fine, you don't need her. Your lucky numbers are -2 (friends) and 17.



## Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 23)

Like the slinky cat, this week you're marching to the beat of your own drum. There's no one out there that owns you, not even whoever you've been simping over for the past five seconds. So tell your fuck buddy that it was nice getting to know them, but you might be better off as friends. Well done, you've just successfully dodged another commitment. Your lucky numbers are 3(some) and 5.



## Scorpio (Oct 24 to Nov 21)

You're feeling fancy this week Scorpio! Go out and get your dancing shoes on. Dress up for no reason. Go on, you're allowed in bars again. You're on fire this week and you know it. Treat yourself to that cocktail and buy that slightly too expensive item you've been wanting. You deserve it. Your lucky numbers are 100 and 40.



## Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Unfortunately you've landed with the objectively worst game piece this week - the iron. However, if you look past it's lack of appeal on the outside, you'll find the true heart and grit that keeps this underdog in the game, and that's what'll make you a winner in life. Not this week though, because you've picked the iron. Lucky numbers are 12 and 27.



## Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

This is not your week Capricorn. Let the motion of the rocking horse lull you to sleep, and try not to check your bank account over the next week. You'll be fine, if you ignore it debt goes away, right? Your lucky numbers are 29 and 63.



## Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Uh oh, you've depleted your savings on clothes again, Aquarius. Don't worry, you can always start your own curated online vintage store. It's time to start on the side-hustle. Bust out your knitting needles, your needle and thread, and your best creative hat. Your lucky numbers are 53 and 20.



## Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Gear up Pisces. This. Means. War. A close friend will betray you this week, so keep your secrets close to your chest. Remember, keep your friends close but your enemies closer. Bide your time and soon the perfect plot will present itself to destroy your nemesis. Your lucky numbers are 420 and 42.





WEDNESDAY 31ST MARCH | 9PM TILL LATE | SHADOWS BAR | R18

# FREQS IN THE SHADOWS

## SLY CHAOS



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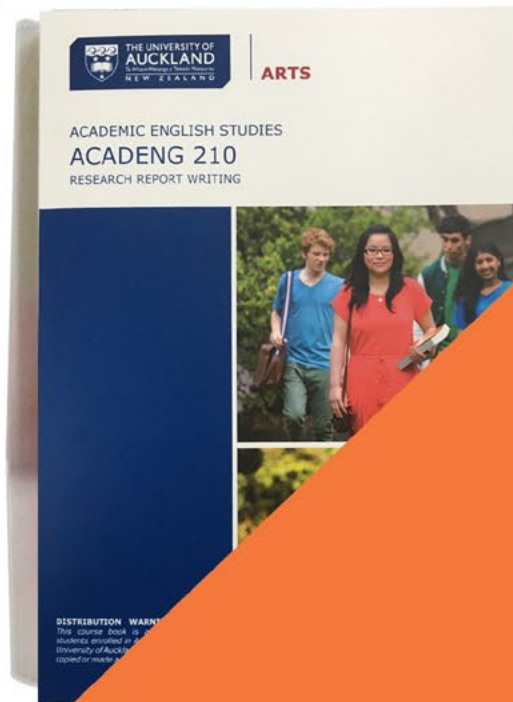
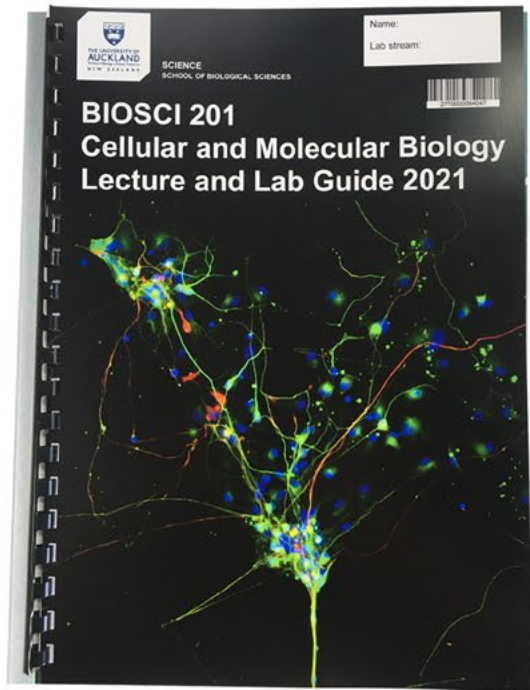
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