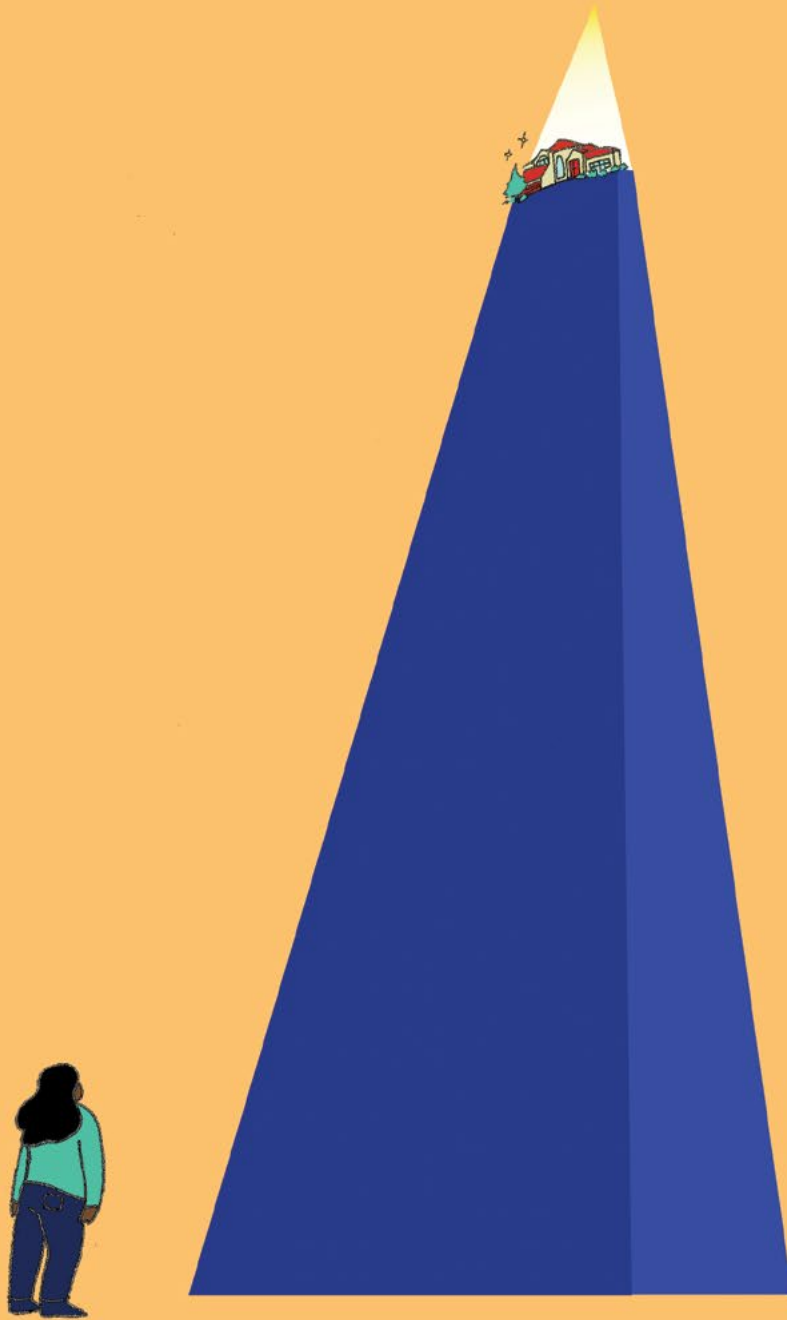


# CRACCUM

ISSUE 8





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/7  
**NEWS AND POLITICS**

**MOON-KIM SUMMIT**

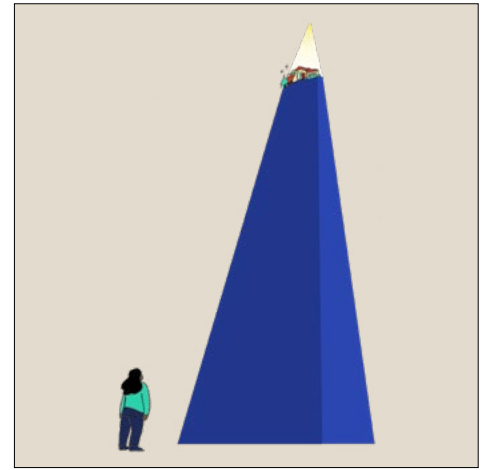
Lachlan discusses the future of North Korea in international relations.



/10  
**COMMUNITY**

**NOT JUST ABOUT INCLUSION**

A writer from Mellow Yellow discusses intersectional feminism.



/16  
**FEATURES**

**MAKING THE INVISIBLE, VISIBLE AGAIN**

Brennah discusses the issues facing youth today.



/26  
**ARTS AND LIFESTYLE**  
**WHERE TO SHOP OTHER THAN COUNTDOWN**

Garling broadens our grocery shopping horizons.



/30  
**SCIENCE**  
**WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD**

Eillish discusses the important issue of pay equity for nurses.



/35  
**COLUMNS**  
**PRUNE JUICE**

Sherry rants about appearance and her retail job.




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## EDITORIAL

with Helen Yeung and Jasmin Singh


# AIYA, A TESTAMENT TO OUR TIREDNESS




**Jasmin:** Welcome to another week of us ranting about how tired we are, but this time WE HAVE PROOF. Avid readers of *Craccum* may have noticed last week that there was a supposed error in the magazine this week. Lachlan's column *Please Trust Me On This I'm Begging You* was printed twice; once in issue 6 and again in issue 7. Some may say this is a "mistake" but we choose to think of it as a social experiment. Who reads *Craccum* week to week who are our die hard fans? But no really we were actually tired and didn't notice that it was republished. Sorry Lachlan.




**Helen:** We are both huge fans of Lachlan's writing so please check out his actual column on IMVU which was meant to be published last week. When I was younger I was always curious about the world of IMVU but unfortunately I was too absorbed into taking care of my Neopets to ever have a chance to understand it. Speaking of Neopets did anyone follow how apparently our beloved early Internet era game was run by scientologists? I just told Jasmin and I think I ruined her childhood. But otherwise welcome to the politics issue of *Craccum*.



**Jasmin:** Speaking of Scientology and white men, there is also an article this week by Claudia that discusses Jordan Peterson, the alt-rights new golden boy who is strongly opposed to SJWs and Cultural Marxists. Both things which we have been called in our time as editors. We clearly bring you an interesting glimpse into what it's like as editor of *Craccum* week to week. Its 11pm on a Monday night and we're wondering if we will be attacked for publishing an article about the lack of intersectionality in contemporary interpretations of intersectional feminism. What an exciting life in Helens dining room, the new *Craccum* office.



**Helen:** True, we just had the tastiest Durian cake from a cute bakery in New Market though and we're planning a weekend dinner together at one of Jasmin's favourite restaurants, Satya. So there's a small glimpse of light? I've said Jasmin many times now I know, she really wants to talk about the amount of cockroaches she's noticed in the CBD area but has no idea how to segway it into the editorial. Please kindly email us if you too have experienced this and would like to do a news report OR inform me how my co-editor has become delusional. On a serious note, do read Mellow Yellow's article on intersectional feminism and Brennah's one on youth and mental health. Have a good week and happy reading! ■



# WORLD NEWS

## Leader of Armenia Resigns After Days of Mass Protests

BY ULYSSE BELLIER

After ten days of protest, long-standing Armenian leader Serzh Sarkisian resigned on Monday 23rd of March. He had been appointed Prime Minister two weeks previously after serving two terms as President of the small country placed between Turkey, Iran and Russia.

The mass protests were sparked by the willingness of the leader to stay in power after ten consecutive years of presidency, which included changing the parliamentary system during his term to allocate more power to the Prime Minister, an office he took charge of despite a promise not to do so.

Crowds gathered in the capital Yerevan and other cities around the country to celebrate Sarkisian's resignation. The demonstrations were largely driven by feelings of resentment stemming from increased inequality in the country, rather than any perceived closeness with the Russian state, and Sarkisian's decision to take up the position of Prime Minister reignited anger amongst many communities affected by present economic conditions. Since the beginning of his first term in 2008, Armenia's poverty rate increased to nearly 30 percent.

Sarkisian's major opponent, Nikol Pashinyan had previously said that he was a "political corpse". To which Sarkisian responded "Nikol Pashinyan was right. I was wrong", admitting defeat as his opponent joined in with the celebrations of protestors. ■

## IMF Cautions Trump Tax Plan

BY NAOMI SIMON-KUMAR

A report recently released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects that the United States is the only advanced economy that will see its public debt ratio increase over the next three to five years. Experts warn that this will lead to a rise in tax rates and compromise the country's capacity to stabilise its economy during periods of recession.

The projection follows President Donald Trump's proposed tax cuts and two-year budget deal, which requires increased government spending and borrowing. Since the financial crisis, world markets have continued to recover and a number of countries are taking steps to reduce deficits and improve budgetary measures. Debt is projected to decline as a share of GDP in other advanced economies including Germany, France, Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom over the same period.

"We urge policymakers to avoid fiscal policies that provide unnecessary stimulus when economic activity is already picking up. Instead, most advanced, emerging market and low income developing countries should deliver on their fiscal plans, and put deficits and debt firmly on a downward path," the report recommends. ■



## Exchanges in South China Sea

BY HAYDEN NOYCE

Earlier this month, three Australian naval vessels en-route to Vietnam were challenged by the Chinese military in the contested territory of the South China Seas. The routine trip was issued with a controversial response.

The Australian government did not reveal the specifics of the interaction but have publicly addressed it. Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, affirmed Australia's "freedom of movement" in the region. The Defence Industry Minister, Chris Pyne, added that Australia's naval activity will be unaffected and directly referred to its partnership with the United States.

Foreign presence in the territory continues to be viewed as military posturing in waters not far from China's coastline, and part of a larger endeavour to quash China's development as a global power.

China claims sovereignty over most of the region, infringing upon neighbouring countries' maritime borders according to international accords, including that of U.S allies. Despite a 2016 international court ruling against their claim and conduct, China continues to push a strong military presence, reinforced by the construction of artificial islands and naval bases. ■

**Reference:**

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/australianz/china-challenged-australian-warships-in-south-china-sea-australian-media>

# Moon-Kim Summit: Dare we become hopeful?

BY LACHLAN MITCHELL

On April 27, should no delays or unforeseen circumstances happen, President Moon will meet with Kim Jong-un in order to discuss many pressing matters – none more important to world interests than denuclearisation and the hope of cordial relations between North and South Korea. Without any hyperbole, this could lead towards what would easily become the biggest political event of the decade: an official end to the ceasefire and a policy of peace between the two countries.

This is something people have only dared to hope would happen for nearly two decades, for a number of reasons. The Sunshine Policy, a policy of two successive South Korean governments that encouraged lighter attitudes towards North Korea, was ended over ten years ago. This policy anticipated to influence the North Korean administration towards better relations with its Southern counterpart, but Kim Jong-il did not respond in the way that was hoped and as the years went by only continued to test the waters of the policy by increasing his aggressive attitude. Furthermore, the new government of 2008 unequivocally put an end to the policy, following internal and international pressure to not 'play games' with Kim Jong-il any longer. The death of Kim Jong-il three years later did not help

things, as it has seemingly taken many years for Kim Jong-un to secure the internal stability he requires for his regime. This was further complicated by his insistence on sabre-rattling and showcasing the possible force of North Korea's self-declared nuclear prowess.

But now we have reached what could be a 'right place at the right time' watershed moment in the history of the decades-long standoff. President Moon Jae-in, in power for just 11 months so far, has built much of his administration's foreign policy on the belief that North and South Korea are capable of peace. He has held his ground against the United States by not repeating the hawkish policy of the Trump administration, and I echo the voices of many commentators when I say that I believe he has the touch needed to communicate between the four major signatories required (North/South Korea, the USA and China) should a possibility of peace arise. He is, essentially, willing to stake his domestic and international reputation on the idea that Kim Jong-un will be receptive to talks between the two countries. And, much to the shock of those not paying attention, he seemingly is.

Kim Jong-un has spent over five years relent-

lessly tightening his grip over the country's ruling class, purging at his whim and securing the control his father had started to lose during his last years. All the while infamously arousing the ire of China, their one ally, through his showcasing of North Korea's nuclear assets. However, it now seems that Kim Jong-un is ready to talk to the outside world. While little can be discerned about his motivations, pressure from Beijing is undoubtedly at play here. But what is more interesting is that his control over the North Korean government appears to be complete, and the leader's administration is now stable by North Korean standards. It is also of note that with stability comes the possibility of lessening the knee-jerk defensiveness that has characterised the Kim dynasty for generations. This apparent stability is essential – if Kim Jong-un has come to believe that he no longer has to threaten the West in order to distract from internal problems, it could mean that we are entering a new era of foreign policy for the country.

## Proposed increases in Fuel Tax a Good Idea in Theory

BY REBECCA STUBBING

Earlier this month, the government announced the draft of their 10-year policy on land transport, which included increases to the national fuel excise between 9-12 cents per litre. Auckland Council is also expected to announce a 10 cent per litre regional fuel tax to help cover the cost of public transport projects including the Light Rail.

Unsurprisingly, this enraged a lot of people. Aotearoa seems to have a serious problem with taxes. The discourse around tax, especially when it comes up around elections, is always focussing on lowering taxes and whether tax-cuts will be or should be promised. There never seems to be a focus on what taxes actually do or why they are important. There is a lot that's broken about our tax system, but tax is essential for our government to build and better society.

One such thing is the 10-year policy on land transport of which the increasing tax is a very small part. The policy itself looks incredible. I'm not old or savvy enough to specifically remember the numbers of previous similar budgetary announcements, but I don't remember ever looking at a transport budget before and feeling myself fill with hope. The focus is on safety and sustainability. The focus of a transport budget is actually about making sure people will be able to get places more

easily and efficiently.

In terms of numbers; funding for public transport will go up by 46%, funding for regional roads will double, and funding for state highways will be cut by 11%. This is a massive shift in focus from National's transport direction which centred around their Roads of National Significance plan which saw \$10 billion dollars being spent on 10 roads.<sup>1</sup>

The 10-year policy on transport is looking like a robust plan, worthy of taxpayer funding for its noble purpose of keeping us safe and giving us more varied and sustainable transport options, but there is still the little problem that people will have to pay the tax. Already 66.48 cents per litre of the price of petrol is tax (a figure that went up by 17 cents during National's tenure).<sup>2</sup> If it is raised a further 10 cents or 20 cents for those living in Auckland, it will be the people earning the lowest incomes that are disproportionately affected. People earning lower incomes typically live farther out and commute greater distances to work according to Jordan Williams, executive director of the New Zealand Taxpayers' Union.<sup>3</sup> Lieutenant

1 [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=12025268](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12025268)

2 [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=12027564](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12027564)

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Colonel Ian Huston, head of the social policy unit of the Salvation Army, has also spoken out on the issue, emphasising that "to people on low wages or a benefit it accumulates, and it will have an impact on people."<sup>4</sup>

It is so difficult to get around, especially in Auckland, and the last thing we need is more people who can't afford basic living costs. We also desperately need better transport infrastructure though, and the increases to the fuel taxes are going to help provide that. If the government can manage to roll out the increases at a matched pace with the improvements in the system, perhaps it will all balance out. I'm crossing my fingers for that potential future. The increased taxes are good in theory, but we can't allow them to leave our most vulnerable communities further behind. ■

**There is a lot that's broken about our tax system, but tax is essential for our government to build and better society.**

4 <https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/102807597/aucklands-doublewhammy-fuel-tax-will-cost-average-driver-250-more-per-year>

# The Long Road towards a Carbon Neutral State

CAMERON LEAKEY

The new Labour Government barely six months into their elected term have announced their 'nuclear-free' moment with a ban on all new offshore oil exploration grants as of the announcement in April.

The ban, although denying all new contracts for oil exploration off the New Zealand coast, does not affect the existing approved grants that were accepted under the previous National government. Onshore oil exploration is also currently still allowed, with the government continuing onshore block offers on Taranaki land. There are currently 31 active oil and gas exploration grants, twenty-two of which are offshore. These grants cover an area of approximately 100,000 sq. km, a size that is just under that of the land area of the entire North Island. This call by the government is a huge win not only for conservation groups and environmentalists across the country, but for the country as a whole.

Although it does not impose any radical and immediate change, it does spell the end of offshore oil exploration for New Zealand in the coming future – with the last approved grant expiring in 2030. This step brings New Zealand

closer to its 'clean and green' country image and continues our commitment to tackling climate change, an issue that is central to the ideals of our government, and the majority of our people. Opposition to the ending of offshore oil exploration has unpredictably emerged from the opposition National Party, with their Energy and Resources Spokesperson, Jonathan Young, indicating that the ending of offshore oil exploration grants will result in the loss of approximately 8000 jobs and a further 2.5 billion dollars for the economy – particularly in the economy of regional areas where employment is struggling.

While it may be easy to infer that the ending of an industry will result in the loss of job opportunities, the Opposition has failed to account for the time period surrounding the ban. Existing permits currently expire in 2030, which allows pre-emptive measures to be taken to account for the loss of employment opportunities in regions that rely on offshore oil drilling. The government last year announced the regional growth fund, a budgetary allocation of one billion dollars that is to be allocated to regional communities that are requiring investment in forestry

ventures, tourism ventures and rail and road development projects. Money can be allocated to stimulate economic growth within regions, with the impending loss of jobs on the horizon. Labour has specifically allowed for a buffer window within which they can anticipate how to minimise potential economic harm. New Zealand, by banning offshore oil exploration, is beginning the long road towards a carbon neutral state.

Indeed, Jacinda Ardern has stated it is a goal of the government to reduce reliance on fossil fuels for electricity supply. As foreign governments continue to drill for oil, grant new exploration permits and burn fossil fuels to power cities, all to the detriment of the global climate and ecosystem, New Zealand is leading the way for environmentalism to be a key component of our economic plans and our future. ■

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# The Future for Papua New Guinea's Highlands

*Hayden Noyce reports on the state of Papua New Guinea after recent natural disasters.*

**While news coverage on Papua New Guinea, has recently made headlines for a gold-medal win at the Commonwealth games, here is a lack of coverage existing for more significant issues happening in the country. For hundreds of thousands of inhabitants afflicted by the February earthquake and persistent aftershocks, the only win is survival. This proves to be harder to attain with residual challenges and fear mounting by each day. For many major disasters, including the Christchurch earthquakes, a moment of silence is observed for victims: but for those in Papua New Guinea, the world has had no moments to give, only silence. The crisis is situated in the densely forested Highlands region which remains the least developed and most isolated region of the country. This has shaped what has been called “An Invisible Disaster” by the BBC and complicated relief efforts to an urgent and widespread humanitarian crisis.**

Papua New Guinea is located in the geologically active Pacific Ring of Fire, rendering the entire region especially earthquake prone. Despite this, a major earthquake has not occurred in the Highlands region in over 100 years, meaning that oral tradition has left the region unprepared for such a natural disaster. The crisis began in the early hours of February the 26<sup>th</sup> when a 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck the unsuspecting rural population of the Hela province in Papua New Guinea. The epicentre of the devastating earthquake was 10 km west of the village of Komo, with damage spread to four additional Highlands provinces: Enga, Gulf, Southern Highlands, and Western Provinces. For the Highlands people based in small village communities and for whom subsistence farming is a way of life, the earthquake was completely unexpected.

UNICEF representative Karen Allen describes the immediate aftermath, stating:

“There's nothing left of whole mountainsides where there used to be villages.”

Persistent landslides have also destroyed food gardens and contaminated clean water sources. Houses were primarily built on mountainsides; meaning that an estimated 43,000 are now displaced. There were substantial initial casualties, with 160 people dead and 500 injured. Aftershocks have resulted in dozens more deaths. An estimated 465,000 to 544,000 have been affected overall, with around half dependent on humanitarian assistance for survival. Due to the loss of livelihoods over 150,000 people require food assistance, yet less than half of those affected have been reached.

Papua New Guinea is reliant on foreign relief efforts. The country's government declared a State of Emergency in the affected provinces last month, finalised by Parliament at the end of March. The government called for 62 million USD for immediate relief efforts which has been met by a multilateral, albeit limited response from international organisations and charities, as well as eight United Nations member states – including New Zealand and Australia. Notably, the bulk of the donations came from the private sector, who have vested interests in the mineral and gas rich region.

New Zealand's contributions to the relief effort have continued. As well as a half a million donation to the cause, the RNZAF Hercules aircraft carrying emergency supplies was deployed to the crisis area early last month. For comparison, 3 million NZD was sent to assist refugees detained on Manus Island,



off the coast of mainland Papua New Guinea, last November. The rebuild looks to be long-lasting, as one landowner notes: "Restoration is taking at snail's space. It is too slow. And the food rations are not being given as expected...Millions of Kina [Papuan currency] in foreign aid has been given but so far, especially in the area where I come from, Hides, [close to the epicentre] my people are telling me there's nothing to show for it on the ground."

This frustration has exacerbated already-existing tensions between different communities; resulting in humanitarian aid from the UN and other organisations being pulled from some afflicted zones. However, development assistance is crucial in the aftermath of the earthquake, especially for the 55,205 displaced people residing in over-crowded relief shelters. Dr. Luo Paeng, head of the World Health Organisation, in Papua New Guinea, warns of a "secondary emergency arising from disease outbreaks." There are concerns on ground around further spread of contagious waterborne diseases throughout the largely unvaccinated population. Only 55% of relief camps have access to clean water.

The crisis has elevated safety concerns for women in Papua New Guinea. Also vulnerable are children, whose futures are in jeopardy due to compromised infrastructure in the region, including schools. Around 25,000 children are believed to require psychological support, and aid workers have expressed serious concern for children's well-being in the long-term, especially with the "normalisation of extreme violence" occurring in crisis zones and children in places of physical and psychological harm. The instability and uncertainty they face looks to further impact their wellbeing.

With the next generation at significant risk, recovery will likely be much longer than the Papua New Guinea government's four year reconstruction plan, estimated at around 139 Million USD. Papua New Guinea remains beleaguered by government corruption, and it is uncertain government funds will be appropriately directed.

Twenty years ago on the Northern Coast of the country, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake caused a major tsunami. Approximately 3000 people were killed. A retrospective report issued by the University of Papua New Guinea, describes the devastation of disease in the relief camps. Also highlighted was the ill-preparedness of the nation in disaster response, partly due to lack of awareness from insufficient coverage of related disasters. With 40,000 years of human history and 42 years of political independence, Papua New Guinea has long been a subject of global interest. Though largely overlooked, its recent crisis proves to be a sobering reminder of our subjugation by the environment – and that necessary develop-

**"Restoration is taking at snail's space. It is too slow. And the food rations are not being given as expected... Millions of Kina [Papuan currency] in foreign aid has been given but so far, especially in the area where I come from, Hides, [close to the epicentre] my people are telling me there's nothing to show for it on the ground."**

ment measures must be taken to ensure protections of those communities most at risk. ■

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# Not just about inclusion: the white and liberal feminist co-option of intersectionality

*A writer from Mellow Yellow Aotearoa discusses how intersectional feminism is not just an identity.*

In recent years, the popularisation and semi-mainstreaming of the concept of “intersectionality” in Aotearoa feminist movements has given opportunities for different conversations and voices. However, I’ve also been noticing a dangerous tendency of throwing the term “intersectional feminist” and “intersectional feminism” around without much substance. Some of these “intersectional” feminists don’t even acknowledge of the roots of the concept as originating from black feminist struggles or as coming from an analysis of violence against women of colour (see Kimberle Crenshaw’s work<sup>1</sup>).

I’ve seen white feminists talk about intersectionality the way they talk about

diversity, paying lip service, but no real consideration of the way they relate and operate with women of colour. I’ve seen it be a lumping together of all marginalised Others who might actually have quite different issues.

I’ve seen intersectionality co-opted by liberal feminists of colour who use it for their own career advancement without any critical analysis of the systemic roots of oppression. The capitalist narratives of “You can be a CEO too” (and get rich off the backs of workers). “You can also reach success under capitalism if you work hard enough” (or if you come from a privileged middle-upper class background). You know, the lean-in style of being “successful” by prevailing capitalist definitions of gaining higher status/power or greater

wealth than others.

These narratives that support our current economic system does nothing for majority of women of colour around the world who are exploited for their labour or for the single mothers (majority non-Pākehā) still having their benefits sanctioned if they refuse to name their children’s sperm donor. Yes representation and leadership are important, but individual “success” does not mean collective success. We need to be able to distinguish between those types of “leaders” who are neoliberal climbers whose goal is to get to the top for themselves and those who are leaders working to uplift their community and involved in doing all the grunt work to make some serious changes.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/mapping-margins.pdf>

I rarely see these liberal “intersectional feminists” work on issues of colonisation, or talk about collective liberation, or the fact that capitalism is a fundamentally oppressive economic system thrives off all sorts of inequalities (not to mention built from mass femicide through the witch hunts in Europe - see Silvia Federici’s work, *Caliban and the Witch*<sup>2</sup>).

I see the tokenistic gestures to involve women of colour, but I do not see power-sharing or any meaningful redistribution of resources to those who are multiply marginalised and disempowered.

For example, when pay equity discussions brought up by white “intersectional” feminists, the focus is only on gender - very rarely on race/ethnicity. On average Pākehā women earn \$3-6 more than Māori, Pasifika and Asian women, and as a group earn more on average than all men of colour<sup>3</sup>. Is there even data on the difference between cis and transwomen? If we talk about economic inequality, you cannot ignore the racialised and feminised aspects of poverty and affluence. With migrant women of colour being generally paid less than men and Pākehā women, they are more affected by the new immigration rules that has a pay threshold per hour. To qualify for the Skilled Migrant Category<sup>4</sup> to stay in this country, the threshold is “\$24.29 per hour or above (or the equivalent annual salary)”. There is already employment discrimination against people on temporary visas and with “foreign”-sounding names so think about what this means in terms of who can and can’t qualify to live in this country. Did you also know that for people with disabilities, employees can apply to have a minimum wage exemption?<sup>5</sup> This means people with disabilities can legally be paid below the minimum wage. How comes this is never part of the conversation?

Intersectionality as a framework has been useful to recognise the ways that

oppressions reinforce each other. It’s been important as a critique of white feminism and anti-racist movements who don’t address gender-based oppression. This analytical tool has been effective in the amplification and representation of the range of identities and voices who experience oppression. But is this enough?

Many of the ways I’ve seen white feminists use intersectional feminism as just about “inclusion” not only still centres white middle class feminism, but also entails expectations of assimilation into mainstream feminism. The ways of doing things, the practices of white feminists hasn’t really changed, just included more non-white, non-cis, non-able-bodied, and non-hetero faces. I have rarely seen it about supporting the self-determination of more marginalized groups to do their/our own thing. The goals of white “intersectional” feminism is to make themselves look more inclusive than for them to work on changing the material conditions that marginalize those not of privileged identity categories. It’s about serving their moral identity as a Good White Woman, a technique of the self that actually uses the oppression of others as aesthetics and decoration like their culturally appropriated dreadlocks, bindis and Māori tattoos. It’s to make themselves feel better, to feel cultured and “woke”.

It makes me angry that a lot of the hard work of the generation of feminists of colour are being disrespected, co-opted and misused in such a way that continues to undermine us.

The master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house, Audre Lorde said, but the tools of the oppressed have persistently been stolen to maintain and add to the structure of the master’s house. They may give a shared room in the basement to women of colour who acquiesce to their rules, but that structure hasn’t fundamentally changed.

We cannot take claims of “intersectional feminism” at face value. What I have learnt most and feel that is most useful for strategies of liberation through an intersectional analysis is not about individual identities, but how different systems of oppression work together to produce conditions of inequality.

Essentially, it’s an understanding of the way power operates and how we cannot end sexism without ending racism, without ending capitalism, without ending colonialism, without ending ageism, without ending homophobia and transphobia, without ending ableism, without ending every single oppressive system of social hierarchy that requires relationships of domination and exploitation. Equality to me does not look like a woman of colour for Prime Minister or CEOs. It does not look like a gender diverse military or police force. It shouldn’t be about leveraging off all the diversity boxes you tick for individual career advancement. It looks like the abolition of all systems of violence and inequality. In Aotearoa, this means first and foremost working against settler colonialism and it’s violent imposition of patriarchy on this land.

The liberation of people experiencing the most marginalisation and structural oppression ultimately means liberation for all.

In summary:

*Stop co-opting intersectionality to make yourselves look better without putting in the work.*

*Stop using intersectionality to just change the faces of the ruling class.*

I’m keen to see people who proclaim themselves as “intersectional” feminists and advocate for intersectional feminism to have a deeper understanding of power relations when doing feminist organising. It’s a matter of building reciprocal and supportive relationships with groups who are more marginalised, working on their own people to be less oppressive instead of spending more time and energy tagging along to our events. It’s all good to come, listen, and learn but do something with that knowledge to improve the material and social conditions for people who bear the brunt of multiple forms of oppression. Share/donate your resources and wealth. Volunteer your time to support in practical ways. Stop tokenising and erasing the work of women of colour. Organise to dismantle the “structures” of oppression rather than focus on representation within it. Share power. ■

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<sup>2</sup> <https://libcom.org/files/Caliban%20and%20the%20Witch.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.vice.com/en\\_nz/article/5343eb/pay-equity-in-new-zealand-is-a-race-issue-not-just-a-gender-issue](https://www.vice.com/en_nz/article/5343eb/pay-equity-in-new-zealand-is-a-race-issue-not-just-a-gender-issue)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/smc-essential-skills-changes-to-remuneration-thresholds>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.employment.govt.nz/hours-and-wages/pay/minimum-wage/minimum-wage-exemptions/>





# Should we be worried about Jordan Peterson, the right wing's golden boy?

**Claudia Russell** investigates whether alt-right idol Jordan Peterson is a misunderstood libertarian or a real right-wing academic.

A quick google of the name 'Jordan Peterson' retrieves results which follow a common thread; "Jordan Peterson DESTROYS Crazy Social Justice Warrior," '7 times Jordan Peterson TOOK DOWN Feminazis,' and 'Peterson WRECKS Leftist on Her Own Show!'"

As someone who considers herself to be left-leaning and passionate about social justice, the opinions I'd formed from these headlines had placed Peterson firmly in the 'bad guy' camp in my mind. It is tempting to leave him in that department and forget about Peterson altogether. However, Jordan Peterson is now one of the most influential—and polarizing—public intellectuals in the English-speaking world. He has as much celebrity status as it is possible to have in the realm of academia. Peterson gained a cult-like following from his (mostly male) audience on YouTube and Reddit and is the subject of several meme-posting Facebook groups.

This begs the question – why is Jordan Peterson so popular, especially with young males? Given that he has been accused of being a member of the alt-right, anti-women's rights and transphobic, should

we be worried?

## Is Peterson just misunderstood?

Peterson rose to notoriety when he debated against Canada's C-16 bill, which sought to prevent discrimination against transgender employees in federally regulated workplaces.<sup>1</sup> At face value the Bill seems great – transgender individuals are at a greatly increased risk of discrimination and workplace bullying when compared to non-transgender employees.<sup>2</sup> Peterson came close to losing his job as a professor at the University of Toronto when he publicly announced that he would refuse to use preferred gender pronouns if the Bill passed. One video of him in confrontation with transgender rights activists has over 700,000 views on YouTube. With viewers from both extremes of the political spectrum, Peterson quickly became somewhat of an idol to groups who, for whatever reason, feel personally attacked by the existence of transgender rights activists. But

<sup>1</sup> <https://two.org/article/current-affairs/shared-values/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-transgender-rights-bill>

<sup>2</sup> Above



Peterson is adamant that this was not his intention. His opposition to the Bill has nothing to do with the topic it covers. Instead his criticism is with the way in which it stipulates to achieve this goal of non-discrimination. Although there is some contention on this point, Peterson claims that Bill C-16 is a dangerous violation of free speech because, instead of other anti-discrimination laws which legislate what you cannot say, Bill C-16 proposes to legislate what you *have to* say. Hypothetically, failure to address a transgender individual with their preferred pronoun would become a criminal offence.<sup>3</sup> Peterson is a staunch libertarian who, above all else, believes in a state which intervenes in one's personal choices as little as possible. Bill C-16 aims to extend the power of the state to new heights by setting a precedent that not speaking in a way someone demands of you can be grounds for legal punishment. Described like this, it does echo some sort of left-wing *Handmaid's Tale* situation.

In fact, Peterson has next to no theory on transgender individuals and no publicly negative opinions towards them. He claims that his refusal to use preferred pronouns is in protest to the Bill, rather than a statement on his views on gender identity.

Then there are his views on women, which are surprisingly hard to place. Some claim that he 'despises women,' and one could be forgiven for agreeing based on the YouTube suggestions brought up alongside his lectures. But this might be an extrapolation. One of Peterson's downfalls is that he is obsessed with semantics. He will debate for hours over the use of a word, so as to not be misconstrued. This became apparent in a popular video of him debating the gender pay gap with journalist Cathy Newman. In response to Peterson's scepticism over proposed laws to enforce equal pay, Newman claims 'so what [Peterson is] saying is basically, it doesn't matter if women aren't getting to the top... well that's just a fact of life?'<sup>4</sup> He responds:

*'If you're a social scientist worth your salt, you never do a univariate analysis. Like you say, well women in aggregate are paid less than men. Okay, well then we break it down by age, we break it down by occupation, we break it down by interest, we break it down by personality.'*<sup>5</sup>

He also states that these laws, which aim to ensure women and men are paid equally for doing the same job, would be incredibly difficult to enforce, due to the uncertainty of defining what the 'same job' is.

<sup>3</sup> <https://two.org/article/current-affairs/shared-values/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-transgender-rights-bill>

<sup>4</sup> Channel 4 News "Jordan Peterson Debate on the Gender Pay Gap, Campus Protests, and Postmodernism." (January 2018) Channel 4 News <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMcjxSThD54](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMcjxSThD54)>

<sup>5</sup> Above

## **"This begs the question – why is Jordan Peterson so popular, especially with young males? Given that he has been accused of being a member of the alt-right, anti-women's rights and transphobic, should we be worried?"**

Throughout the interview, Peterson states that he is genuinely sympathetic to the struggles minority groups face in the workforce, agreeing that 'equality of opportunity is important.'<sup>6</sup> However, 'equality of outcome is impossible.'<sup>7</sup> These are fair and rational points which, frankly, say little about Peterson's political opinions. It is merely a clinical and removed analysis of a deeply political topic – an area which will always cause controversy.

### **A thinly-veiled bigot... maybe**

Peterson is often misquoted and misconstrued. Many of his lectures are cut into small snippets without context, and are effective in portraying him as some kind of alt-right icon. His constant appearance in this type of media makes him someone most left-wingers do not want to associate with. In reality, Peterson does not hold particularly radical views. However, I am hesitant to say that he is misunderstood and leave it at that. The fact that he is so frequently asked to explain why something he has said was not sexist or fascist simply doesn't sit right with me. Either Peterson intentionally provokes because he knows his online following love to see Social Justice Warriors (SJWs) 'owned,' or he is such a die-hard libertarian that he doesn't care what the implications of his claims are, so long as they fit his anti-state narrative. Either way, he is constantly having to explain why something he has said wasn't offensive. Peterson's fans argue that he is not a fascist, just a classical liberal; not a racist, just someone who acknowledges "ethnic differences"; not a misogynist, just honest about the real differences between men and women.<sup>8</sup> Their favourite defence

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.noted.co.nz/currently/profiles/jordan-peterson-talks-gender-pay-gap-neo-nazis-and-preferred-pronouns/>

<sup>7</sup> Above

is: “but have you actually listened to all his lectures, or read any of his books?” This implies that his work is so complex that it cannot be captured in a single article. Peterson himself even used ‘but have you watched all my lectures?’ to counter a young trans rights activist at the University of Toronto rally. While I am no academic, I am of the opinion that if it takes 5+ hours of lectures and analysis in order to understand why a statement is not sexist, it’s probably a little sexist.

I could be wrong. Peterson could indeed be so complex and nuanced that one needs to do extensive research in order to critique him. But even in that case, there is still a danger in this. The fact that his controversial opinions are shrouded in ambiguity allows him to say that critics are misrepresenting his views. In the same vein, the proportion of his fans who do skew towards the alt-right are able to use this ambiguity to their own advantage. These people extrapolate off a surface-level understanding of one of Peterson’s claims, and use it as a basis to support hateful beliefs. Claims that ‘modern women are broken’ or ‘the civil rights movement has destroyed US culture’ are frequently made with Peterson as a reference in places like woman-hating subreddit ‘The Red Pill.’ While Peterson is a self-proclaimed liberal, because he stands against the extremes of the far left, much of the far right feel as though he stands with them. Whether this is in fact the case is yet to be determined. He has not expressly denounced these fans, and on several occasions has retweeted fans of his who were discovered to be alt-right or neo-Nazis.<sup>9</sup>

**“In his fierce opposition to SJWs or ‘Cultural Marxists,’ Peterson has emerged as a counter-cultural leader for many young men who feel disenfranchised by the empowerment of others.”**

<sup>9</sup> Dorian Lynskey, “How Dangerous is Jordan Peterson, the Rightwing Professor Who Hit a Hornet’s Nest?” (7 Feb 2018) The Guardian <theguardian.com/science/2018/feb/07/how-dangerous-is-jordan-b-peterson-the-rightwing-professor-who-hit-a-hornets-nest.>

Zach Beauchamp for **Vox** states that, while his credentials in the field of psychology are impressive, his self-help approach for young men is inextricably intertwined with ‘a kind of reactionary politics that validates white, straight, and cisgender men at the expense of everyone else.’<sup>10</sup> In a time where left-wing values are increasingly dominant in Western government, a strange and reactionary group of right-wing individuals have begun to view social justice movements as a threat. In their opinion, these movements aim to oppress white males and forcefully remove them from cultural dominance. In his fierce opposition to SJWs or ‘Cultural Marxists,’ Peterson has emerged as a counter-cultural leader for many young men who feel disenfranchised by the empowerment of others.<sup>11</sup> The way this opposition is painted is problematic, however. Peterson paints an extreme and antagonistic picture of ‘postmodern cultural Marxism’ having infiltrated the education system. He evidences this by the growing popularity of sociology, gender studies and other subjects which tend to be favoured by the left-wing.<sup>12</sup> This threatens to destroy ‘family values’ and eventually Western civilisation.<sup>13</sup> A Cold-War aficionado, he states; “I know something about the way authoritarian and totalitarian states develop and I can’t help but think that I am seeing a fair bit of that right now.”<sup>14</sup> These paranoid arguments have been utilised when discussing legal issues such as freedom of speech. But more often than not, they are applied to childfree women, LGBTQ clubs, and Women’s Studies professors.

Demonising harmless groups does nothing but drive an ever-widening rift between left and right-wing individuals. Whether the prejudicial undertones of Jordan Peterson’s theory are intentional will likely never be revealed – Peterson thrives on ambiguity. Having done a fair amount of research on the man, I still remain sceptical. Offensive or not, he can do no wrong in the eyes of his die-hard fans. Their thirst for controversy is perhaps more dangerous than any of Peterson’s political opinions. ■

<sup>10</sup> Zach Beauchamp, “Jordan Peterson, the Obscure Canadian Psychologist Turned Right-Wing Celebrity.” (March 26<sup>th</sup> 2018) Vox <www.vox.com/world/2018/3/26/17144166/jordan-peterson-12-rules-for-life.>

<sup>11</sup> Danyl McLaughlan, “Book of the Week: the Massively Popular Self-Help Book by an Alt-Right Hero who Calls Women Chaos.” (8 Feb 2018) The Spinoff <thespinoff.co.nz/books/08-02-2018/the-massively-popular-self-help-book-by-an-alt-right-hero-who-calls-women-chaos.>

<sup>12</sup> Dorian Lynskey, “How Dangerous is Jordan Peterson, the Rightwing Professor Who Hit a Hornet’s Nest?” (7 Feb 2018) The Guardian <theguardian.com/science/2018/feb/07/how-dangerous-is-jordan-b-peterson-the-rightwing-professor-who-hit-a-hornets-nest.>

<sup>13</sup> Rebel Media “Dr Peterson’s Year End Interview w/Ezra Levant,” (Jan 1st 2018) Rebel Media <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHEqgb0-4sA.>

<sup>14</sup> Above n 9.

AUSA presents

# Politics Week

MONDAY 30th APRIL

## **Broke Students Brunch**

9:30am - 10:30am • City Campus

### **AUSA presents MPs and DBs**

5pm onwards at Shadows

TUESDAY 1st MAY

## **AUSA presents #MeToo - It's Time We Talked**

From 5:30pm at Old Government  
Lecture Theatre

WEDNESDAY 2nd MAY

## **Broke Students Brunch**

9:30am - 10:30am • Grafton

## **Shout into the Void**

12pm - 1pm • Quad

## **AUSA's BIG FAT POLITICAL DEBATE of 2018**

From 6:30pm in 260-098

THURSDAY 3rd MAY

## **AUSA and CDES present Careers in the Public Sector Expo Evening**

From 5pm at the  
Faculty of Science Foyer,  
Building 302

FRIDAY 4th MAY

## **Broke Students Brunch**

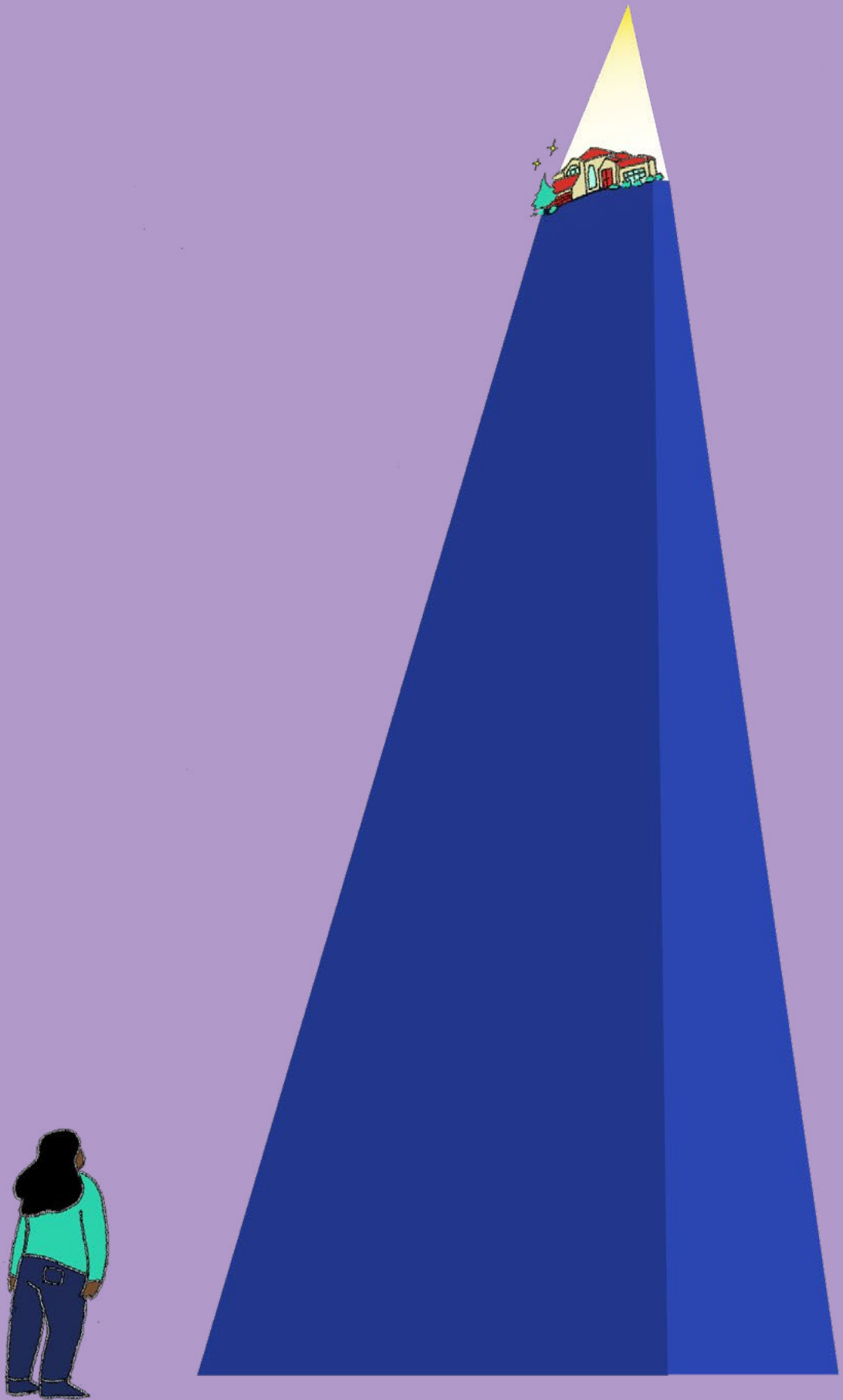
9:30am - 10:30am • Epsom



**MONDAY 30TH APRIL  
TO  
FRIDAY 4TH MAY**



**your student  
experience**





# MAKING THE INVISIBLE, VISIBLE AGAIN

*Brennah Crofskey discusses the barriers facing youth in contemporary society and the issue of mental health.*

Being a young person is cool for a variety of reasons. Here is a brief list:

- getting the chance to meet like minded people who like to get out there and do mean things
- being able to constantly be able to reference, create and share memes
- meeting a drunk girl in the bathroom at shadows and plan a lunch date (that will never happen)
- AND buying stylish clothes, including ripped jeans that elders despise.

However, there are many **many** things that we either ignore, because we can, or have no desire to challenge or change.

As a Uni student and even in high school, it became quite obvious to me that many of us young peeps are annoyed by the police on many occasions. This can range from when we are simply just very over excited to be in town on a Wednesday night and we get the old 'calm down a lil please', or when we are underestimated with regards to our ability to deal with our own and others issues without needing them floating round. Now I mean, I may become a cop when I'm older so I probably shouldn't get too nasty in case I get tracked or something, but give us a break NZ Police. Unless we are serious delinquents, most of us are quite alright with minding our own business which is why more needs to be done to recognize this wholesome independence and freedom that most of us do actually (what a shock) possess.

Further, some are seeing that their treasured Maori and Pasifika values are misunderstood or underappreciated which is a massive deal. To have a lack of or no Pasifika courses at Uni or have the Maori language classes at high school thought to be second class to something like French is why these precious cultures are so at risk. Why is it that some of the most significant aspects of New Zealand's history are hidden beneath what some white people have achieved a hundred years ago? Why do young

Maori and Pasifika people feel so disconnected from their true selves and histories? The answer remains unknown and quite unimportant to a lot of majority peoples in this country. Also, heaps of my Maori and Pasifika friends have no understanding of their native languages, pretty much because they have been told by those 'higher' than them that their needs as individuals and their cultures are irrelevant. We need more for our so called 'minority' youth, we need more recognition.

As mentioned so often now it's a joke, our mental health system is still failing us. The fact that systems like Youthline exist is wonderful, but why are there not enough people there ready to answer the

**“The fact that systems like Youthline exist is wonderful, but why are there not enough people there ready to answer the phone? Why is going to the counsellor so expensive? Why do I not get the right prescription for my depression?”**

phone? Why is going to the counsellor so expensive? Why do I not get the right prescription for my depression? Why does my doctor tell me that I'm just sad, drinking too much or need a bit of a 'break'? Honestly these are just some of the questions. Young NZers shouldn't ever be told that their mental health is minor to that of physical health or that we just need to get over it. Parents or teachers shouldn't assume that we are 'ok' just because we aren't showing our sadness. The issue of mental health just isn't something that New Zealand is just being made aware of, I mean think about the amount of young male suicides that come up in the news and everybody acts as if it's unheard of. Oh please.

Being a 'broke Uni student' has become a tiresome catchphrase for such a huge problem. Like what the fuck am I supposed to buy with limited funds and still keep myself alive? Textbooks? Oh wait, what a joke. It's almost like we are expected to be able to flat, use public transport on the daily without worrying about running out of money and eat the (mostly terrible) food on campus without batting an eyelid. Our access to poor financial aid and the previous lack of funding into our Universities (thx for the new changes tho Jacinta <3) is evidence enough, that older people simply do not care about what we need or will need in our futures money wise because they are living it up in their Parnell townhouse. We are now more at risk of poverty compared to the elderly for starters as we not only have to pay for pretty much all of our University education but many other things as well without having a superannuation fund to help us out. It's hard enough trying to put money towards one share of a flat when we young people aren't even taken seriously with regards to renting in the first place. This is mainly due to stereotypes (created usually by rich old peeps) surrounding us possibly damaging the place and not having the financial means to cope with it. I guess we should look forward to the fact that we will hopefully make enough money to sustain ourselves eventually, but the paths to get there are still always a bit crooked (unless you're the heir to Fonterra or something).

Another key issue to mention is employment. I mean in reality how many Uni students have a job right now? Personally I believe that's it's important to work and study at the same time, but for some it's just not an option and employers just aren't being fair. Not only do we face stigma because we put our study above part time work (which is a problem why????), but we get way less hours and less of the chance to progress further with any job we hold. Basically, we are very likely to be underemployed, more likely than any other grouping in society. Not saying that a Uni student wants to be a casual sales assistant at Zara for the rest of their life, but that person might just never find out what possibilities they could have been offered or ways they can improve. I get super

pissed whenever I see a fresh out of Uni job on offer that asks for you to have minimum two years' experience! HOW are we to get this when we are denied entry into the labour force to begin with??? What makes matters worse is we don't even have an employment system that is consistent. Rather we have one that blames, ridicules and is just plain shit.

So what can we expect in the future? Mountains of debt, crippling anxiety about what we want to do when this Uni shit is finished or is it maybe something else? Honestly though, there is so much more to be done for us young people so that we can create our own futures instead of be forced into something that we don't want. I mean who wants to be held down by the money they owe to the government for the rest of their lives?? If the government wants young people to start to do things with their lives, more investment has to be put in. How else are we supposed to help the economy, have families and contribute to the 'New Zealand Dream'??? All in all, there is more to life than meets the eye for young people. It is therefore clear that our government and elder folk must realise this because ripped jeans, moody attitudes and loving Migos are only the beginning great aunt Margaret. ■

**“So what can we expect in the future? Mountains of debt, crippling anxiety about what we want to do when this Uni shit is finished or is it maybe something else? Honestly though, there is so much more to be done for us young people so that we can create our own futures instead of be forced into something that we don't want.”**

AUSA's

# Big Fat Political Debate of 2018



WEDNESDAY 2ND MAY

260-098 • 6.30PM-8.30PM



Politics  
Week



your student  
experience



# Call Me By My Name

**Uvini Panditharatne** discusses the politics behind ethnic minority names and the importance of respecting identity and culture.

I moved to New Zealand when I was six years old, from Sri Lanka - a place where I had not seen one white person with my own two eyes - to one of the whitest areas of the North Shore.

Because I was six, and a fairly unobservant child at that, I did not notice the initial cultural changes. Even when I think back on it now, I mostly think of the colours. To me, Sri Lanka is full of warm colours; rich browns and earthy reds, flashes of yellows on street corners, and orange threads woven together. New Zealand is its opposite: full of lush greens and rivers - no, whole oceans of blues, all under a cloudy bright sky.

It wasn't until I was older that I realised that the impact of the change in cultures wasn't just in the way I saw culture; it was in the way that culture saw me.

It wasn't until I was older that I realised... I wasn't supposed to look like *me*. I was supposed to look like *her*. The skinny, white, blonde girl on the TV, in mag-

azines, on billboards and posters, smiling dazzlingly at you with straight white teeth. I wasn't supposed to have this much hair on my arms (or my legs, or my face), and my skin wasn't supposed to be this dark. This was one of the first ways in which I began noticing the hegemonic ideal. But as I got older I began to notice it more and more, and notice how it affected my life in other ways.

Until I got to university, I used to pronounce my name incorrectly when introducing myself. It was in an effort to make the person I was meeting feel more comfortable with pronouncing my name. I would make it easier for them to say, sticking to the English pronunciation of the vowels, as opposed to the Sri Lankan, because after all, it was a difficult name to say.

But then I realised, it wasn't.

It *wasn't* a difficult name to say. It was just different. It was just not...white.



I realised that by mispronouncing my name, I was giving everyone else permission to say it incorrectly too. And as I got older, it became apparent to me that names are important.

Names are a part of your identity, part of your agency, and in my case, part of my culture. By letting people say it wrong and then reassuring them that it was OK to say it wrong, I was giving up all those parts of myself. And frankly, I was sick of it.

For a lot of people living in a diaspora, acceptance of your whole self is difficult, because where *do* you fit in? In the culture of the place you were born? Or in the culture you grew up in? The answer is neither, and both, and you are left to navigate your way through. I realised that in order to take a step towards accepting who I was and who I wanted to become, I had to accept integral parts of me - such as my name.

So I started pronouncing it correctly to every new person I met. And I started to point out to my friends that they were saying my name wrong, and actually, I wanted them to pronounce it properly.

I got a lot of blank stares at that. Strangers generally asked me to repeat myself a few times before giving up, and never attempting it again. The reaction of my friends was much the same, except I got a lot of questions.

"But why did you pronounce it wrong in the first place?"

"Why didn't you tell us earlier?"

"Why didn't you care before?"

How am I supposed to explain how entire centuries of repression, of colonisation, of racism, of ethnic erasure, of discrimination, of bigotry and intolerance sometimes synthesises into people of colour letting you pronounce words from their culture incorrectly so that they can carry on with their day with minimum hassle?

Worst of all though, was when they told me; "It's been too long of me saying it this way instead of that way. I'm not sure I'll remember to say it properly."

"Well, try!" I wanted to yell, "it's really not that difficult!"

Instead what happened was everyone stopped pronouncing it at all, some afraid to say it wrong, some too lazy to learn how to say it correctly, all of them thinking that it didn't matter.

My advice to you if you ever meet anyone with a

**"How am I supposed to explain how entire centuries of repression, of colonisation, of racism, of ethnic erasure, of discrimination, of bigotry and intolerance sometimes synthesises into people of colour letting you pronounce words from their culture incorrectly so that they can carry on with their day with minimum hassle?"**

'difficult' to pronounce name; step 1) ask them to repeat themselves to a maximum of two times (at least, that's my tolerance level). If you're still unsure, step 2) pronounce it in front of them, and they will correct you if you're wrong. And if you still can't get it, don't give up. Keep asking, keep practicing, keep saying it out loud. You will get it, I promise.

Because what's worse than mispronunciation is when people stop addressing you altogether. It makes you feel invisible and like you don't matter, which is terrible in general, but especially so if you already have the ethnic minority status strike against you. Because it makes you feel as though you shouldn't be here. As though you don't have a place in this culture, that this culture will never accept or value you. And no one wants to feel like that.

I get a lot of "hey, you." now, which isn't ideal.

I would much prefer it if you would call me by my name. ■

## REVIEWS



### A Quiet Place

FILM REVIEW BY JAMIE MARTINI

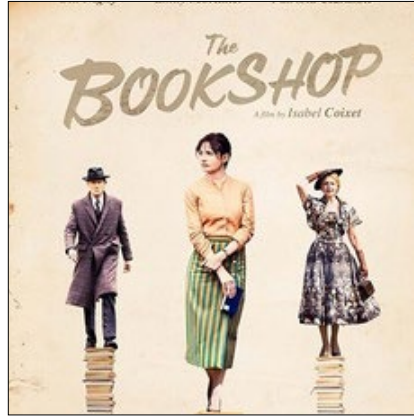


*A Quiet Place* is like a night out in town: If the first half is wildly fun clubbing and the second half is a brutally distracting hangover. Directed by Jim from the Office (John Krasinski), starring him and his Golden Globe winning actress wife (Emily Blunt), *A Quiet Place* is a thrilling drama about a family struggling to resume a normal life in a world abundant with monsters who hunt purely by sound. Characters are forced to remain completely silent; a welcomingly original ingredient to an already overcooked broth of post-apocalyptic, survival movies. The film's complete silence combined with its expertly crafted tension will likely leave the audience with literal bated breath.

Narratively the first half is excellent. Characters shine as we watch them struggle, suffer and grieve in solitude, highlighting the human need for communication and empathy. Circumstances cause children to shoulder responsibility far beyond that of their age as their parents painfully pile on the weight for the sake of survival. These conflicts are conveyed through excellent cinematic means as the narrative premise forces the film to articulate through visual techniques as opposed to dialogue heavy exposition.

The movie is technically proficient, with cinematography and editing that creates eerily tense and scary moments. The score itself is menacing and used effectively to further augment these thrilling scenes. Overall the film excels at getting its audience to feel as vulnerable and anxious as its characters through impressive acting and attention to filmic subjectivity. Unfortunately the film doesn't really develop with time but merely plays out. Its adroitly written character dynamics are supplanted with a contrived final confrontation complete with an (honestly) revolting ending that shifts the film away from superb towards subpar. It's unfortunate to see such a unique premise spoiled by a commitment to safe filmmaking.

Complaints aside this is still a unique and enjoyable thriller that you should see, if you are willing to suspend your disbelief of some blatantly silly character decisions, even if it's only to appreciate the promising first half. ■



### The Bookshop

FILM REVIEW BY DENISHA PENELOPE JONES



*The Bookshop* is a story that likely should have remained existing in our world as a book rather than on the big screen. The Spanish, British and German co-produced drama film is based on the novel by Penelope Fitzgerald, harnessing the likes of brilliant actors Emily Mortimer, Bill Nighy and Patricia Clarkson. The picturesque scenes of a quiet English town called Harbury is the setting of an eloquent story about a young woman trying to make her place in an unforgiving world. Florence Green (Mortimer) decides to open a bookstore in a town filled with negative and manipulative characters that want nothing but to prevent and destroy her success. Fighting against the desires of those around her, Florence pushes ahead with her bookshop plans and in doing so, both she and the audience witness the true nature and intentions of the people that surround her.

The story, although very slow, plays on the wit and relationship between a diverse set of characters that somehow manage to draw you in and leave you wondering what will happen next. This is a movie that will leave some of us wanting to leave the big smoke, settle in a small town, dress with more finesse and of course start reading a book. Undoubtedly, the perseverance that is expressed by Florence Green in the simple act of opening and running a bookshop is admirable and leaves you wondering when the last time you pursued any dream with such drive was.

Overall *The Bookshop* is something that would really only be recommended for those of us seeking some inspiration or a chance to escape to a time that was more classic, simple and where books were given the appreciation they deserve. For the most of us however, this movie might leave you yawning a little more than you would expect, with distaste in your mouth at the very slow build up that results in a sudden and disappointing ending. ■



### Isolation

Kali Uchis

ALBUM REVIEW BY CHRIS WONG



Kali Uchis' debut *Isolation* is a delightful melting pot of psychedelic neo-soul, R&B, jazz and funk featuring a host of talented and respected guests such as Thundercat, Gorillaz's Damon Albarn, Tame Impala's Kevin Parker, as well as Bootsy Collins. Each track is rich, featuring layers of production over Uchis' distinctive voice, creating an immersive and irresistible atmosphere.

The album starts off with "Body Language", a bossa nova track which oozes a sensual energy, with Uchis urging the listener to come closer. Meanwhile the hypnotic "Miami" is a female empowerment anthem, where Uchis explicitly compares herself to Kanye instead of Kim, wanting to be the driver of her relationship. The track also touches on themes of escapism, with Uchis telling her story of leaving Columbia for America to pursue her dreams. The psychedelic groove of third track "Just a Stranger" is an album standout, featuring vocals and production from The Internet's Steve Lacy, as well as Brockhampton's own Romil Hemnani, as Uchis plays and subverts the role of the gold-digger. "Your Teeth on My Neck" touches upon an unlikely topic, critiquing capitalist society and inequality, while also calling out exploitation in the music industry.

Outstanding single "Tyrant" which features British songstress Jorja Smith, has Uchis comparing one of her emotionally manipulative exes to a tyrant, while "Dead to Me" contrasts an upbeat sound to its vicious lyrics. "In My Dreams" has Uchis in a tranquil dream state where everything is wonderful, while also reflecting on her past successes, affirming that she's now living these dreams in her present life. The feel-good lead single "After the Storm" is also not one to be missed, featuring production from BADBADNOTGOOD as well as a spotless guest verse from Tyler the Creator.

*Isolation* is a spectacular debut touching on a variety of genres and topics, undoubtedly making it one of the year's most outstanding albums, and will be sure to open up Uchis to many more adoring fans. ■



## On My Block

TELEVISION REVIEW BY BELLE HULLON



*On My Block* (released last month on Netflix) is one of those TV shows that starts off innocent, and then rips your breath away from you when you're least expecting it. I didn't have high hopes for this when I first started watching, because it looked like it was about a bunch of 14 year olds and well, I'm nearly 24. Tough to find things to relate to, or so I thought. Netflix had me at a high percentage match though, and Netflix is the bae I spend all my nights with, so I put my trust in it and put on *On My Block*.

I was not disappointed! There were instances of whimsicality, with a stoner Latina grandma and a treasure hunting class clown, but there was also an undeniable honesty in its portrayal of life in a gritty inner city LA suburb. With the current political climate regarding gun control in the US and the Black Lives Matter movement, the themes explored in this show hit the mark. Considering the story surrounded a group of high school freshmen, it dealt with surprisingly grown up issues. It was funny during all the right moments, and serious in the rest.

By the 10th episode, you'll be clutching your pillow, ordering UberEats because you can't watch TV whilst you cook, and holding your breath for the final few scenes. The ending cliffhanger left me in such a state of shock, I sat there staring at the screen for a few minutes after it went blank, trying to make sense of the last few minutes.

Without giving too much away, I'm just strongly recommending you watch it - *On My Block* is one of those rare gems that takes an overdone trope and turns it on its head, and starts a revolution along the way. ■



## Ready Player One

FILM REVIEW BY ANGUS GRANT



"Do you remember the 80s? What about the 90s? Or the 80s?" These questions alongside some great CG and yet-another teen fiction dystopian future is essentially all *Ready Player One* is. Based on Ernest Cline's 2011 book of the same name, it's set in the near future of 2045, where the real world is bleak so that everyone is a #gamer and spends most of their time in the virtual reality world known as the Oasis. The inventor dies, and leaves behind a search for three keys to unlock his multi-billion inheritance and ownership of the Oasis.

Wade Watts is the dull protagonist that, manages to solve the cryptic clues left behind. He's up against everyone else on the planet, namely IOI, the big bad corporation. Being well-versed in 80s pop culture is Wade's only strength.

Seeing the world of *Ready Player One* as this pop culture-obsessed, reality avoiding population does provide an interesting basis for a great story. However, it only achieves at becoming a treasure hunt with no emotion besides cheesy love scenes. It's a CG extravaganza, but not much else.

The singular dimensions of the characters really come across when the villains decide to take a strike at Wade's personal life. He has an initial and unconvincing response, but then the event is forgotten.

There were some gnarly action scenes, but some awkward attempts at humour tried to change tone and fell flat. The 140 minute runtime doesn't help either.

Fetishisation of childhood and a hard-on for nostalgia is something everyone's tired of. Jamming a film with literally hundreds of references removes any actual depth from what they originally had and represented. Maybe in 2011 the world's nostalgia boner was only a half-chub, so maybe the movie should have come out then.

(And the best reference was the Joy Division t-shirt) ■



## Rampage

FILM REVIEW BY MARY GWENDOLON



I cried in this movie. The theatre was pretty full and I don't know if absolutely everyone else cried, but I can confirm that the grandpa sitting a few rows in front of me with his granddaughter was still wiping his eyes when the lights came up. It was powerful stuff.

The plot was very straight forward which I liked. Nothing weird, nothing tricky, just a very logical trajectory from Evil-Corporation-Develops-Pathogen-That-Makes-Animals-Giant and these Animals-Are-Destroying-City-And-Must-Be-Stopped. It is in fact based on the 80's arcade game of the same name and is not to be confused with the 2000's German film trilogy, also of the same name. So far, *Rampage* has received mixed reviews about how well it fares as an adaptation. As someone who has never played the game but has watched a youtube video of someone else playing it, I think they did a pretty good job though.

The film-makers made the delightful decision that in this movie about big animals, the only appropriate human lead would be the biggest known human; and as a devotee of Mr. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, his presence instantly sold me on the movie. He and Jason Liles (who did the motion-capture for George the gorilla, one of the animals that gets very big) had the most beautiful friendship in the movie. The love between that big big man and that even bigger gorilla carries the whole film on it's glorious muscular shoulders.

Finally, a note for those who are concerned. A nice gorilla does get hurt and it is at times upsetting, but he is very big and strong and can deal with it. There is a regular pet dog in the movie at one point and I can confirm that he is not harmed in any way. Thank goodness. ■



# Procrastination, Popcorn, and Projectors

Sarah Kolver tells us about the new films to keep an eye out for and makes our road to procrastination a little easier.

**As winter approaches, there's nothing better than curling up in a comfy cinema seat, with a good friend next to you and a piping hot box of popcorn nestled in your lap, to enjoy a few hours of escape from your numerous assignments due tomorrow. So, here's some upcoming superhero flicks to help with your procrastination:**

## ***Avengers: Infinity War***

One of the biggest cinematic events of the year (at least for Marvel fanatics like me) is the upcoming film *Avengers: Infinity War*, released on April 25<sup>th</sup>. It is the culmination of ten years of superhero blockbusters, spanning the entire

Marvel Cinematic Universe, and has been labelled the "ultimate, deadliest showdown of all time." Basically, the original Avengers; Iron Man, Captain America, Hulk, Black Widow, Thor, and Hawkeye team up with more recently introduced characters such as Doctor Strange, Spider-Man, Vision, Scarlet Witch, Black Panther, and the Guardians of the Galaxy, to try and defeat the powerful villain Thanos, whose main goal of collecting all six Infinity Stones would see the complete annihilation of the universe. The main question fans have been asking over the past few months is 'Who will die and who will survive?' You need only look at the *Infinity War* poster to see that the MCU has become a very crowded place. Couple that with the promise that Thanos will be the baddest villain in the MCU and fans are starting to wonder if Marvel will use *Infinity War* to cull some of its cherished heroes. They're banking on some pretty big moments within the movie, and what's bigger than an unprecedented, surprise death?

ILLUSTRATION BY DAPHNE ZHENG (IG: @BREAKFAST.EXPRESS)





## Incredibles 2

It's been 14 long years since we fell in love with the best superhero family to grace the big screen, and now they're back, looking just as fabulous as ever. Why did it take so long, you ask? Writer-director Brad Bird says it all came down to story and waiting for the right moment to tell it. Bird admitted it was harder to tell an original story due to the glut of superhero movies in recent years, "Not only do you have every superhero under the sun and cross-promoting films, but you also have a bunch of television shows ... Everybody's got everything done to death. But I return to, what makes us unique? And it's this idea of a family, and that superheroes have to hide their abilities. And those things are actually unique to us, and there's plenty left to explore." *Incredibles 2* puts Helen front and centre, and also inspects the plight of the stay-at-home superhero dad, Bob. He must traverse the horrors and spectacle that is 'normal life', looking after Violet, Dash, and Jack-Jack. But when a new villain emerges, the family and Frozone must work together once more. Definitely one to see if you want to relive those childhood memories.

## Deadpool 2

With all the explosions, slapstick and sarcasm one would expect from the ultimate anti-hero, Deadpool, assisted by the X-Force (a group of mutant superheroes), returns to face the newest villain, soldier Cable. Deadpool's ultimate goal is to protect a young mutant

from the time-travelling soldier. Enter our very own 15-year-old, Lower Hutt-born star, Julian Dennison. Dennison portrays Russell Collins, a troubled teen with pyrokinetic powers. After his big comedic break in *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, fans can't wait to see how he interprets this lesser known X-character. Josh Brolin also stars in *Deadpool 2* as Cable. Yes, the guy who is playing Thanos in the MCU is also playing a badass supervillain in Fox's X-Men Universe. Deadpool's second movie has already established itself as zany and obnoxious, with its wisecrack posters and official synopsis:

*After surviving a near fatal bovine attack, a disfigured cafeteria chef (Wade Wilson) struggles to fulfil his dream of becoming Mayberry's hottest bartender while also learning to cope with his lost sense of taste. Searching to regain his spice for life, as well as a flux capacitor, Wade must battle ninjas, the yakuza, and a pack of sexually aggressive canines, as he journeys around the world to discover the importance of family, friendship, and flavour - finding a new taste for adventure and earning the coveted coffee mug title of World's Best Lover.*

## Ant-Man and the Wasp

In the aftermath of *Captain America: Civil War*, Scott Lang struggles with his choices as both Ant-Man and a father. But, as he tries to rebalance his home life with the responsibilities of being a superhero, he is confronted by Hope and Dr Hank with a critical

new mission. Once again, Scott puts on the suit and fights alongside The Wasp to uncover the secrets from his past. An interview with the cast in April shed light on the finer details of the film's plot. According to Evangeline Lilly, who plays Hope, Scott Lang's return from the microscopic Quantum Realm in *Ant-Man* was a defining point in the mythology surrounding the super heroes, "[That was] something they thought was impossible. The question has arisen, 'Can Janet come back?' So, the entire film, my character is hell-bent on finding a way to get into the Quantum Realm and bring her back." Fans haven't got long before they find out. ■







# In the Land of Supermarkets

*Garling Wu takes us through some other places to grocery shop (not just Countdown).*

New World, Countdown and Pak n' Save, the three largest supermarket names in New Zealand, they may compete on prices but they certainly don't distinguish themselves by product. All of these chains sell the same old stuff, baking the usual variety of bread, and delivering meat and vegetables that are grown to all look perfectly round and in the perfect shade of color. The market part of "super-market" references a time where you could buy locally grown produce full of variety and subtle differences in taste. What was available came down to season, and in that way, buying strawberries meant that it was summer, and summer meant that there would be strawberries. Yet, these days the only way to know when something is in seasons or not is by the price. Generally, your staple fruit and vege will be available all year round because we import produce from a country where it is in season. In a way it is great have access to ingredients all year round, but it doesn't mean we should dull our senses to what is readily and easily accessible. If you want to seek out the freshest, diverse, most stimulating, or highest quality food, here's what you need to do. Know that there are other places to shop beside Countdown or New World.

First begin by finding your nearest Asian grocery store, now. Asian grocery stores focus on fresh fruit and vegetables that are more often than not a great deal cheaper than your regular supermarket and they will stock a far wider variety of produce that you may otherwise never knew existed. The East Asian influence comes in the form of bok choy and bitter-melon, tofu and shiitake mushrooms, alongside a huge array of preserved vegetables, delicious chili oil, and an extensive range of grains and spices that you may, or may not have seen before. There is also something quite satisfying about shopping here and seeing that, for example, the nectarines all have slightly different shapes, and knowing that if you come back in a few weeks, they may not be available anymore due to the change in seasons. There are so many things to try that you



might not know where to begin, but at the least check out the quality and price of your usual potatoes, broccoli, lettuce or tomatoes and I am sure you will notice a difference. If you are a student looking for more variety of ingredients at a competitive price, seek out your local Asian grocery.

Next is Japan Mart. This place you may have heard of as Japanese culture has become ever more popular. Prices here are bit more expensive but the pay-off is rewarding, especially if you want to up your noodle game. To veer a bit of course and indulge in a less healthy way of eating, I would recommend the selection of dried goods here. There comes a time in most of our student lives where we by choice or necessity end up living on a diet of fast food, and the king of all instant meals has got to be 2 minute noodles. *Maggi* and *Mi Goreng* may be your household names but in my opinion, nobody does instant noodles like the Japanese. Stepping through the doors and heading to the noodle section, you will be met with stacks of glorious instant noodles of all flavor and of all kind. Of course you have your usual chicken, beef, pork or seafood, but half the fun is picking up something and not knowing exactly what that cup or bowl will taste like when they don't list the ingredients in English. There is something simple and child-like about picking out a packet based purely on the picture of the noodles and what looks to be the most delicious. While ultimately they may not be the greatest food source, the quality is undoubtedly good. I promise you, you will never regret discovering the extensive collection of Japanese instant noodles.

Finally, I want to introduce you to a supermarket that has some of the highest quality New Zealand pro-

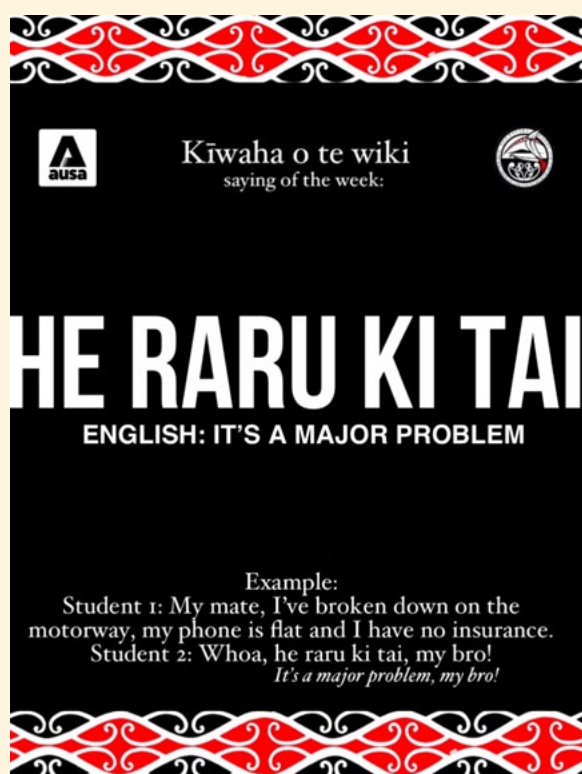
duce up front and center: Farro Fresh. After discovering a Farro store above the place where I work, I realised that the prices of your usual fruit and vegetables were far more reasonable than I previously thought, and the quality of ingredients was noticeably better. Farro champions local New Zealand growers and small businesses so the range of stock will be unlike what you find in your bigger competitors and by far way tastier. I brought some vine tomatoes the other day and the difference in taste was miles from what I usually brought from my local supermarket chain. What was interesting to note was that while there is a general perception that Farro is more expensive, for basic produce like these tomatoes the difference was less than 50 cents per kilo. On the other hand, if you are looking to try some artisan produce such as hand-made loaves of sourdough and French cheeses – all but absent in the larger supermarket chains – the range on offer here is tempting. Wandering up and down the isles I was also able to find unique products like Feijoa and Ginger Jam, Best Ugly Bagels from NZ Chef Al Brown, and a BBQ sauce named 'Morepork' after the native NZ bird.

Essentially, it is about exploring where things come from, discovering the taste of truly well grown produce, and getting excited over ingredients that you may never have seen or heard of before. Step away from the comforts of your massive supermarket chain and see what else is on offer, hopefully what you will find is that there are so many more opportunities available for those living in Auckland to try a range of products and produce from varying cultures, localities, and regions – this is something that doesn't exist in many countries. There is a richness and diversity of food from around the world brought to New Zealand through the migration of people. These purveyors of food bring with them a little piece of their own history, able to survive the change in landscape and social differences, adopted into communities, and celebrated in restaurants – and I'd just like to say, we are all the better for it.

If you were to ask what New Zealand cuisine is now, it would be an influence of so many different cultures. I believe that in many respects, New Zealand cuisine is a fusion of food from around the world, many of which I didn't have room to mention but may include; Taiwanese, Indian, Indo-Fijian, Sri-Lankan, Korean, Samoan, Tongan, French, Italian, Middle Eastern... The list goes on. So seek out these supermarkets, support our local growers and sellers, and get excited about the opportunity to try all these wonderful foods. ■

### Where to Shop

Tai Ping Trading Company  
105 Beach Road, Auckland  
Lim Chhour  
184 Karangahape Road, Auckland  
Japan Mart  
26 – 28 Wyndham St, Auckland CBD  
Farro Fresh Orakei  
228 Orakei Road, Remuera





# **SAVE OUR LIBRARIES RALLY 30TH APRIL 12PM GENERAL LIBRARY**

**On the 30th April, submissions will close for the University's proposal to close five libraries, remove specialist staff, and take away student study spaces.**

**Join us as we rally against these changes.**

**The University says that these changes are needed to 'cut costs'. We say that this shouldn't be at the expense of our education.**

**We demand that the University:**

- Protects our student study spaces**
  - Protects our specialist staff**
  - Protects our special collections**
  - Protects and respects the Arts**
- Listens to students, and commits to meaningful consultation.**

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# Worth Their Weight in Gold: Pay Equity for Our Nurses

*Eilish Satchell highlights issues of underpayment, long working hours and lack of representation nurses face in New Zealand.*

Nursing is not a career for the faint of heart. As New Zealand's hospitals burst at the seams, nurses are facing increased patient loads, 12+ hour shifts, unsafe staffing levels, increasing responsibilities, and mountains of paperwork. The only thing that seems to have remained static is nurses' remuneration packages, with many nurses stating they are overworked, underpaid and undervalued.

New Zealand nurses have finally had enough as the more than 27,000 union members, which include nurses, health care assistants, and midwives, vote to reject the DHBs latest offer of a 2% pay rise, a lump sum pay package of \$1050, and a further pay review in 2019.

What will follow, for now, is uncertain. More negotiations will be undertaken between DHBs and the New

Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) to try to reach a settlement. Failing that, it is likely NZNO will issue a ballot to its members to decide whether industrial action should be taken. The decision to strike will not be one taken lightly; there has only been one national historic nursing strike in 1989, and smaller regional strikes in the early 2000's. During these previous strikes, hospitals saw all elective surgeries and out-patient clinics cancelled. Many hospitals 'emptied out' so that only the critically unwell remained, and non-unionised and non-DHB nurses were also recruited to cover the nursing shortfall.

"Everybody's a lot sicker and unwell than 15 years ago when those strikes happened. It may not be possible now everybody in hospital is critically ill," said NZNA organising services manager Cee Payne. Many nurses see striking as a last resort option as they are acutely aware of the impact it will have on

their patients, particularly given the unusually busy summer that saw Middlemore hospital experiencing its busiest month in history.

As the threat of a national strike looms in the air, online a campaign for a better deal for nurses is heating up. The official campaign *Health Needs Nursing* is set to launch its campaign with a week of national action starting on the 9th of April. Many social media pages such as *New Zealand Hear our Voices* and *Nurse Florence* are gaining traction, with nurses from public and private sectors sharing their stories. A majority of these stories end a similar way, with nurses losing their passion, leaving the profession they once loved, and even discouraging future nurses from entering the profession due to ongoing problems in the health sector. Many are left wondering how we have let the problem get so bad.

The NZNO believes that nurses' work has been subject to historical and systemic undervaluation because it has been predominantly performed by women. This is a key factor behind that fact that nursing has not seen the same pay increase as other public servant areas such as doctors, teachers and police officers.

The nursing scope of practice is constantly being pushed. No longer are they 'just nurses' or the bum-wipers and hand-holders of the health sector. More and more, nurses are becoming specialists in their chosen areas, completing honors and masters degrees and becoming nurse practitioners by completing a Doctorate of Nursing - a qualification which takes over 6 years of full time study. Nurses are more involved than ever in completing complex procedures, decision making, and prescribing. Our work does not discriminate, we deal with infectious diseases, all manner of body fluids, and a myriad of health concerns in both the young and old.

As a nursing student, I am somewhat protected from the stress. My nursing seniors make sure that students take meal breaks, whilst they themselves go without in order to ensure that their patients are safe and documentation is done. While I gain my skills and confidence looking after one patient, I see the nurse look after 6 or 7 critically unwell patients at a time. It is a scary thought that this responsibility, and lack of staff protection, awaits me on completion of my degree.

By the time that my 8 hour shift comes to an end, I head home exhausted. During this shift I have administered countless medications, assessed patients, alerted doctors to patients getting sicker, changed dressings, fed and showered people,

prepared patients for surgery, and been a support for families who have just received terrible news. My fitbit tells me I have walked over 11km during the shift.

At this point I think of the nurses who are often still at the hospital working a double because there are not enough nurses to cover the next shift. Sometimes after a particularly busy shift I wonder what I have gotten myself into. But it is the passion I have for nursing, and the difference I see nurses make in people's lives that keeps me going back. However, passion and commitment can only go so far, and as nurses and students are constantly stretched thin, it is no wonder that every now and again it gets too much. For now I remain bright-eyed and bushy-tailed hopeful that an agreement will be reached between nurses and the DHB's that prevent me, and my peers, from ever becoming burnt out.

As New Zealand faces an ageing population, it is clear that we are going to need more nurses than ever - however, we cannot expect to retain or recruit enough nurses if things continue as present. It is high time that nurses are recognised for the work they do, and are fairly compensated for it. Nurses are constantly told that they are worth our weight in gold, all they are asking now is to be paid like it! ■

**“The NZNO believes that nurses’ work has been subject to historical and systemic undervaluation because it has been predominantly performed by women. This is a key factor behind that fact that nursing has not seen the same pay increase as other public servant areas such as doctors, teachers and police officers.”**



## HOLLYWOOD

Each week **Lachlan Mitchell**, glorified tabloid writer, tries to cover up that he is blatantly copying Vanity Fair.



# IMVU: That's the Way Love Goes

Forget the Sims. Forget Second Life. Forget any life simulator or any character creation screen you ever knew. In the wide, wide world of sex simulators and interactive chatrooms, they pale in comparison to the joy that was IMVU back in its heyday. You might ask 'How is this related to pop culture... or anything?' That's a good question. This is a fun topic because IMVU was such an interesting microcosm of the seedier side of MMORPGs (I use this acronym loosely) and the internet as a whole at the time. We're in a different world now. In the brief instances I've gone to revisit my wardrobe in the years since, the place has primarily become a furry fetish dungeon. The use of dungeon is not an exaggeration given the... proclivities of those who remain. If the Herald has to become a toxic copy + paste of the Daily Mail to survive, I can understand the processes that drove IMVU to so heavily cater to their only surviving community. But this story is not about them – bless their hearts, however.

It is about a time where a younger me was set loose into a world where you could be anything and express your gender (whatever it may be) to its fullest extent. I'm not going to say that IMVU was an escape, but in terms of gender expression, it was certainly a lot of fun. And honestly, it was helpful. You could represent yourself exactly as you wanted to. If it could be adapted into hideously-rendered polygons, you could own it. But that would cost real world dollars. If you were smart enough, you could get other people to pay for it. I was lucky enough to have the skills that the dream team in Ocean's Eleven could only ask for, and a greed to obtain a wardrobe that would make Imelda Marcos blush.

You see, these chatrooms were populated by four groups of people: incredibly horny men who NEED to get off; surprisingly devout Christian users; people who needed to indulge in every fetish and those who just wanted to look good. I was of the final group, but it was the first group that would achieve the goal of providing you the best wardrobe. And I really wanted a good wardrobe – it was at a time where I didn't have any avenues to express femininity and this was one of the more exciting and accessible ways to do so. All the various groups on the servers would end up giving to my collection, but it was the horny fucks that would REALLY give to you... so long as you gave to them.

These people seemingly needed the IMVU polygons in order to get off. I guess there was just something *titillating* about seeing leather rendered in a way that would make PS1 graphics look like Avatar. You would see a man desperately approaching every girl in the chatroom and, if they were equally horny, would be spirited away into their own private chatroom. They would gladly offer you anything to find release. And I, in my black kitten heels and lovingly rendered Versace knockoffs, would oblige. Not that I actually did anything. I'd say that I'd love to be their lover, but I didn't want to be like any other girl there, and I was so very poor. 'I want to look good for you... and only you, xXxTheDudeJasonxXx'. ManlyGuy3043 would be quizzical, but I'd put their concerns to rest with something copy pasted from *Basic Instinct*. I don't think I actually ever went through with their wishes. I'd link them some things from the shop while I prepared to get into sex animations. Typically, they would oblige within 20-30 seconds. They would gift me the clothing. I'd put it on. I'd type 'Close your eyes...' And then I'd log out of the chatroom! I'd get a few messages, I'd say it was an internet error, I'd get more messages, I wouldn't respond.

This wasn't the only method, even those with the bluest of balls would eventually catch on. Eventually I started feeling bad about it, compounded by my wardrobe now having more stolen items than the British Museum. Alexander wept, for there were no more chatrooms to conquer. Gender-wise, I felt satisfied by the small opportunities IMVU had given me and I had found other people I could be much more open with. I was younger and tied femininity explicitly to personal presentation. But I had moved on. And internet culture as a whole had moved on from IMVU as well. By this time, social media had well and truly completed its inexorable rise and IMVU began to suffer, with less and less users signing on and the flow of credits slowing down. Popular culture had well and truly settled on retweets to define it, and IMVU was relegated to the annals of history. And I was okay with that. All empires will fall, and the aforementioned furies have now set up their empire in Constantinople. It was a different era that I am glad that I saw with my eyes. I wonder how BiggestMan684 is doing now. ■



## ECCENTRIC LIFE ADVICE

Each week **Astrid Crosland** provides instructions on how to improve your life in some small, but important ways.



# 8. How to Diagnose a Haunted House

Frequently, such things begin with phenomena indistinguishable from coincidence. If you suspect a building might be haunted, I implore you to discuss the possibility outside of the property boundaries. Ghosts, like so many other paranormal entities, are fuelled by and crave attention. Some ghosts are ambivalent about being observed, preferring to skulk through the house admiring the artefacts of the living. Other ghosts prefer to create mischief, pushing things over, scratching at closed doors, and making smells in hard to clean places. Other ghosts look down on fleshlings as less evolved beings and are generally unpleasant conversationalists. No matter what type of ghost you may think you have, it is best practice to discuss the possibilities in a space where you are unlikely to be overheard and cause the ghost to accelerate their plans.

Alternately, it may not be a spirit that haunts the house. Timber houses are prone to complaining about the weather; creaking, hissing, and slamming doors until they believe things have improved. Concrete buildings often suffer terribly from echoes. A few cases have suggested the climate of a brick house reflects the conditions of the brick casting. Additionally, there are many moulds that can enter a home and recreate some of the quintessential elements of haunting, darkened rooms, oozing walls, dizziness, short breath, death. A little salt in the corners of the rooms and in windows can help draw moisture from the air and is classically considered one of the most powerful wards against heebie-jeebies.

Ultimately, if you believe your home is unhappy, seek professional external assistance. A well trained Spiritualist or other esoteric ought to be able to spot false positives as well as advise on how to avoid aggravating the present situation. If you can bear the thought of it, an eccentric spirit is a lovely addition to a home, much like a cat, and will fulfil many of the same niches in your household. Staring at you, staring at invisible things, demanding attention at any hour, and the presentation of small gifts can all be expected from the domestic eccentric spirit. ■



## ROAD TO #FITSPO

Each week our resident hedonist **Saia Halatanu** explores the unfamiliar world of health and wellness for your entertainment and his own longevity.



# Tips from a member of team #fitspo

I can not lie. I look and feel much better than I did when I started this journey. That's despite how difficult or cumbersome it may often come across in this column. If I'm being absolutely honest, it has, for the most part, been pretty enjoyable. Now that I've reached a sort of halfway point where my guiding lights - Emma and Zahi of the University's sport and rec centre - want to change up my routine and eating plan to keep things developing, I thought, like any true aspiring instagram fitspo model, I offer a few tips for those who would like to start their own journey based on no other expertise than me doing this shit for the last 5 weeks (I'm also drowning in uni work and these BuzzFeed-style listicles are easy to write).

**Drink Water:** An old rugby coach once told me that water was good for you, I'm inclined to believe him. Since I started drinking more water I've just started to feel more energized. There's nothing fancy about the stuff, it comes as it looks - plain, colourless and wet - but it's a pretty safe bet, and try explaining how boring the stuff is to a poor sod who's been lost in the desert a few days. It is, after all, literally essential to your life. What else does it really need to be? Of course, it doesn't come with the same level of happiness that you get from beer but it also doesn't come with the hangover. When I started drinking it regularly, I needed to go to the toilet fairly often but this is apparently a sign of toxins being flushed out of your system. Great! You need it to live, it's good for your health and it's energizing. What more do you need?

**Eat more frequently:** On the surface this seems counter-intuitive. It also sounds pretty appealing - eat more, lose weight?! - but there's a little more to it than that. When Emma informed me that a trick to losing weight was to eat more, I thought "Hell yeah! She gets it." What she actually meant was to eat more frequently - that is smaller portions and snacks throughout the day to keep energy levels up, keep your stomach happy and keep you filled enough to avoid wanting to splurge on large dinners at the end of the day (how health-blogger/instagram-fitspo did that last sentence sound? Don't know whether to be proud or cringe).

**Make and carry your own foods:** Generally, people know what foods are good for you and what foods aren't. Similarly, people know when they're not being honest with themselves. Having chicken and broccoli for dinner is usually a good idea but you know in your soul that it's not so good if that chicken is from KFC and that broccoli is made out of potato-and-gravy. That said, making your own meals is a good way for you to control your dietary intake. It takes time to prepare but can be tailored to your own specific needs. It

can even be altered, using herbs and spices, to taste good - like real junk food. You can even learn about macros and calories and stuff to impress your friends or seem way smarter about nutrition than you actually are.

**Exercise consistently:** By far the most difficult part is to start exercising. Who really likes running unless it's away from responsibility? It's also difficult if you haven't done it in a long time. You will feel weak and inadequate and looking at others around you this can only be made worse. Even as I exercise in the gym now, I can't help but notice just how strong everyone else appears to be and wonder how many people must get put off their entire journey after experiencing this. As is often said about many other things, it gets easier and after a while you stop noticing other people, you're just there to get your routine out of the way, feel all good about it - as you always do after some decent exercise - and get on with your day. It helps to remember that you're exercising for your own benefit which comes whether you look good exercising or not.

**Find exercises that you enjoy:** To make it easier to want to get active, look for exercise that appeals to you. If you don't like running then join a social sports team which does more than just run. Go hiking or rock climbing. Lift weights in the gym if you want, do boxing, join a netball team or try ballroom dancing. Go swimming, cycling or rollerblading. If you really want to get your sweat on do five papers in a semester, the stress is sure to take some weight off you. The options are endless but the main goal is to stay active and moving.

**Don't be overwhelmed by the journey:** Finally, it's easy to look at how much you potentially have to do to get in better shape and it's also harder when you compare yourself to others who are well underway and have been doing it for a long time (I'm sorry, I can't help the fact that I look this good after 5 gruelling weeks. #traininsaneorremainthesame #youcandoitto #mindovermatter). The trick is to break it down into achievable steps. Try making a little more dinner one night and having it for lunch the next day, or try going into a gym for a consultation - the Auckland University sport and rec centre is really cheap and super helpful. After doing a few of these seemingly small steps you will begin to establish a routine which becomes second nature. Ultimately, being fit and healthy is a lot easier than it's often made out to be and you don't have to be an instagram model to take part, just a person who cares about your own wellbeing. ■

## PRUNE JUICE

Self explanatory, the drink helps you cleanse and digest. Each week **Sherry Zhang** breaks down life's incongruous mess into digestible chunks.



# Appearances

The morning was slow, I'd probably rearranged the same clothing rack so many times that Leonardo da Vinci would cum from the symmetry and golden ratio-ness of my perfectly arranged hangers. But as much as I work in mindless retail, something about this Saturday got me thinking. The Mum sauntered in, and immediately flopped on the couch. The couch has known the butts of lot of dads, boyfriends, and children who come in and play on their phone while waiting for the magic of consumerism and female body image. The Mum gave me a cheeky grin and pulled out a bright orange book and started reading. I didn't pay much attention to it at first, but the cover kept catching my eye. Orange is a garish colour.

## The Subtle Art of not giving a F.

Ah! I recognise it! I used to work in a bookstore and I remember the awkward conversations when customers would ask me if we stocked this self-help book, dancing around saying "F... no not If... F as in *Fuck*." The Mum and I chatted a bit about the book, about teenagers, about this season's necklines and back to not giving a fuck. She peered at me up and down, and said, "Young people like you should read this book. It changes a lot of things." I smile at her, and agree, because that's my job.

I give a lot of Fucks. In this job, I spend my weekends giving a fuck about particular shades of green matched with particular straight leg or ruffle bottoms. I embody a brand of woman that fits with the company aesthetic, and then re-sell Newmarket this idea of a woman through pima cotton shirts. I give fucks about whether the black or the white version of the same jumpsuit is better for the 21st. Okay, at this point it's the end of my shift and I'm pretending to.

See it's easy to pretend to care about someone else, putting on a show for a retail job but I don't think I can give the same nonchalance to my personal identity. The way we move and perform our identities is embedded in the fact judgements are made from the first 5 seconds you see someone. And while it's easier for me to pretend to care about how you look, I don't know if I can escape the panopticon I've created of my own identity.

Little things like when The Grandma's come in, I get the sweet dotting white ones who ask me about how the weather is, who correct themselves and go "Oh but I don't know how long you've been in New Zealand you wouldn't know what the weather here is usually like."

"I was born here..." "Oh, well you can never tell these days can you." And I can't help it, but my voice slides into some

deep kiwiana accent and I talk about growing up in the shore as to some defence of my identity. Something I've learnt to do, in the same way we learn to dress ourselves.

Something I'm not always aware that I do give a fuck about. I've always been a little proud of the fact you can't tell I'm queer™. It's one of those "ha surprise bitch" moments. A little personal stance against stereotypes of what a queer woman should look like. I'm still going to be a vain little bitch, really like my floral dresses and coral lipsticks. But I realise I cling onto this, like some last vestige of defence, just like my whole "yeah please don't be racist to me I'm actually one of you I assimilated!!?!?" problematic acts. Over the summer I got a role to play a lesbian in a play at Q theatre. I later found out that they were initially looking for a brash butch lesbian with a give-no-fucks voice to storm into the room. Instead, I walked into the room. Despite that, they liked the way I said the lines, acted and pranced around, so that was that. But dear god, I struggled so hard with the role. I didn't realise I had all these tics, these tricks I used to make myself seem more 'feminine...likeable.' Until my director grabbed me by the shoulders, and said:

1. Stop drifting off the end of sentences, you make yourself sound apologetic
2. Stop lowering your shoulders and making yourself smaller
3. JESUS SHERRY STOP LOWERING YOUR WHOLE BODY IN THE KISS YOU ARE TALLER, YOU ARE IN CONTROL

So when I had to play a character who actually didn't give a fuck about fitting into conventional standards of femininity, I was scared. Because it's true. I do all these things to make myself smaller, softer, like many women do. And I'm afraid that if I don't do these things, men wouldn't find me desirable. Which is bullshit. Even when performing, in the back of my mind I am searching to be liked by the audience. And I was so scared of playing a character who didn't give a fuck, who had her own sense of feminine energy, that I thought I couldn't connect with the audience. But that's not good acting. That's just showing off on stage. I hide behind my femininity as some shield. And that's not really giving a fuck. That's just pretending. I hide behind being a New Zealand born Chinese, to escape confrontations about why assimilation is the only way to feel accepted.

I don't think I can ever stop giving a fuck. But I think I'm getting more aware, and understanding, and pulling apart when it's problematic I do.

The Mum pops her head into her daughter's changing room, and I get handed an armful of spaghetti strap camis to hang up. ■





# Politics Week

AUSA has got the ultimate Political Hook Ups for you this 2018! What's in store you ask? Only the very best for our AUSA whanau. Completely free, for you to enjoy! From Broke Students Brunch, to MP's and DBs, to a career expo set to get you into the beehive and beyond. Check out our Facebook page for more info and we look forward to getting down and political with you this week.

## Presidents Letter

As some of you may have heard our Queer Rights Officer and our Welfare Vice President recently resigned. I would like to address the challenges that our Executive face in terms of workload and sustainability, in light of these resignations.

We take our job really seriously, and we're really proud that AUSA is in the strongest position it has been in years. We're running bigger events than ever before, like the Marvel quiz last week, Politics Week this week, and O-Week at the beginning of the year, we are a strong voice for students to the University, we are running a rally and petition against the library proposals, and we have doubled the amount we're spending on welfare.

However, running AUSA isn't always easy. We all work incredibly hard and the majority of our roles have outgrown the hours assigned to them. This has particularly been the case for the Welfare Vice President role.

Additionally, AUSA has been even more challenging as AUSA has not had a General Manager in the role for over a year, and we had limited funds to fill this role. We were the only students' association in the country without a manager in this HR position. As a result, the President and Admin Vice President have had to act as a de facto Association Manager to our 14 staff, as well as lead our 17-member Executive since the start of last year. When a new team takes the reins of AUSA, they inherit the challenges and structures of past years.

One of the main reasons I ran was to improve AUSA's structures. Unfortunately, it takes more than the first half of

Semester One to put these in place. But we are working on it.

Since the beginning of the year, and before opening the by-election for the new WVP and QRO Executive positions, we've made some changes that will mean the roles are better supported, better trained, and more sustainable. These include:

- We have hired an Association Manager. This will substantially free up the AVP and Presidents' time to manage and support Exec, and focus on things that matter to students.
- We have hired a welfare support staff member, to provide 10 hours of admin support each week to the Welfare Vice President. We hope to get funding for a 20 hour a week role next year.
- Some responsibilities that used to fall with the WVP have also been given to staff, such as running our Stress Less Study Weeks.
- The WVP is no longer solely responsible for running all Welfare grants. The President and other Vice-Presidents are also able to chair the panels if the WVP requires them to.
- We're also setting up an AUSA Advisory Panel - a team of professionals who will be able to provide mentoring to our roles, and financial, legal, and strategic suggestions, which are not binding on the Exec (most students' associations around the country have one of these).

- We are reviewing the positions on our Executive.
- We are ensuring that AUSA has clear support processes if an Exec member needs support.

These are really important changes, and none of these decisions or any other strategic changes have taken place without full Exec consultation and support. We were really sad that the WVP and QRO have resigned - they both have contributed lots to AUSA and were excellent, passionate Executive members. We understand that AUSA is hard. We have listened to their concerns and we are actively making the Executive roles more sustainable so we can best be serving students.

Anna



# HOROSCOPES

Our local oracles *Annalise Boland* & *Bianca D'Souza* have studied the stars this week and provided us with predictions for our future. Stay tuned for a weekly update on your stars.



## ARIES

(MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

**ANDREW LITTLE**

Can never smile for photos  
Would rather be at home  
Constantly changing degrees at uni  
Secretly collects pokemon cards



## TAURUS

(APRIL 20-MAY 20)

**MARAMA DAVIDSON**

Got your back no matter what happens  
Constantly posts what song their listening to on their instagram story  
Has the voice of an angel  
Scared to shop online incase they get scammed



## GEMINI

(MAY 21-JUNE 20)

**JACINDA ARDERN**

Makes their own memes  
Overprepared for every situation  
Tweets excessively  
Makes bad jokes to defuse tense situations



## CANCER

(JUNE 21-JULY 22)

**CHLÖE SWARBRICK**

Not afraid of calling you out when you're problematic  
The popular one in the friend group  
Has a new business idea every week  
Believes that a little white lie is okay



## LEO

(JULY 23-AUGUST 22)

**SIMON BRIDGES**

Helps get people out of parking tickets by writing letters  
Obsessed with Zodiac killer conspiracy theories  
Wants to adopt every animal they come across  
Pretends to be interested in sports



## VIRGO

(AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22)

**JULIE ANNE GENTER**

Still thinks Genovia is a real country  
Public speaking is their kink  
Multi-lingual  
Gives the worst advice



## LIBRA

(SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22)

**BILL ENGLISH**

Just wants to work on a farm for the rest of their life  
You know they low key a freak  
Difficult maths equations turn them on  
"I'm not racist, but"



## SCORPIO

(OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21)

**WINSTON PETERS**

Tries to be friends with everyone  
Aims at being the hottest person in the friend group everytime they go out  
Loves their nana  
Comments on Stuff articles about immigration



## SAGITTARIUS

(NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21)

**JOHN KEY**

Watches too many YouTube vloggers  
"Hey can you pay me back for the bottle of vodka I bought the other night"  
Has bad taste in movies  
Changes their story frequently



## CAPRICORN

(DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19)

**JAMES SHAW**

Spends way too much money on gym gear  
Gets emails from Greenpeace but doesn't sign anything  
Has superior music taste  
The hype man of the group



## AQUARIUS

(JANUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 18)

**DAVID SEYMOUR**

Buys the new iPhone as soon as it comes out  
Adrenaline junkie  
Hate-eats Maccas after a night out but won't admit it  
Stays up too late reading Reddit threads



## PISCES

(FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 20)

**PAULA BENNETT**

Only wears expensive makeup  
Will judge you based on your appearance  
Would win in a fight  
Spends too much of their time at malls

# THE PEOPLE TO SUPPORT (AND LOVE).

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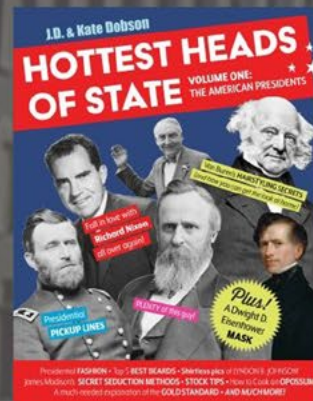
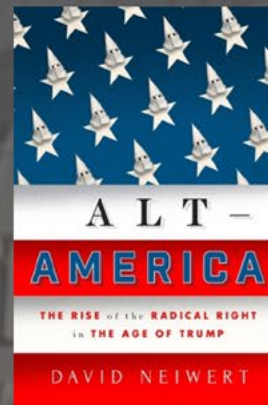
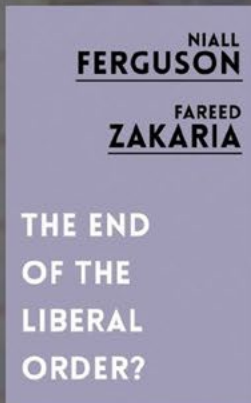
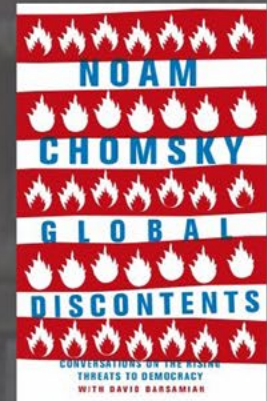
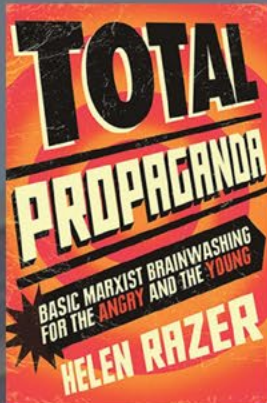
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