

CRACCUM

ISSUE 10, 2019



AUSA President Resigns

Craccum is unsure if this has helped the 'Unfuck AUSA' platform

David Seymour puts up with Craccum low-key roasting him

Apparently it was a food review but we got kinda side-tracked

Sister Slaughtered

Lachlan Mitchell sat through Tati's 43 minute video so you don't have to



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It's 4am and I am Writing a Listicle Out of Desperation: A Memoir

BY BAILLEY VERRY



Each week Craccum's esteemed Editor-in-Chief writes their editorial 10 minutes before deadline and this is the product of that.

As the end of the semester draws closer at what seems like a glacial pace, you may begin to see those deadlines starting to pile up. But in my wisdom that can only be found at the bottom of five coffees and the wee hours of the morning, this week's editorial is a handy guide you can use to survive until the real hell that is exams.

1. Sleep is for quitters

Fuck having a healthy lifestyle. We are balls to walls here and there is cramming to be done. Chug your caffeine of choice while watching a vine compilation, and get your shit done. The faster you do it, the faster you are asleep.

2. Uber Eats is your friend

Is it expensive? Yes. Will it also provide you with a meal that includes all major food groups? Also yes. Alternatively, if you are poor, just grab a ten pack of mi goreng and deal with the consequence to your body later. You don't have time for that right now.

3. Scream into the void

Ideally, you would be exercising to relieve your mounting stress and tension, but that is a luxury that we just don't have right now. The walk to Munchy Mart is all you're getting. Take a pillow or muffler of choice and just let go. Feel better? Good - now you can get back to work.

4. Avoid all responsibility

Plans? Not anymore. Plans are for people who managed their time better. If you are sacrificing sleep, then you are definitely sacrificing your social life. The relaxation of human interaction will lull you into a false sense of security while you fall further behind. Call in sick from work - money is overrated anyway. Truly isolate yourself until everything is done.

5. Stop breathing

That breath you just took? Don't. All the energy you put into breathing could be used towards learning more. If you stop breathing, you will get more adrenaline into your body, and you can ride that extra energy right into study town. Worst case scenario you might never have to study again. That's called a win-win.



NZ MUSIC MONTH AT SHADS

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SHADOWS
BAR & EATERY

AUSA President Anand Rama Resigns

DANIEL MEECH

AUSA President Anand Rama has handed in notice of his resignation.

His resignation comes just nine weeks into his first semester as head of the organisation. Rama and AUSA both cite "personal reasons" for his departure. In a Facebook post released shortly after the decision was announced, Rama said he was not "in a good headspace" during his tenure. "Being in the role was taking a toll on my wellbeing and my life," he wrote, "Today I put myself and my own health first, for the first time in what's felt like a long time".

Rama is set to depart the AUSA house on the 27th of May. In his stead, current Education Vice-President George Barton will take the helm. Barton is perhaps best known for organising the Zero Tolerance Hui. He also helped implement a new policy which means the university will have to record all lectures from the beginning of next semester. "This is not how I ever wanted or expected the year to progress and definitely not how I ever wanted to come into the role," says Barton, "My job now is to continue to enable our Executive to deliver on the work that we were elected to deliver on". Barton says he plans to focus on following through with the AUSA's promise of free exam seminars for big first year papers, to push for more engagement in local body elections, to strengthen the student council, to continue to develop working relationships with faculty associations, and to deliver a mental health report to the university.

An election will be held to determine who will take the now-vacant Education Vice-President seat. At time of writing, no-one has officially announced their intention to run, but *Craccum* is aware of several potential candidates. Candidates will be expected to put their nominations forward between the 20th and 27th of May. Votes will be counted between the 3rd and 7th of June.

AUSA have expressed gratitude for Rama's work on the executive. "We would like to thank Anand for the incredible leadership and service he has given AUSA," a post on their Facebook page reads, "This place is a much better organisation for our students because of you. We wish you all the very best". Barton echoes the comments of the rest of the team. "Anand has stepped down in order to look after his mental health and to finally put himself first. I cannot even begin to imagine how difficult a decision this would have been for Anand both personally and professionally. On behalf of our Executive, I would like to thank Anand for the incredible leadership and service that he has given AUSA both as Administrative Vice-President last year and as President this year," he told *Craccum*.

Craccum sincerely wishes Rama all the best in future. For his part, Rama says he hopes other students will learn from his mistake. "Learn to be open to those around [you]," Rama told *Craccum*, "Talk to your family, talk to your friends, talk to a counsellor, talk to anyone, because that's the first step".

Labour Government Turns Sour on Fees-Free Flop

BRIAN GU

After less than two full years of implementation, the Government's first-year fees-free tertiary programme is set to lose \$197 million of budget allocation, after being identified by the Government as a low-priority initiative.

In an effort to reduce spending prior to the upcoming Budget, the Government identified around \$1 billion in areas of low-priority spending, after being assessed according to "effectiveness" and 'alignment with the Government's priorities.' Finance Minister Grant Robertson admitted to the Chamber of Commerce "one example of this was... spending on the fees-free programme due to enrolments not meeting initial forecasts."

Inexorably, this has led to questions as to why Labour's policy performed so poorly. "When you get a period of time when you have employment being very, very low, that traditionally coincides with lower enrolments, in particular in polytechs," Robertson claimed. National's tertiary education spokesperson Shane Reti has called the government to account for failing one of its key sectors, claiming "the Government has poorly allocated money in education and now it's in a situation where teachers are engaging in the largest ever industrial action in New Zealand, and one of its key policies has fallen over."

In Issue 3, *Craccum* reported the government's intention for a

reform of the national system of vocational education and training, with a proposal being submitted to merge the nation's 16 polytechnic institutes into one. Grant Robertson has indicated that the funding extracted from the tertiary fees-free programme would be reinvested into the eventual implementation of this reform, identifying a need to "value apprenticeships, trades and workplace training more." However, National's Shane Reti believes that this is only 'one bad policy propping up another'. "The Education Minister needs to urgently re-evaluate fees-free and at least delay the rushed reforms of the polytechnic sector."

As of yet, no further decisions on the fate of the fees-free programme have been confirmed by the Government. However, opposing parties have taken the opportunity to criticize Labour on the failed policy. "It's [only] paying the tuition of children in well-off families that would have gone to university anyway," says ACT leader David Seymour, while National's Shane Reti called the programme "a failure from the very start, with 2400 fewer students enrolling in tertiary education and training than a year ago."

However, when asked if the scheme was a failure, Robertson said it was "far from it"; rather, it was "simply a recognition that not all of the money that was allocated for it was being used."

Stuff Removes Post After Failing to Fact Check

DANIEL MEECH

In its rush to get an article on the resignation of Anand Rama to print, media-giant Stuff failed to fact-check its reporting.

The paper incorrectly announced that Adam Holland – best known for dressing up as a Saudi Arabian sheikh and yelling ‘Allahu Akbar’ during a mayoral debate at Shadows bar – was running for the position of AUSA president. *Stuff* declared this despite AUSA announcing several hours earlier that the position had already been given to George Barton. *Stuff* linked Holland’s campaign – and his history of making controversial and frequently insensitive remarks – to white supremacy on campus, implying it was proof of a growing movement. *Stuff* also posted a photo of Holland alongside their article which they led readers to believe came from a campaign video in which he announced his candidacy. A reverse image search on Facebook and Google shows that the image comes from an article on Adam Holland that was written over two years ago.

Acting AUSA President George Barton says he was “surprised” by *Stuff*’s story. “It would have been nice if both the journalist who wrote the piece (and Adam Holland) bothered to actually check the AUSA Facebook Page and read the post about Anand’s resignation,”

he told *Craccum*. Barton also confirmed that the organisation had never tried to contact him about the story. “If they [had], they’d have found that the role of President isn’t available until this current Executive term is over and that elections for next year are quite far off,” he said.

This isn’t the first time AUSA has been the subject of misguided reporting. Earlier in the year, the organisation held a hui to discuss racial discrimination on campus grounds. Then-Education Vice-President George Barton asked media outlets to stay away from the hui, in order to protect the identity of those who had agreed to speak anonymously – but writers for media outlet *The Spinoff* disregarded his request, and published a detailed account of the meeting on the website. The story published by *The Spinoff* was also misleading. It implied Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon had declined an invitation to attend the meeting, but, as AUSA later pointed out, he had not been invited.

Craccum attempted to contact the author of the *Stuff* article for comment. Shortly after we reached out to the writer, *Stuff* removed the article. No reason was given for the removal, other than it did not conform with the paper’s editorial standards. At time of writing, we are yet to receive a reply.

Primary and Secondary Teachers Set to Go on Biggest Strike in New Zealand’s History

DANIEL MEECH

Primary and secondary teachers across the country have voted to hold a strike later this month.

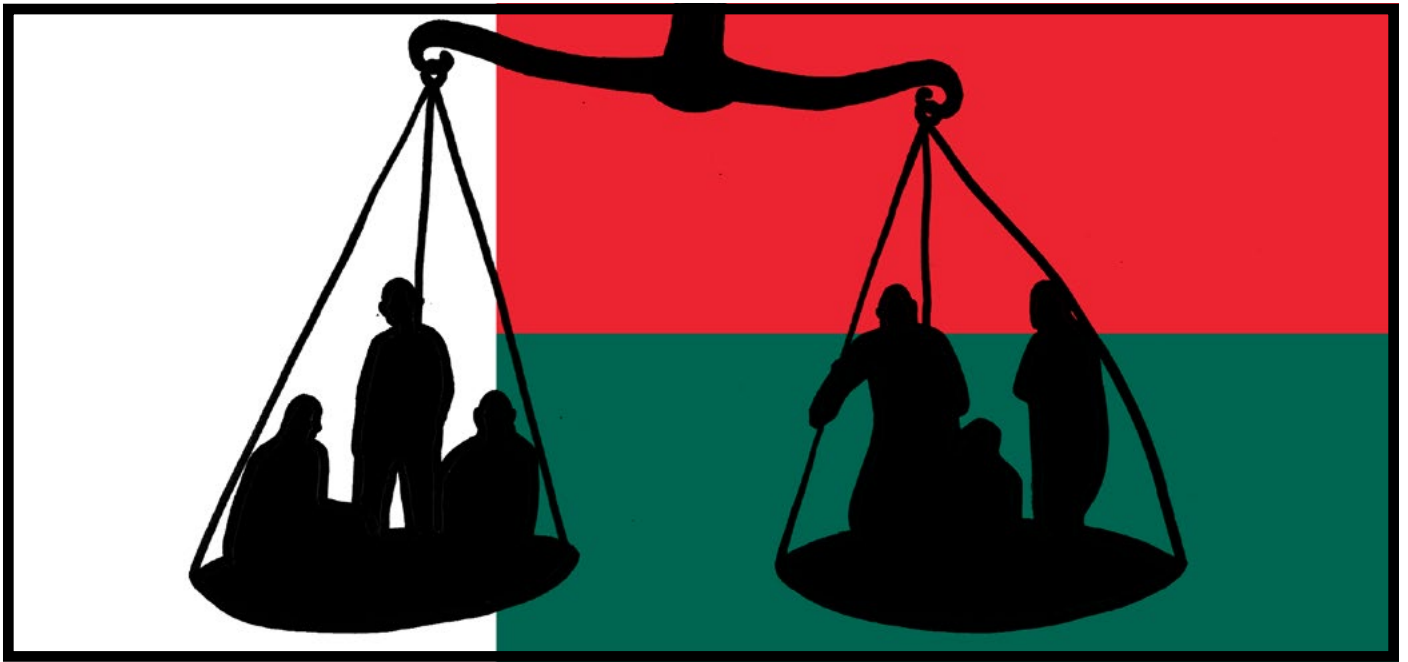
The two unions organising it – New Zealand Educational Institute (NZEI) and the Post Primary Teachers’ Association (PPTA) – are calling it a “mega-strike”. It will be the largest ever industrial action taken in New Zealand, and is expected to see 50,000 members (of both unions) take to the streets to protest proposed pay rises. The proposals (which were rejected by teachers earlier in the year) would have seen the government spend \$1.2 billion increasing pay for teachers by 3% over four years. For most primary teachers, the pay increase would have resulted in a \$10,000 salary increase for next year.

PPTA President Jack Boyle says it is “disappointing” negotiations have devolved to this point, but maintains strike action is necessary. “We want to work with the government to agree solutions that make teaching the attractive career it should be,” he told *RNZ*, and the strike seemed to be the only way they could make this happen. Boyle and other members of NZEI and PPTA also noted that the government’s proposals, whilst increasing salaries for teachers, did not address the fundamental issues facing the education sector. These include staff shortages, lack of school funding, and more.

Education Minister Chris Hipkins is unconvinced. He maintains

the strike action is unnecessary. “[The latest pay offer] represents more than all of the settlements reached under the previous government put together,” he told *RNZ*, “It’s one of the largest pay increases on offer across the public sector and is well ahead of what most workers throughout the economy are being offered in terms of pay increase”. “New Zealanders do want to see teachers paid well, and they want to see teachers paid more,” he said, “But they also want us to get serious about the mental health crisis. They want us to fix the housing crisis. They want us to lift children out of poverty. And this government is committed to doing all of those things as well. So we’ve got to get the balance right here”. Hipkins also says that there isn’t enough money in the budget to address the other concerns brought up by teachers.

The strike will occur the day before Labour unveils its flagship ‘wellbeing budget’. The budget – the first of its kind in the world – will attempt to measure the growth of New Zealand not in terms of GDP, but in overall wellbeing. It is likely the budget will take into account strike actions, as part of determining people’s job satisfaction levels. In a press release sent to *Craccum*’s news desk, ACT MP (and newest member of the *Craccum* reviews team) David Seymour said the decision to strike that close to the big reveal was “savage AF”.



Opinion: Human Rights Emergency - Pre-trial Detention in Madagascar

BY KEEARA OFREN

"But I'm not guilty...there's been a mistake. How is it even possible for someone to be guilty? We're all human beings here, like the other". "That is true" said the priest, "But that is how the guilty speak". Franz Kafka's The Trial follows the story of a man arrested with no word of his charges, not knowing when - or if- he will get out.

Madagascar, behind the impression of the bouncy and comedic animated film of the same name, reveals a shattered reality, one sadly similar to that of the Trial. The phenomenon of pre-trial detention is the focus of a current 2019 Amnesty International campaign and a 2019 Unreported World episode investigation of UK's Channel 4. In addition, Madagascar has faced scrutiny from the United Nations Human Rights Committee on what was reported as the excessive use of police force. The death of a student in police custody last month is a reminder of the cruelty of this ineffective punitive system and is a sharp cry for the world to pay attention.

What is pre-trial detention?

Pre-trial detention is a process by which an individual is detained to be questioned by police prior to being charged. Amnesty International reports that as of October 2017 55% of the prison population are pre-trial detainees. As a result, prisons are overcrowded and inmates face unhygienic conditions. Dozens of people are crammed

into cells, with only so much space to lie down, horribly reminiscent of diagrams of slave boats of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. In many countries around the world, once deemed a criminal, you are 'fair game', an 'acceptable' target. And especially in nations with poor internal governance and accountability in their justice system, it's open season.

The process of a fair trial considers the facts of the accused's situation, legislation on crime and public order as well as previous precedent on analogous cases. A fair trial is meant to ascertain if you committed the crime and the corrective measure by the law. Having a fair trial is crucial to maintaining open justice - that is, fairness and transparency in the justice system. This is the rationale for having a free trial as an inalienable right. Once this right is gone, an individual is subject to the whims of law enforcement and the unjust exercise of power. It follows that those subject to pre-trial detention are not proven criminals, but victims of a system that violates international human rights standards.

How are people affected by this?

One might echo, “but that is how the guilty speak”, or state that human rights are some sort of guise that prevents punishment, but the reality is that pre-trial detention targets the most vulnerable in Malagasy society. Do you recall the story of Jean Valjean? The story of the protagonist of *Les Misérables* has an important moral lesson. A convict, not of choice but rather circumstance, stealing in a dire economic situation, referenced in 1992s *Aladdin* with the phrase, “all this for a loaf of bread?”. Pre-trial detainees held were from poor, rural communities, uneducated on their legal rights. They trace their arrests to incidents of petty crime, with a 12 year old detainees for example, detained for stealing poultry. Pre-trial detainees do not just include the general image of an adult male offender, many are women and children.

How does this violate human rights?

With no trial, detainees are imprisoned indefinitely, often staying in jail for more than what would have been one's sentence. This is far from transparent punishment and is disproportionate to any petty crime. Detainees surveyed by Amnesty International stay in jail for years for accusations of theft. These are years of your civil liberties stripped from you, staying in squalid conditions, broken and humiliated.

Detainees do not receive medical care or food, for women detainees, they do not receive sanitary products. Detainees also do not know if their family knows of their arrest or have any way to contact them. The solution? The only way to get food provisions or external contact is through bribery, a sign that pre-trial detention perpetuates corruption in prison Settings.

Showers? Toilets? What has been described by NGOS visiting Malagasy prisons is a situation with toilets that don't work, an “open sewage system”, which leaves detainees exposed to risk of disease. According to Amnesty International, lawyers working for legal aid in Madagascar are actively prevented from acting on behalf of pre-trial detainees. The kicker? The Malagasy Constitution and Code of Penal Procedure state that pre-trial detention is only to be used as an “exceptional measure”.

This ‘exceptional measure’, used so frequently and cruelly, encourages a cycle of poverty and trauma. There are no skills taught in Malagasy prisons or vocational activities to allow them a foundation for employment. Those who leave jail have lost their jobs, but more so, their morale to be able to return to regular life after what can only be described in Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as “cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment”.

Why does it happen?

Martin Schönteich of the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies notes that pre-trial detention is prevalent in countries with corruption and where the public is not educated of their rights. Targeting uneducated communities and youth means that those in positions of power can exploit this lack of knowledge. Weak internal governance and accountability means that the police have unbridled power to arrest and detain. Bribery may also act as an economic incentive, bribes

to ‘pay’ for provisions in jail, bribes to get out of jail, bribes to detain certain individuals. The effect? Transparency International states that corruption is the major obstacle to the rule of law. They also state that corruption creates a long-term distrust in a nation's ability to make positive social change.

Madagascar has a problem with petty crime, but once individuals are dehumanised and seen as separate from the social context that creates crime, this allows for their civil liberties to be eroded for the pursuit of public order. Indeed, Madagascar has seen this happen with the emergence of ‘vigilante’ incidents of groups taking matters in their own hands against thieves. And as I have discussed, the erosion of civil liberties through Malagasy institutions. Imprisonment does not cure a problem, as long as social and economic problems continue, so does the cycle of imprisonment and ill-treatment for the following generation.

What can we do about it?

New news is emerging of the situation of Madagascar but remains in the circles of NGOs, reaching them and being able to share public awareness is key to being able to take a stand against human rights violations. Unreported World's episode, “Madagascar teenagers: Jailed without trial” is a good place to start as well as Amnesty International's documentary, “Punished for Being Poor” and information reports. My group, Amnesty on Campus also aims to distribute updates on our Facebook page ‘Amnesty on Campus UoA’, where a petition link is also available.

Most importantly, we can take inspiration from one line of Kafka's *The Trial*: “We're all human beings here, like the other”.

“
With no trial, detainees
are imprisoned indefinitely,
often staying in jail for
more than what would
have been one's sentence.
This is far from transparent
punishment and is
disproportionate to any
petty crime.
”



Hearsay! News without the facts: Fonterra Sells (Very Average) Tip Top Brand

MANNY DEL GATO

Fonterra have swindled an overseas manufacturer out of \$380 million after they successfully pawned off the incredibly average Tip Top brand to international ice-cream giant Froneri.

A staple of New Zealand life for decades, Tip Top's Trumpet ice-creams are as iconic as they are tasteless. But all that might be set to change, as European ice-cream giant Froneri readies itself to take over production.

Fonterra CEO Miles Hurrell says the sale is a "bittersweet" moment for the company. "Since we took ownership of Tip Top in 2001, a lot of work has gone into ensuring it remained New Zealand's leading ice cream company," a delusional Hurrell told the media, "Over that time, we've had strong support from New Zealanders, and I want to recognise and thank them for that".

Froneri says they have no immediate plans to change how the ice-cream is produced. The Tip Top brand and operations

(which include a large factory in Auckland) will continue as before. This hasn't stopped commenters on Facebook and news sites from expressing (or attempting to express) their disappointment with the sale. "Tiptop is a PART OF NZS HIS TORY," one person vomited into the comments section of a Stuff article. "This is what happens when you let communists run the country!!," said another.

But consumers of second-rate ice-creams aren't the only ones left reeling by the decision. NZ First say the sale is "alarming". NZ First MP and bold-tie-aficionado Mark Patterson says the sale of Tip Top "follows the foreign acquisition of other significant New Zealand companies capturing value-added opportunities". He says the acquisition is just one example of

a larger trend which has seen New Zealand businesses (and their all-important profits) "disappear" overseas. Acting Prime Minister Winston Peters voiced similar concerns. "If we are to build a value-added future for our economy, keeping the ownership of brands like Tip Top in Kiwi hands is critical," Peters told a crowd outside that had gathered after a cabinet meeting.

Please note: the opinions expressed in this article are, in fact, correct. If you're unable to accept the cold, hard truth that Trumpet is a B-grade ice-cream (and that's being generous), feel free to email me at news@craccum.co.nz. Alternatively, meet me out the back of the office and we can throw hands.

Hearsay! News without the facts: Tip Top Sale - What Happens Next?

GLORIA HOLE

The Tip Top ice-cream brand has been sold to international ice-cream giant Froneri. What happens now? Craccum summarises the latest gossip emerging from the Froneri camp.

What We Can Expect From Froneri and the Tip Top Brand:

- Citing fears that Trumpet ice-creams "might actually taste good" these days, Froneri have revealed plans to "dumb-down" the recipe. "We want to return the brand to how it was in the good old days," says CEO Ibrahim Najafi, "I want every customer to take a bite of their Trumpet and go: 'Yeah, tastes alright I guess'. That's how I'll know I've done my job right. We won't stop until we know we're New Zealand's second-favourite ice-cream once again".
- To this end, Froneri have also announced plans to reinstate Tip Top's old policy of copying better ice-creams. 'New' ice-creams expected to be rolled out by the end of the year include the

MagYUM!, Ben and Cherries, Bubble O' Bob, Häagen Dazs-Da -GÜD-Shit and Puddle Pop.

- Trumpets will now come in four flavours: 16gb, 32gb, 64gb, and vanilla.
- Froneri have announced plans to unveil the 'MachTurboTrumpet2' later this year. Although nothing has been officially confirmed yet, the Mach-TurboTrumpet2 is rumoured to have four blades and an aloe strip, and will run with the tagline: "the second-best a man can get". Froneri are calling it "definitely a pretty good razor" that is destined to go down in history as "somewhere in the vicinity of the top ten to fifteen razors of all time".
- Froneri are currently testing a new flavour of vanilla. Nick-named 'Vanilla 2'

in emails sent within the company, it is said to have a "buttery, crunchy, almost flake-like texture" and taste like "sugar, spice, and tears".

- Froneri are currently proto-typing the Goody Goody Gum Drop Air™, the world's slimmest, lightest ice-cream. "We're using cutting edge technology to reduce the thickness of our ice-creams," a post on the Froneri website says, "We've listened to our customers and taken their advice on board. People are sick of having to lug around 2 or 3kgs of ice-cream every day for work. We want to fix that". A spokesperson for the company says the ultimate goal is to have a "smart, sleek ice-cream" that can "fit in your bag for day to day use" by the end of 2021.

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Shadows Snack Review #2

Craccum Editorial Team with Special Guest
David Seymour

Premeal comments:

Bailey: I would like to say first off that this is the fastest service I've ever gotten at Shadows

Shadows Waiter: Is that all?

David:

(because he hasn't arrived yet)

David: nearly 15 minutes late

Bailey: I see why he missed his legislation debate now

David: This is my *minder* Caroline.

David: Oh wow, you've got a microphone now, you've upped the budget

Bailey: Yes we haven't pissed anyone off lately so we managed to get some money

David: Oh, what's happened with the campus prudes to criticize your content?

Lachlan: I don't know, maybe you're working with them now

David: **nervously laughs**

Shadows platter:

Chicken Tenders, Asian Bowl (Samosas and Spring Rolls) and Fish Bites

David: I don't know if its chicken, but it's not very freaking tender, I'll tell you that.

David: Wow, yeah. This is an unexpected but not unwelcome development. Surprisingly good.

Bailey: It's processed meat, crumbed and deep-fried, where can you go wrong?

David: Alright let's move on *(clearly eager for more free food)*

Claudia: The fish bites are actually pretty good

Caroline: Really? I thought they were slightly soggy

Lachlan: Well, it's been sitting there for 20 minutes

Claudia: You know when fish tastes too much like fish? It's a bad sign. It was too fishy

David: I'm going to have to bail out before I even finish this

Elise: What do you rate them?

Lachlan: I can't think of anything funny. I don't know, 7/10

Bailey: I am failing to see what part of the plate counts as the "asian" part

Lachlan: The sweet and sour sauce obviously

David: Brian, you should try this Asian bowl.

Brian: *The only asian at the table, trying to think of any other reason he might have been singled out specifically*

Craccum team and Caroline: *laughs nervously*

David: How do you say these ones again?

Brian: Samosas?

Lachlan: Just to be clear, you need to know how to say 'Samosa'?

Brian: I mean, I don't think they're a Chinese thing.

Caroline: The Samosas are not good

Brian: I wouldn't be surprised if they packed mashed potatoes in this one.

Bailey: Oh we made you some handy signs to rate the food

David: Hmmm I'm going to give this a 'Cheap and great value for tax free money', but since we all have to pay tax, I don't think anyone will be buying those.

Claudia: I will try one of these spring rolls because I am curious

David: Don't we live in a great country, where a bunch of students that are probably a bunch of lefties, let a politician eat with them tasting student bar food. Nowhere else in world you'd get that. I'm not confident you guys aren't going to poison me, but if you do, I won't be sure if it was Shadows or you guys anyways

Bailey: That may or may not have been discussed

Lachlan: But I bet you can't wait to find out

Bailey: You're lucky we decided to stay away from the pineapple toasties

Caroline: That wouldn't have bothered him. He actually likes pineapple on pizza

Lachlan: There goes my vote

David: That's what's great about this country: you do you

feature.

Lachlan: Like deregulated chicken tenders

David: Well, that's the only way to have them

Verdict:

David: Chicken tenders, cheap and great value for tax free money. You'll be happy spending tax free money on this, I'll tell ya. Screw you shadows!

Claudia: It was ok, nothing special

David: The samosas and the spring rolls tasted worse than Kelvin Davis' slushies, if you know what I mean.

Fries:

Bailey: These need more salt

Claudia: I was thinking exactly that as they put them down

David: They are a neutral palette cleanser

Claudia: A bit too neutral. All you can taste is sauce

Bailey: There's nothing more kiwi than chips and tomato sauce. It's the taste of 'Nu Zilund'

David: I have fish and chips every Friday at the seamarkeet. Everyone a has a whinge about it but It's Kiwi

Lachlan: I'll give you that, that's a good idea

Bailey: You do do a lot of dancing so I guess its ok

Caroline: Ha! Not anymore

Verdict:

Claudia: BYO salt

Lachlan: If you are crying into your food after a test, then this is the snack for you

Onion Rings:

Brian: Oh boy! I have been looking forward to these

Lachlan: I am going to abstain from those

Brian: These onions rings are great. I love batter, this is awesome for that crunch

David: This onion ring would be better if it had some onion in it. It's just a shitload of deep fry

Bailey: It is as crunchy as the chicken tender

David: Well, when you put them together, they're basically the same stuff.

Elise: I'm just sad no one has rated the lettuce it comes on yet

Caroline: I had it by accident. It was fresh

Elise: Fresh accidental lettuce

David: I want my animals to eat something like that so we can eat them

Lachlan: Ah yes what do you think of the Greens, David?

David: As little as possible

Verdict:

Brian: This tastes almost as sweet as polling above 1%.

Bailey: Crispy on the outside soft on the inside, like Judith Collins

Wedges:

Elise: They were a personal highlight for me really

David: I have a tiny one with this marmite like barbeque sauce

Bailey: Wait, what about the classic sour cream?

David: Tastes worse than Kelvin Davis slushies. I'd almost rather go back to the greens.

Bailey: Don't they have to want you first?

David: They like me, you'd be surprised

Lachlan: I certainly would be

Verdict:

Elise: Wedges are classic and they didn't need any extra salt or anything. Perfect as is.

Brian: Solid, top tier snack from shadz. The serving of sweet chilli sauce with them also makes the dish more Asian than their Asian bowl

Nuggets:

David: Pretty impressed with the chicken. Definitely tastes better than fifth place than dancing with the stars. Did I say there were 12 contestants? 12.

Lachlan: The nuggets are surprisingly not bad

Bailey: Again, it's deep fried

Lachlan: Yes, but that didn't exactly work for the fish thing

Claudia: Yeah that was terrible

Brian: But these nuggets are nowhere near macca's quality

Lachlan: Are we surprised though?

Bailey: You do also get fries which is nice though

Verdict:

Bailey: A nugget's a nugget. If I had to choose I would say the tender is better purely for the crunch factor


Lachlan: I can't think of a joke. Maybe 8/10? Never met a nugget that didn't deliver.

Official Ranking:

1. Wedges
2. Fries
3. Chicken Tenders
4. Onion Rings
5. Chicken Nuggets
6. Asian Bowl
7. Fish Bites

Overall: the snack menu is good but not amazing. However we will note that we weren't drunk and if we were, everything would probably taste 5 times better. If you're not buying food to share, just order three or four toasties and call it a night.

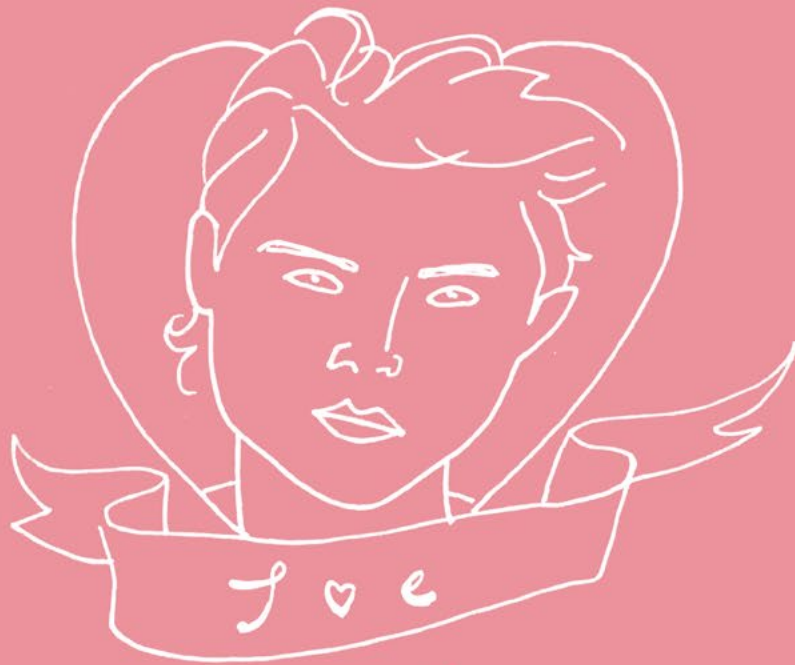
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We need to talk about Kevin... and Joe... and Nick.

By MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

The world of pop culture was shaken to its core earlier this year, with the reformation of iconic boy band, The Jonas Brothers. Following the release of Sucker, and a few hours of Twittering, I found myself experiencing a major identity crisis. Was Joe always this hot? Am I no longer a Nick girl? I wonder what did really happen to Kevin?

Since *Camp Rock* being released in 2008, boy bands have been a massive part of my pop culture awareness and coming-of-age. The Jo Bros came first, infiltrating my consciousness through Disney shows, movies and the *Burnin' Up* music video that blasted during commercial breaks (still a tune). *A Little Bit Longer* was one of the first CDs I bought, and The Jonas Brothers poster, one of the first posters I ripped out of a *Girlfriend* magazine. Though it may have changed post reunion, Nick was the love of my life and I was insanely jealous of anyone he was dating. Damn Miley. The breakup of the band, according to my mother, was the true source of my tween angst, where I cut my hair into a side fringe and wore black skinny jeans all summer. Are you cringing yet?

The Disney three-piece managed to prep my young brain for further consumption, so I was primed and ready when the British boys of One Direction burst onto the scene. I remember seeing *What Makes You Beautiful* at age 12, and feeling something very special stir deep in my soul. Until Year 11, One Direction were heavily featured on my iPod touch, not only in my music playlists, but also in fan-fic screenshots. I cried at their concerts, hung posters on my wall and talked at length, to my very bored family, about their lives. My best friend and I once sat through a 7 hour livestream for #1DDay, live tweeting the whole thing. It took me a long time to decide on my favourite, the top spot changing with each 'artistic' phase the band went through (*Gotta Be You* Harry is something I still dream about). The cheesy pop group were also the main subject of conversa-

tion with my friends, and I've managed to collect a fair amount of blackmailing material for 21st birthdays. We found out about Zayn's departure from the band on our way home from a phone-less school camp. It was a very quiet bus ride.

5 Seconds of Summer were also prevalent during this phase, my love blooming when the Aussie band opened for One Direction at Spark Arena, in 2013. They were SO punk rock and SO edgy, jamming on their electric guitars, in sleeveless Nirvana and Sex Pistols shirts. One of them even had blue hair. This was when my Tumblr career began, my dashboard filled with looping gifs and 'imagines'. When I wasn't admiring those gifs of Luke, Calum, Ashton and Michael, I was listening to curated playlists of the band's favourite music. I still know a lot of Blink 182. When my best friend and I went to their concert in 2015, we were the oldest in our row by a good few years. Maybe that was a little too much embarrassment for me to handle, because that concert marks the beginning of my abandonment from the boy band wagon.

Even though my boy band experience might seem extreme to those unfamiliar, it is definitely not unique. Famously, fangirl fainting has been going on since The Beatles. 'Beatlemania' ran rapid in the 1960s, with the Fab Four leading the British Invasion of the American music scene, tearing teenage hearts apart. The fandom was widespread. When the Liverpool lads visited Wellington in 1964, seven thousand fans waited for their arrival. One girl slashed her leg on a wire fence in an attempt to climb it. Witnesses have noted that when the boys stepped out of the plane, the screams of the crowd drowned out the sound of other aircraft engines. I don't know how many of you were at that One Direction concert in 2013, but I wouldn't be surprised if Auckland's Directioners managed to beat that. My camera microphone was blown and my ears were definitely ringing for days.

There is clearly a certain reaction that can be tracked through boy band fandom. Stereotypical representations of fans show screaming, crying teenage girls, losing their minds at the mere sight

of their pop culture gods in real life. These emotions are often eye-rolled in wider culture, with exasperation and frustration directed towards 'crazy fangirls'. I have definitely felt some shame in making recognition of my previous love for One Direction, due to negative perceptions about boy band fandom. I was scared of being mocked for a lack of intelligence or laughed at for extreme and 'unreasonable' behaviour. From the outside, the act of fangirling may seem ridiculous. In my case, outward actions of screaming and crying were definitely present, but that only touches the surface of the experience in a boyband fandom.

Fandom presents the opportunity to gain a new community. Millions of people share a common interest, opening up the possibility of discussion from many places around the globe. Using platforms like Tumblr, Twitter and Instagram, fans have a space to share their experiences and talk about things they love, which may not be present at school, work or home. Fandom has the power to connect people who may never have known each other and starts up enthusiastic discussions across the globe.

Boy band fandom also gives a space for expressions of emotion. At a concert and in places where you have the company of other fans, there isn't any shame in screaming, singing and crying. You know that so many people in that space are experiencing the same emotions. It's really cathartic to feel those feelings so loudly, with complete mutual understanding from your peers. It's a release of the energy that has been building during your quiet online and localised fandom activity. The emotion at a concert or fan meetup comes from making the community, and the stars who lead it, tangible. Suddenly, the contents of your Tumblr dashboard can be seen, heard and felt in real life, and instead of just reblogging you can add your voice to the crowd.

Finally, fandom allows for representations of people familiar to you. In online community, certain fans have garnered large followings within their selected fandoms. There has been a proliferation of fan YouTubers, such as colliscool (major 5SOS stan) and Mark Parsons (an One Direction animator). Many of these fans show themselves listening to new music or freaking out about a Twitter mention from their fave. Seeing someone lose all chill and show genuine excitement for something you love is incredibly comforting. It is important to see enthusiastic and shameless representations, especially if that behaviour is something you typically feel embarrassed about.

So why, when boy band fandom could bring about such positive experiences for so many people, do we roll our eyes and see a fannish behaviour as illegitimate and immature? One major reason is a general cultural distaste for any form of media that is closely tied to feminine expression. We are made uncomfortable by any allusion to the fact that young teenage girls have a sexuality, and have sexual feelings. Consequently, we giggle at girls who scream about these boys and don't take their emotions seriously. Boy band fandom gives young girls a space to express those feelings in a way that feels normal, but outside of that fandom, they can feel silly for their engagement in something that is culturally treated as worthless.

This doesn't mean there aren't criticisms to be made of boy bands. There are often problematic messages sent to young fans

“

We are made uncomfortable by any allusion to the fact that young teenage girls have a sexuality, and have sexual feelings.

”

through the medium of the boy band, and there is definitely some gross corporate hands behind their image. Sometimes fan communities themselves can produce toxicity, or perpetuate different troubling narratives of identity (gender, sexuality and race). Fans aren't unaware of these issues; they are often the first to call out these problems in the community. For example, the new film *After*, based on a Harry Styles fanfiction, has been torn apart in One Direction fan communities for promoting abusive relationships and outdated gender expectations. There is a perception that intense fandom is upheld by unthinking teenage girls with zero agency, with greedy corporations taking advantage of their mushy brains, but their unbridled authenticity and commitment to the boy band allows for complex engagement with issues of gender, sexuality and identity.

I might have written this article with a self-deprecating tone, and I can't honestly say I have no twinges of embarrassment when I reflect on this time in my life, but I hold so much fondness for the years I spent deeply involved with boy bands. They were a major part of my coming-of-age story, and allowed bursts of expression and emotion in turbulent teenage years. Retrospectively, I can recognise where this embarrassment comes from; a cultural shaming of feminine expression. I hope that now, with *The Rise of The Jo Bros* (I'm expecting a Netflix doco at some point), we can take teenage girls a little more seriously, and maybe embrace the emotional liberation they've become experts in.

The Ultimate Boy Band Playlist (for your listening and viewing pleasure):

Twist and Shout – The Beatles: If it's good enough for Ferris, it's good enough for me.

Back for Good – Take That: Some great Gary Barlow close ups in this rainy, black and white music video.

Drowning – Backstreet Boys: I want Howie's leather pants. Good for karaoke.

Lovebug – The Jonas Brothers: Super nostalgic, peak for Nick girls.

Boyfriend– Big Time Rush ft. Snoop Dog: JB could never.

More Than This – One Direction: Looking out of a car window kind of song.

Talk Fast – 5 Seconds of Summer: An 80's inspired synth jam, would fit into season 3 of *Stranger Things*.

DNA – BTS: Wow, ground breaking recommendation.

Summer on You – PRETTYMUCH: Bubble gum pop and well-dressed cuties.

Listen to Madeleine's full 'Ultimate Boyband playlist' by following 'Crac-cum Mag' on Spotify.

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FROM THE TEAM AT
AUSA



The Greatest Hits of the AUSA Lost Property Sale

By CAMERON LEAKEY and LACHLAN MITCHELL

Come one, come all, come rummage through someone's lost scarves! AUSA held their annual lost property sale last week and the hoards came flooding in. In the immortal words of Ariana Grande "I've loved and I've lost", and I'm sure she was referencing all the items she lost in the middle of OGGB, like the various sunglasses with prescription lenses that seemingly get lost every year. Several members of the team went along in the spirit of Reduce! Reuse! Recycle! however what we found, was both slightly disappointing, but also slightly fantastic.

I purchased myself a macbook charger for \$20. I should note I didn't need one, but the last time I had to buy one it was like \$140 new and I just don't have the income to give to the corporate overload. Lachlan himself purchased an iPhone cable and a lime green phone bank - all worthy purchases. **[Editor's Note: And pragmatic too!]** The tech station was where everyone was crowding - for 10am on a dreary and wet Tuesday morning, it was the party that never stopped popping.

There was a huge box filled with USB drives sitting on the middle of the table, and after rummaging through them, we decided to purchase two random ones and find out what was on them. Lachlan's Bugs Bunny USB turned out to contain someone's statistics assignment from 2016. Someone might have failed that paper. But that's okay, because it's a beautiful flash drive. My wooden USB turned out to have some engineer's shit on it, I assume they lost their flash drive long before they lost their virginity. Ultimately, not a win.

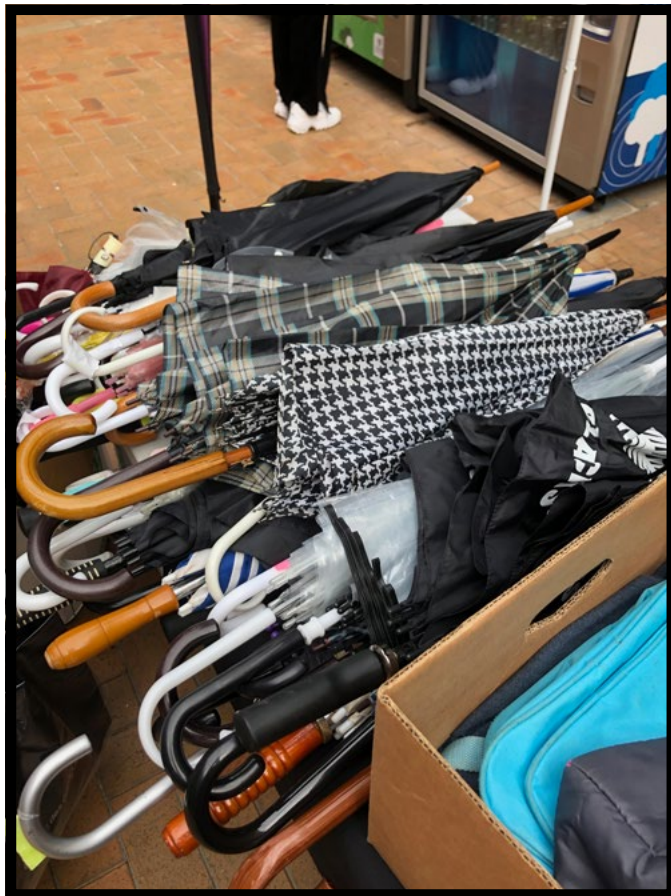
Otherwise, we couldn't get a great look at everything that was in the sale, because people were just crowding around the table trying to get access to the only EFTPOS machine AUSA had. We figured

feature.

our journalistic needs were outweighed by the needs of the people to access cheap used calculators with scratchings all over the inside cover. Ultimately, if you're in the market for someone's old grotty sneakers, the various scarves and singular lavalava, or one of many lost umbrellas, then you were in luck. Although I highly recommend just finding an umbrella left behind in a lecture theatre and taking it with you like I did in my second year. Someone also seemed to have lost a broadband modem, which is a strange thing to lose on campus, but no stranger than the 'genuine' jewellery for sale.

In the spirit of the AUSA Lost Property Sale, we've made a playlist, now available on @craccum_mag's spotify

It's Raining Men - Geri Halliwell | Lost without you - Delta Goodrem | Sweater Weather - The Neighbourhood | My Calculator - Zowie | Love-fool - The Cardigans | Forgotten - Avril Lavigne | Umbrella - Rihanna | What Goes Around, Comes Around - Justin Timberlake | Material Girl - Madonna | You Found Me - The Fray |



MY FACE WHEN I SAW ALL THE LOST PROPERTY AVAILABLE





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CHRIS PARKER - ICONIQUE | BAILLEY VERRY

10/10: *More iconic than Justin and Britney's double denim*

Chris Parker is unapologetically camp to! the! max! in his latest show. The show revolving around wanting to be an iconic figure as he completely embraces his sexuality and all the stereotypes that go along with it. Musical comedy is crafted into the show, with an energetic musical intro setting the tone for the unwavering energy throughout the show. The jokes come thick and fast about life as a millennial and trying to make it through your twenties. Prop comedy served as the glue that held the show together, with a back and forth with an Amazon Alexa served as a nice transition between bits.

I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of physical comedy that was used, which just added another dimension to the already packed act. His bit of imitating sex with the Alexa on stage was hilariously uncomfortable to watch because of how much he committed and didn't break character. But the real highlight was his ode to the iconic Patti Lupone who serves as the inspiration to his final number.

After appearing on *Jono and Ben*, Parker shows that while he can entertain through the screen, he can enthrall on stage. His five shows at this year's comedy festival were sold out well ahead of performance with another show being added on May 21st. It is possibly the gayest thing you will see all year and it's amazing.



THE BIG SHOW 2019 | LACHLAN MITCHELL

Ratings Varied

The Big Show is one of the largest draws for the New Zealand International Comedy Festival - given how each and every seat was filled, this year was certainly no different. Drunk fucks were a'plenty. Given the multiple performers, I feel it is best to review them separately.

Tom Houghton: The host of sorts, he did a good job of walking the line between warmth and comedic condescension - eventually getting the crowd to warm up after 15 minutes of ripping on the Propah Posh (always a good target), and returning every so often after each act left. **6/10**

Brennan Reece: Half his act seemed to be lost in the interactions with hecklers, but this wasn't a drawback - turning a drunken comment from one heckler about wanting to fuck one of the other heckler's offspring into a running joke, no one else challenged him. His content about his sister was good too. **8/10.**

Chris Henry: Hideous vest, great act stoking NZ's insecurities about needing to be liked and our godawful drug availability re: cocaine. **7/10**

Eleanor Tiernan: She's Irish so yeah she was gonna win, but did some of the first original Trump administration jokes in a while. Hysterical laughter from a brilliantly crafted Sean Hannity/Mecca joke. **9/10**

Alistair Barrie: The show ran overly long so I had to ditch near the end and catch my ferry, but I wasn't missing much. Summary: Ah Fuck, The Shackle That Is Me Wife. Oh, How Women Just Stifle Me. **3/10.**



JAMES ACASTER - COLD LASAGNE HATE MYSELF 1999 | NATHANIEL PEACOCK

9/10: *Uncomfortably Funny*

Headlining this year's Comedy Festival, wonderfully weird comedian James Acaster returns to the country he loves. This time he swears. Known for his whimsical tales, sticky situations and distinct craftsmanship, Acaster's act intersects creativity and narrative with wizardry unseen in the comedy realm.

After writing a book full of the ridiculous situations he finds himself in and filming a four-part Netflix special, James is touring his new show about the worst year of his life. This well-crafted show toys with the audience's sympathies as Acaster recounts heart wrenching moments in a way where you have to question when it's appropriate to laugh or gasp. With his quirky voice and lanky limbs, Acaster stalks the stage with magnetic physical comedy. This enables bleak topics, like abusive therapists and managers, to lose their harsh edges. Unexpectedly, Acaster was very willing to talk with audience members and stray far from his routine. Most notably, he referred to a rude patron as a cannibal. Additionally, James was constantly acknowledging crowds reacted to certain punchlines in comparison to other countries. He commented on our similarity to Canada, due to both our accents being mistaken for belonging to a more obnoxious country. At points, Acaster tried to put on a Kiwi accent with questionable results. However this was eclipsed by hilariously accurate portrayals of humble "tall poppy" Kiwis.

James Acaster crafts his routines with such precision, so then perform them so naturally. I highly recommend watching his four-part Netflix special "Repertoire" to see yourself.



SNORT WITH FRIENDS | OLIVER ROBERTS-SWAIN

10/10: *Where everyone is as funny as Phoebe*

I'll be honest. I didn't expect to enjoy *Snort with Friends* anywhere near as much as I did. I haven't been to many comedy shows, but even I knew an 11:30pm billing at The Basement Theatre is hardly a headliner. Turns out I didn't get the memo. The place was packed.

It quickly became clear to me that this was not like any comedy show I had seen before. Essentially, a special guest from the Comedy Gala would come on stage for a comedic monologue about a topic given by the audience, and then the cast of *Snort* would come on and perform about 15 minutes of rip-roaring improv scenes inspired by the monologue. As such, they promise a completely different show every night, and boy did they deliver.

The guests were top notch, but the real stars of the show were the improv cast. It wasn't long before they were acting out Principles having inappropriate relations with playground equipment and restaurant owners physically abusing their customers. One particular scene involving Brynlee Stent and Chris Parker as Russian spies planning to take over New Zealand had the audience in stitches.

The show clocked in at 50 mins, which to me felt a little short. This is perhaps a testament to its quality, as the blistering pace and sheer absurdity made the time fly.

Snort have a show every Friday night at 10pm at the Basement Theatre. Could not recommend more.



UP/DOWN – CORI GONZALEZ-MACUER | EVE NETHERLANDS

Rating Not Applicable

Cori Gonzalez-Macuer makes his return to the New Zealand International Comedy Festival with his show *Up/Down* after a three-year hiatus. Adding a mental health dialogue in the middle of the show, Cori makes a heartfelt, poignant plea rooted in a deeply personal story, urging people to seek out help if their mental health needs require it.

Cori Gonzalez is a funny comedian. When he begins to relax on stage, he produces jokes that have the audience in stitches. But here he struggles to find his confidence – naturally the result of tackling such a difficult topic.

For the comedy portion of the show, Cori appeared barely rehearsed, and his jokes were hit-and-miss as he struggled to connect with his audience. Perhaps it was the looming expectation of the mental health interlude that dimmed the mood, as when that segment passed, the audience enjoyed the set more with the relief of tension.

While disguised within loose-fitting jokes and stop-and-flow comedic dialogue, at its centre, it was evident Cori Gonzalez-Macuer wanted to share a personal tragedy with his audience above all else. You might choose to question why he did so, after such a long time since his tragedy, and also why he decided it was necessary to disguise his thoughts within a comedy set.

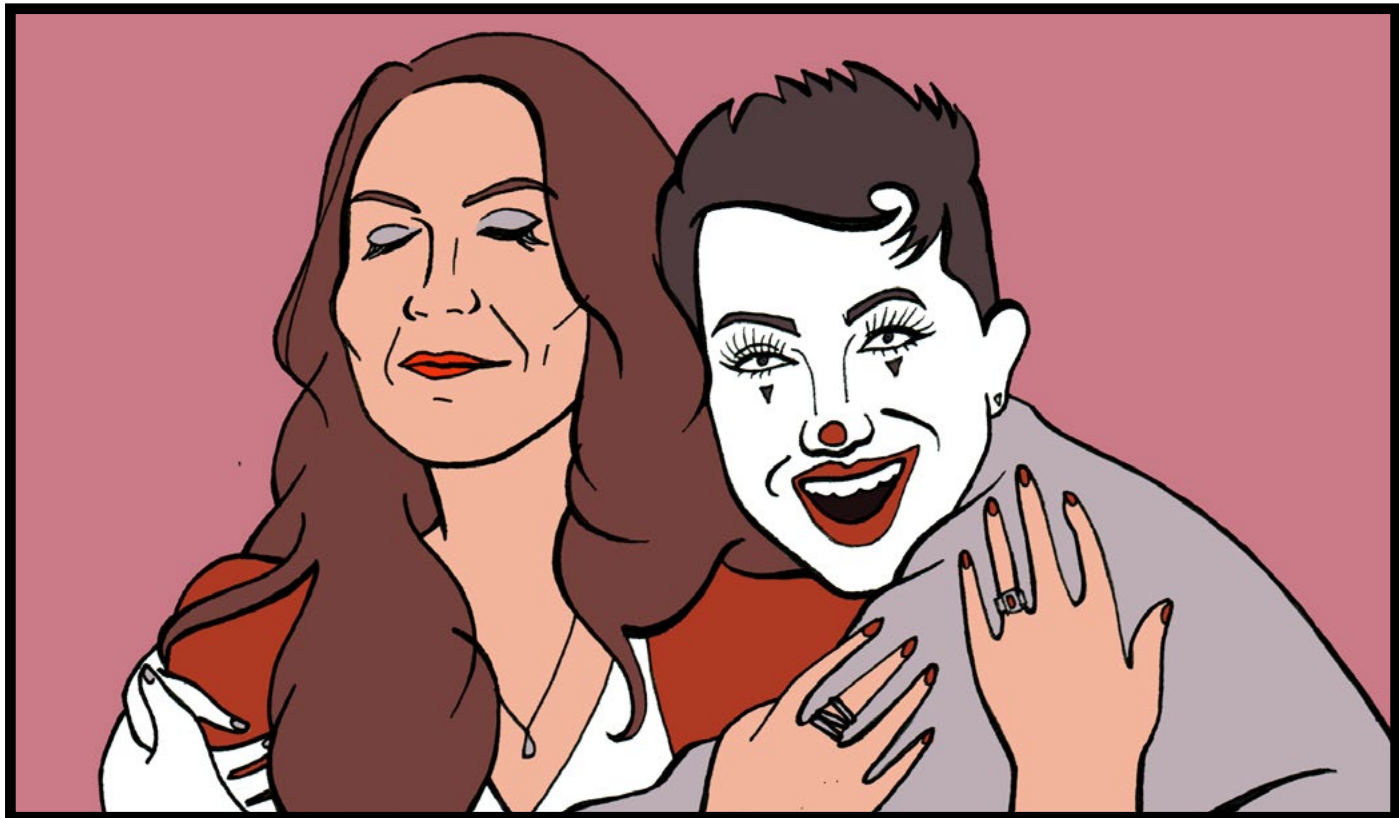
But that's not my place to answer. Fundamentally, there's no sugarcoating that it's a mental health dialogue more than a comedy show, and because of this, I have chosen not to give the show a rating.



MYTH AND LEGEND – ELI MATTHEWSON | CAMERON LEAKEY

9/10: *'It's Athena, bitch'*

Ten years ago, Eli Matthewson finished a Bachelor of Arts in Classics and now he's finally getting to use it. Performed at the Basement Theatre as part of the 2019 New Zealand International Comedy Festival, Matthewson's new show *Myths and Legends* was fucking hilarious. Filled with gay humour, millennial angst and a healthy dose of classics knowledge, Matthewson performs a well paced and well written show, although *Myths and Legends* finds itself a bit manic towards the end, this serves its purposes well as Matthewson's millennial struggles emerge. Highlights of the show include his run down of the greek gods, a group of reality show gods living on a mountain, and his quirky illustrations on the powerpoint, which are pretty brilliant really. Matthewson is a regular at the Basement, having performed *Exes* several months earlier, as well as being a staple at *Snort*, the Friday night improv comedy show. *Myths and Legends* now proves that Matthewson has the comedy props to stand on his one – not just with the *Snort* ensemble. The show's run is now finished but upon its return season, it's well worth a watch.



Et tu, Tati?

LACHLAN MITCHELL

As someone who has little interest in Youtubers and beauty culture and influencers in general, to say I am uneducated on their shit is but a mere understatement on the topic. I only know most of them through their scandals – ‘jokingly’ promoting Holocaust denial, throwing around the n word, fucking their own CATS (like???) and so on and so forth. When you’re getting all that coin from selling prohibitively expensive self-empowerment materials to teenage girls, I suppose you just have to find a way to fill your off hours – spreading your seed in the hopes that some drama will sprout and bring in ad revenue, or in the case of Shane Dawson, spreading your seed on your cat’s stomach.

So, while I had no idea who Tati Westbrook was, I knew who James Charles was. It’d be kinda hard not to, Imao. Ever since the tombstone-toothed gremlin had his first Ebola scandal after about two weeks of riding high as the first male face of Covergirl, he’s been a delicious fixture of mockery across the Twittersphere. That seems like a bygone era, given the current issues of sexual harassment and predatory behaviour and so forth. This is stuff I’ve involuntarily kept

up with via my timeline, but not anything I’ve investigated, since I’m about as interested in his daily affairs as I am in developing super gonorrhoea. Have you ever read up on super gonorrhoea? Jesus Christ, right? If you don’t care at all about Youtuber nonsense, drop what you’re doing and investigate the spine-chiller that is super gonorrhoea. One Rhythm & Vines festival gone wrong and society is fucking done for. Anyway, this content just seemed to be typical of James Charles, and

to an extent, the people that the MUA industry chooses to support.

So while I didn't have any initial interest in watching *BYE SISTER...* on Tati Westbrook's channel, as I was sufficiently pleased that the titular sister had been led out of the stable and into the slaughterhouse on Twitter, my editor was like 'No, please, I promise you'll enjoy it, even if you don't know who Tati is'. So, having abandoned my lecture and mentally prepped myself for the dreariness of having some Shads legally-defined-as-edible food with David Seymour later in the evening, I got some overpriced Sea Salt popcorn from Munchy Mart, made some extra strength blueberry green tea, and you know what? She wasn't wrong.

If I could summarise the 43-minute video and be done with it, I would say this. Tati Westbrook said *FUCK* that cretin. She straightened her hair, got out her flowery pantsuit, and pushed him out of the window of Winterfell. From a purely catty gay point of view, it was what I had been promised.

Again, as someone who just stays away from this side of the internet in the same way I avoid Tauranga, it was a very interesting video. The deliciously gossipy and brutal content is in and of itself very entertaining, which borders on *schadenfreude*, I suppose. It ranges from reflecting on his status as a sexual predator and the realisation that her wedding video is forever tainted by his presence, to outright telling his mother to come to LA and pick up her kids. I laughed! Sorry! But she did put that information out there :(And to her credit, it is done in a very professional manner, preferring to not delve into one-sentence 'slams' and instead talking like a mature 37-year-old, one that realises her age and the responsibilities and boundaries that the burden of time entails. Westbrook presents a very reflective persona. She doesn't monetise the video either – basic PR, but it seems that so little in the industry have that basic PR sense nowadays. And on the surface, it seems like a thorough rejection of all that James Charles represents.

And yet... one wonders why it took James Charles promoting a rival product over hers for such an indictment to finally

take place. It just kept sitting in the back of my head throughout those 43 minutes. While she does thoroughly explain her viewpoint, that she chose to talk to him in private and repudiate his various shortcomings in a closed sphere, it begs the question of why 'vitamin gummies' were the flame that set Tati Westbrook alight. It's not as if this stuff is undocumented – the LGBT community has been rejecting him like a botched liver transplant for three years, let alone the complaints from various black communities about him and the highly similar figures that surround him (Jeffree Star, Manny Mua and so forth), like bubonic plague linking up with its septicemic and pneumonic variants. Like, surely any reasonable person would have cut oneself off from a guy who bragged about what was legally considered sexual coercion. If these problems were so dire, and he was so unchanging, why not release this before? Why not distance yourself if the actions of some 19-year-old millionaire rat were so troubling?

And I suppose this betrays the earnest quality and the professionalism of the video. I mean, that quality was lost when Shane Dawson was mentioned and she didn't comment on him fucking his dog, but you know what I mean. As delicious as the gossip in this video is, and as much as James Charles deserves it, it seems... fraudulent. It gains a second status as an insight into the insincerity of these people – the idea that this video is merely about protecting the brand that she promoted in the last few minutes of the video, and not about removing oneself from the influence of the various racists, predators and otherwise insufferable pricks that plague this developing industry. And I mean, I'm not surprised. I'm out of touch, but not so out of touch with that world that I don't recognise these things. And I don't think anyone else is so blind as to not see that either. The video betrays itself, but it also betrays the inevitable 'we need to do better' attitude that will be promoted by the industry in order to disassociate itself from the fallen star, like the rush to kick out Kevin Spacey but still treating Woody Allen like the undisputed paedophile auteur of modern cinema.

It's not like this will significantly affect James Charles in the long run, I think. Because the most tragic aspect of this – not to take on any 'think of the children' moralising – is that his audience are primarily comprised of young teenagers that don't yet have the education that we do about this kind of behaviour, and through no fault of their own, will fail to see the big deal and eventually normalise him back into success. The point isn't even that such behaviour will go largely unpunished, it's the idea that even if it was, there are so many other people that are just as vile that will not have the blowback that James Charles is currently getting. I guess my point is that you have to keep this same energy of condemnation for all the vermin involved in the rat king, not just the one that it is socially profitable to laugh at.

“
As delicious as the gossip in this video is, and as much as James Charles deserves it, it seems... fraudulent.

”



Hi, um... I made a playlist for you x (or Sherry digs into her Spotify to pull out the playlists of ex-girlfriends to get another byline)

SHERRY ZHANG

I started getting crushes on people from a very young age. Um... Year Two to be exact. He had brown hair, was really good at soccer, and all the other girls liked him too.

High school only increased the frequency. My lack of spine, and desperate yearning to be liked meant I once had the whole discography of Coldplay on my iPod shuffle. I don't know how much I actually liked Coldplay. I don't know how much I actually liked The Smiths and the Velvet Underground. Except with the unbridled knowledge that was what the moody floppy-haired boys I liked listened to. I ran a tumblr blog of all the indie band boys I swooned over: Alex Turner <3.

I've mixed it up with some actual personal favourites (to show character development):

Playlist one: It's 2013 & ur never actually going to talk to the cute boy in jazz band

1. **Sunday Morning** by The Velvet Underground
2. **Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now** by The Smiths
3. **Under Cover of Darkness** by The Strokes
4. **Girls Like You** by The Naked and Famous
5. **God Put a Smile Upon Your Face** by Coldplay
6. **Childhood's End** by Majical Cloudz
7. **Retrograde** by James Blake
8. **Where Is My Mind?** by Pixies

9. **Arabella** by Arctic Monkeys
10. **Easy Easy** by King Krule
11. **Obvious Bicycle** by Vampire Weekend
12. **Baby** by Devendra Banhart

In an expected turn of events, my infatuations gave no fucks to gender boundaries. My first girlfriend and I would write love letters to each other in stats class: very cute! Before we were even brave enough to admit our feelings to each other, she wrote me a playlist on this scrap piece of lime-green-milkshake coloured card. Big shout out to S.W, sorry for breaking your heart when we were 16!

Playlist two: S.W my first love x

1. **Venus** by The Feelers
2. **Laura** by Bat for Lashes
3. **Pillow Talk** by Wild Child
4. **Conversation 16** by The National
5. **Keep the Streets Empty for Me** by Fever Ray
6. **Clementine** by Sarah Jaffe
7. **Wild World** by Yusuf/Cat Stevens
8. **Keep Me High** by Adaline
9. **Silk** by Giselle
10. **Werewolf** by Fiona Apple
11. **Blush** by Wolf Alice

Then I was seventeen, and I had another girlfriend. How did I find myself another one? I don't know. Perhaps going to the largest high school in Australasia gave me a larger sample pool. My way of flirting with M.M was by asking what her favourite 1975 song was, smooth Sherry. Fucking smooth. I also got my heart broken for the first time, and thank god Lorde released Melodrama when she did.

Playlist three: M.M It's all g we met up for our post-break up coffee last month

1. **Exchange** by Bryson Tiller
2. **Don't** by Bryson Tiller
3. **Bang Bang** by Lawrence Taylor
4. **Oceans** by Seafret
5. **Ladies Hit Squad** by Skepta
6. **Simple Things** by Miguel
7. **Coffee** by Miguel
8. **Bed Peace** by Jhene Aiko
9. **Loving Someone** by The 1975
10. **Rum Rage** by Sticky Fingers
11. **Notion** by Tash Sultana
12. **Liability** by Lorde

The third heartbreak. More adult now! Hurts more and less at the same time, because you know you can pick yourself up again, but man, your chest is tired! Big shaka brah to the girls on my debate team in Dunners when shit went up the fan!! (who all offered to send me their post-breakup playlists). A Fun Fact: for those who read my column last year, the start and end of this relationship is now immortalised in Craccum, so thanks UoA!

Playlist four: Sometimes you'll never get the post-break up coffee you want.

1. **Medicine** by Daughter
2. **C'est la vie** by Tinashe
3. **11 Hours (Branchez Remix)** by Wet
4. **Talia** by King Princess
5. **My Life** by Zhu/Tame Impala
6. **One More** by Yaeji
7. **No One** by Mothica (Kayge Calypso & Dunn Remix)

8. **Agnes** by Glass Animals
9. **Problems** by Petite Biscuit/Lido
10. **Say it First** by Sam Smith
11. **New York** by St. Vincent
12. **Move On** by Garden City Movement

I haven't really been single for more than a few months since my first relationship of 16. I haven't not been pining over someone, or absent of butterfly crushes since my first one on Orlando Bloom: aged 6.

This year I'm going to be aggressively single, 2k19.

But I'm an overly romantic ENFP Virgo with Gemini moon rising. It's a lesson I didn't think I needed to swallow until I drunk called my summer-fling. She replied, all the way from Adelaide: "okay Sherry it sounds like your love with the idea of being in love with people, and you are doing a shit job of being single." And like any good student magazine editor, she hung up and sent me an article on how she learnt to let go. (Bailey take notes: this is how I expect editors of Uni magazines to shut me down when I drunk hotline bling them).

But she was right. It was a kick up my bum that I needed to be young, and spend some time figuring and cementing myself, by myself. I commend all the high-school sweethearts and completed wholes out there, but I did not get Spotify Premium to make break-up playlist after breakup playlist.

1. **Wind** by Emmit Fenn
- xx



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Q's with Kate: Getting our ethical on

ELOISE YOUNG

Kate Hall in an online eco-friendly lifestyle adviser who is passionate about helping people live a more ethical, planet-friendly day-to-day life.

Since Kate and I couldn't do this interview in person, we both had to visualize sitting on some grass, enjoying the calming effects of a chill conversation while being surrounded by nature and sipping on some tea.

I really wanted to get to the beginning of Kate's journey; I wanted to find out what made her say 'fuck this' to plastic and the other human-made products that damage the earth. When I asked what flipped the switch, Kate said, "I watched the documentary *The True Cost* in August 2015. After asking who made my clothes, I couldn't help but then ask 'who makes my food?' 'Where does my waste go?' It all snowballed from there."

Turns out documentaries aren't just informative, they make you question your life and all the wrongful purchases you've made... yay.

I then asked Kate why she felt compelled to share her thoughts and discoveries with the world by setting up *Ethically Kate*;

she simply replied, "I have never been a social media person, I laughed at influencers, and still do!" Kate explained that she was about "doing rather than sharing," but once she did start sharing she realised that a lot of people were really interested in what she had to say.

For Kate, it's definitely not the fame that drives her, it's the environment and what bringing people together can do to help it. Kate said, "I'm constantly inspired by how freaking beautiful the world is. I want to keep hold of the platform I have grown to keep on protecting this beautiful planet."

As someone who hides behind my writing, I couldn't help but ask how Kate felt having thousands of people looking to her for advice. Kate said, "Often [I feel] intimidated, sometimes confused. I laugh about it a lot because I consider myself a mere human being and sometimes wonder why people are listening."

But even through all the scariness and intimidation, what Kate does is really motivating and informative to her audience. One of the things I really admire about Kate is she knows that with great influence comes great responsibility (couldn't help busting out the Spiderman line... no shame).

Kate said, "I realise what I say and do, people now follow. That's really scary: I know we're not perfect, but it still means I have to be more careful about what I say and do."

Though striving to be waste-free is important, it is worth noting that it doesn't mean ridding yourself of previously purchased belongings that are damaging to the environment.

"I still totally have waste in my life. Unless I throw away my belongings (which is unsustainable), and went and lived out in the wop-wops, I will always have waste around" said Kate.

When embarking on a more sustain-

able lifestyle journey, don't go nuts trying to start all over again. Even if you take on the 'No, get that plastic poison shit away from me!' attitude (Which I'm totally guilty of), it doesn't mean you should throw away all your plastic containers- it just means, in Kate's experience "being conscious of everything I buy, everything I do, and how it impacts people, planet, and me."

And when starting off, Kate says it's best to "Stick to one change at a time, don't take on several. Baby steps are sustainable."

When I asked Kate, "So I noticed you're not vegan...any comments on that?" she said, "I'd rather not talk about this topic", clearly knowing it was dangerous territory.

So rather than talking about it, Kate left me with a question that I too implore you to think about: "if I encouraged 1000 people to stop eating meat one day a week, would that be better than if I went 100% vegan?"

I then asked Kate what her favorite David Attenborough series is and why (a question we all think about).

Kate said, "I love *Our Planet* because it's so fresh and relevant. The videography is incredible. It's really relatable to the *now*. They focus on the positive as well as the negative, too."

I for one was stoked since *Our Planet* is also my favorite and for all the reasons Kate mentioned, along with the fact that there's a polar bear in it and of course that velvet Attenborough voice.

I was also comforted to find that I'm not the only one with shameful 'waste-free girl' moments.

When Kate spilt the beans and told me about the time she "had a business meeting on Friday and ordered a smoothie with no plastic straw", they still gave it to her "in a takeaway cup, even though they weren't busy." And even though she clearly explained plastic was a no go.

Some people really don't understand the concept of listening... I feel ya' Kate- the struggle is beyond real.

I finally asked Kate the most important question (sorry David Attenborough), about why she believes humans should do all they can to save the planet.

Kate said, "we are the dominant species, and we are doing most of the fucking up. We are conscious and moral beings. We've taken advantage of other species and wildlife, and that shouldn't be okay."

"Also it's not a matter of stepping in to 'save the day', it's more like a 'cleaning up our mess because we just have to'."

My conversation with Kate is one I don't think I'll ever forget. It was so enlightening and also comforting to have a chat with someone who has the same environmental values as myself.

Kate not only makes you think about current society and the ethical options out there, she inspires people to do better, stop and smell the flowers, and have a couple good yarns along the way.

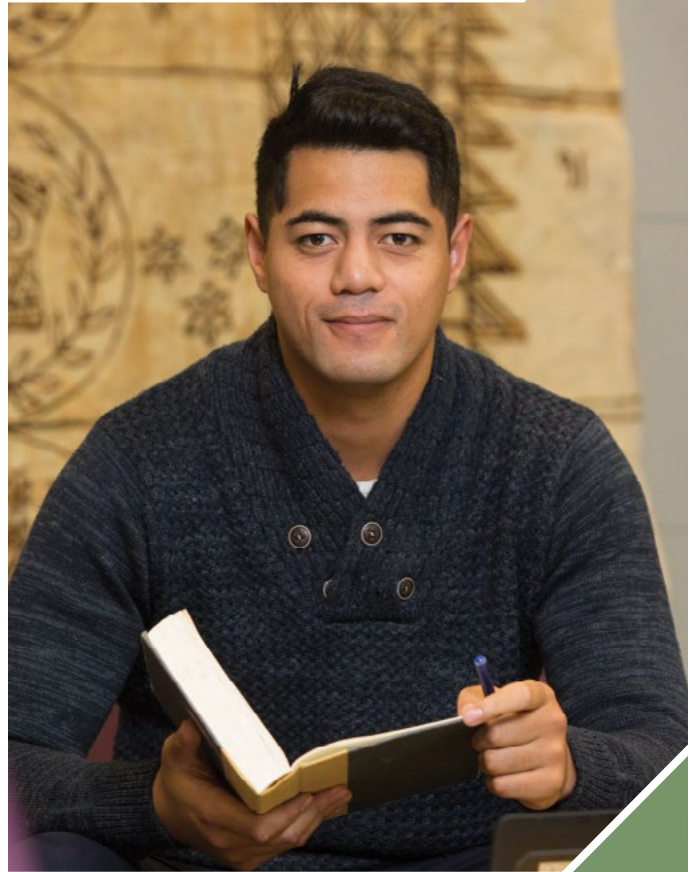
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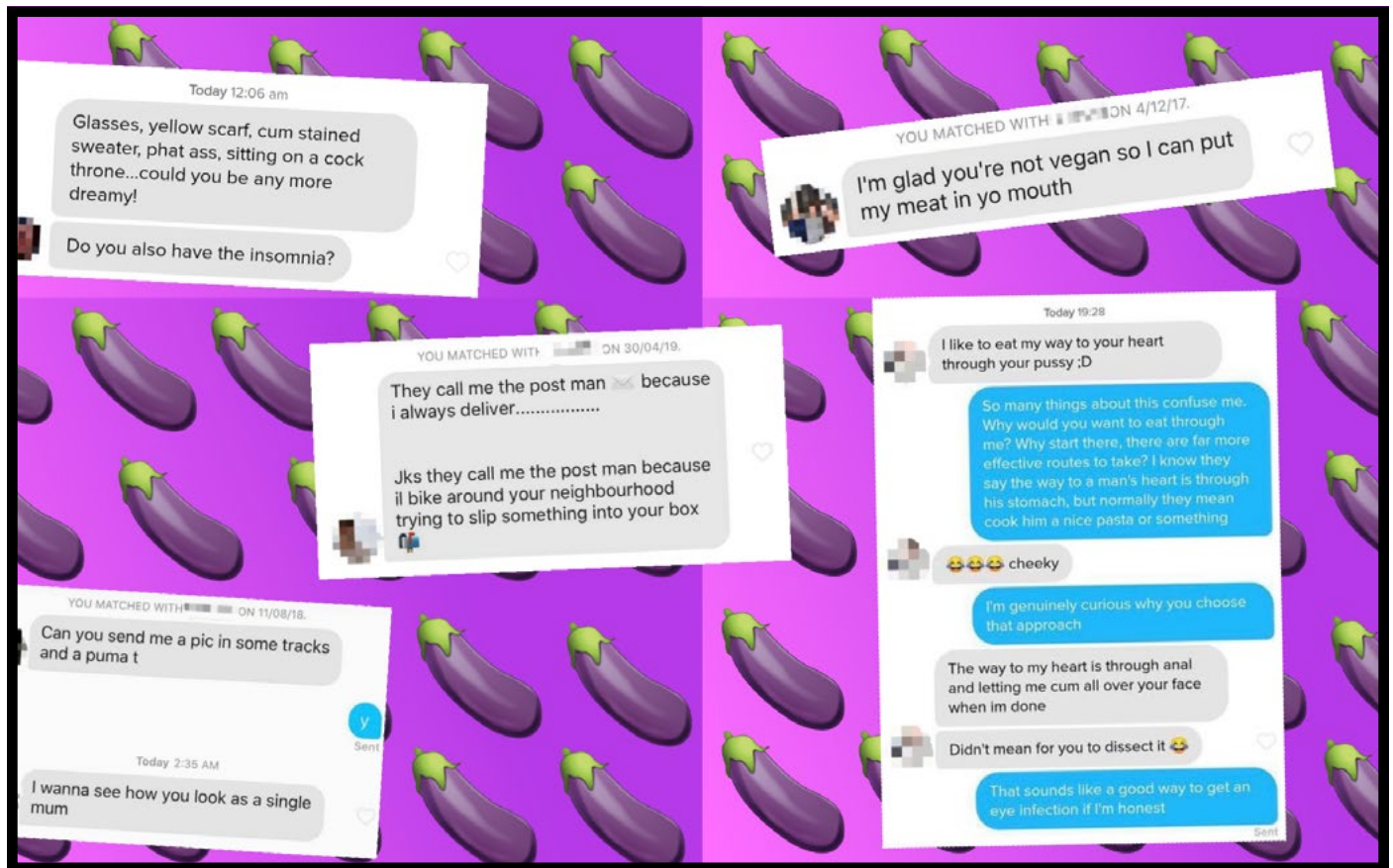
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The role of 'dating online' in self-forming identities

LILLY HARPER

It's midnight on a Friday, you're 18 years old and living at Uni Hall. You're sculling Scrumpy and chanting Fergalicious with your friends. Life is good.

Your phone dings twice. You have two Tinder notifications. You slam your Scrumpy down on your Uni Hall desk to check your phone. Aha, you have matched with two of your fellow floor members! Immediately, you receive a message from both of them in unison. It's the purple devil emoji followed with a question mark. You know what they want. You send one a winky face. The other, you send a thumbs down. The night's events commence...

Many of you will be able to interpret these messages. Some of you may not.

Online dating apps have fashioned

their own unique vocabulary, most including the overuse of the eggplant and donut emojis. The conversations had on dating apps are unlike any conversation you'll have in real life, yet they sort of help you find your own voice in an online space. Surprisingly beneficial, these conversations build up your CV of dealing with freaky people; they are what prepares you for the inevitable awkwardness of real-life communication. Dating apps also help you curate a list of personalised GIFs for different occasions. VITAL life skills being developed here.

My own experience in matching and

receiving messages on dating apps has been mixed; like many, I've been the target of on-line trolls and pervs. Some messages that I have received in the past paint a picture of a grotesque and shameless space where both men and women troll their peers to their hearts content.

Here are 5 examples of some REAL vomit-inducing dm's straight from some of my friends' inboxes:

- 'I have a dirty question haha. Would you let me go down on you? Haha'. (as if the Haha's made this any less creepy)
- 'What ethnicity are you? (heart eyes emoji)'. (first of all why? second of all, no!)
- 'OMG YOU ARE HUSBAND MATERIAL' (why)
- 'Are you French? Because it's safe to say Eiffel for you'. (0/10 pick up line, wow)

And the final one from my very own inbox, extracted from old screenshots...

- 'There once was a girl named Lilly, who rode on a horse named Billy. She went into town and looked all around to find herself a big, huge Willy. You're welcome.'

After reading these messages, you can't be innocent again - you've experienced some of the worst of what single life has to offer. However, you are now equipped with some asshole spotting skills, and you learn quickly what you find 'endearing' and what you find 'rotted'. Once again, props to you, Tinder, for helping single people everywhere reach a point of self-loathing, wondering if there is anyone decent even left on this damn app (there might be like 3 or 4).

I've been able to develop certain personal communication skills through conversing with many different people about their interests. Talking to weirdos online has helped me in the real world, when someone approaches me at the bus stop and asks me if 'I've seen the Light' or if someone catcalls me from their car. I have a greater understanding of the sheer number of weirdos that must be walking the streets, so accepting them has become easier for me.

Messaging on dating apps also sets you up for the rejection you're bound to experience in your professional and personal life. YOU can decide if they're ghosting you because:

- You wouldn't immediately sleep with them

OR

- They're silent because 'thEy neEd to juSt focUs on thElr sTUDies riGHt noW'

Online dating has also somehow made me better at saying no to people; a thing I've often found difficult in my life. A practice I would often fail at; saying no on dating apps, gave me the power I needed in my personal life to say no to things I'd felt pressured into in the past like 'friends with benefits' or 'pineapple on pizza'.

Saying no can sometimes come in the form of removing someone from snapchat, blocking a profile on tinder or straight up calling someone out for being an obnoxious asshole. This is probably a cake walk for the normal person, but for someone who has a problem with disappointing people, carrying out these actions helps establish control in who I communicate with and how I choose to be spoken to by strangers online.

However, dating apps and the experiences you have with them is mostly in your hands. You decide what kind of person you match with, and how far you choose to take the experience. It can also be a totally negative experience, where you find yourself obsessing over pictures and a few lines of information, otherwise known as a 'bio'. In managing yourself in an online space, where people are most likely lying to you, where people are presenting the absolute most attractive aspects of themselves and nothing else, you must have some tenacity and persistence.

Considering the good and bad, wandering through the online dating realm can be quite liberating for a person who feels trapped in within who they already know, or how people in their life perceive them. Dating apps allow you to explore every facet of yourself, as you can meet people who change your perspectives in a mostly anonymous space.

“
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Keara Ofren reviews Māori Kitchen

Year 9, Ngaruawahia Marae. We were lining up to meet a wharekai filled with the toasty, brothy aroma of roasted vegetables and meat. I take another bite and get reminded of a smashed baby potato brunch. Time machine? Harry Potter portkey? Nope. All from a humble hangi sandwich!

Māori Kitchen is a food truck fixture located by Queen's Wharf by the ferry terminal. Welcomed by warm and friendly staff, you are also welcome to watch the screen by the food truck to see the hangi process in action. You needn't spend a fortune for fresh ingredients and a cooking craft perfected over generations, our very own tangata whenua hold the key to this direction in the future of farm to table food.

Hangi is a Māori technique used to cook food in a kind of earth oven, using the heat and steam of hot stones to cook meat and root vegetables. This is similar to the Polynesian umu.

Firewood and volcanic stones are placed in a deep earth pit and baskets of food are placed on top of the rocks to cook. Hangi takes around 3 hours to cook, this ensures the food is thoroughly cooked and tender while holding a rich flavour.

Like the Magic School Bus or the Wild Thornberries' combi, a humble and homely front can often be the start of an international experience as I was to find out:

Hangi Sandwich (\$12)

This was hangi meat, I chose chicken with smashed baby potatoes which came with a watercress and beetroot salad and Asian style-dressing inside a sourdough bun. What surprised me and made this stand out from most hangi I have tried was that the chicken was crispy as it would be in a slow roast or being lightly fried. Then there were the crispy smashed potatoes a-la-Cuisine-Magazine or Parnell brekky, herby and gourmet but still had the nostalgic taste of a chip butty*. And the cherry on top, or rather, the salad on top; the watercress salad which had a sesame-like taste and was a sweet homage to the 1970s NZ dinner side dish

staple of puha- watercress. The bun's flavour reminded me of mashed potato, could this be rewana bread?** On the whole, very tasty. Don't let the name 'sandwich' fool you, this was as filling as a heavy burger for me!

Pie (Part of a \$7 meal combo)

Usually, when you bite into a pie, it's kinda... soupy ~~aka my brain at an 8am lecture~~ but this was not like that. Golden, flaky pastry covering big chunks of hangi vegetables and tender meat. This is not some stew of reconstituted thingys you'd see in the frozen aisle at the supermarket. This was a meal in a golden pie, the El Dorado of pies.

Taha (Part of the \$7 pie combo)

We were told that this was a kind of Māori ginger beer. The taste reminded me of those Chi drinks meets honey, meets apple, meets kiwifruit. More fruity than gingery and very refreshing.

As someone from Southeast Asia, I understand the feeling of seeing how restaurants have been 'gentrified', as in Asian menus 'spruced' to the standard of fad diets or as having watered down flavours. Who could forget the Lucky Lee's debacle of the New York food scene? This restaurant opening was marred with notoriety as the owner opened in the name of making 'clean' Chinese cooking and used stereotypes to belittle Chinese technique.

I certainly can't forget NZ based chef Mike Van De Elzen's food show where he mocked the Vietnamese accent by pretending not to understand locals and kept raising how 'unhealthy' Vietnamese food is, going on to saying it was his aim to 'improve' Asian cooking in changing the recipes. Through the glitz and glam of the restaurant scene, and each wave of a celebrity endorsed



'clean' diet, the pressure for instagrammable meals, we've lost touch of what really matters.

Businesses that go forward with food of a culture whose cooking is not known too well to the western tounge, executing dishes and services with pride and love - this to me is a sign of something special and courageous.

Māori Kitchen is a testament to pushing the boundaries of the food landscape while staying true to the flavours that make you feel at home. Decolonization is here and it's hearty, delicious and unapologetically authentic.

*UK: chips between bread

**Rewana: Māori bread made from potato

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UoA BINGO

By Christina Huang

Your friends at Craccum try desperately to instill some culture into University of Auckland by introducing our spin on the timeless classic BINGO you can play with your family and friends!

A halls student with their lanyard hanging around their neck.	Get ten dollars off your next UberEats order.	Have a near-death experience with someone on a Lime scooter.	Forget you have a test until the morning of.	Wait in line for the bathroom for fifteen minutes.
Someone exhales their second-hand smoke on you.	Gag on the smell of the trees in Albert Park.	Someone tries to sell you a ten ticket paintball package.	Resist the urge to stab that obnoxious person asking unnecessary questions in a lecture.	Make it through the semester without buying the coursebook.
Skip a 10am class because it's "too early".	Spend most of your break between classes on Facebook instead of studying.	Bump into your lecturer on Symonds Street and make awkward eye contact with them.	Spend \$7 or more on a cup of coffee.	You know that person you made out with in Shads last week? Yeah, you see them in your lecture.
See someone from high school, emphatically say "we should catch up soon!" and never see them again.	Get trampled by a stampede in Munchy Mart.	A med student tells you how hard med is.	Submit an assignment one minute before it's due. If anyone asks, you play an extreme sport.	Get honked at by a bus while crossing the road.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES

21 march - 20 april



Look out for elephants. There is an elephant in the room and to you it's not going to be immediately obvious. Watch your tongue this week or you may end up offending someone you care about.

TAURUS

21 april - 21 may



This week will be average. Worse than average. Absolutely nothing memorable is going to happen. You may find yourself utterly bored and disappointed. Luckily, chances are in a month you'll have totally forgotten it ever happened.

GEMINI

22 may - 21 june



It seems you didn't listen last week and 'watch out'. This week you're just going to have to wait it out. Life will get better, just not right now. Keep your chin up though, Wednesday will bring with it a silver lining. It's time to deal with the consequences of your actions. You were warned.

CANCER

22 june - 22 july



There's an underlying creative urge inside of you this week. Don't ignore this. Run with it.. Try cooking something new, paint a picture, write a poem. Who knows, you may just discover a hidden talent.

LEO

23 july - 22 august



It's time for you to stand up and fight for what you believe in. Don't be afraid to be the bringer of change - for you and for those around you. You are needed, so step up.

VIRGO

23 august - 23 september



Look to the stars for guidance - they may shine bright, and seem distant, but in essence they're just the same as you.

LIBRA

24 september - 23 october



It's time for you to get out. Out into the open. You've been subconsciously hiding away and avoiding people. While alone time is good, interacting with others can offer you so much; you'll be surprised what it can bring. Step out of your comfort zone a little bit - you'll be amazed at what you're missing.

SCORPIO

24 october - 22 november



This week will be surprising. Why? Because your horoscope didn't tell you anything.

SAGITTARIUS

23 november - 21 december



Sometimes, no matter what you do, things just don't go your way. It's important to realise this is just a phase, and eventually the stars may just align for you again.

CAPRICORN

22 december - 20 january



Remember that you are loved. That should be enough to get you through anything this week has to throw at you. It may not feel like it sometimes, but everyone around you appreciates you more than you know.

AQUARIUS

21 january - 19 february



If the overload of work has got you down, it is time for you to forget it. Awaken your inner self, treat yourself like royalty! Be condescending, bold, and utterly useless - because you've earned it.

PISCES

20 february - 20 march



Sometimes it just sucks being a Pisces. You've got to embrace it, flaunt it. It is who you are after all. This week is all about you. Stand up for yourself, who cares what others think. That's not your problem. Your number one priority is you.

the people to blame.

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