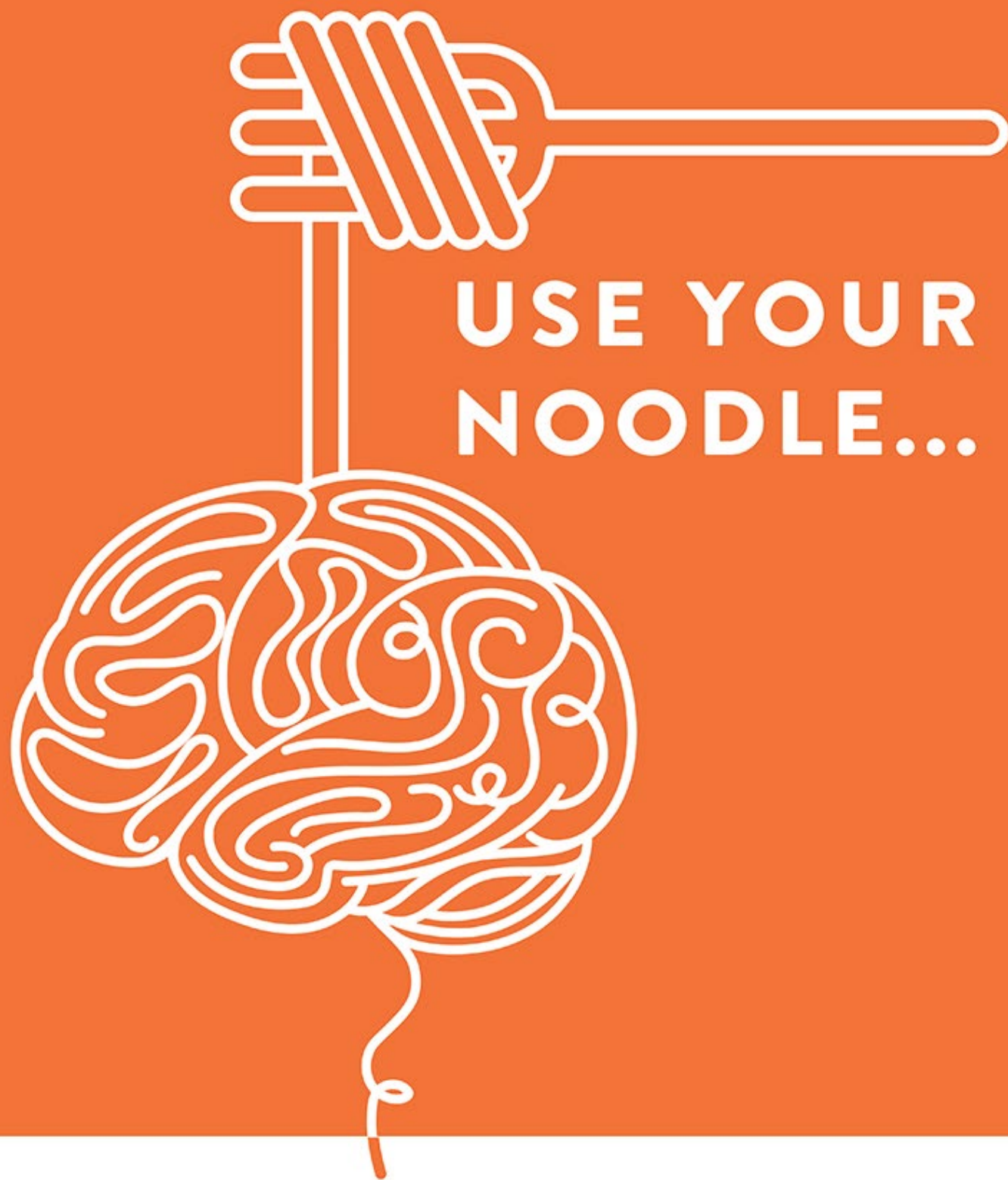


CRACCU M

ISSUE 06, 2020





STAY SAFE, BE KIND, STAY HOME.

Essential service and other offers available.



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Phoning It In

Cam Says:

I'm on a mission this week. I want to write a longer editorial than Dan.

I don't know what he's written about, and I'm not even going to try to match the theme this week. I just want to write more than him. This week I'm going to win, I don't even have much to talk about, I don't have anything interesting to write this week. If you take anything away from my editorial this week, take it that I won the battle, but probably not the war.

It's week six and honestly, I'm just glad it's April. March was a very very long month. We started the month with a fresh new semester at university and ended the month at home with online lectures and a nationwide lockdown. I hope you're all coping alright. I've now got a newfound appreciation for Zoom. It's pretty marvellous technology really.

I just looked and Dan's written 250 words. I have another 100 words to go. Fuck.

I've also been doing a bit of online shopping over the last week of Lockdown. I call it 'stimulating the economy' but my partner just calls it 'buying things you don't necessarily need'. I don't know when these items might show up, but I guess it's giving me a nice steady stream of parcels to look forward to after we move to Alert Level 3.

Look after yourselves, enjoy your two week break. It won't seem much different than your time at home during the semester but at least you'll have two weeks to procrastinate your assignments until you leave them to the last minute.

Cheers,
Cam



Dan Says:

Look, I'm not gonna lie - this week I'm kinda pooped.

It turns out studying from home is really not my thing. I've spent the last two weeks eating like shit, getting nothing done, and absolutely dismantling my natural body clock (I used to wake up at 6am every day; yesterday, I woke up at 12:30pm).

As a result, my mind is a mushy fog right now. I can't think of anything funny to say. I can't think of anything insightful. I can barely bring myself to type my name without any errors.

So, instead of a normal editorial, I bring you this: a list of people whose name includes the word 'anus'. Enjoy. (Also, just before you ask - yes, these are real people. You can google them if you don't believe me.)

Dan's Top 10 People Whose Name Includes The Word Anus:

1. Indian actress Anushka Sharma
2. Irish poet Seamus Heaney
3. Author Sean Usher
4. Malayalam star Anu Sithara
5. President of AENA Construction Eda Nussbaumer
6. Country artist Troy McManus
7. Former British MP Anna Soubry (look, I know this one's a bit more tenuous but you can still just about make it work if you move all the letters around)
8. Singer-songwriter Angus Gunn (the g is silent)
9. 16th century Roman Catholic Bishop Julius Magnanus
10. Devonport-based plumber Gus Hinganus

Think about how much these people must have been bullied in high school. If they could achieve great things, so can you.

Cheers,
Dan



Rec Centre Moves Online as the COVID-19 Lockdown Continues

ELLA MORGAN

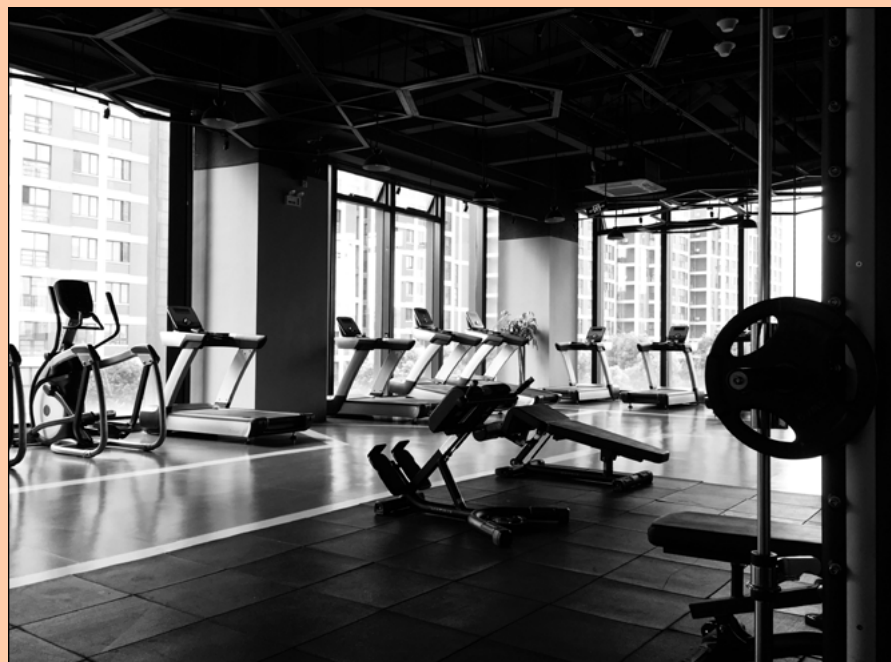
The Rec Centre has shifted classes and resources online as it remains closed during the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown.

Students can access both live and pre-recorded classes through the University of Auckland website. Crowd favourites such as Yoga, Zumba, Retro Dance Fit, Barre, Total Body and HIIT will all be available in some form.

Rec Centre members can also gain access to Fitness On Demand's streaming site FLEX to improve their fitness during the lockdown. In order to ensure students are still practicing safe exercise technique and working on their form, Rec Centre trainers have filmed a series of instructional videos available online. Individual home exercise programs can also be tailored to students' needs.

The university sports team has also established the UoA Sports Challenge Accepted Facebook group to encourage students to keep active. Challenges are posted on the group's page, and faculties earn points for uploading videos of them participating in the challenges. Points will count toward the Sir Colin Maiden Shield.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has encouraged the public to stay fit, assuring New Zealanders that going for a walk with other members of your bubble is still allowed. Individuals must remember to practice physical distancing while in public, staying at least two metres away from any individuals outside their bubble at any given time.



Recently, however, there has been confusion around what type of exercise is allowed. Just last week, two Dunedin surfers were asked to exit the water by police. The Coastguard has urged New Zealanders to avoid swimming or surfing during the lockdown, as if people get into trouble authorities may risk their lives and potentially spread the virus by rescuing them.

Some have gotten creative with their recreational activities during the lockdown. One Auckland fishing company shared a photo of a snapper on Facebook - caught by using a baited long line and a drone.

Many have reported online that the amount of people out and about walking, jogging and biking has never been higher than it is during the lockdown period. Sport New Zealand emphasises that "keeping moving and getting outdoors is essential for our physical and mental wellbeing", and Craccum encourages students to take care of their health and wellbeing inside of their bubble.

Shitposting Page Promotes Democracy, Harasses David Seymour

ELLA MORGAN

Students all over New Zealand are finding unique ways to fill their time as the nationwide lockdown continues. Shitposting page 'Could be keen' has decided to take an active role in engaging youth in politics, starting a campaign to direct fans to participate in the livestreams of ACT Party leader David Seymour.

Initially, the page directed users to question Seymour regarding the toilet paper shortage, however in subsequent livestreams discussion turned to nangs and diggers.

In one livestream, the ACT Party Leader instructed viewers on how nitrous oxide is used to cream a cake in response to a flood of comments asking Seymour if nangs can still be purchased during the lockdown.

"I think you could probably go to a dairy or a supermarket and buy some nitrous oxide to make your cream cakes, if you've been creaming it then that's your opportunity," said Seymour. "If anyone doesn't know what nangs are it is a reference to people taking nitrous oxide, which you are supposed to use to make cream cakes, and inhaling it, and I certainly never did anything like that when I was at university".

This comes after the ACT Party's youth wing made headlines earlier this year after trying to sell cream chargers to promote their newly announced drug policy.

The two latest livestreams hosted by Seymour were hi-

jacked with questions over whether you can drive your digger while we sit at Level Four of the COVID-19 Alert System.

Seymour has welcomed the new viewers, most recently quoted saying "come for the diggers, stay for the intelligent political conversation".

Josh Umbers, admin of 'Could be keen', confirmed that "Could be keen have been directing their followers to partake in informative livestreams by a member of parliament and have also been directed to ask questions relating to the shutdown".



Budget Holdbacks, Discarded FM Equipment and Missing Archives: Troubles at Salient

JUSTIN WONG, ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY COREY FUIMAONO

The editors of Victoria University student magazine *Salient* have been unable to access their operational budget for the past four publication weeks, or have proper equipment to produce content. Archives remain missing from the magazine's new website.

The troubles originated with Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association's (VUWSA) decision to shut down *Salient* FM last November.

The *Salient* Charter of VUWSA's Constitution says that while the association "has the right to expect reasonable coverage of the year's priority", *Salient*'s editors "retains control of the form that this coverage takes" and they "shall determine the form and content" without political interference.

However, *Salient* editors Rachel Trow and Kirsty Frame said they have not been consulted on the removal of FM, as they were informed of the decision during their job interview and asked to bring up alternatives.

"We don't think [not completing a self-review is] grounds enough to hold one expectation of one year accountable for the entirety of a platform.

"What we presumed is there was a due process behind FM being shut down."

"The way that [Tucker] said was so casual it made us think that everything had already been settled. We

were just looking towards a solution."

Tamatha Paul, VUWSA President in 2019, confirmed to *Craccum* that there had been a discussion on how *Salient* should be run as a service, but decisions regarding the magazine were still made by the executive.

Tucker told *Salient* early March that *Salient* FM was shut down because the magazine did not complete their self-review last year. Kii Small, *Salient*'s 2019 editor, denied this.

Tucker also claimed VUWSA "has not saved money through this process" and is spending more on *Salient* "than ever".

Trow and Frame told *Craccum* that Tucker only emailed a simple spreadsheet of the magazine's budget after weeks of asking, before it disappeared. He was not responsive for further requests of the information.

"We need permission for every single purchase we make, from dishwashing liquid to pens."

Equipment from FM have also been disposed of by VUWSA, making *Salient* incapable of starting a podcast service. However, the podcast manager was only informed about this by Tucker just 10 days before the first edition of the year was due.

The editors were kept in the dark throughout the whole process and were expected to set up *Salient* Cast to be sustainable for the next decade.

news.

"Had the VUWSA CEO told us sooner that he had thrown out all of *Salient* FM's equipment and his larger plan for how he would dictate *Salient's* form, the equipment would have arrived much sooner."

"It has created serious issues for *Salient* Cast and *Salient* as independent media in general."

"We expected to be starting the year off with a range of shows, however, with a single Tascam and mic shared between *Salient* TV and *Salient* Casts, this has been impossible."

"Our podcast manager has had to use his own personal equipment. The content is also edited on his own computer and the personal computer of another contributor."

"This equipment has been ordered but it has not arrived. Due to the lockdown we probably won't have this equipment until next trimester (May) at the earliest."

Responding to *Craccum*, Tucker said he was not aware that personal devices were used to produce *Salient* Cast, while budget lines were sent as recently as mid-February.

VUWSA also updated *Salient's* website during the summer, but archives from the old server were not transferred, resulting in work from 2004-2019 going missing from the website.

Salient's editors said Tucker never explained why the archives were not uploaded to the new website, but only asked them to pitch him a plan and fee to upload the archives. Some of the archives are now hosted in a temporary website in text-only form.

"It is incredibly unfair for the VUWSA CEO to limit student's access to their own work."

"Students put thousands of voluntary hours into *Salient* every year and taking the tangible results of their work away from them is not in the interest of students."

Tucker told *Craccum* the old *Salient* website has been online all the time and there are plans to upload old *Salients* to electronic publishing platform ISSUU.

"VUWSA would also like to upload copies of *Salient* from 2004 to when ISSUU started being used, but *Salient's* computer system does not contain any information from that time."

"The reason we have not published the URL is because the URL is likely to change. The most sensible link would be to use ISSUU."

Trow and Frame disagreed.

"Even after our first emails pressing Matt to allow us to restore the archives, he neglected to tell us that the old website had been preserved."

"Matt may consider broken URLs and void CVs a non-issue. Regardless, *Salient* values students and believes that they should have access to the material they have worked tirelessly to create, usually for free."

"Further, ISSUU is not a searchable format and can only link to full magazines, not individual pieces, which is useless for students' portfolios."

Accommodation Residents Petition for Rent Holidays, Fee Decreases

JUSTIN WONG

Students living at Carlaw Park Student Village and O'Rorke Hall have submitted two separate petitions calling for rent holidays and the removal of cancellation fees.

Before New Zealand went into lockdown last week, an email detailing how the university's accommodation team would respond to the COVID-19 pandemic was sent to residents. The email said the university would be restricting access to accommodation properties, increasing cleaning of communal facilities, and putting in more alcohol-based sanitisers.

However, the email didn't specify any changes to the rental fees for students. Those who have created the petitions say this is unfair, as accommodation providers have "fail[ed] to meet their contractual obligations" since "residents who have elected to stay [there] no longer have access to many of the utilities and services".

Students believe rent - which includes an automatic subscription to the university's Recreational Centre, a facility which has been closed for a number of weeks - should be lowered or waived to reflect the changing quality of service.

Currently, Carlaw residents who wish to move home during the lockdown period must continue to pay their rent throughout the lockdown. They are also unable to cancel their contract until the lockdown is over, and even then, they must pay a cancellation fee worth four weeks of their standard rent to do so.



The Carlaw Park petition is asking for a rent freeze or reduction for all residents, and the removal of cancellation fees for those who want to cancel their contracts. At the time of publishing, 185 students have signed the petition, addressed to Micheal Rengers, Associate Director, Campus Life (Accommodation).

"Many students feel their mental health is better supported at home with their families, rather than isolated in accommodation. For these reasons, many residents have decided to return home, and are still facing the financial burden of paying rent on their university accommodation."

"Many students have also lost their jobs and income at the same time."

"Those relying on Studylink can only receive a maximum of \$235.84 per week in living costs, while rent at Carlaw Park Student Village is at least \$278.00 per week. Other avenues of financial support, such as the university's student emergency fund, are also inadequate in cover-

ing rent.”

The O’Rorke Hall petition has gained more than 350 signatures since its creation on the 2nd of April, and is demanding that the university “refund all fees during the COVID-19 lockdown”

Victoria University announced last Thursday it had suspended all accommodation contracts, and students will not be charged during the lockdown. While all residents had been advised to leave as soon as possible, those who can’t return home will still be provided accommodation with full catering. The petition for the Carlaw rent holiday says the university “should follow this example”.

One resident at Carlaw Park told Craccum the only information they had from the accommodation was the university would “work through the financial implications of this choice at a later date”.

“From my perspective, that sounded like they understood lots of people were going to leave, and would likely adjust to compensate for this.”

“It was never communicated to me that the cancellation fee for the contract had changed from 25% to only four weeks.”

“Unfortunately, because I left some clothing and bedding there, I can’t withdraw from accommodation until the lockdown ends.”

“If I’m lucky and it is just four weeks, I’ll be paying these four weeks rent, plus the additional four-week cancellation fee – which works out to \$2320 – all for a storage room.”

An O’Rorke resident who is also staying home during the

lockdown said their family believed it was safer to stay away from accommodation.

“I am forced to pay out of my savings as I cannot work to make ends meet.”

“I currently am uncertain how long we will be under lockdown, and therefore it is not guaranteed I can continue to make full payments in the future.”

“I feel the university should refund those who are not currently staying in the hall at a minimum because we were not well informed about any financial repercussions to begin with.”

The student also added hall staff encouraged students to leave the hall.

Another student living at O’Rorke but staying at home said many people have left the hall and it is hard for the university to justify the \$385/week rent because they are not getting food or other services they normally get during the lockdown.

However, it’s not yet clear if the university is considering the petitioned demands. When asked for comment, the University of Auckland told Craccum it is “focussed on supporting students to return home or isolate in the halls, as well as the logistics of moving to teaching online and preparing ourselves for the following weeks.”

“We have had comments on the situation from our residents through a range of channels and are working to a resolution.

Hearsay! News Without the Facts

Zoom: COVID-19 Press Release

During this time of unprecedented crisis, companies across the world have been emphatically responding on how they plan to provide aid, as well as manage risks to their business. However, with the arrival of its new press release, the university's new conferencing platform Zoom has been evidently overzealous with its desire to join the fight against COVID-19. Craccum has the transcript of Zoom's new press release in full...

Hi, I'm Zoom's Chief Trading Officer, Gloria Hole.

It has been a tough time for our business, our customers and those around the world as we continue to navigate the challenges presented by the ongoing outbreak of coronavirus.

We here at Zoom have been forced to make some tough changes to our business in light of these developments, however you can rest assured that we will continue to help our customers however we can during these difficult times.

To start with, now more than ever we've realised the importance of connecting people, and our commitment to help you do so. Our motto has always been that everyone deserves to be heard, particularly during this incredible time of isolation. That's why we've contracted Air New Zealand staffers to sit in Zoom calls and remind people when their mics are muted while talking. Together, we can make sure 2600 people don't miss 30 seconds of what Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic John Morrow is saying ever again.

To combat the additional strain on the national broadband network, the government has instructed streaming/conferencing services to lower video quality. But that just wasn't enough for us here; we knew we had to do something further. That's why we at Zoom have decided to cut our emoji library down to half of its original content. Users will no longer be able to ghost face, surprised react or angry react. If our customers are experiencing these emotions, we unfortunately have to ask them to dial it back a little.

I personally received a phone call from Jacinda last week to tell me how much more than necessary Zoom has done already to aid New Zealand's coronavirus relief efforts. However, I refused to take that compliment in good faith, as I knew there was more we could do. That's why we still didn't stop there. We realised that it's just not okay to be abusing our pharmacists during this time of incredible need. That's why we've put Guy Williams in a personal conference call so you can abuse him instead. Whether it's the cancellation of New Zealand Today, the cancellation of Jono and Ben, or just his self-deprecating comedy style in general, we're sure that in Guy Williams everyone will have something to flame about.

I hope you can understand these changes to our business. Keep calm, stay safe, and don't forget to unmute yourself when it's your turn to speak,

Gloria Hole.

CTO, Zoom Enterprises Limited Inc.



ILLUSTRATION BY EDA TANG

New Zealand's Problem with Anti-Asian Racism

KEEARA OFREN

Keeara Ofren interviews Hanna Lu, University of Auckland student and researcher of Chinese New Zealand history.

As Aotearoa is in lockdown, we have become reliant on technology more than ever for communication and news. But what does that mean for us when the media grows prone to conspiracy and fear?

Since the news broke of a zoonotic disease breaking out in China, reports of Anti-Asian racism have increased internationally, from microaggressions to vicious beatings and vandalism. Fake news spread quickly of a 'bat soup' used to propel the view that Chinese

people were 'disgusting' and 'barbaric'. Instead of thinking critically about the cultural and political factors which aggravated the pandemic, politics of hygiene set the stage for legitimising acts of violence.

Sociologist Srirupa Prasad discusses this concept regarding the SARS phenomenon. By assigning feelings of 'dirty' or 'contagion' to a group, the emotional reaction can yield nationalistic feelings of anxiety, a need to shun this threat.

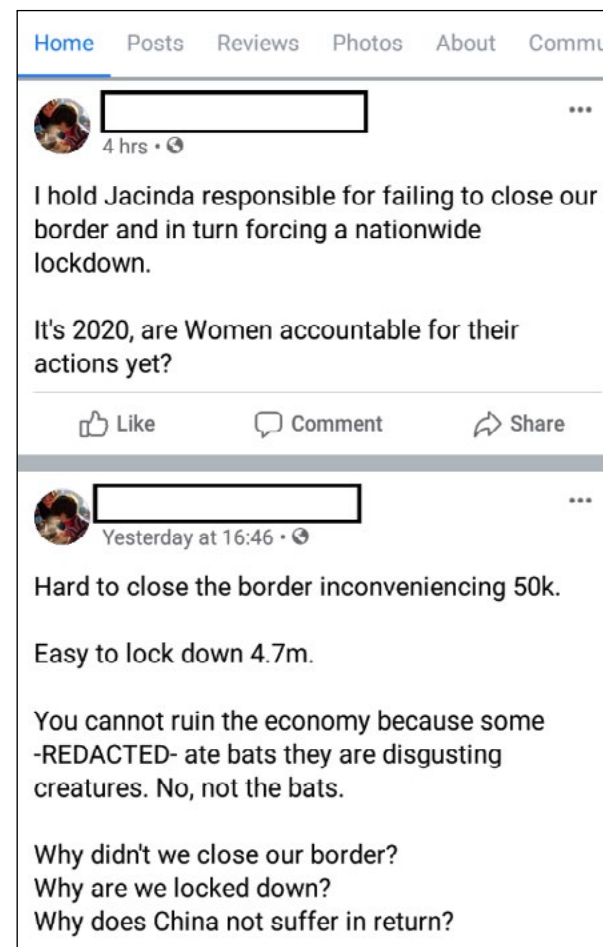
Recent reports have emerged about a series of bizarre sponsored posts from self-proclaimed white supremacist individuals New Zealand. Indeed, these may not be limited to the dark corners of the internet but internalised. Incidents of racial profiling have been reported at Countdown Meadowbank, with Asian customers questioned by staff regarding their travel movements upon entry. A spokesperson for Countdown on behalf of Countdown Meadowbank said in response to the reports of racial profiling “we’re sorry to hear this. Our team are working under incredible pressure at the moment as I’m sure you can understand. We continue to expect our team to treat every customer with courtesy and respect.”

As expert opinion becomes drowned out with anecdotal evidence and seemingly potent emotional appeals, messages of cyber safety become increasingly outdated and ineffective. According to the Washington Post, Facebook’s moderators are unable to work from home due to confidentiality agreements, leaving algorithms to assess posts for removal. This delay is exploited by proponents of far-right views and fake news. Unless the moderation issue gets fixed and there is an active challenge to such rhetoric in our society, acts of racism will only continue.

I interviewed UoA student Hanna, to hear her views on the situation.



Facebook content captured on the 25 March 2020: 14:44; 31 March 2020: 16:29



What are your feelings about recent incidents of anti-Asian racism on the internet or in person?

Anti-Asian racism has always circulated – and it all comes together during times of stress. I seize up a little and know to be extra careful for my personal safety every time China or anything Chinese is mentioned negatively in the news. This time it’s worse because of COVID-19’s reach and scale. Almost every Chinese person I know went into isolation early to stay safe, but even that hasn’t been enough to help us avoid it entirely. My mum has been yelled at the very few times she’s gone shopping, and I don’t go on walks any more, not because I’m afraid of catching the virus but because of family fears for my safety.

The incidents that I see, experience or hear of emphasise the precarity of any positive perceptions of Chinese people that do exist. There’s love of boba, or admi-

news.

ration of China's economy, or idealisation of 'Confucian values', or the idea of Chinese people as the 'model minority' which sets us up in opposition to other people of colour – but that is abandoned whenever it is convenient.

Many New Zealanders will want to think critically about how China has suppressed whistleblowers and media in the pandemic. But this thinking has also straddled into conspiracy and racist whistleblowing. So, I wanted to know your response to that.

Chinese people are not a monolith. Chinese New Zealanders can't take responsibility for what the Chinese government does – neither can Chinese people in China, for that matter, and if there's anything they deserve, it's sympathy for what they have to face.

Do you think sinophobia is becoming emboldened here in New Zealand, or, is it simply an incarnation of sinophobia in New Zealand's history through times of uncertainty, or is it both?

New Zealand has certainly had a history of sinophobia, ever since Chinese people first arrived in the 1860s. The accusations were all the usual ones we've seen throughout the world: that Chinese people were a threat to Western survival, that they carried disease, that they were both physically inferior and would wrest from New Zealanders what rightfully belonged to them.

Not everyone thought this way, but those who did were able to transform these ideas into law. Some examples: the poll tax (100 pounds from 1896) which only Chinese

arrivals had to pay, the abolishment of naturalisation fees for all except Chinese people in 1892, their exclusion from old age pensions in 1898, the 1901 Opium Prohibition Act that gave police the right to enter Chinese homes without a search warrant, and the 1908 cessation of naturalisation for Chinese people.

Sinophobia has been strongest during times of uncertainty – in the Depression, for example, especially in the conversation on labour when some unionists blamed Chinese workers for accepting lower wages.

Recent incidents of sinophobia seem to be reincarnations of these old views. I'd say that racist people, for the most part, aren't very imaginative.

I am concerned about enclaves of racism (especially online) where it festers and grows and gives its participants no way out.

If you could tell New Zealanders one thing about your experience as a Kiwi Asian, and researcher of Chinese experiences in New Zealand, what would it be?

Racism has real costs – to health, safety, and our political wellbeing. Perhaps that doesn't matter to its perpetrators, but I think it all comes from a simple kind of fear that assumes 'New Zealander' is a distinct identity, when it is not. Alienation is not going to protect anyone from becoming ill, or from any future pathogens that we will encounter.

feature.

Cabin Fever Sets In

BRIAN GU AND MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

Craccum's greatest QuarantTeam, Brian and Maddy, explore the anxieties of lockdown through a patchy Zoom call and the help of Google Docs.

Maddy: Hi, Brian!

Brian: - mouth moves, but there is total silence -

Maddy: Can you hear me?

Brian: - continued silence - *raises hand and figures out mic is on mute*

Maddy: Oh, your mic isn't o-

Brian: HI!

Maddy: Hey, how are ya coping?

Brian: Well, I'm staying with my parents, so I'm glad I have my family for support. It's definitely been a tough time being under physical lockdown and every sight of the news only serves to stress me out more.

Maddy: Yeah, I'm at home too, and feeling a little better than I have been. Instead of panic-buying, I've been panic-reading, and the headlines alone were freaking me out. For a couple of days, I've stopped clicking on articles altogether, and I just check The Spinoff in the morning and watch Uncle Ashley at 1. That, and copious amounts of stress-baking, seems to have calmed

my nerves. Fingers crossed that kneading bread keeps working.

Brian: Instead of spending my Saturday night out in town, I had to spend it at my computer playing Minecraft with friends instead. There came a point when, after just mining aimlessly for diamonds for an hour, I realised I was too old for this shit. That only served to make me more depressed than I had started. Maybe I should pick up some of that stress-baking that you've adopted?

Maddy: Honestly, channelling my anxiety into a physical activity has been so crucial to staying calm. Eating the afghans and banana bread was good too. Any time my anxiety starts up, I tend to catastrophise and think in worst-case scenarios. I think it's been good for me to be stuck in the house with a calmer schedule, because it makes me think about the logistics of the lockdown. I keep highlighting to myself that all these measures are preventative, and we are in the process of minimising risk, not suffering the harsh consequences of the viral apocalypse.

Brian: The viral apocalypse sounds like something YouTube created, and frankly, I'm not sure which alternative is more frightening. But I'm glad you're finding comfort

feature.

in the presence of a calmer schedule as it's something we should all bring ourselves to do during difficult times like this. I'm finding comfort in knowing that if I weren't hiding this thing out at home, I would probably be in one of the Kate Edger bathroom stalls - it's the little things that help.

Maddy: That would be a little more uncomfortable. I think permitting yourself to be upset about the little things is good too. I'll be missing out on graduation, which is a little bit heartbreaking, but it's important to put those things in perspective. I'm very thankful for those on the frontline helping to get us through this. Have any of your big plans been pushed back?

Brian: I lost the opportunity to go on exchange next semester, which is quite gutting for me as I don't get another opportunity further down the line in my degree, and I lost some monetary scholarships too. But I feel lucky in a weird sense. Lucky that I'm not one of the many New Zealand workers being made redundant throughout this crisis, or one of the new graduates losing their entry into the workforce. My career trajectory or livelihood won't be severely affected - for me, it is just another opportunity lost. However, what's most important now is reaching out to friends and family, because we're all directly affected and need each other for support.

Maddy: It's funny because I feel like there is this sense of respect in my local community, with people waving and smiling more around the neighbourhood. On the flip side, only being able to catch up with friends over the phone is difficult, because it reminds me that we can't see each other for a little while. I guess the lockdown

means that a little bit of your support system is missing, so it makes sense to feel a bit more vulnerable. But, you don't have to thrive, you just have to survive.

Brian: Great line, you should get that printed on a t-shirt. People are gonna look back on the year 2020 and remember all the suffering we went through - in-person conversations sluggishly typed out through a Google word doc where the other person can only watch and imagine how the sentence is going to end. What times we live in, aye.

Maddy: I'm going to need endless hand-holding and hugs after this. Sorry friends and fam. Something to look forward to! Anyway, if I download Minecraft, are you keen to chase some Creepers?

Brian: Yes, I would kill for some company. It would save my friends from watching me dig deep into my 2012 Facebook library to post like for anon statuses and This is Bob cospasta. Bob could hold your hand.

"I'm finding comfort in knowing that if I weren't hiding this thing out at home, I would probably be in one of the Kate Edger bathroom stalls - it's the little things that help."

debate.

Should You Spend Lockdown With Your Partner?*

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND DEBATING SOCIETY

**We understand that you actually can't leave your house now, so you can work out if you've made the right decision.*

Affirmative

Celine Goh (First-Year Representative)

They say that distance makes the heart grow fonder.

It is currently just over a week into lockdown, with me in Auckland and my boyfriend in Wellington. Trust me, I can say, with certainty, that my heart has not grown any fonder. If anything, it's the other way round.

Here's the thing: my boyfriend is someone who prefers to spend more time reinforcing his Minecraft mansion than his relationships. Thus, getting replies to my texts is a luxury. In complete contrast, I am someone who needs constant reassurance. Usually, our differences are manageable, where seeing each other allows me to confirm he doesn't hate me yet. Quarantine, on the other hand, is another story. Being apart for an undefined amount of time plays on all your insecurities, and plants doubts in your mind. Before you know it, you've convinced yourself he has definitely broken quarantine to hang out with his Year 11 ex. You pick a fight with him about it, and suddenly you're dependent on the one-ply toilet paper your mum panic-bought to dry your waterfall of tears.

Onto more positive material: being quarantined together for a month is actually the perfect opportunity to test whether you and your partner are compatible! If you



think about it, being in lockdown together is basically a free-trial for marriage, a simulation to see whether you're strong enough to last through the stress life will throw your way. Making it out of quarantine together is a reassurance that you're actually in a stable relationship. That means you should recommence the "wedding" board you started on Pinterest back in intermediate.

But, even if you do find out you're incompatible and bickering a bit too much, don't lose hope! It's important to remember that luckily, there's absolutely nothing tying you down to your significant other. And it could be so much worse. Quarantine could ruin so many of your other relationships. You're stuck with your flatmates for the rest of the lease and stuck with your family for the rest of your life. If you fight with your boyfriend, on the other hand, you can just have a clean and hassle-free breakup as soon as the lockdown is lifted, with no long term ramifications. Easy peasy.

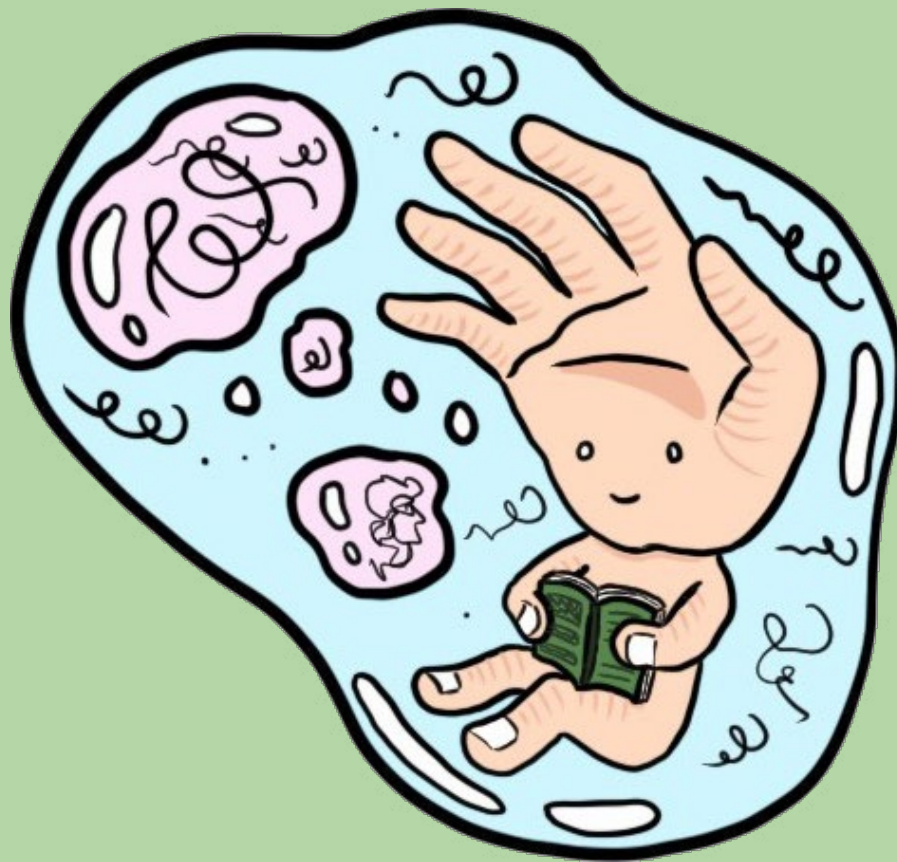
debate.

Negating

Chenchen Huang (Vice-President)

As coronavirus ends the public life active within our cities, breakups and pregnancy scares will go through the roof. By maintaining an appropriate social distance from your partner during the lockdown, we avoid both these risks. That's not to say that it all sucks, but the harms clearly outweigh the benefits.

To start off with, you're spending a lot of time together. Aside from your state-mandated 30 minutes of exercise per day, you'll be living under the same roof. You may think that you'll be able to tolerate all of their cute little quirks, but come day five of the pandemic your fuse will be running short. Their collection of beanie babies is terrifying, the way they leave half-drunk coffees around the house is annoying, and you can't stand the fact they grind their teeth. Let's face it. We try to show the best parts of ourselves to our partners, and simply can't hide all of our bad habits at once. Eventually the conversation will run drier than an Australian January, when you can't tell your partner any new stories. Most couples

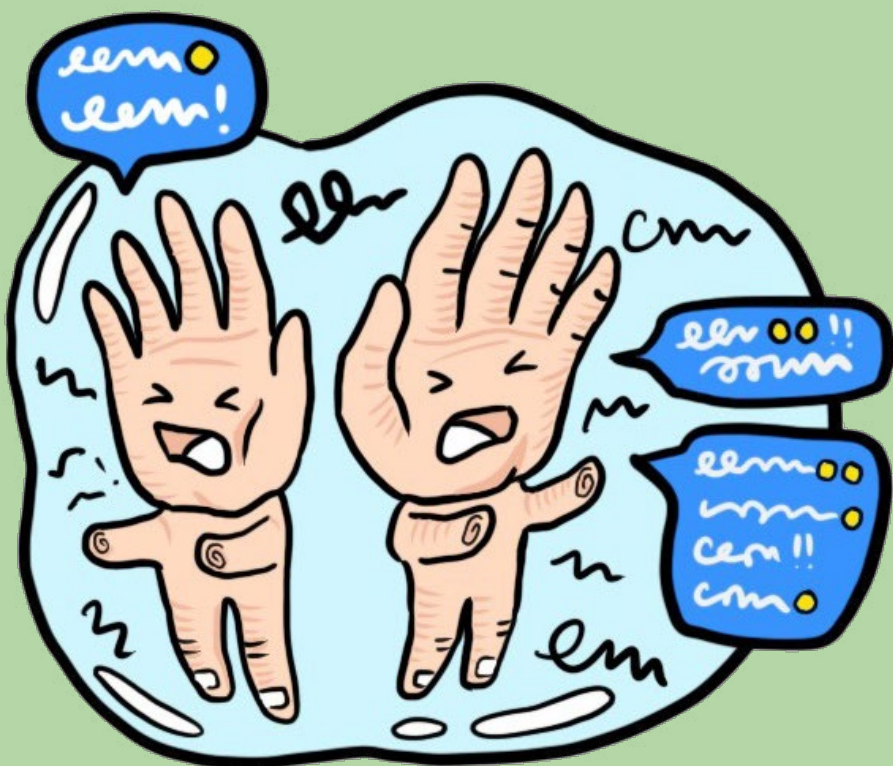


have years to prepare for the stage when they're ready to take a shit in front of each other. Start the trend because of the lockdown, and you'll be risking a mid-quarantine breakup.

Some might say that not getting laid is a bad thing. I like to keep a positive mindset and instead think about how many babies my partner is not having. Most forms of contraception aren't 100% effective and having more sex in quarantine means you'll be rolling the dice for a sneaky surprise come January. Don't have sex. You will get pregnant and die.

Finally, in case I haven't convinced you yet, just think of all the free time you'll have. You're not going to get the chance to partake in all of the vices your partner can't stand in May, so now might be your last chance to get it out of your system. I, for one, have reignited a healthy Minecraft addiction. It's been swell.

Quite clearly, we all ought to practise some social distancing from our partners this month.





@Juliaaazhu

feature.

Exploitation Behind the Screens

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

The internet is great. But the websites that use it aren't. Privacy issues, marginalisation, and corporate monopolies - Madeleine Crutchley takes a look at the long list of ethical dilemmas they've created.

Lately, as I have mindlessly scrolled my way through Twitter, I have found myself thanking Tim Berners-Lee. Tim is the man who invented the World Wide Web. The British computer scientist made his idea freely available, with no patent, and no ability to make any royalties. His invention revolutionised the modern world, and this lovely man didn't take a penny from our pockets. I don't think he's dead, but I look up to the sky when he crosses my mind because I think of Berners-Lee as nothing less than a God.

A few times during this lockdown period, I have struggled to imagine how my time would be spent without the internet. Thanks to my reliable internet connection, I am able to continue with my classes, keep up with my various work commitments, and watch YouTube vids of Chris from Bon Appetit. In fact, the internet has been an enormous shaping factor throughout my whole life. I'm a '99 baby, so most of my earliest memories involve Dial-Up tones, playing games on Miniclip, and Club Penguin crashing when my Mum wanted to use the phone. Through tween and teen years the internet was a friend too, holding my hand as I explored saucy 1D fanfics and gateway feminism on Tumblr. Now my life, and the world at large, is even more intertwined with the internet. Both would almost certainly collapse without it. This technology of communication is irreversibly embedded into our environment, and has become a near essential

tool for maintaining our relationships with each other (especially during the lockdown). People don't solely use the internet voluntarily like we do when we share memes and stan the remaining celebs who weren't singing Imagine. It is an unavoidable infrastructure we have to navigate to function in society.

Due to the fixed nature of the internet, and the way its spindly fingers reach into our lives, it's essential to consider the players that have a major influence. Google, Amazon and Facebook are three particularly powerful corporations driving the direction of the internet, each having received significant amounts of criticism in the last few years.

In 2018, 20,000 Google employees from across the globe staged a walkout, demanding five changes to the working environment. Among other things, these demands included an end to pay inequality, a transparent sexual misconduct report and the creation of an Employee Representative. The issues the employees brought to light were more focused on the treatment of people within the company, but the walkout drew attention to the actions of Google in other areas. Meredith Whittaker, one of the organisers of the protest, resigned in the following year and called for more accountability and transparency from tech companies in their use of artificial intelligence. Whittaker, who

feature.

founded the AI Now Institute and had been running the Open Research sector of Google, said that it was clear Google was no longer interested in her work in ethics. In an interview with Wired, she expressed concern in the way the company continued to gain "significant and largely unchecked power to impact our world." She noted that the use of this power is one of the most urgent social and political questions of our time, with the structures of power in tech being overwhelmingly white and male. Whittaker's concerns also align with those expressed in Safiya Noble's *Algorithms of Oppression*. Noble found that the use of black-box algorithms on search engines like Google worked to further oppress those already marginalised (especially in terms of race), by supporting hegemonic and oppressive norms.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos is the subject of a lot of online criticism. His net worth is nearly 120 billion dollars, and he is consistently called out for his hoarding of wealth. There is an entire Twitter account (@HasBezosDecided) dedicated to asking if Bezos has used his money to end world hunger. Sadly, it's a speedy and simple answer: no. Amazon itself also comes under fire, for a long list of ethical issues. In terms of internet usage, it's near impossible to be online without contributing to Jeff Bezos' fortune. The global empire owns a massive server network, under Amazon Web Services (AWS), which is used by other major tech companies to process and store their data. If you went cold turkey, you could expect to lose Twitch, Netflix, Airbnb, LinkedIn, Facebook, BBC, Twitter, The Guardian, Spotify, Soundcloud and so many other sites that are central to internet access. Unfortunately, this means that every time you log on, you contribute to a small part of Amazon's cheque, and Jeff Bezos' head grows a little bit bigger.

Over the last few years, Facebook has also been under fire for breaching the privacy of users. The Cambridge Analytica scandal alone did a fantastic job in putting a big ol' dent in Marky Mark's billionaire tyres. Due to the insane amount of media coverage over Facebook missteps, and Zucky's 2018 trial in front of the US Senate, there seems to be a pretty high level of distrust for Facebook in the public arena. I've talked plenty to my friends about having a feeling that Facebook was listening, ads popping up on my Newsfeed that feel just a little too perfect. People are aware that Facebook follows so much of your activity around the internet. This uncanny feeling of being watched seems to be a near-universal experience. Remember that FBI meme that circulated a few years ago? Instead of a man in suit, it was Robot Mark peering at us through our webcams. Man, fuck the Zuck.

It's also worth noting that many of these corporations and social media companies engage in a much more banal violation: they collect the unlimited data from every little search we do and then sell that time and attention to advertisers. Often this means burying breaches

"I've talked plenty to my friends about having a feeling that Facebook was listening, ads popping up on my Newsfeed that feel just a little too perfect."

feature.

of your privacy into user agreements, designed to be impossible to read, and secretly sucking everything we give them like a big, fat leech. We don't always have to look so far from home to see these kinds of violations. These issues arise with the apps and programs we are most likely going to be using throughout the lockdown. Houseparty has been blowing up over the last two weeks, skyrocketing to be the most downloaded app on the same day the lockdown was announced. The app has very little friction in use, allowing people to jump in and out of conversations with a few taps. Its popularity was very quickly dulled by concerns of hacking, which Houseparty denied, posting a 'bounty' to Twitter for anyone who had proof of the violations.

More worryingly, Zoom may also be putting our privacy at risk. The conferencing software, which is currently being promoted by the University of Auckland for use by both students and staff, was criticised for some misleading marketing. The company claims that the app uses end-to-end encryption to keep the video and audio communication private. This method of security is understood to be one of the most private, and it usually means that the platform being used does not have the capability to decrypt data. However, the definition used by Zoom is slightly different. Zoom uses TLS encryption, which allows the app itself to access the conversations that users may believe are private. This could enable the company to hand over data to advertisers or governments. When The Intercept reached out for comment, a Zoom spokesperson said: "Currently, it is not possible to enable E2E encryption for Zoom video meetings." This dishonesty puts the privacy of users at risk. Zoom doesn't publish a transparency report either, so it leaves us in the dark about what is being done

with our information. I guess we'll just have to trust them when they say they won't touch it. Seems pretty sketchy.

In an interview with Vanity Fair, Tim Berners-Lee asserted that "for people who want to make sure the Web serves humanity, we have to concern ourselves with what people are building on top of it." He is on a mission to return the web to its democratic roots, and ward off corporate involvement. Berners-Lee is working to bring privacy and control back to the people who trust the internet with their precious information. The way that corporations have utilised the web for their own profits doesn't align with the generous, community spirit upon which this revolutionary technology was founded. However, it's hard to take a stand without biting the hand that feeds you, so the solutions are tough. The US government, who hold the most control over the regulation of the internet in the Western world, are consistently at the receiving end of corporate lobbyists, trying to maintain their control. The fight over Net Neutrality in 2017 showed us how important it is to re-center the powers of the internet. I guess Trump isn't exactly interested in redistributing power. The Google Walkout proved to be somewhat effective in raising some awareness, so community action may be the way to stop the abuse of our data.

If you feel like your privacy is being stripped away, take to the streets and show the big dogs how you feel. Or you could download a VPN and delete the Facebook app from your phone. Any baby step towards giving Jeff Bezos the finger is good in my book.



feature.

New Zealand Doctor Struggles with Man Drought

CAMERON LEAKEY

This week, Cameron Leakey gives a rundown of The Bachelorette and basically just shits on the show.



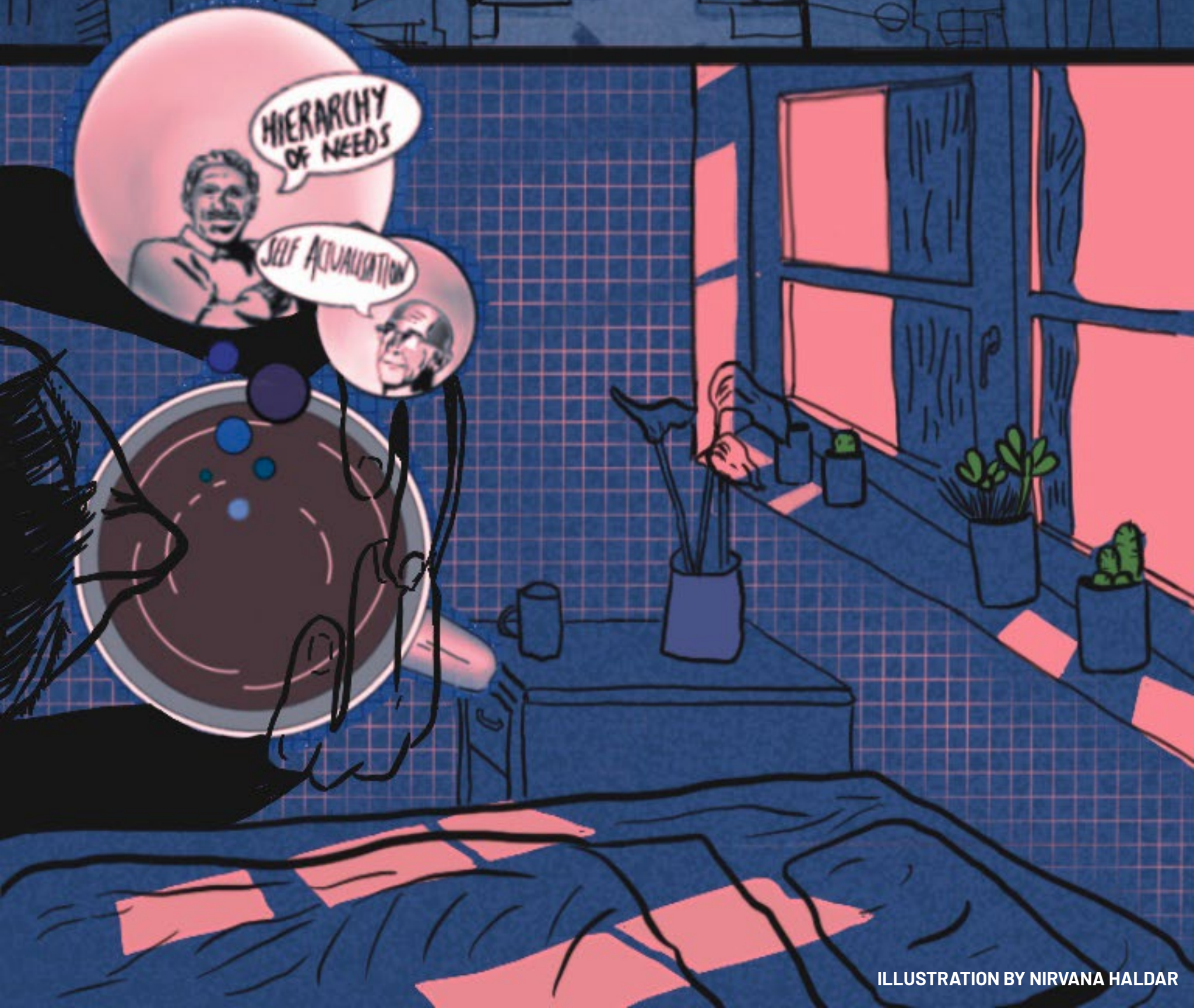
Look, fuck this programme alright. The latest season of *The Bachelorette New Zealand* has just finished and honestly thank god. It seemed to go on forever. Lesina deserved better, you deserved better, everyone deserved better. Lesina, the intelligent and lovely doctor, chose to value her own self worth and walk away single, you go girl. Meanwhile, Lily, a fun and kind soul, chose Richie. Look I have to be real, I gave up on watching the series towards the end so I don't really know much about Lily and Richie, but I trust she chose someone worthy and I wish them luck for the future. Lesina and Lily, you both deserve the best.

Seriously though, are these twenty six men the best that TVNZ could muster? I mean Art-I'm-so-Paleo-Green was literally the best option on the show and he wasn't even available! I've taken it on myself to rate all 26 men on *The Bachelorette New Zealand* out of ten. If you disagree with these ratings, please write a complaint, double spaced with 12pc Times New Roman font and then eat the paper.

Mac - 0/10	Clayton 0/10	Elliott 0/10
Michael - 0/10	Dominic 0/10	Flynn 0/10
Michael (2) - 0/10	Jesse 0/10	Glenn 0/10
Richie - 0/10	Quinn 0/10	Jonathan 0/10
Conor 0/10	Daryl 0/10	Kurt 0/10
George 0/10	Marc 0/10	Liam 0/10
Logan 0/10	Marcus 0/10	Steve 0/10
Tavita 0/10	Tyler 0/10	Terence 0/10
Brendon 0/10	Aaron 0/10	

Now that the dynamics of our society have changed so drastically, I have many suggestions for how a new season of *The Bachelorette: Isolation in Paradise* could go:

- Implement a two metre distance between all contestants and give them all N95 masks. Not only will they be protected against viruses and bacteria but we also can't really hear them speak. The "WHAT"s after every sentence will really enhance those verbal connections. So romantic.
- With all non-Essential Services closed, dates are now limited to Zoom conference calls between the Bachelorette, the contestant and the producers. Backgrounds are now added to simulate various date experiences. Virtual skydiving anyone?
- Travel overseas is a big no-go so the romantic international whirlwind trip can be replaced with a lovely brisk 2 metre apart walk around the block. Once restrictions lift, New Zealand towns such as Ruatoria, Dargaville, or Huntly are supposedly lovely to visit.
- Corporate Sponsors may be running dry during this season. *The Bachelorette: Isolation in Paradise* will now be sponsored by CottonSofts Toilet Paper: CottonSofts - 'Great for wiping your ass with.'
- With Bauer Media going under, *New Zealand's Women's Weekly* will no longer run a front cover exclusive photoshoot with the happy couple. The winning pair will now appear in *Craccum*, with a detailed six page spread. Lucky us.



HEALTH BITES

Self-Actualisation or Guilt Ritualisation?

PATRICK MACASKILL-WEBB

**Names changed to protect identities*

There are a lot of responses to the change of pace that our world is going through now. Some things hit us quickly, like fear, or the sudden relief that you can wallow (without guilt) at home. Hitting me now, however, is the longer-term challenge to stay motivated and passionate about my degree. All of these responses are valid, as any psychologist or good friend will tell you! Does every goal fulfil self-actualisation or have some become unhealthy habit rituals?

Last week, I read a great article about how so many millennials and gen z kids constantly need to feel busy in order to feel successful. Lots of us are proud of a lack of time and proud of an “I’m too busy to cook” attitude. Inspiring read, thank you Verity Johnson. This conflict between busy habits and neglected nutrition reminded me of a thought I had before this year started: when we make goals for ourselves and our future, I’m not so sure we stop to think if it’s healthy. Fair enough - when goal-setting, it’s normal to underestimate the potential issues and overestimate the tasty fruits of success. But, is it possible to acknowledge that the pace of goal setting and personal management could in itself be unhealthy? Can we make that extra step down into a DMC for a hot second... At university, there are many oppor-

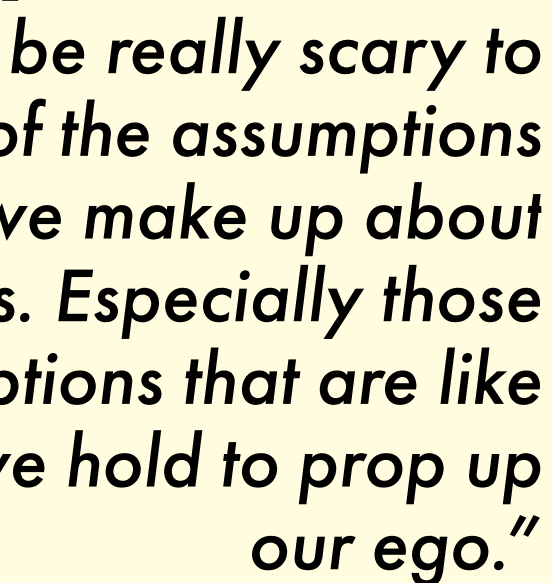
tunities to fulfil the pinnacle need of “self-actualisation” (Remember Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs?). At uni, you can follow your dreams to a better life and a better income. But that’s not the be-all and end-all of our time here. We need to be social to be healthy and recognise that being a UoA student comes with meaningful connections too. Given the times now, let’s check-in on some deeper needs to stay healthy.

Is your busy goal-setting screwing with the time you have to cook and eat good food as it does with many of us? Is your proudly busy schedule pushing away valuable social connections? And is constant goal-setting blocking out internal cues which relate to stress, boredom, sleepiness, irritability, hunger, curiosity, or arousal? We can push these human things aside for a long time in the face of highfalutin dreams of success, but at what cost to our health? Isolated and confronted with

“Lots of us are proud of a lack of time and proud of an ‘I’m too busy to cook’ attitude.”

our basic habits, I think it's harder to distract oneself with busy goals. That means it's a really good time to check in with your mental health. What are you checking? Blood pressure, heart rate... I even googled some at home cortisol tests... No. Search for these quieter voices that say you need a break, or you need more stimulation, or you need to cut out Barbara* from your Facebook feed. Whatever - just listen closely, because it's possible to tune into some unique frequencies now we've been given this opportunity to reflect.

It can be really scary to let go of the assumptions we make up about ourselves. Especially those assumptions that are like pillars we hold to prop up our ego. "I'm a nice person," "I'm a type-A personality," "I'm the funniest friend," "I'm the hardest worker," etc. The forces that have isolated us all can swipe huge chunks of our life away and lock what's left of our personality in quarantine too - thanks Aunty Cindy. With so many daily patterns interrupted, we don't have a choice in letting go of some of those personality pillars. If you dropped some of your goals and ambition in the teaching free week (like I did), and feel more settled in isolation now, what do you really miss about yourself? You get to pick and choose tasks to include in your life with some incredible freedom now. It doesn't take a genius to figure out this is an excellent time to cut out some shit friends, cut out some coffee habits, reconnect with family, or reconnect with old hobbies. You could probably cut out some unnecessary internal pressure too. Focus on the goals that matter most to you because it comes from a meaningful and sensitive place. Let the other milestones that don't matter so much sail by, while you pursue what really makes you tick.



"It can be really scary to let go of the assumptions we make up about ourselves. Especially those assumptions that are like pillars we hold to prop up our ego."

I will finish with a piece of wisdom I picked up from binge re-watching *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. In a tender moment, General Iroh (despite being from the Fire Nation, he's really the rock of the whole show) turns to his nephew. He says, "No! Zuko! You must never give into despair. Allow yourself to slip down that road, and you surrender to your lowest instincts. In the darkest times, hope is something you give yourself. That is the meaning of inner strength." Listen very closely to yourself and those who care about you. Sometimes it can be shouted like Iroh to Zuko. But sometimes it's quiet and invisible, like hope, that could otherwise be drowned out by overly busy thoughts and ambitions.



Unrest

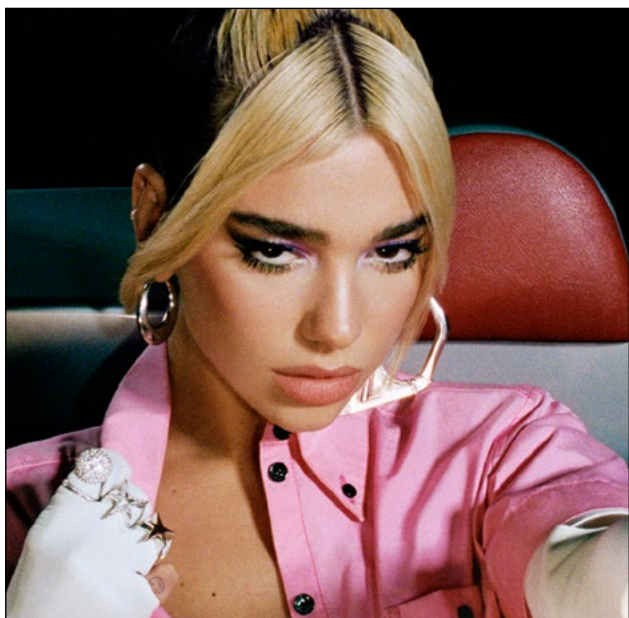
The prognosis for unrest
is poor, says the pendulum traveler
(he's swung here before).

Longer than months stretching
to noon, longer than putting words
to a tune.

安慰 (An wei)

When light pooled
the camber of your palm
and your quiet laugh dipped a reprieve, a catching net,
fullness to cheek hollow —
I couldn't help it. Your candour was
embodied / your words fading /
our rhythm softly a morning moon.

modi deng



FUTURE NOSTALGIA DUA LIPA

CAMERON LEAKEY

10/10: *Dua for President!*



Dua Lipa is on the rise. Her 2017 self titled album propelled her into the public eye and now, not even 25, her sophomore album *Future Nostalgia* establishes Dua Lipa as a bona fide pop star and one of many on the current face of the revival of disco elements in modern music.

Dua Lipa's latest offering is a fun, pure pop concept album, with influences clearly taken from Madonna, Lady Gaga, Blondie and even Gwen Stefani. The front half of the album, led by the title track, *Future Nostalgia*, sets the tone for a club pop record, with standouts *Don't Start Now*, *Physical*, *Cool*, and *Levitating* following. *Don't Start Now* already becoming a white girl anthem and now the others set to follow. The second half of *Future Nostalgia* slows its pace ever so slightly – still maintaining a high energy pop sound. Tracks like *Good In Bed* are reminiscent of Lily Allen whilst the last track, *Boys Will Be Boys*, alludes to the challenges women face in society.

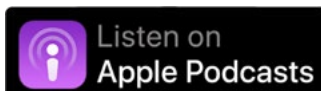
Dua Lipa has made essentially THE pop album of the year. The third single *Break My Heart* is already popular on radio and with many more hits on the album, prepare to hear a lot more from Dua Lipa in 2020.



I FINISHED ALL 503 FUCKING MBMBAM EPISODES

LACHLAN MITCHELL

10/10: *Yes, I'm white*



I've previously written about the three McElroy brothers at length, but only now have I completed the Herculean task of finishing the then-current catalogue of 503 episodes for *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. To give an idea, that's an average 65 minute length podcast every time, not counting the various other works under their umbrella, relistening to my favourite goofs or their *Til Death Do Us Blart* joint work with Tim Batt & Guy Montgomery. It took over two years, probably closer to two and a half, and I'm finally there.

While I might cringe at their personae at times, I think I've genuinely been better off having this show in my life, and the collective influence on what pop culture I find interesting and my own style of writing have been not-so-subtly influenced by my intake of these wonderful people. I'm almost saddened by the knowledge that I'm now on the same weekly schedule as everyone else!!! I always had so much to catch up to, and now I have. The boys celebrate ten years of the show in a month or two, and they deserve all the adoration they get. Well, some of it is frankly infantile, but most of it is okay.

Select favourite segments that I remember: ***Quintuple Vampire*, *Giant Scott Bakula*, *Catch Me On My Mobile*, *I am Amelie*, *Lasik Voicemails*, *Die In Your Sleep*, any fucking home alone or tim curry segment, *My Coffee with Niles/Friles and Nasier***



TIGER KING

LACHLAN MITCHELL

8.5/10: *Tiger Convict*



Maybe it's the brain shrinkage from quarantine, but there hasn't been anything quite like Netflix's newest meme generator *Tiger King* that I can easily recall. It's just something else - nearly every single key player in this documentary series about the wild world of midwestern big cat 'zoos' (read: farms) is an unabashedly terrible person, so lost in their narcissism and their real-world equivalents of community Facebook page group fights, and totally unable to see a slight shred of ethics violations.

Gay polygamist meth-dealer presidential & gubernatorial candidate Joe Exotic, the titular *Tiger King*, has emerged as the internet's hero against the villain Carole Baskin, self-purported rescuer of big cats, who absolutely did murder her husband Don Lewis and is similarly batshit. You also see Bhagavan 'Doc' Antle, who is almost certainly going to go to prison by 2021 on the charges of running a sex cult in the same vicinity as where he shoots tiger cubs who get too old to be petted.

However, it is so easy to get lost in the truly buckwild world of *Tiger King* and forget that, above all else, all the big cats are the real losers in the constant power plays for supremacy these characters pull - they're all fucking evil, all running a variation of predatory *feudalism* on their property, and their animals suffer direly for it. As funny as Joe Exotic is, he's a predatory sack of shit. None of their fixations of obsession are remotely better off under their care, and that applies to anyone that falls under the animal kingdom.



THE STEPS HAIM

KATE



HAIM are a soft-rock band of three Jewish sisters from Los Angeles and recently released a short and sweet four-track album, *The Steps*. *The Steps* takes you for an angsty walk in the sunny park, throws you in the arms of summer, and then lulls you into a glum cocoon. And, seeing as this album is only four tracks, I'm gonna recommend them all.

The Steps is an ode to that silly-lalas lover who just doesn't understand you or your wonderful being and needs to be dropped ASAP (now's the time hon, you won't have to see them for weeks!). "Now I'm In It" cuts a bit too deep. Now I'm really in it, 'it' being the day five quarantine blues, but at least this song is a great backing track for a cathartic cry. "Summer Girl" is just so nice. I dream of the sun on my body and waves crumbling nearby before going to bed each night with "Summer Girl" humming in the background. Finally, "Hallelujah" embodies loss but also recovery, and the profound love that sees you through. Quite fitting.

Let this album take you somewhere sweet, be sure to tell your friends you love them and do something that makes you feel good. Arohanui xo



RECOMMENDATION XBOX GAME PASS

DANIEL MEECH

Consider this a PSA.



If you own an XBOX and haven't yet purchased a subscription to Game Pass, shame on you. You're letting your friends down. You're letting your family down. Worst of all, you're letting yourself down. If you haven't heard of Game Pass, it's essentially the Netflix of video games. I hate to use that phrase - it sounds so facile and trite - but it's true. A subscription to Game Pass allows you to access an extensive catalogue of games from which you can pick and choose the ones you'd like to play.

The catalogue really does have something for everyone. Big on sports? Game Pass boasts NBA2K20 and PES 2019. Got a bent for sci-fi horror? Boot up a copy of *Prey* or download *Alien: Isolation*. Or are big guys with guns more your MO? You can crack into a couple rounds of *Halo* online, play through the campaign of *Wolfenstein*, or spend an evening turning faces into viscous puddles of blood and gore in *Rage 2*.

Game Pass has a plethora of blockbuster games. But, even more importantly, its catalogue is packed with dozens of unusual, quirky, and idiosyncratic games. The best part of Game Pass - the real reason I think you should stop buying games, and get a subscription to this service instead - is that it challenges you to change your playing habits.

I've played so many great games I would never have played thanks to Game Pass. In particular, I'm thinking of titles like *What Remains of Edith Finch*, *Hellblade: Senua's Sacrifice*, and *Outer Wilds*. (Side note: *Outer Wilds*, a lovely, whimsical game about flying through space and visiting other planets, is similar to, but not the same as, *Outer Worlds*, a vapid, soulless game about flying through space and visiting other planets. Please stop confusing the two. It's insulting.)

All of these are brilliant experiences which don't fit into the mould of conventional games. They have unusual mechanics, atypical stories, and often clock in at five hours or less. They're not games I would play if I had to pay \$20 a pop for them, but - since they're available on Game Pass for pennies (you can get the first four months of Game Pass for \$4, then cancel your subscription with no cost and apply for the same discount again) - I've played them all and loved every second of it.

So, if for no other reason than to broaden your videogame horizons, I suggest you pick a subscription to Game Pass. It's cheap, intuitive to use, and guaranteed to keep you entertained for hours.



ILLUSTRATION BY DAPHNE ZHENG

All Animals Love Me, But I Can Only Love Some

LACHLAN MITCHELL BRIEFLY EXITS FROM THE HAZE OF THEIR ANIMAL CROSSING OPIUM DEN TO... TALK ABOUT ANIMAL CROSSING

I'm, surprisingly, a totally new convert to Animal Crossing – I never had a Gamecube, never played the games that were on the Wii, and I bought Happy Home Designer + a 3DS for my boyfriend, not intending to play New Leaf myself. So the world of Animal Crossing: New Horizons has been a Fresh Experience for me, and I've only sparingly come up to breathe the corona-laden air ever since the lockdown came into effect.

So while the imminent Great Depression is utterly, utterly heartbreaking, I've been able to afford myself a little sanctuary on my deserted island, and proceeded to create a new life for myself, with the help of Tom Nook – my husband who I have an understanding with – and the copious and unrepentant decimation of the limitless resources of the Pacific. My character is a one-woman iron mine, forestry sector, textile centre, fruit picker and sole business of my island's airport, if in-game mechanics amount to anything.

But no man is an island, however authoritarian I exact

my rule through Tom Nook and Isabelle. While I've now become a success, it would be entirely lonely to be by myself, and the true appeal of the game are the Villagers, the sheer NUMBERS of which I honestly had no idea about prior to starting the game. There's so much variety in just the *ugly* ones. Like, there's a fucking chicken that looks like it's wearing the Taco Bell logo as a helmet????? There's a green pig named Cobb that is almost certainly an incel??? Right now, in the Easter content, there's a hyperactive jaundiced bunny that the entire community collectively hates, but his mere existence points to the variety even in the most loathed of the anthropomorphic creatures of Animal Crossing.

While I'm here to gush about Animal Crossing, I'm mostly here to gush about the prettiest of those villagers in particular, the ones who truly make life worth living. No room for uglies in my post-scarcity utopia, sorry! With that in mind, I'm gonna recommend the top villagers for you to seek out, to make your own island truly worth for-

getting the reality we find ourselves desperately hoping to black out xx.

Raymond: Raymond is one of those villagers with the smug personality type - they generally think they're better than you, and are not afraid to let you know. Except... unlike most of the others with this typing, his design simply entirely outweighs any possible annoyance from this. He's a grey little cat with heterochromia and, as many have discovered, a predilection for maid outfits. This changed the game - it's hard to stay mad at a feline twink that wants to walk around in an adorable maid outfit.

Twiggy: Another kind of villager with their head in the clouds, except this little bird has every reason to live in the aether - she's looking to the stars, because she knows she's gonna be one. Or is one. The writers go back and forth on their dialogue sometimes. Twiggy is a wee little canary with an oversized skull who is resolute in becoming a pop star, and she doesn't care how her default angry eyebrows impact that. She's a queen with great makeup, and she has a permanent residence on my island, unless I go a little bit buckwild with cabin fever and kick out everyone.

Judy: LOOK HER UPPPPPPPPPPP SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL GORGEOUS!!!!!! A QUEEN!!!! SHE ATE THAT

Cherry: Probably the most beloved of the 'big sister' personality types, Cherry is apparently a relatively recent addition to the franchise - while 'recent' means the last game over 7 years ago, she's quickly become one of the most popular villagers of the franchise, and for good reason. She gives off a Debbie Harry vibe - so ready to tease you, kinda groovy in her dark aesthetic, but you love it. I haven't yet been able to bring her to my island, but when I can, I'm trapping her.

Rosie: Look at her in that Azzedine Alaïa! Stunning!!!!!! Probably the best looking of the original gang of villagers from the Gamecube era, and is easily one of best unofficial mascots; if Tom Nook & Isabelle are the faces, and K.K Slider is the heart, then Rosie is the wardrobe. Love her.

Flora: Look at this bird bitch! She has legs that the other girls in the animal kingdom are just dying for! Work the house down, flamingo queen! As a new player to the franchise, I don't understand why God only uplifted some sections of animalia within Animal Crossing - insects have absolutely no cognisance and exist only to be trapped in a museum, or sold into nonexistence for precious bells, and only octopuses have been gifted (or cursed, depending on your philosophical bend) with the ability to make something of themselves, with all other aquatic life cursed to be nothing more than a frustratingly fleeting shadow that I'm gonna start trapping in my house if they don't start biting my rod at a greater fucking frequency. But now I understand why Yahweh deigned to only uplift some, not all: it would be callous, it would be cruel, to make them stand next to Flora. What a legend.

Roscoe: Last one. I get the feeling from the fanbase that Roscoe is hated for some reason, but... look at him. Maybe he's arrogant. Maybe he's a jerk. But that chequered design, with the jet-black fur... I still want him on my island, and any complainers can eat shit. If you want him to chill out so much, then give him some ket or be quiet.

That's it. I'm still very fresh to the franchise, and I still have so much to do (and so much defense of time travelling to do, apparently!), but these are the kings and queens that you should bring to your island if you really want it to look as good as your soul feels it should be. It might be a deserted vacation spot, but glamour never takes a holiday.



Marvel is Good Cinema

ROBBIE DELANY IS NOT BOUGHT BY THE HOUSE OF MOUSE, I THINK

Liberals vs conservatives, atheists vs theists, and manual vs automatic drivers. These divides are arbitrary, pointless and born out of idiosyncratic global views. Yet, conquering all such great divides is the hostile conflict between the advocates and haters of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Apostles of the MCU jack it off for its state-of-the-art visuals and long gestating character arcs, while the critics spit on it for the same reasons. The most famous critic is “Mr. Boomer” Martin Scorsese, who has famously condemned the films as not “good cinema”. This made me question the fact, what is good cinema?

I hold no specific opinion over the MCU. If I see a film which tickles my scrotum, I press ‘Like’. So, I will try to

keep my opinions close to my chest. As of March 2020, the MCU is composed of 23 films, with *Spiderman: Far from Home* being the latest entry. Each film exists within an alternate universe explored from the microscopic (*Ant-Man*) to the interstellar (*Guardians of the Galaxy*) level. Of course, these films boast visual effects and production design that wank off to the Oscars each year, funded by budgets rivalling that of actual countries (Kiribati’s GDP: \$184 million, Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck’s *Captain Marvel* budget: \$175 million). However, the MCU possesses a quality that capital cannot purchase: meticulously crafted character arcs. Each member of the ‘Avengers’ (with the exception of Hawkeye) star in their own self-titled biopic. The motivations and personifications of each character are strikingly con-

trasted between the start and finish of each of their films. At the beginning of *Captain America: The First Avenger*, the Captain stands as a blind patriot oiling the machine of war. Yet, at the end he represents a man beaten by the betrayal of his own government. These arcs exist not only intra-film, but also over the winding river of the universe timeline. As each character crosses the tracks of their fellow Avengers like figure skaters, Captain America soon indulges in his own self-interest, turning against the Avengers in *Civil War*. Tony Stark in *Iron Man* excretes douchebaggery like a Winkle-voss twin, unphased by the gross mortality of his weapons industry. But as the film and series progresses, he betters himself, shutting down his weapons institution. This well-delivered arc climaxes in *Civil War* when the death of a single person he is indirectly responsible for sends him down an abyss of grief. These progressions are not forced, but evolve naturally like tension building in a lost marriage. Characters will scarcely express dialogue not consistent with the direction of their arc, nor unmotivated by the unfolding of events. The emotional realism of these characters may be an underlying factor as to why the franchise has been so successful with audiences. However, not everyone is a fan.

Martin Scorsese, director of undisputed classics like *Goodfellas* and *Taxi Driver*, has ruffled the feathers of the MCU peacock. His bitterness is not concerned with the character development nor set design. To the contrary, he acknowledges the production values which makes these pictures worthy of cinema release. His problem is the lack of mystery, revelation and art transcending quantum leaps the MCU takes. No risk is debated. After establishing a profitable rhythm in the series, each film released is equipped with very specif-

ic ammunition loaded into its magazine. Although no specific formula exists, the MCU is glazed in over-arching themes and characterization developments. The protagonists are typically social outcasts, with personalities ranging from light-hearted comedians (Tony Stark and Peter Quill) to military school rejects (Captain America and Black Widow). After a turn of events where they encounter a revelation within themselves or reality (Tony Stark discovering Guns Are Bad), they try to transform themselves to benefit society. Typically, the villains represent opposite personas to the protagonist, consisting of 10 minutes of dedicated screen time to establish their motivations, inner demons or childhood trauma. A variety of other tropes are peppered throughout the universe, but an honours dissertation would be needed to list them all. A personal issue I have with the films is the lack of realism, such as overuse of computer-generated imagery, bloodless violence and unrealized love relationships which never materialize into anything beyond the restrictions of PG film rating.

“The emotional realism of these characters may be an underlying factor as to why the franchise has been so successful with audiences. However, not everyone is a fan.”

Regardless, the formula works and risk is eliminated.

Any director hired for an MCU project has to abide by the rules the executive set. In consequence, the films do not belong to the artists but the studio. Despite the energy and artistry placed into them, they lack the direction of a single artist. The themes cannot digress beyond the handful juggled beyond within the series. Scorsese is an auteur to the highest credit. When one watches a credit of his filmography, they know they are watching a Scorsese film. Yet, the audience of an MCU picture do not care who lies behind the camera as long as their demands are met. Scorsese's opinion is best summarized in his New York Times article "Marvel Movies Aren't Cinema. Let Me Explain": in which he, well, says that the MCU is not cinema by any real metric. Not that they are necessarily *bad*, but *not* cinema. From the perspective of risk, the MCU is undoubtedly not cinema. However, this question turned in my head for some time. If the MCU is or is not cinema from an artistic standpoint, then what is?

Superficially, one may gesture that a masterpiece of cinema is one that breaks the norm, creating new tools or techniques to tell a story. *Mad Max: Fury Road* (love it or hate) uses fight scenes as conversation to drive the simple story, rather than conventional dialogue, allowing the action to become a character unto itself. *The Dark Knight*, considered Christopher Nolan's auteur superhero movie, is remembered as merging urban crime into the superhero genre, relating more to *Heat* than *Iron Man*. These rule breaking films are considered by some to be the archetype of solid cinema. Yet, during the silent error of filmmaking, it was considered sacrilege to add in sound or colour. The landscape of cinema changes. Ten years from now, we may be using virtual

"...to claim that a franchise or blockbuster is not cinema is a nonsense, arbitrary statement that demands justification and refinement."

reality headsets to watch movies. Would Alfred Hitchcock have considered this cinema? Almost certainly not. But time passes. With each passing generation, a standard is established, broken, then reset. So, to claim that a franchise or blockbuster is not cinema is a nonsense, arbitrary statement that demands justification and refinement. For Scorsese to suggest that the MCU is not cinema is strange as hundreds of millions have gathered to the cinema to engage in their stories. Box office receipts do not lie.

Like music, each of us have our own taste in film. A middle-class man who rarely visits the cinema will likely not care for an art-house film. His demands may only be limited to car chases, one-liners and explosions. To him, *Transformers* may qualify as 2007's *Citizen Kane*. A good movie is a film which instills emotions inside of you which you never knew existed, leaving impressions that last, teach a lesson. Good cinema can bridge the differences amongst people, who despite their differences can appreciate a good film. History has a way of reshaping perspective. Sorry, Scorsese, but on behalf of the mass audience who have cherished the effort of the MCU, it identifies as good cinema.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY YOUNGI KIM

Fruit Picking

SHERRY ZHANG

I moved out of home into a really cute flat in Sandringham at the start of this year. The windows don't quite shut when it rains, there's no insulation, and it's very much a student flat. But I love it. I came home late from work on my second night here, and at 11:30 PM discovered a magical chai van. Chai Wala Bhai sits at the end of my street and Brother Chai always greets me with a smile. He is a staple in our community with his South Indian breakfast foods and late night tea hangouts around the van. The three cats who live down the road always greet me when I come home from uni. And our neighbour diagonally left always has the best music taste. It's a doof of jazz and funk, intermingled with our native bird call in the bush separating us.

★★★

When self-isolation started mid-March, my flatmate Bronnie and I set a goal to go on runs (okay, walks) throughout the neighbourhood. A smart move so we didn't go for each other's throats in the middle of cabin fever.

This meant sprinting to keep a 2m radius around bike riders, dodging tennis matches across the white lines in the middle of the road, and nodding to the teddy bears keeping watch in the windows. However, as we always do, we got distracted and the first night brought us a large mirror we found on the curb-side. Wiped and disinfected of course, and now sitting in the lounge.

The second night we came home with a dozen feijoa, abandoned little ones from the ground. Bronnie had

also yanked me to a stop and hoisted me up over the fence at the local Bowling Club to nick a couple of limes. “\$50 per kg!,” she yelled, as I grabbed onto a fat round green punch of zest from the top of the tree. God that night’s stir fry tasted extra special.

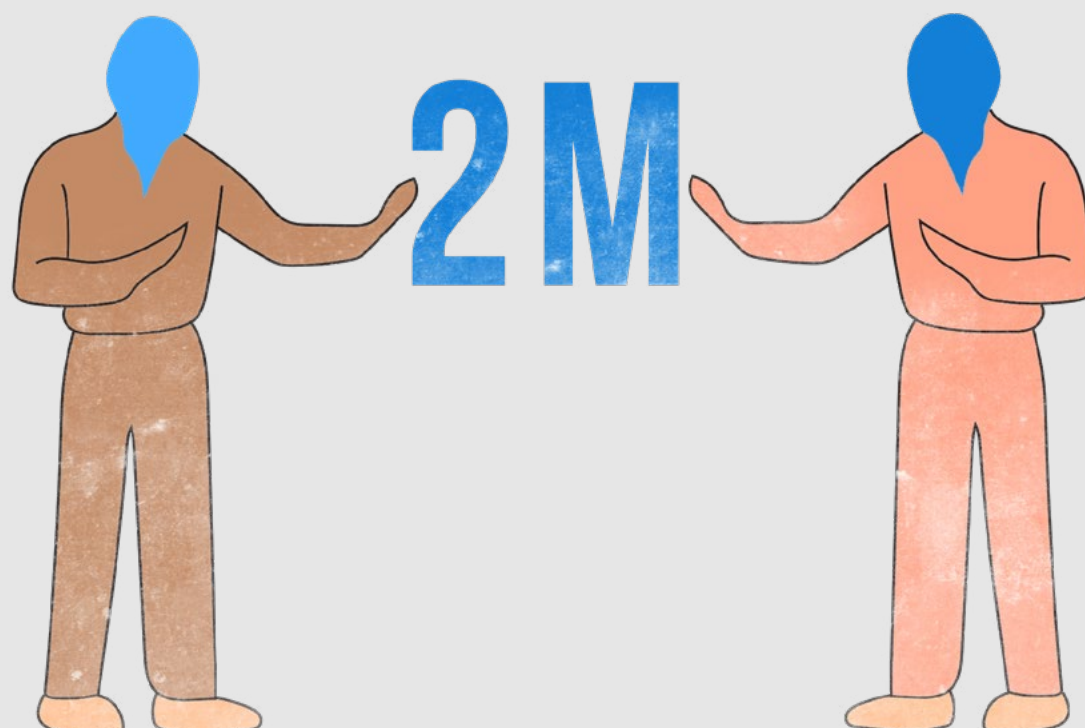
The third night, we abandoned the whole concept of trying to PB our 5 km run time. We set out with cotton bags, and went on a hīkoi through the neighbourhood.

I’d grown up with a feijoa, plum and orange trees in my childhood home, so that was my expertise. Bronnie on the other hand managed to spot all the fig, olive and lemon trees. I can’t even begin to tell them apart, following her excited pointing with ‘Huh? Where?’ We’d teach each other which ones were ready, and which ones needed a bit more sun. And never more than just enough for us two. A bit of gentle trespass to nick the neighbours fruit never hurt anyone. Plus, we were still complying with all the guidelines of our government sanctioned walk.

***“Ah ma ready with
an old kitchen knife to
dig up baby bamboo
shoots.”***

It’s a learning curve when you move into a new area, and it made me miss the familiarity of my childhood home: South Auckland and the North Shore. But onwards and upwards to exploring and building your personal map. That was one of my favourite activities. As a 7 year old, I’d spend hours memorising the garden. Ah Ma would show me all the nooks. I’d follow her to the park: Ah ma ready with an old kitchen knife to dig up baby bamboo shoots. She said my young eyes were better at spotting them. And then we would then squat in the laundry room, her showing me how to peel the dry husk to reveal the supple tender bamboo in the middle.

I had little nimble hands too, so she would lift me up





and get me to help her fill a crinkled reused Pakn'Save bag with kumquats in the trees surrounding the back of Browns Bay Foodtown. Jin Ju is best eaten fresh, or stewed and candied into a tea for coughs. I can tell you exactly which walkways around my childhood home had bushes of lavender, ju hua and bai he. Good for coughs and chills.

★★★

As I shared this inherited knowledge with Bronnie, she was reminded of a book she had read about rongoā Māori by Rob McGowan. The mātauranga you gain from living, breathing, listening to the ngahere. Throughout the book, Pa Rob's reiterates that a person can only tell you so much. If you get to know the trees and the plants, they will tell you everything you need to know. And the importance of respecting the tikanga of rongoā Māori. For example, saying a karakia - whatever that means to you in your language - before harvesting.

★★★

I used to cringe all the time when my mother would go on about Qi and traditional Chinese medicine. I wish I could just chuck back a Panadol and climb into bed when I had a cold. But you don't fight your Chinese Mother when she gives you foul smelling tea to wash it down. Stewed bitter dandelion straight from the garden (or the park near Sherwood reserve!). When I got a bleeding nose, it's because I'm 上火. My Qi is on fire, and I had to immediately eat green lentils and bai he. When I'm on my period, I have to drink go ji berries, ginger and date soup, being careful not to 着凉, and have too much cold Qi.

***"If you get to know the trees
and the plants, they will tell
you everything you need to
know"***

I didn't even realise I believed in all this until I moved away and lived in a house with people from different cultures. I used to scoff at everything my mother said to me, and now I've turned into her. I also tasted my own medicine when my flatmates started giving me turmeric and milk for my cough.

Bronnie would go tramping with her granddad. He's originally from Aberbeeg, Wales but spent most of his life in the Wairarapa, and hunted deer in the ranges of the lower eastern North Island. He taught her that you could eat the ends of supple jacks, like asparagus. Also to look out for tutu as it's poisonous. And that a certain fine moss is an indicator of air quality. Oh and Bushman's friend is good toilet paper.

My Ba would take me to the markets, his parents (my grandparents) were sweet potato farmers/ theatre performers (thanks to the cultural revolution) and he taught me to pat watermelons to listen to their bellies. And oranges with the largest bum holes are the sweetest.

This is all knowledge passed down from generations.

When discussing generational knowledge and traditional medicine, it's important to note the Wai 262 report from the Waitangi Tribunal. This affirms the Crown's responsibility in respecting and supporting Māori knowledge and intellectual property. The connection to nature, and the connection rongoā practitioners have to the whenua.

It makes me wonder about the place of big pharmaceutical companies exploring the Amazon rainforest, and the exploitation of indigenous knowledge for the

"He taught her that you could eat the ends of supple jacks, like asparagus. Also to look out for tutu as it's poisonous. And that a certain fine moss is an indicator of air quality."

'greater good.' It makes me wonder about the highway the local government chucked through my family village shrine in Longyuan, Fu Jian. It makes me wonder about balance, and all the physical, cultural and spiritual parts that make up home.

★★★

Even in writing this piece, I had to call my Ma for the names of the plants. I can recognise them from memory, from my walks with Ah Ma. As she rattled off the names, she also started chastising me and told me she found a lot of baiguo (really good for when you have yellow phlegm) in the bushes at Browns Bay carpark and they are drying in the sun.

"Can you come eat this weekend?"

I remind her of the rāhui in place. She asks if I'm eating fruit and vegetables and I tell her we've started curing our own olives. The whole process will take exactly four weeks. Maybe I can show her when it's ready?

~~YOUR BIG CIG GUIDE~~

FOR 6TH-12TH (FOR UOA & BEYOND)

HOT LOCAL TRACKS!!!

Fimo and Amamelia

Queer synth-pop duo from Auckland makes me feel all soft and in love. It's the 90s, shimmery and golden hour 24/7. Personal favourite is *Sugar Soap*. Amelia Berry's solo project Amamelia is a fun dance sensation with inspiration from house, breakbeat and downtempo. So *good* is really so good.

Mataura Paper Mill by Anthonie Tonnon

I like to plug my earphones in, and listen to this track on repeat while walking around at dusk. It's just so dramatic and sad. But environmental disasters are: The Paper mill at Gore, and the leaking 'toxic ammonia cloud.' It's just a lot, and given the current mood of the nation, it's fitting.

Hungry Planet by The Shambles

I crack this album out every summer. It never disappoints. Funky, fun, and full of energy, *Hungry Planet's* unusual blend of Dunedin surf rock and 80s soul music is guaranteed to get your booty wigglin'. Age, race, religion, sexuality - *Hungry Planet* doesn't discriminate. Put those headphones on, and that ass'll start a-shaking.

Make Way for Love by Marlon Williams

I hate almost all country music. I say almost because there are exactly three *extremely special* exceptions to this rule. Exception #1: Wagon Wheel is acceptable so long as it's played at the end of a big night of drinking. Exception #2: Take Me Home Country Road is allowed to be played so long as we're driving somewhere far away and/or drunk. Lastly, Exception #3: any Marlon Williams, any time of day, is 100% on. What makes these exceptions so special, you ask? Simple: they're all sing-a-long bangers.

Any of Phum Viphurit's Singles

Imma say it: there's only two reasons Phum isn't a household name in New Zealand. Firstly, his bio page doesn't start with the words "Dunedin-based" (which seems to be a legal requirement), and secondly - this is probably the more important part - he's not a skinny white boy with a dumb moustache, a shit fashion sense, and a monosyllabic name. Despite having more listens on Spotify than Six60, Mako Road, and Dave Dobbyn combined, Phum gets nowhere near the same level of attention. It's a shame, because his music is top notch. Give it a listen!

arts.

Tiny Moons: A year of eating in shanghai
by Nina Minya Powles

Nina is a Malaysian/Chinese-Pakeha poet from Wellington, currently in London. Tiny Moons is a collection of food essays written when she was a student living in shanghai. She uses food as a means to explore mix-race identity in a new and confusing place. Her descriptions about street food also make you salivate. Nina is also the editor of Bitter Melon Poetry, and is currently compiling diary entries during self-isolation from asian writers (If anyone would like to get involved: bittermelonpoetry@gmail.com).

TOP 10
95.1 FM
MUSIC

1	I Love My Wife Soft Plastics (NZ)
2	Keke Boy Diggy Dupé (NZ)
3	Bird of Ill Swallow The Rat (NZ)
4	So Good Amamelia (NZ)
5	Funds Pt.II feat. Blaze The Emperor, JessB, Mo Muse & Abdul Kay Raiza Biza (NZ)
6	DOG SONG [GO NUCLEAR REMIX] DJ 2FUK2 (NZ)
7	nov christoph el truento (NZ)
8	Erase Embrace feat. brownboymagik Alexa Casino (NZ)
9	Manuka Money Wiri Donna (NZ)
10	Living Is Easy P.H.F (NZ)

The Perfect Eggs Part 1

BROUGHT TO YOU BY EGGS-PERTS (OF VARYING DEGREES) MADELEINE & SHERRY. ILLUSTRATIONS BY YOUNGI KIM.

How do you like your eggs in the morning?

I like mine with a kiss

Boiled or fried?

I'm satisfied as long as I get my kiss

- Dean Martin (Rich, Young, and Pretty)

Poached

HOW TO: Medium boil, no crazy bubbling. To get it fancy like those brunch places you love, stir it like you're a kid running around a swimming pool then crack the egg in the middle of the vortex. Cook 5-6 mins for a runny centre.

PUBLIC OPINION: Sherry fucked up her boiled bois the other day and received a lot of unsolicited advice including:

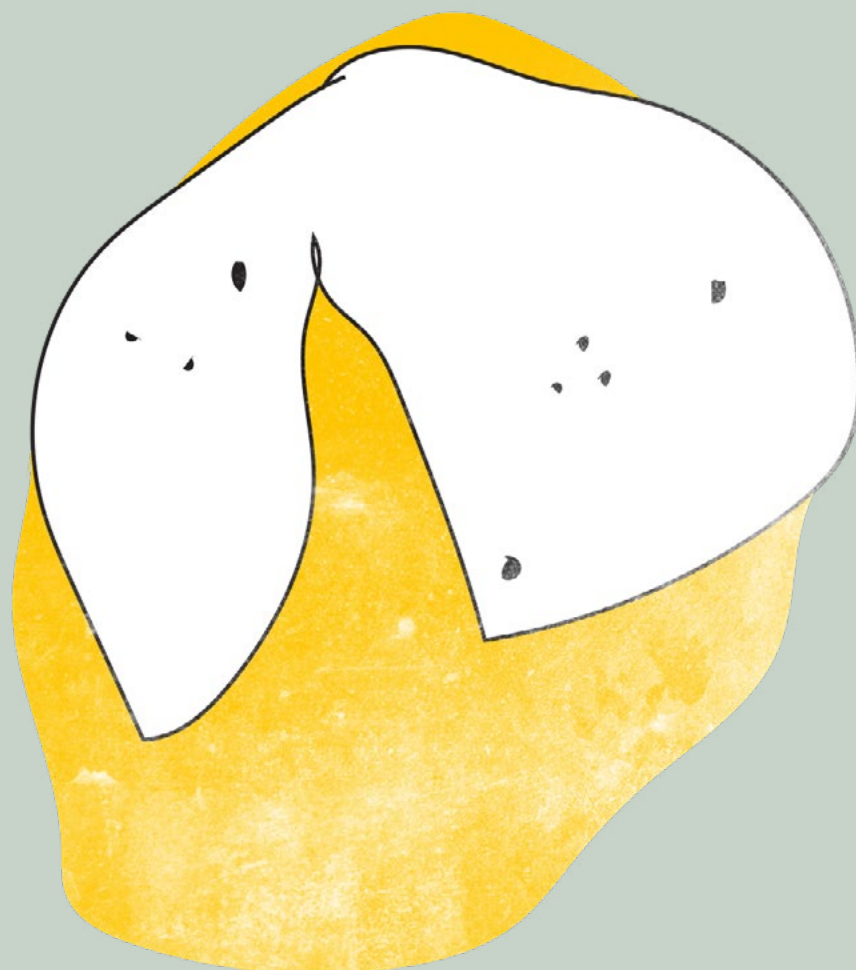
James: Add some vinegar to the water and also you have the heat too high.

Sherry: Everyone thinks I'm trying to poach but really I just cracked my boiled egg.

James: Yeah I thought you were trying to poach.

CONCLUSION:

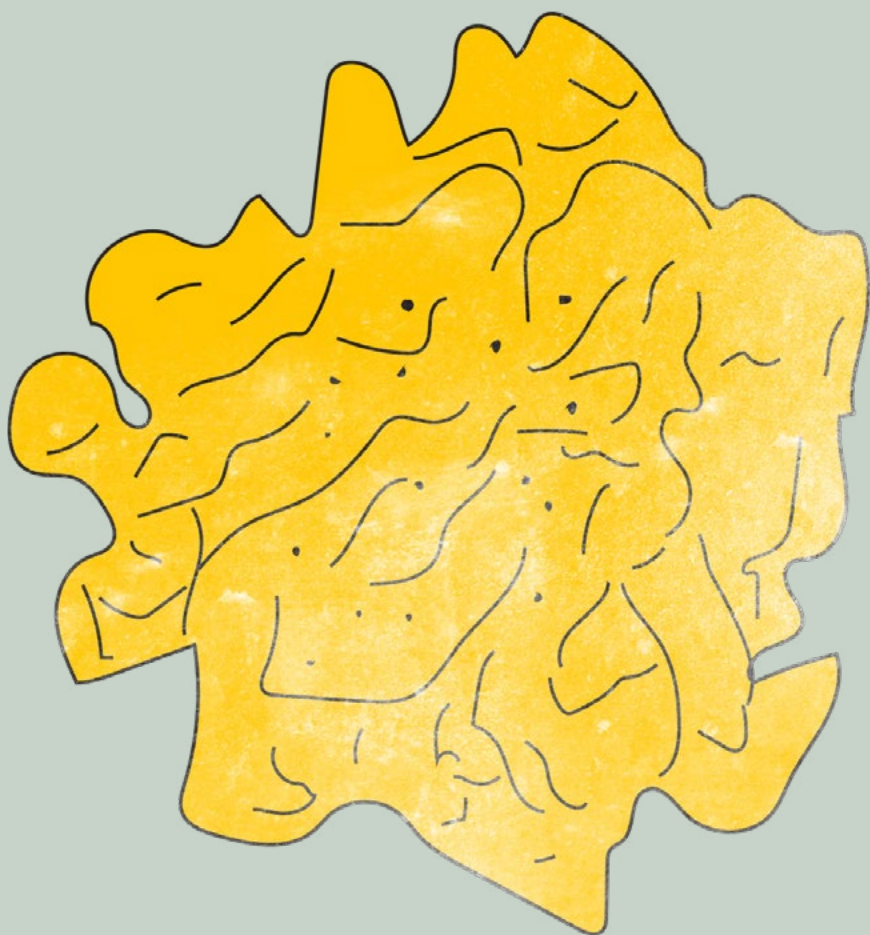
S: I'll eat them but I don't get all the damn hype about them. Also what's this shit about the 63 degree egg? But



damn hollandaise is good. **3/10**

M: Poaching eggs makes the white taste bland as hell. But, the yolk tastes like liquid gold. It gives and it takes.

6/10



Scrambled

HOW TO: The perfect texture for scrambled eggs is just *slightly* runny, no arguments. Medium heat, and a girthy stick of butter. Whip cream and eggs 'til combined. Pour into the pan, and when the edges perk up start going to town with a rubber whisk. The minute it's 50/50 runny and cooked, turn off the heat and let it sit there and steam. Season with salt, pepper and chilli flakes. Mic drop.

PUBLIC OPINION: from our extensive field research only one respondent noted it was their fave: 'scrambled babyyyyyy.'

CONCLUSION:

S: I love scrambled eggs and it loves me back. **7/10** would be higher but can be easily over cooked and nasty.

M: I think scrambled eggs are good, lots of cream is nice, but I don't like doing dishes. If someone else wants to cook them for me in the morning ;) I'd be down. **8/10** probably the worst one for you, so it tastes the best.

Boiled (soft/hard)

HOW TO: Start with water from your freshly boiled kettle. Continue heating on stove with medium to high heat. Run egg under warm water at the sink, before lowering it GENTLY into the water. This prevents cracking. Boil for 4-5 minutes for runny center, 7 for soft yolk and 9-10 for hard boiled. Take off heat, crack the shell, and run under cold water before peeling. Season with salt and pepper.

CONCLUSION:

S: **8/10** I love soft yolky... i'm just so bad at them :(

M: **9/10**, medium cook is the way to go, simple, elegant, refined.

French Omelette

HOW TO: There are two ways to cook an omelette; french and bullshit. Start with low to medium heat, and pour eggs mixed with cream into the pan. Swirl the mixture around the pan to distribute evenly. Using a spatula or chopsticks, make small curdles and wait until half set. Then, gently roll the egg over itself and place on your plate. Garnish with chives. The middle should be gooey and soft. Bullshit methos is to just chuck everything in. C'est la vie.

PUBLIC OPINION: No responses about french om-

elettes because students are too poor for cream and chives.

CONCLUSION:

S: **2/10** I've never tried making it.maybe **3/10** if it's got good chutney. Idk maybe I'm a purist.

M: **7/10**, you have to mess around a bit, but a good Sunday treat. I have been working to master the French omelette, and I think I've finally got it. It's a superior option.

Fried

HOW TO: Pour oil, then up HOT. Put egg in, wait for crispy edges and lil bubbles. If you touch it before it's ready, it will stick onto the pan, tear up and everyone will cry :(. That's the sunny side. Flip it over for over-easy. Extra for experts: pour hot oil over the egg, cover with a wet lid for basted olive oil steam goodness.

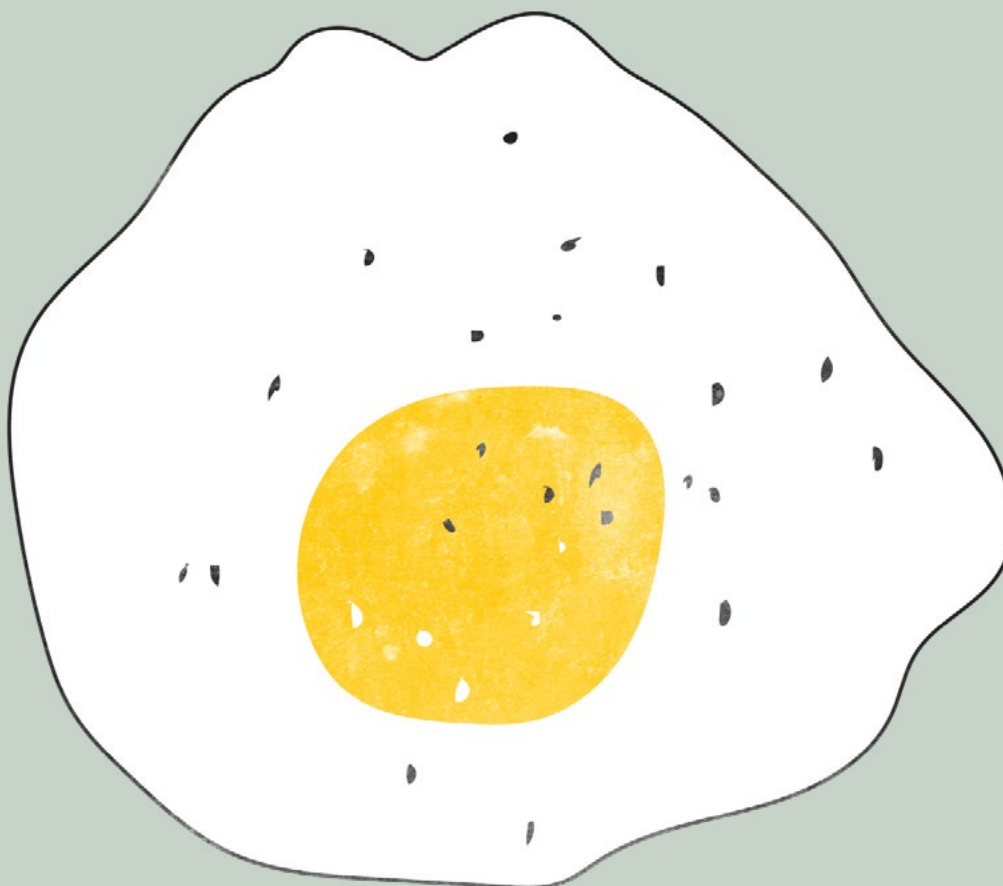
PUBLIC OPINION: Very popular! Almost all responses sounded something like this: 'get that pan HOT HOT before you crack' 'HOT ass pan before putting egg in' ' flip for 20 secs for squishy centre.'

CONCLUSION:

S: **9/10** goes with everything. The LBD of eggs. My mum gets fancy by adding some soy sauce, brown sugar, goji berries and sliced ginger.

M: **4/10**, fried eggs are a violent thing to cook and I'm a pacifist. My dad is terrible at cooking fried eggs, they are always black on the bottom, but it reminds me of him so CUTE.

Coming in Pt 2: Chinese Steamed egg, Raw(r), Vegan egg, tsa dan, egg soldiers, salted duck egg, Easter eggs, fertilised??? amongst many more. Got your own special egg to impress your dates in the morning? Lifestyle@craccum.co.nz.



LOCKDOWN BINGO

Take a shot everytime it happens.

Redownload TikTok the 4th time after promising you'd never go back.	Change Zoom backgrounds during a meeting.	Message your ex???	Propose starting a podcast, and never follow through.
Make a poorly timed COVID-19 joke.	Everytime an Ashley Bloomfield fanfic pops up on your FB feed.	Panic buy all the hot dog buns at your local supermarket.	Check up on the elderly people in your life! <3
Consider harvesting your own yeast (infection) after it's all sold out.	Overthink your hay fever symptoms.	Have your uni restart and switch to block courses, then extend the year to 20 Dec. lol @ AUT.	Wave at neighbours across the fence and talk about the state of NZ politics.
Everytime you get a notification someone is in the house. (house party steal my \$\$\$)	Rearrange your room 90° every other day for something to do.	Pretend you're a high-performance athlete and start going for a run everyday.	You realise your habits are exactly the same: lockdown or not.



MASTURBATE	"Accidentally" slide yourself into someone's dms.	Cross out all the cancelled events in your 2020 planner.	Yell at people who aren't following lock down rules.
Try make friends with the neighbour's cat.	Sleep schedule 5am-3pm???	Get desperate enough to start responding to catfish message requests.	Stop showering or shaving.
Follow friends outside your bubble on a 2m radius walk like an engineer trying to court a lady.	Start watching Tiger King?	Start an unhealthy comfort eating habit. Eggs!!??	Drive around for "groceries"
Brew your own kombucha, green tea and chai? Or make your own sourdough. Hmm artisanal.	Make a list of the assignments you have due over lockdown and then don't do them.	Look into vajazzling. OH MY GOD. OH NO.	Fall into a YouTube black hole where you end up watching celebrities sing 'Imagine'.

WHO ASKED YOU

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

My Mum is driving me crazy. She doesn't have to work from home and she has literally no hobbies. Because of this, she's always bothering my and my sister trying to keep herself occupied. I'm sick of spending EVERY WAKING MOMENT entertaining her. What should I do?

I relate to your mum on a spiritual level. Us attention-barnacles are nigh on impossible to shake. Is there any way to convince her you've somehow forgotten to speak English? Or that some sort of Freaky Friday situation has occurred and you may look like her lovely child, but you're actually Matt Lauer? OR you could tell her that you're becoming a monk and you have to take a vow of silence. Okay, I'm having way too much fun with this, let's focus up.

Honestly, any time she comes to talk to you, just say your sister has something really important to tell her. Never absorb what you can deflect. You should know that your sister may catch on to this strategy and start sending her back to you, like some weird game of Clingy-Mum-Ping Pong. Regardless, she'll expend so much energy walking between you that she runs out of breath and can't talk.

(ALTERNATIVE OPTION: tell her that the grumpy lady who writes Who Asked You in Craccum told her to shut the fuck up. My words, not yours.)

One of my flatmates leaves massive shit stains in the toilet bowl. I don't know how to tell him to please stop.

Aaaaaand I feel physically ill. Thank the dear god that I live alone. The only shit stains I have to deal with are my own.

Anyway, that's absolutely rank, who raised this guy? Wolves? My dogs don't even smear their shit where everyone can see it, they take it outside like civilised beings.

In that vein, I suggest that anyone who cannot appropriately use a lavatory should be relegated to the backyard. You don't even have to have a tough conversation to achieve this – every time they go to use the facilities, block the door with your body and yell “NO” until they walk away. They've gotta go sometime. Either they'll go infest someone else's toilet, or use the flowerpot. Either way, shitstain problem solved.

(NOTE: this answer may cause new outdoor-shit-smelling-to-high-heaven related problems. Craccum accepts no liability for this outcome.)

Post Lockdown Plans

LEIGH FLETCHER. ILLUSTRATIONS BY SOPHIE SUN.

ARIES

Happy birthday Aries! This isn't the best situation for your free spirit. You can't connect to the House Party chatroom you're having instead of a birthday party right now. Set a little bit of party money aside for a post-lockdown cocktail hour (or, more likely, as many Shadz jugs as your bladder can take).



TAURUS

You usually prefer to reflect while brooding at an inner-city café, but the backdrop of your siblings fighting over a block of Edam isn't quite so picturesque. Your post-lockdown outing should be to a new local business, where you'll justify a \$5 long black by considering all the money you haven't spent on the bus recently.



GEMINI

You tend to be a more flexible sign, Gemini, so you're adjusting better than you expected to your new environment – or maybe it's not a new environment, because you never actually went to class in the first place. You'll need a way to relax – and what better way to do that than by planning a trip away a solid 2 years in advance?



CANCER

Cancer, you tend not to wear your emotions on your sleeve. You value your alone time as a way to feel the feelings you need to feel, which, unfortunately, are now visible during your 9am Zoom lectures. You'll want to revitalise yourself with your first post-lockdown ~treat~. Or, that's what you'll say when you panic-buy a new 8 step skincare routine.



LEO

You're always the leader one step ahead of the game – so you are probably the most prepared person you know, and have the Instagram to prove it. The problem will be having a new project to work on once the lockdown is over. You'll probably say you're becoming a TikTok sensation, but in reality, you're going to start a blog ranking your recent purchases at Munchy.



VIRGO

Right now, things feel a bit out of your hands. You're not a big fan of uncertainty, and you'd rather have the familiarity of your usual routine. As soon as you can, you'll want to go back to your usual ways – and that means getting Macca's at 3am on Uber Eats. You deserve it.



LIBRA

Libras often look to their pasts to inform their presents. You'll be thinking of better times while trying to get your exercise perfectly in sync with the rhythm of incoming Canvas alerts (just one push-up per Piazza question, right?). You're also missing your creature comforts. That's why you've ordered 5 separate ad-driven impulse buys: for delivery sometime in the next 6 months.



SCORPIO

You get irked by people getting in your space. You're itching to invest in something – *anything* – to make future work from home more bearable. That's why you've already got noise-cancelling headphones and a LONG, FAR AWAY walk planned for post-lockdown.



SAGITTARIUS

You're a hard worker, and you're willing to knuckle down in tough times and to wait a while to reap rewards in the long term. You'll be ordering yourself a gift basket to be delivered post-lockdown, with a sweet note to you, from you. There's nothing extra about it.



CAPRICORN

Your competitive side has kicked in, and you're out here smashing every Kahoot, House Party trivia game, and mini-assignment online life has thrown your way. You'll be seeking a new challenge after the lockdown. It'll be time to take up a new hobby – something more relaxing, like yoga, or cross-words, or arguing in the comments section of a Stuff opinion piece (If everything isn't owned by Murdoch yet).



AQUARIUS

You're a creative type, and you're finding plenty of ways to keep yourself busy. You've probably picked up a semi-abandoned hobby, like painting or baking. This will be harder to maintain once the outside world beckons again, but you can still tempt yourself to keep with it, like some new baking equipment or art supplies.



PISCES

Just like the balloons leftover from your birthday, you're a bit deflated. While you like company, you tend to be sensitive, and the normal tiffs in your household are getting to you a bit. Post-lockdown, you can get what you *really* need – a very long shopping trip to get overpriced chocolate and café espresso. It'll be worth the wait.



the people to blame.

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