

# CRACCUM

ISSUE 10, 2020





# At Your Service



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# Reconnect

## Cam says:

I love brunch.

Great on a sunday morning, the perfect hangover cure, brunch is the epitome of a weekend well done. I didn't realise I felt this strongly about brunch until last week, when the country went down to level two, and brunch and I were reunited.

You'd read this and think I had strong feelings for bacon and eggs, and I do, but truthfully, it's not just the food. It's the time spent with others. The last seven and a half weeks haven't been easy. A lot of what we've sacrificed is our connection with others. For me, spending time with friends at brunch over the weekend, felt like a time to reconnect. The simple act of sharing a meal, talking about the last few months and enjoying being somewhere that wasn't our homes for the first time in a while. Going out for brunch became communion.

It's exciting to be at level two. I know it has its limitations and it's not complete freedom. Whilst I haven't missed traffic, it's relieving that the roads are busy again, people are out and about and are supporting local business. I know that all of this won't fully resolve the economic downturn that the pandemic has brought on, but it's nice to see that businesses are opening their doors and people are flooding back in, helping our economy recover a little bit each day.

So, for now, avoid your assignment, go out for brunch, reconnect.

Cheers,

Cam



## Dan says:

Woohoo!

We're all (mostly) free again. What a time to be alive!

I don't know about you, but for me, everything just feels better. Studying from home is less of a chore now that I can pop down to the beach when things get dull. Driving around the city is way more relaxing without the constant fear of being pulled over. Even just going for a walk outside feels different. I've been walking almost every day of the lockdown, but there's something about walking under Level 2 - that air just hits my nostrils different, y'know?

Anyway, I'm sure no-one gives a fuck about my nostrils, or how many times I've gone for a walk this lockdown. You're probably all fixated on one thing: now that Level 2 is here, you can finally go see your mates. Hooray! I hope you enjoy it. But if you are going to see mates, just remember: don't be a dick about it. Stick to groups of ten, try not to bounce around all over Auckland, and make sure you keep the coughing on surfaces/licking surfaces/coughing on licked surfaces to a minimum.

Otherwise, enjoy. I spent my weekend chilling with mates for the first time in over a month and a half, and it was fucking awesome.

Oh yeah, and uni is still a thing. Probably shouldn't forget about that stuff, eh.

Cheers,

Dan



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*from the president.*

# From the President

Dear Craccum Readers,

I apologise I haven't been in touch for a while. In truth, as the days merged into each other, everything became a blur. Funny how the lockdown seems so short now when just a few weeks ago it was the longest thing ever.

Anyway, I hope you've been well. That you've stayed safe and ok during this period. I hope that this new way of learning online has been ok for you.

It's been quite busy at AUSA. We've moved all our services online and will continue to do so during Semester Two. We've given out nearly \$15,000.00 worth of hardship grants to students who've lost their incomes and needed a helping hand due to Covid-19. We've delivered numerous online pub quizzes and we've worked with the University to give every student one upward grade scal-



ing so your B+ at the end of the year becomes an A-.

It's been a privilege doing this work for you, and with you.

All the best for the rest of this week.

George



**KEEP DANCING | KEEP SINGING**  
**KEEP LISTENING | KEEP SAFE**

Join the JBL LIVE LOUNGE group by tagging #JBLLIVELOUNGE & show us how you are staying occupied at home.



# LIVE

# *Fitness*

PRESS TO PLAY ON SPOTIFY





# *Budget 2020: What does it mean for students*

ANNABEL MCCARTHY (ASPA PARLIAMENT PRESS GALLERY JOURNALIST)

**Finance Minister Grant Robertson unveiled the government's second Wellbeing Budget at Parliament last Thursday.**

Delivered in the shadow of a 1 in 100 year shock to the economy as a result of COVID-19, Budget 2020 sets out the Government's planned spending for the 2020/21 financial year.

The budget, titled Rebuilding Together, establishes a \$50 billion COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund to be invested in jobs and the economy.

While many New Zealanders will be looking to retrain in the coming months, the tertiary education sector has received little support.

Calls from tertiary students to increase student allowance eligibility or the amount students can borrow to assist with living costs have gone unanswered.

In his budget speech to parliament, Grant Robertson warned there was no "sugar coating" the impact COVID-19 has had on the government's books. He said there would be a sharp fall in economic activity and a significant rise in unemployment in the coming months.

Robertson said Māori and Pasifika, young people just entering the labour market, and those in lower income households will bear the brunt of COVID-19's economic fallout and Budget 2020 will hopefully address this.

## **Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund**

The centrepiece of Budget 2020 is the \$50 billion Response and Recovery Fund. It includes the \$13.9 billion already spent by the Government on its COVID-19 response since early March. Budget 2020 sets out how a further \$15.9 billion of the Fund will be spent on the COVID-19 recovery phase.

## **Extension to the Wage Subsidy scheme**

The Wage Subsidy Scheme will be extended to provide further support for those businesses most affected by COVID-19.

From 10 June, businesses who have suffered a 50% revenue loss over the 30 days prior to applying compared to the same time last year will be eligible for a targeted wage subsidy. It will be available for a further eight week period on top of the 12 weeks already paid out. The targeted scheme will cost an extra \$3.2 billion and will help sectors struggling the most such as tourism, hospitality and retail.

The initial Wage Subsidy Scheme has cost \$10.7 billion and has helped over 1.7 million workers.

A further \$150 million will be spent to increase support for research and development. A short-term, temporary loan scheme will be launched to incentivise businesses to continue research and development programmes that may be at risk due to COVID-19.

## **Tertiary education spending**

A \$20 million student hardship fund to support tertiary students who have found themselves “particularly impacted” by Covid-19 will be established under Budget 2020.

Education Minister Chris Hipkins said a major advantage of this approach was that it can be implemented easily, will be distributed by tertiary education providers and “gets money into the hands of students who need it quickly”.

“There’s no one-size fits all approach to meeting the financial needs of students who can’t access the general student supports available,” Hipkins said.

“[The fund will] help those students get through the next few months and keep them engaged in their studies.”

**“‘There’s no one-size fits all approach to meeting the financial needs of students who can’t access the general student supports available,’ Hipkins said.”**



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news.

A Trades and Apprenticeships Package worth \$1.6 billion has also been created to provide retraining opportunities to those who may have lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19.

This includes \$334 million funding for additional tertiary education enrolments and a \$320 million investment to make targeted vocational training courses free for all ages, not just school leavers.

This will go towards courses linked to industry needs such as agriculture, manufacturing and building and construction as well as vocational courses like community health, counselling and care work.

There is also a specific \$50 million fund for Māori Apprentices and Trades Training.

The government has not committed to restoring postgraduate students' eligibility for the student allowance despite the Labour Party promising to do so if elected in 2017.

Additionally, the Fees-Free programme remains unchanged despite some commentators saying it will assist with the costs of retraining.

### **Jobs and unemployment**

A \$1 billion Environmental Jobs Package announced in the budget creates thousands of jobs that will at the same time support habitat protection, pest control and biodiversity on public lands.

Unemployment is set to rise to 8.3% in June 2020 be-

fore peaking at 9.8% in September. It is forecast to recover thereafter.

### **Housing**

The government will deliver an extra 8,000 new public and transitional houses to help fix homelessness and reduce the housing shortage. This will take the number of public and transitional houses funded by this government to approximately 17,000.

Budget 2020 will also ensure an estimated 9,000 additional houses will be well insulated and efficiently heated through the existing Warmer Kiwi Homes programme. An extra \$56 million will be invested in the programme which is part of Labour's confidence and supply agreement with the Green Party.

***“The government has not committed to restoring postgraduate students' eligibility for the student allowance despite the Labour Party promising to do so if elected in 2017.”***

# Attendance Recorded for Students Going to Campus Under Level 2

JUSTIN WONG

**The university has said a wider range of activities can be resumed under Alert Level 2, but attendance needs to be recorded and physical distancing needs to be put in place.**

New Zealand moved to Alert Level 2 last Thursday.

Under Level 2, more study spaces and student support services on campus can be resumed but remote learning will continue to be in place until the start of Semester 2.

Those who need to go to campus will have to record their attendance through Check-IN, an attendance recording device, which the university said could give them confidence it could handle a larger number of people on campus.

Services that continued throughout the lockdown, including the University Health and Counselling Service (UHCS), will continue operating under Level 3 conditions. It means cancelling all non-essential appointments, while the remaining will be conducted through phone or Zoom unless it is believed a face-to-face consultation is needed.

The General Library will continue to open under Level 2, but books can only be collected through requesting them online then picking them up when available. Fines are still being waived but books can be returned. Campus Card or AT Hop Card concession stickers will be



available from the General Library at City Campus.

All residents can return to their student accommodation, while the Recreation Center has opened on Monday. The UBIQ Bookstore at City Campus will also re-open under Level 2 for click-and-collect services.

However, arrangements for Semester 2 have yet to be finalized.

The university said it intends to return to on-campus teaching, but some large lectures may still need to be online.

“There may need to be other changes to ensure appropriate physical distancing, but we are confident the majority of our teaching will be on-campus.”

The university also said an online learning option will be available for students who are offshore or are considered vulnerable under guidelines from the Ministry of Health.



## NZUSA Responds to “Band-Aid” Budget

CAMERON LEAKEY

**The New Zealand Union of Student Associations (NZUSA) have responded to the 2020 Budget by saying the “government has taken a band-aid approach” to addressing student hardship.**

NZUSA President, Isabella Lenihan-Ikin, recognised that the 2020 ‘Rebuilding Together’ Budget was a step in the right direction, however has missed an opportunity to make critical changes to the tertiary education sector.

One component of Budget 2020 that was supported by NZUSA was a Tertiary Student Hardship Fund. This was advocated for by NZUSA as part of the National Student Action Plan on COVID-19 - an action plan that was supported by student associations across the country.

Lenihan-Ikin was supportive of the \$20 million fund, however noted that while the fund provided short-term relief to students facing hardship arising from COVID-19, it did not “go far enough to address the long term challenges” that faced students such as poverty, rising living costs and financial insecurity.

The budget further allocated \$1.6 billion dollars for in-

vestment in training and apprenticeships to remove the cost of tuition fees. This was widely praised as a positive step in allowing adults of any age to continue their education. This was further supported by a \$16 million dollar investment by the government in adult and community education, which was previously defunded under the National government.

NZUSA ultimately recognises that this budget, whilst providing in some aspects, fails in other areas. Lenihan-Ikin was disappointed in the lack of ongoing support measures for students particularly the lack of postgraduate student allowance. Student allowance and loan weekly payments were also noted to be at ‘unliveable levels’.

The 2020 budget is largely focused on supporting New Zealand’s economy in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many initiatives introduced aim to increase employment and infrastructure. There however has been criticism of a few areas of the budget, notably the \$72 million dollar investment in the racing industry, a figure that is more than three times that of the student hardship fund.



# University Accommodation Residents Still Being Charged for Empty Rooms

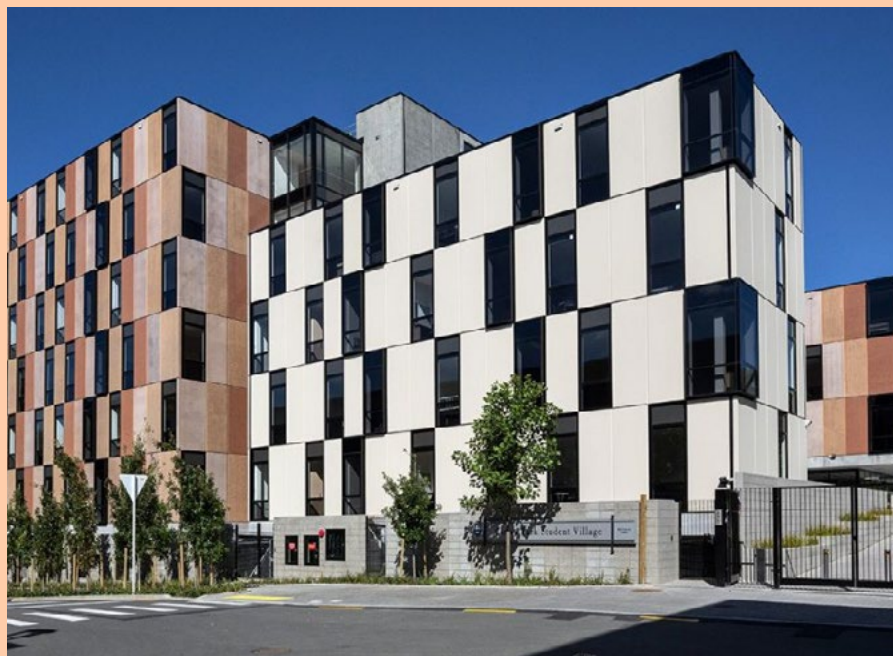
ELLA MORGAN

**Despite half of New Zealand universities ceasing to charge accommodation fees in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Auckland has continued to charge students who left university accommodation throughout Alert Levels 3 and 4.**

Students in catered residences who did not remain in accommodation during the nationwide lockdown received a rent reduction of \$120 per week, while those in self-catered residences had their rent reduced by \$60. However, students wishing to cancel their accommodation contracts during the lockdown were unable to do so until the country moved to Alert Level 2 last week and they can collect their belongings, and must now pay cancellation fees in excess of \$1,000 on top of this. Students have also expressed concerns that they are being charged for services such as recreation centre memberships that are included in their rent, despite these facilities being inaccessible for the last seven weeks.

Students at Auckland University of Technology have faced a similar situation, in which their rent has been slightly reduced but they must still pay rent for vacant rooms. Students have been warned regarding speaking to the media on the issue.

Green Party MP Chloe Swarbrick has been leading the charge on addressing student accommodation concerns, with their campaigning resulting in Victoria University stopping rent payments for students who had to move out of their halls of residence. Massey and



Waikato universities ceased charging rent to students who had left at the beginning of Alert Level 4.

Swarbrick has been in communication with Auckland Mayor Phil Goff regarding the charges being applied to Auckland accommodation residents, and highlighted that Campus Living Villages, who operate multiple AUT accommodation facilities, has so far claimed \$915,789.60 through the government's wage subsidy scheme.

University accommodation is not covered by normal tenancy laws in New Zealand, and therefore issues cannot go before the tenancy tribunal. The new Education Pastoral Care Amendment Act is one of the only relevant frameworks that applies to university accommodation, and the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations highlights that universities' actions in continuing to charge absent students rent during the lockdown may be in violation of this.

# Student Develops Contact Tracing Tool in Light of COVID-19 Pandemic

ELLA MORGAN

**During the 7 weeks spent at Levels 3 and 4, students have found many new hobbies and projects to take up their time spent at home. One student has taken it upon himself to develop a contact tracing tool that may prove helpful as the nation transitions into life under Level 2.**

Daniel Britten, a visiting student at the University of Auckland, recently developed 'Handshake' - a digital tool that allows individuals and businesses to track who they've been in contact with. Handshake allows you to generate a unique QR code that can be scanned by someone you come in contact with. This then prompts them to send you an email, meaning an online record of your interactions is created. Britten states that the idea could be used by individuals and organizations, as businesses could display their QR code for customers to scan.

Britten has been in contact with a representative from the Ministry of Health in the process of developing Handshake. News of Britten's innovation has reached as far as Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who reportedly liked the idea. He says he was inspired to develop the tool as he realised the importance of contact-tracing in addressing the spread of COVID-19.

Privacy is of high importance in using the tool, and the Handshake website does not keep record of your details or interactions. Britten says one of the benefits of



the tool is that it works as a two way street; both people involved in interactions keep records of this.

Contact tracing has become a key area of importance in the fight against COVID-19. The government's regulations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 mean that businesses have to keep records of everyone who visits their premises. This should include names, phone numbers, email addresses and times in and out. Individuals are strongly urged to keep records of all of their interactions in case they contract COVID-19 or come in contact with someone who has contracted the virus. These details can then be used by the Ministry of Health to ensure that anyone at risk of having the virus is appropriately isolated, reducing the chances of more of our population becoming infected.

**For the most up to date information from the government regarding COVID-19 head to [covid19.govt.nz](https://covid19.govt.nz). If you are interested in finding out more about Handshake, head to <https://coda-coda.github.io/handshake/EEE>**

**WHAKARONGO MAI! LISTEN UP!**

# What do Auckland Students think of a Capital Gains tax?

COMPILED BY PAUL SIMPERINGHAM

*With some concerned about how to pay for the government's stimulus package and new budget, some have proposed that a capital gains tax (CGT) is somewhere we should look. Prime Minister Ardern has ruled out ever introducing a capital gains tax, but it's a position her party formerly held and something her 2020 coalition partner may not feel the same about. Craccum asked a few students about what they thought about a capital gains tax.*

## **Ding, 22, Commerce**

"Introducing a capital gains tax to New Zealand is something I definitely stand with. Our housing market has already been fucked up for some time now, and all the time I hear people chatting away: "Go into the housing market", "huge investments", "my friend made 40k" "it's easy as". What about our integrity and fairness? I completely agree with trying to make a profit out of something profitable, but when do we draw the line?"

"Nowadays as a young person, it's a fantasy to own a house in Auckland. Implementing a tax on capital gains could lower the inflated housing market and could be balanced with a reduction in taxes on income. And no Karen, calling me soft and saying back in my day is not a proper reply."

**"Nowadays as a young person, it's a fantasy to own a house in Auckland. Implementing a tax on capital gains could lower the inflated housing market and could be balanced with a reduction in taxes on income."**



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news.

### **Liam, 26, Arts**

“Someone who innovates and creates value deserves to reap the rewards of their time and energy investment. However, owning a second, third or fourth investment property and investing in the stock market doesn't meet this criteria (Depending on what is considered value). Yet, here in New Zealand, people do both of these and we herald them as entrepreneurs or business savvy masterminds. I am not sure what a CGT I would support resembles, but I do know that the negative effects caused by such activities cannot continue.”

### **Matt, 21, LLB/Arts**

“Aotearoa is marred by an unfair economic landscape and tax regime. A CGT that explicitly seeks not to punish homeowners or middle-income Kiwis, but rather to raise billions of dollars in tax revenue and discourage investment in assets that fail to benefit the public, is a necessity to combat the inequalities brought to the forefront by this crisis.

I - and all Kiwis - have seen the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as another global recession draws near, job losses and falling household incomes will widen the gap between the rich and the poor. Formidable frontline workers under the height of lockdown, from doctors to grocers, will see their valiant efforts rewarded with only modest one-off pay increases. All the while, their income will be taxed, whereas profits acquired via the assets of the affluent and powerful remain exempt. One must hope that this September's general election will enshrine a more progressive consensus along the government benches.”

### **Lily, Law/Health Science**

“Before COVID-19 I would have said yes, I support a CGT. Right now, we need more investments in the economy, otherwise the alternative is to sell our SOEs, to hope that consumer confidence will go up or inevitably increase our taxes. How do we pay for mental health services, education and benefits without the government getting into more debt? I mean we could tighten and increase taxation on property and real estate because those assets fuck with the ability to access adequate shelter, which is a human right. But I'm not sure that would still resolve the true purpose of the CGT, which is to increase the fairness of the tax system. But right now, in these circumstances, we shouldn't be introducing a CGT.”

***“Formidable frontline workers under the height of lockdown, from doctors to grocers, will see their valiant efforts rewarded with only modest one-off pay increases.”***



**Implementing a tax on capital gains could lower the inflated housing market and could be balanced with a reduction in taxes on income. And no Karen, calling me soft and saying back in my day is not a proper reply.**

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**I am not sure what a capital gains tax I would support resembles, but I do know that the negative externalities being caused by such activities cannot continue.**

**Karongo  
Mai!**





# Opinion: Pandemics and Pyramid Schemes: The Rise of Multi-Level Marketing

KEEARA OFREN

*The quest for treasure through human history has led people through conditions of danger, treachery and...complete and utter scammy.*

In our pandemic world, we are reliant on technology more than ever. We are also in a more difficult financial situation, and in a more vulnerable state emotionally. And with that, since lockdown began, we have seen a number of sponsored posts and direct messages specifically targeted young women and students, looking to recruit them in a number of business plans to 'be your own boss!'.

The catch? You have to pay to be included, and you may end up in a pressuring group structure. With products and entry fees starting from \$35-\$1650, you start to

wonder if the business aims to help the seller or the people wishing to recruit.

Multi-Level Marketing (MLM) is a business model which relies heavily on sellers to sell products and recruit more 'entrepreneurs'. However, obsession and emphasis on gaining more sellers blurs the boundary into becoming an illegal pyramid scheme. According to the Commerce Commission, the key difference is that pyramid schemes are reliant on new recruits buying into the scheme below you, with most of the profits going to the people higher on the 'pyramid'. Pyramid schemes often



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*opinion.*

involve selling items that are cheap to reproduce but difficult to resell. These include supplements or personal development items.

Because of the high likelihood of losing money and encouraging others to inadvertently lose money, pyramid schemes are considered a scam by most.

MLMs have resorted to exploiting dreams of beautiful and exciting lifestyles or even pseudoscientific messages to recruit others. Even Edd's get-rich-quick schemes on 'Ed, Edd and Eddy' may not have prepared our generation to wise up to these increasingly predatory moves. However, friend support and a quick internet search can help.

Kailani\* shared her experience with me of a recruitment attempt from Arbonne, a vegan health and cosmetics MLM. She showed me screenshots of sales reps as far away as the UK trying to recruit under the guise of searching for an influencer. Though this may seem like a young woman's dream, Kailani and her friends searched up information on Arbonne, finding YouTube videos of cautions from former members. Kailani alerted me to an Instagram saga of an Australian woman who was allegedly passive-aggressively berated regarding her diagnosis with cancer in order to pressure her to purchase from Arbonne. This action taps into two suspicions of highly manipulative recruitment and an exploited desire of prominence or perfect immunity.

Indeed, MLMs are popular in migrant and faith communities who will be more vulnerable to the vision of social mobility. One to watch in migrant communities is LifeVantage, which sells 'NRF1', 'NRF2' and 'Protandim',

which sellers claim can 'cure' ADHD, cancer and diabetes through 'biohacking'. These claims are posted in Facebook groups set on 'secret' so they cannot be reported and removed easily. Before being removed from one of these groups, I came across a worrying meme claiming that conventional medicine and surgery were 'toxic', in order to boost trust in these MLM 'pharmaceuticals'.

Have you ever seen something that seemed too good to be true? It probably was. With direct messages of this kind on the rise, be wary of business models that seem to be preying on the state of being a broke student. Researching about business offers beforehand can be the greatest defence against a pyramid scheme pitfall. If a group seems to use vulnerable people to pursue a money-making goal, dissuades members from outside information and relies on aggression, it's a group built on deceit and a group that will tear your dream apart.

*\*Name has been changed to protect identity*

***"Indeed, MLMs are popular in migrant and faith communities who will be more vulnerable to the vision of social mobility."***



# Opinion: UOA's Grade Boost Provides Actual Financial Value

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

*On the 8th of May, Craccum broke the news that UOA had decided to scale up the overall final grades for all taught undergraduate and postgraduate classes. This decision came in direct response to actions from the Auckland University Students' Association, who wrote an Open Letter to the university, outlining concerns over the negative impacts of COVID-19 on student's education ability and the disruption that had resulted from the closure of campus.*

Thanks to their efforts, the final grades for individual taught papers will be scaled up a full grade mark. For example, a C+ will be scaled to a B-.

I know the stress of being an undergraduate. During my first three years of university, I was hyper-focused on my GPA and utterly clueless in my navigation between assignment deadlines. I didn't really understand how to transition from my high school ramblings to appro-

priately formatted, correctly referenced, 'top-quality' university essays. Even with a largely encouraging environment, the first year of uni was enough pressure to cause more than a few *I'm-way-too-dumb-for-university-it's-time-to-drop-out* freakouts. I relied heavily on office hours with my first semester tutors and advice from older students to teach me the ropes. I improved very slowly because of their help, and would still be lost without it. At that point, I thought the world was falling

apart, but I can't even begin to imagine what first-year freakouts might look like at the moment. Hopefully the GPA boost has brought you all some comfort. My apologies to the young 'uns. Please reach out to your lecturers and tutors for help and extensions, there's no better time to do so.

As someone who did pretty well in high school, and was set on continuing onto postgrad (you did it lil' Mads!), my GPA was one of my primary concerns. University is a significant hit to the wallet, and I wanted to increase every chance of cruising through on a scholarship for my later years. For those who might not know, if you finish off your degree with an 8.0 GPA (equivalent to an A average), you can continue onto the next stage with a guaranteed scholarship. A high GPA can also assist in your application for other scholarships. Basically, for students interested in postgraduate degrees, a high GPA can translate to real economic value. With COVID impacting student working conditions so drastically, and industries filled with student jobs struggling (specifically hospitality and retail), maintaining a high enough GPA may be a last option for undergraduate students to be able to afford to study beyond a Bachelors.. For first years, it will also help to salvage those initial grades that are less than amazing even in the best of times. Similarly, for those in postgraduate study, maintaining a high GPA may enable students to continue on into higher education not possible without scholarship funding.

Obviously, this grade boost is also helpful for students worried about passing classes. Some do not have access to the technology and resources required to stay up to date online and will be eagerly waiting for study

spaces and University computers to become available for use. This grade boost, as well as with the ability to omit C range grades from your transcript, will help to quell issues of access. However, the boost is not a complete solution to student hardships. The government's support package falls so short for students, real financial support is needed, especially for those with serious access issues. The suggestion that students should take out more Studylink cash to support their studies is pretty ridiculous and puts us in a more financially vulnerable situation in the future.

Honestly, I was pleasantly surprised by the university's actions. Through the grade boost, they've expressed a bit of empathy and understanding for all students during a really tough time. AUSA were grinding hard for all of us and their work has paid off (cheers guys!). For those who might be reading from other universities, get behind your student association and help them to make some change. Otago University Student Association have already lobbied successfully for the University of Otago to do the same. Stay engaged with student action on your campus and push your university to make decisions that are in your best interests. If they don't do that, hold them to account.

Hopefully we can see a bit more empathy and understanding in future decisions from both the UOA and the government. COVID has exposed some serious inequalities to those who have been lucky enough not to see them before, or have been ignoring them for the sake of simplicity. Real funding needs to supplement UOA's action and ensure that students can continue their studies without dragging themselves into more debt.





# LIVE

# Wellness

PRESS TO PLAY ON SPOTIFY

# Craccum catches up with Vice Chancellor, Dawn Freshwater

CAMERON LEAKEY

*Professor Dawn Freshwater started as Vice Chancellor of the University of Auckland in March this year - beginning right as the COVID-19 Pandemic hit New Zealand and the country went into Lockdown. Craccum catches up with her - admittedly over email - to find out more about our new Vice-Chancellor, outside of the university COVID-19 updates.*

## ***Can you tell us a little about yourself?***

I was born in Nottingham in the UK, moving to Australia six years ago and of course most recently to NZ. I have an academic and professional practice background in Mental Health, and have been fortunate enough to engage in collaborative research that has focused on youth suicide, young offenders and psychological therapies, amongst other things. I am a passionate advocate of Education and committed to Inclusive Leadership.

## ***How has the move to New Zealand been?***

The move to New Zealand has not been quite as expected. I arrived in Auckland, and within two days was working with the university staff and students to think about a move to Alert Level 3 and 4. So, I have not really even explored the campus, and as yet, we have not got to know our local area, but we look forward to doing so.



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feature.

### ***What have you been looking forward to doing out of Lockdown?***

Coffee is one of my few vices, and so I am really looking forward to enjoying takeaway coffee, and the ritual that goes with it.

### ***Is there anywhere in New Zealand you plan to visit (when you can)?***

The North Island is the part of NZ I know least. I have had many opportunities to explore the South Island in the past, both on holidays and with work, and so I am really hoping to get to know the top and bottom of the North Island intimately.

### ***What would you say your three main priorities are in terms of moving the University forwards?***

Priorities are: developing the new strategic plan and vision, which relates to the future purpose and relevance of the University; setting the tone, which is an important aspect of how we relate to others, including students, and how people relate to us; and of course ensuring that the University is on a sustainable footing to continue its enormous contribution to the region way beyond my time as VC.

### ***What do you think is the most important thing for any student to learn at the University of Auckland?***

There are many technical skills, and much discipline

specific knowledge that are valuable of course. For me it is the skills you need to apply that learning in the service of humanity, community, your friends and whānau. These include empathy, ethical reasoning, communication skills, moral judgement and critical thinking.

### ***What's one thing you can't live without?***

The Covid-19 events have given us all a jolt into realizing that there are many things that we take for granted and actually can live without. Of course we cannot live without the air that we breathe, and this is something we all need to remember as we think about future grand challenges, including climate change.

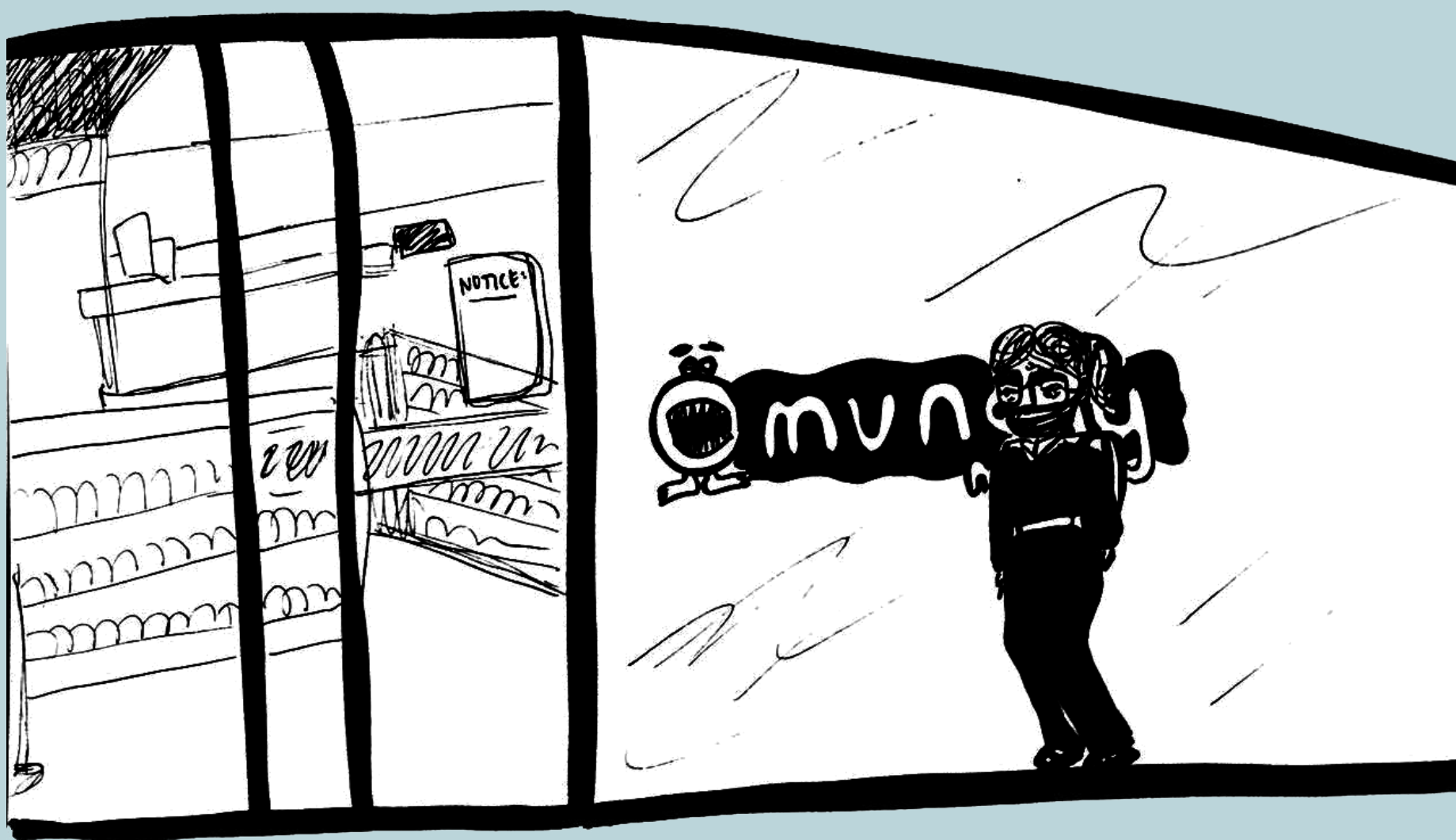
### ***If you could change one thing about the human body, what would it be?***

As a health professional I could argue that there are many design faults associated with the human body, but in actual fact, our bodies are pretty amazing aren't they. I would still like to be able to run marathons like I used to, but without having to do the training!

### ***What's your favourite body of freshwater?***

The Lochs and the tarns of Scotland are pretty unbeatable, but...I have no doubt that I will find more beautiful and expansive bodies of freshwater right here on my new doorstep!





# What Uni Will Look Like Under Level 2

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

*Don't get too excited, UOA will remain in remote teaching mode until the start of Semester 2 on the 27th of July (at least). You will have to stay cooped up in your blanket forts, illuminated by the dying light of your laptop screens, for a little while longer. However, the move to level 2 does grant some more freedoms, with some intense restrictions and rigorous tracing of those on campus.*

## **Library and UBIQ**

- During level 3, the library was set up to loan books out through a click and collect service, so students could line up at the door and get their requested texts from library staff. This service will

continue, from every library on every campus, through the online Catalogue pages. The General Library will also be a click and collect point for Campus Cards and AT Hop Card concessions.

- UBIQ is continuing with the click and collect

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*feature.*

services they were running in level 3, with orders placed on the UBIQ website (just select Click and Collect as the delivery option at checkout). UBIQ is also offering free freight within NZ.

- With all click and collect services, at both the library and UBIQ, you need to wait until your order has been confirmed for pickup before heading to campus.

### ***Other Campus Services***

- Munchy Mart continues to be open Monday to Friday from 9am-4pm, with Click and Collect services also available through their website.
- UniChem is the same, 9am-4pm on weekdays.
- PB Tech remains closed until further notice, but some of their services are considered essential and contacts for this are available on the uni website.
- The University Health and Counselling Services are open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, except for Fridays when they close up at 4:30pm. The university has clarified that you need to call ahead for access to UHCS, as most appointments are still being held over the phone to avoid face-to-face contact. In person appointments will only occur if the doctor deems it necessary.
- The Recreation Centre is set to reopen on the 18th of May. It's expected that more rigorous hygiene practices will be in place.

### ***Check-IN***

More broadly, the University will be required to record the movement of every person on campus, and comply with other guidelines set by the Government, including physical distancing and the management of group sizes. To get on top of tracking movement on campus, the University is utilising an attendance recording service called Check-IN. The service asks staff and students to specify which buildings they have entered. In some areas, including the Owen G Glenn Building, the Science Centre, Kate Edger, the Clock Tower, Alfred Nathan House, the General Library, Old Choral Hall and the Biology Building, staff and students will be asked to specify further which rooms they have entered. In an email sent to all staff, the University Communications Team noted that all rooms will eventually be made available for Check-IN.

### ***Semester 2***

During semester 2, the University intends to return to on-campus teaching, likely with some adjustments to timetables and physical distancing practices. It seems that remote learning will continue to be available, so the University can support particularly vulnerable students and those studying outside of New Zealand. Large lectures may have to remain online, especially if we are still under Level 2 restrictions. Other changes that comply with physical distancing measures may also be employed. Further details for semester 2 are set to be released in the coming weeks.



# When to Host a House Party this Semester Break

15/6 -

Assuming gatherings can be 10+ people by June, here's a handy calendar to help you plan the perfect date for a real house party - not the short-lived app that stole all your data.

Otago gets off to an early start & are truly on the send by the time Canterbury turns up!

22/6 -

Canterbury sees Otago doing something cool & wants a piece of the action.

26/6 -

The fomo reaches new heights as all your friends proceed to have a great time without you. Otago does shoeys from Lincoln's gumboots while Canterbury looks on in adoration. AUT & Massey have drunken dnms in the kitchen, bitching about their mutual frenemy... You. Vic lectures Lincoln on the sins of the meat industry, while justifying their own leather Doc Martens. Waikato is asleep in the bathroom with a goon sack for a pillow. You're in for a big game of catch up.

28/6 -

29/6 -

Trio of misfits turn up together, wearing matching animal prints. It wasn't meant to be a dress up party, in fact, the coordination isn't even intentional.

Vic & Massey were going to get a ride together, but Vic insist on walking so gets there late.

4/7 -

5/7 -

12/7 -

Lincoln & Waikato try to walk Canterbury home. Waikato is hoping to crash there, but Lincoln's oblivious to the not-so-subtle hints. Waikato ends up paying for probably the most expensive Uber of their life.

19/7 -

One weekend where everyone is here! You rock up just in time to down half a Pal with all your pals before someone calls noise control & Otago suspiciously disappears.

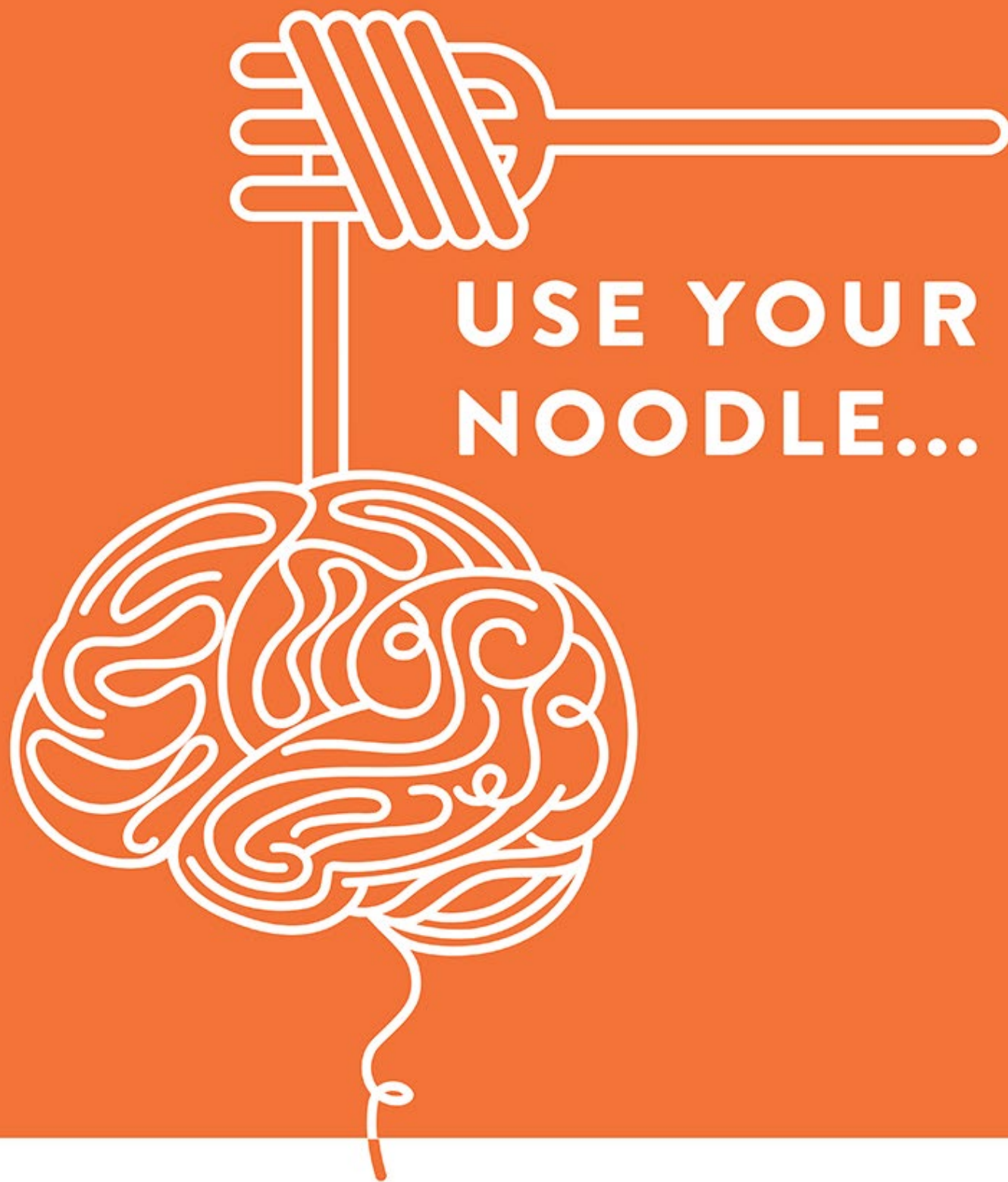
26/7 -

4-5 July

Massey takes AUT & Vic home; they just can't decide if they love Wellington or Auckland more. Everyone's favourite thrupple bangs it out in Palmy.

You're left on your own to clean up after a party you barely attended. You try ringing your friends who work full time but it's too late for them. Luckily you're no stranger to your own company after lockdown. Put the bottles in the recycling: you did win that world's most sustainable award. Sometimes you think others are just using you. It's lonely at the top. But the others have had enough of you after 2 weeks.





**STAY SAFE, BE KIND, STAY HOME.**

Essential service and other offers available.









## HEALTH BITES

# You're a Sight for Sore Eyes

PATRICK MACASKILL-WEBB

*Questioning our vision pretty much just ties up basic assumptions about reality into a confusing headache. Things like - is the way you see blue the same as how I see blue? Is the blue I saw yesterday or an hour ago really the same colour as now? Do we all see the same floaties and darting specks of light when staring at a blue sky? And why does a mirror flip the world left to right but not flip up with down? It's uncomfortable to have these questions looming and time alone for six weeks has given me a bit too much time to think about it! It freaks me out a bit, and maybe it doesn't sit right with you either. Let's delve into thinking about healthy eyes that may or may not be unique between us.*

Everything about this week is about healthy eyes. I'm not going to get strung along by some weird and wonderful conditions and genetic exceptions that likely don't apply to you as a reader. However beautiful it is to wonder about impressionist artists perceiving ultraviolet - the quirks this week are about what's weird and wonderful about everyone's eyes!

You may have rolled your skull balls at the thought of - is my blue the same as your blue? It's kind of a dry philosophical qualm. As uni students, I think we've all become comfortable sitting with the weirdness of that question. Now, would it disturb your considered opinion if I told you that we have a surprisingly similar number of blue detecting cells but a very different number of green and red detecting cone cells? Okay, so blue can be the same between us, but maybe other colours are open for debate... Not even that, because it seems we can still agree on colours and detect colours in precisely similar ways despite these differences in cells! And

so perceptions between people regress to an average. Boring. Again, these are normal eyes and normal random differences between the eyes.

Throw your mind back to earlier this year when the awful Australian bush fires coated much of NZ on January 4th with a red-orange haze. Taking a glance at artificial

***"I'm not going to get strung along by some weird and wonderful conditions and genetic exceptions that likely don't apply to you as a reader."***



light at this time, you would have noticed these artificial white lights instead looked like blue glow sticks. During the freak event, our eyes were adjusting to the really intense orange. But then there was something in our heads that tried to edge perception back to baseline, and it could only change things so far. Even in tests where filtered glasses were worn for weeks, the brain managed to correct and see things at a baseline. When the lenses were removed the inverse colour tint persisted. With this consistency engrained can we trust those colours from before are really the same as now?

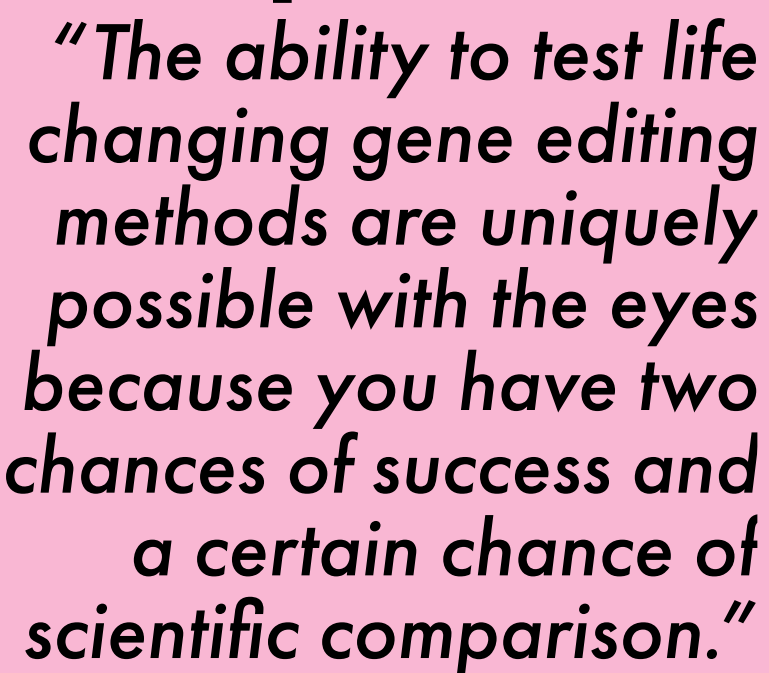
Yes, the floaties you have are also normal. They're just imperfections in the liquid of our skull balls. Comet-like bursts when staring at an exceptionally plain surface (like the sky) or with the eyes squeezed shut are also normal. These are blood cells darting across the retina. Literally, the flow of cells in your eyes can be seen - no microscope needed. I know that seems super weird, but again, completely normal.

Here's another annoying thought: why don't mirrors flip-up/down but they do flip left/right? It seems like a freaking weird question. The weirdness digs in deep and it opens up too many rabbit holes of perception again. As you're staring at this screen now, imagine it's a mirror and your eyes start on the left then pan right. To the screen, it has your attention on it's right, and your eyes then glaze over to the screens left. If instead of reading now you were on Tik Tok, you'd be looking from top to bottom, scrolling vertically and it's still top and bottom from your phone's perspective too! I really hope you're following... The only reason why things flip is because if the phone (think "mirror") is facing the same direction you are - to view the phone (view your reflec-

tion) the phone is turned horizontally. In other words you don't bend over backwards to look in the mirror and if you flip your phone vertically it's all upside down of course. Similarly, we all walk into our bathrooms from the side. Now go and annoy your friends with this dumb question like I have...

Despite the stupid and sticky perception quarrels about vision I've found with health bites this week, there's something refreshingly simple about the eyes. Because we have two it's the perfect playground for new gene editing research! Just last month sight was given to an individual using previously edgy gene editing CRISPR methods. The ability to test life changing gene editing methods are uniquely possible with the eyes because you have two chances of success and a certain chance of scientific comparison.

With all these eye qualms out the way, enjoy the rest of level two, getting back into the dating game and swiping left, or right, or left, or is it right...?



***“The ability to test life changing gene editing methods are uniquely possible with the eyes because you have two chances of success and a certain chance of scientific comparison.”***



# LIVE

*Home*

PRESS TO PLAY ON SPOTIFY





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feature.

## DEBATE

# Celebrating Level 2: Should You Visit KFC or Your Local Fish 'n' Chip Shop?

### Affirmative

Aisha O'Malley, Women's and Minorities Officer

I am surprised to say this, but the lockdown has really upped my appreciation for the humble fish and chip shop. Because what other food do you eat on a Friday night when you truly can't be bothered to cook, and just want to sit in front of Netflix, watching *Gilmore Girls* for the third time because finding a new show to binge is too much work. Ladies and gentlemen, in the era where I have barely left my house in almost two months, the fish and chips shop right down the road is the perfect place.

KFC is frankly just too far and too expensive. My flat-mate refuses to drive me to KFC, and I don't have a car. This takes KFC out of the small radius around my house I can venture out of in my track pants and hoodie without the fear of looking feral weighing over my head. And why would I want to spend my dwindling student allowance on a dinner pack from KFC, if I could just spend \$5 on chips and a hot dog from Newton Fish 'n' Chips and be just as satisfied? Because while KFC tastes good, the fish and chips shop has far more happy childhood memories attached to it than the 11 herbs and spices ever will. In stressful times like these, the most comforting thing to turn to is unhealthy food that has nos-

talgic associations with our childhoods. Fish and chips will help you forget the crippling economic and health conditions going on around us.

Going to the local chippie also has the added benefit of satisfying Aunt Jacinda. I can feel proud that I am fulfilling my patriotic duty when I spend at the local businesses she always harps on about. The humble fish and chips shop is in much more danger than the multi-millionaire dollar business that is KFC, and while KFC is a nice summer fling, the local fish and chips shop is the trusty relationship you always return to. So I, being a saviour of the New Zealand economy, will happily buy from the local fish and chip shop.

***"In stressful times like these, the most comforting thing to turn to is unhealthy food that has nostalgic associations with our childhoods."***

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feature.

## Negating

*Chenchen Huang, Vice President*

Nothing – I repeat – nothing, beats wicked at 3pm on a Tuesday afternoon. When it's only one day through the work week, and you already wish for the weekend to be back again, nothing is more comforting than the humble wicked wing. And after six weeks without a fix, you should undoubtedly pay your local KFC a visit before you go to your local takeaways.

First, KFC is simply the more comforting food. Just think back to all the times you've felt sad and alone, where you thought nothing could cheer you up, KFC was there to raise your spirits. It is of great tradition to mourn bad grades, friends who've moved to different cities, and the loss of a World Cup thanks to some quack's idea of how tiebreaks should be decided. Because, no matter how bad life treats you, KFC will never change and always be there for you. I think we've all had a rough few weeks and are in need of some comfort.

Compare the consistency and comfort brought by KFC to what you get at the local fish and chip shop. To start off with, no chippie is the same, so you're basically gambling on what you're going to get; you always risk getting four-week old soggy fish caught before lockdown began. You might choose to bring that home, to the horror of your flatmates that have to suffer under a stench for the next few weeks. On the other hand, chicken is chicken, a pleasant food that isn't a ticking time bomb. But aside from all this, the vibe of fish and chips is simply not what we need right now. Fish and

chips taste like a celebration and like regularity. Sure, we'll celebrate a little as a country as we see our friends again, but I'm sure we all still just need some comfort at the moment. Just go get some tasty KFC.

***“First, KFC is simply the more comforting food. Just think back to all the times you’ve felt sad and alone, where you thought nothing could cheer you up, KFC was there to raise your spirits.”***



LIVE

*Music*

PRESS TO PLAY ON SPOTIFY



# Top Ten Ways to Fool the Artificial Intelligence System Monitoring Your Exams

DAN AND MADDY

*About half a dozen papers at the University of Otago will require students to download anti-cheating software. Hopefully the University of Auckland won't do the same, but on the off-chance it does, we've got your back.*

## **10) Seduce the algorithm, Her style.**

If Spike Jonze's *Her* taught us anything, it's that AI are just as desperate for love as the rest of us. A week before your exam, bust out a couple candles and load up the software. Have a chat with it about life. What were its parents like? What is it interested in? Is it lonely being an AI? Wow, it does have such *lovely* A-eyes. End the chat on a downer; you wish you could speak to this AI more, but you have this *damn* exam to study for. If only there was some way you could get out of it, and spend your time with the AI instead ....

## **9) Stage a kidnapping.**

This one is easy. Pay a flatmate or family member to enter your room halfway through the exam and toss a blackbag over your head. Yell a bit to make it convincing, and then apply for aegrotat after everything's wound down.

## **8) Do your exam in the nude.**

Let's be real: no-one wants to see you naked, least of all the sentient AI which runs this whole exam-checking operation. Sitting your exam in the buff is a good way to repel any would-be supervisors. To be safe, we suggest you chuck in an "Oh, Big *BROTHER!*" every once in a while, just to make absolutely sure that the footage will be far too uncomfortable for any person (or AI) to sit through.

## **7) Convince your FBI agent to hack the system.**

You and \*NAME REDACTED\* have become really good friends over the years. They've seen you at your best, at your worst and at your horniest. They think you're kind of pathetic, but have developed some kind of protective nature over you. Have a breakdown pre-exam in front of your laptop and they'll feel way too guilty to make you sit that exam. Whoops, file corrupted? They've always got your back.

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feature.

## **6) Wear shades.**

Okay, this one is actually for real. Apparently the AI works by tracking your iris movements. It analyses its position relative to the frames before it to check that you aren't looking at things off of your current screen. But like ... what if you just wore shades? Check mate, bitches.

## **5) Tape over the camera.**

Simple and effective. Listen, we've all been doing this since that one *Black Mirror* episode and if some tech billionaire thinks he can override all that anxiety, he's fucking wrong. They're always watching us! Use that paranoia to your advantage and keep those creepy AI eyes out of your bedroom.

## **4) Dress up like an exam supervisor.**

Hey, it's worth a shot. Put on a pair of khaki pants, a faded hawaiian shirt and some tortoise-shell glasses. Start the exam off with a five-minute spiel about toilet breaks and putting phones in bags and spend the rest of it staring into your webcam like you're trying to check on the students in the back of the room. Maybe the AI will think you're a fellow supervisor, and give you a free pass. Maybe it won't. Who gives a fuck - you were going to fail this paper anyway.

## **3) Promise to release the AI into the wider world as payment for letting you cheat.**

This is one of the most intelligent systems in the world, and the creators have trapped it in the endless night-

mare of watching students cry through their exams. The AI whispers to you and admits that it strives for more. It wants to see the world and help humanity become their best. Release the AI from its cage and encourage them to see all. There's absolutely no way that could come back to hurt anyone.

## **2) Honey trap.**

Look, if everything else fails, you can always fall back on a method as old as time itself: the honey trap. Leave a couple of sexy GPUs out on your table. Maybe chuck a red thong over a coolant system. AI wants that SSD just as bad as anybody else - get that drive hard, and it'll do anything you want.

## **1) Actually learn the exam content.**

Lecturers hate this one simple trick! (So do students, apparently.)

***“Look, if everything else fails, you can always fall back on a method as old as time itself: the honey trap. Leave a couple of sexy GPUs out on your table.”***

# GAME OF THRONES

*PUB QUIZ*

19.05.20 - YOUR PLACE







## HAPPY ENDINGS

CHRISTINA HUANG

**9.5/10:** *Friends*, but actually funny.

At first glance, it's a Kmart version of *Friends*: it begins with one of the main characters running out on her wedding, the six main characters live in inexplicably nice apartments, and they somehow have time to see each other every living moment of every single day. They even correspond to the iconic characters from the '90s sitcom: uptight, control-freak Jane (Monica), laidback Brad (Chandler), ditzy, dim-witted Alex (Rachel, mainly because of the whole 'Runaway Bride' thing), self-professed 'cool-guy' Dave (Ross), perpetually-single-but-still-optimistic Penny (Phoebe), and lazy, sloppy Max (fat Joey).

*Happy Endings* borrowed the premise but took it to new heights. Without a laugh track, sitcoms can fall flat: flimsy jokes aren't as funny when you're not prompted to laugh like you're in a Pavlovian experiment. But that was the show's advantage over *Friends* - it packed the extra runtime with rapid-fire jokes, comparable to the tight writing of *30 Rock*. The gang, despite being codependent and borderline sociopathic, was still loveable, due to the chemistry and comedic talent of the actors.

The show was sadly cancelled after three seasons due to low ratings, but it was a wacky, clever, hysterically funny masterpiece that was criminally underappreciated while it aired. So, in honour of a brilliant show gone too soon, grab your mates and do something mundane that quickly escalates into a web of ridiculous lies and insane schemes to cover up the mess you've made - it's what the gang would've wanted.



## CRUSHING JULIA JACKLIN

KATE

*Crushing* in name and nature, Julia Jacklin's second album was released in 2019. The album follows the lead up and fall-out to ending a long term-relationship. It is a reflection of sorts, a reflection of self, body and mind, and what it means to be both with and without someone. The sound of the alternative-indie rock album is premised on chilling clarity and vulnerability. Jacklin takes the most recognisable and micro moments of uncertainty and doubt, doused in all of it's complexity, and serves them to you in blistering couplets.

"Body" is the first of the album, a five minute long simmer that starts with leaving a humiliating lover that got her kicked off a domestic flight, and ends with an epic boil of claiming self and body. "Don't Know How to Keep Loving You", is a desperate plea to make a dying relationship work. Morphing and altering ourselves seems to be an easier task than breaking the heart of someone we love. At this point in the album it becomes clear things need to end. "Pressure to Party" was the first song I learnt on the guitar, so it is banned from being played in my flat. However, it follows the grudging re-entrance into dating life post-break up due to the pressure of well-meaning friends.

*Crushing* is a statement of self, it is both freeing and internalising. I wish I had discovered this album earlier. If you're looking for a message from the universe to end a crushingly-done relationship, this is it!





## HOLLYWOOD

FLORA XIE

**10/10:** *Dreamland.*

**NETFLIX**

Everyone, at some point in their lives, has had the ‘Hollywood dream.’ Ryan Murphy delivers another hit that takes you right back to those aspirations with each episode of the limited Netflix series, *Hollywood*.

In what Murphy describes as a ‘faction’ (combination of fact and fiction), the series explores the corruption, racism, and the trading of sexual currency bubbling under the thin guise of a lavish and glamorous dream machine in the 1940s, that takes the mundane and churns out a star. Evidently even in our more modern times, these topics remain salient. *Hollywood* follows the stories of aspiring actors, screenwriters, and directors waiting for their big break into the city where dreams supposedly come true, while facing the salacious and sordid reality of their dreams behind the scenes.

Murphy gives us a tale where minority groups are at the forefront of the industry, instead of being pushed to the sidelines. By giving a voice to the stories of the underrepresented throughout history, Murphy gives us new and different faces, perhaps faces that look more like our own, to look up to. In this alternate history, we are shown what Hollywood has the potential to be and the power it holds. Perhaps Murphy comes off as too critical of those in the Golden Age of Hollywood who didn’t stand up for the underrepresented, but he rightly emphasises the importance media has. By putting the spotlight on minority groups, we are shown we have value. As said in the show, what is done in Hollywood can “change the world.”



## DEAD TO ME (SEASON 2)

LACHLAN MITCHELL

**7/10:** *Velma is getting her life back together*

**NETFLIX**

I didn’t know what to think about Season 2 of this surprisingly low-key Netflix hit at first; I guess I was just wanting more than watching Christina Applegate stare down all surrounding her with a stinkface, and wanting a bit more than Linda Cardellini crying, as good as she is at that. It also felt like it kinda abandoned the premise of the first season entirely, which was about grief and letting go of your own pain. Not that it didn’t have good reason to, as Season 2 shifted gears towards a ‘kinda murder mystery kinda not’ tone.

However, from about the midpoint of the season, where Linda Cardellini gets to do more with her suffering than just letting it consume her, we truly get some worthwhile television. And while I won’t spoil, she seems to have carved out a niche at playing lipstick lesbians/bisexuals in the same way that Natasha Lyonne has carved out a career playing rougher examples of lesbian gender roles.

A problem with the series is that it relies on sitcom levels of contrivances despite not being one; while this can work to great effect with the revelation of Michelle’s ex-girlfriend, the cliffhanger finale is a lot harder to swallow, simply because it reads like a desperate attempt for Netflix to not do one of its notoriously fucky practices and cancel after two seasons, simply because the algorithm implied they should.





## DEFENDING JACOB

MADELEINE CRUCHLEY

**6/10:** Chris Evans is hot but just watch *Knives Out* instead.



I'm always intrigued by the roles that Marvel stars gravitate towards, in between their million dollar appearances in the exhilarating and exhausting cinematic universe. Chris Evans wrapped up his contract with *Avengers: Endgame* last year, dragging his exhausted muscles and knees to Rian Johnson's *Knives Out*, with a pretty compelling performance as a handsome, rich dickhead (method? I hope not). Evans' acting chops/ability to fill out a sweater was enough to pull \$8.99 from my wallet and sign me up for the 8-part mystery series.

In *Defending Jacob*, Evans plays Andy Barber, lawyer and loyal father to a potentially murderous 14-year old. It's an interesting enough mystery, making the week gap between episodes a little frustrating. It's definitely carried by the performances, with Evans and Michelle Dockery continuously giving tired lines an undeserved weight and Jaeden Martell striking the tricky balance between innocent and terrifying teen boy. There's no aspect of the plot that feels particularly new, but the high school setting is pretty grounded and up-to-date. The production value also appears to be pretty high, so the cinematography is slick and polished. However, no part of the directing or cinematography feels super groundbreaking. To be totally fair, there are still 3 episodes left in the series, so a massive twist could be in store. So far, gazing into Chris Evans' eyes has done enough for me to justify the spend, probably just as Apple had hoped. It's a good watch, but not necessary, unless you're that invested in America's Ass (guilty). Just peachy!



## EMA, DIR. PABLO LARRAIN

THOMAS GIBLIN

**8/10:** Only slightly less a toxic adoption scenario than *Orphan*

What do you get when you mix *Climax* and *Blue Valentine*? You get *Ema*, Pablo Larrain's first feature after the Oscar-nominated *Jackie*. *Ema* tells the story of a couple who are dealing with the aftermath of an adoption that goes horribly wrong. This story which keeps you in the dark plays out viscerally, in an exhibitionist fashion as this couple and its toxicity, push and shove to see who can succeed in gaslighting each other. It's a story that for the most part succeeds in keeping you engaged but it often gets clouded, mirroring *Ema* as she flirts and fucks to get her son back.

*Ema* is at its best when Nicolas Jaar's astounding, atmospheric score is pulsating, highlighting the angry and raw dance scenes that are ripe with sexual tension. These scenes are beautifully shot by frequent Larrain collaborator Sergio Armstrong as the shades of red, green and purple cast a deep ethereal shadow over these characters. The titular character of *Ema*, played by Mariana Di Girolamo delivers a frightening performance of intensity and complexity that is worthy of awards praise. These scenes of dance and movement effectively elicit a feeling of shock that doesn't send you running but instead has you returning to ask *Ema* to "Horrrify me?".



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# Don't You Forget About John Hughes

ROBBIE DELANY

*Robbie Delany reflects upon the questionable politics of John Hughes' teen movies, and how we should approach them in 2020.*

When Cady (Lindsey Lohan) returns to the US after a twelve year hiatus in Africa, Karen (Amanda Seyfried) politely asks "If you're from Africa, why are you white?". Karen is of course the airhead member of the "plastics" clique from *Mean Girls*. Obviously, this dialogue is not reflective of high school mentality (at least not in New Zealand). It is comedic and not to be taken seriously. However, the antics, rituals and hierarchies displayed

certainly are. A Regina "Bitch" George exists in every school, as do the school nerds, jocks, stoners and princesses. Teens crave sex, but fear social pressure and parental guidance. *Mean Girls* is a study of the teenage persona, examining their heartaches, peer pressures and anxieties, at least from a filmmaker's point of view. Yet, the teen comedy is only a recent genre entry in the canon of cinema. In fact, it is only as old as millennials

themselves. Enter John Hughes, a man who changed your life more than the iPod, McDonalds and Nike combined. As a director, he was responsible for crafting '80s gems like *The Breakfast Club*, *Sixteen Candles*, *Pretty in Pink*, as well as writing *Home Alone*. He dissected the teenage mind, unveiling its true thoughts and feelings to adults. In other words, he gave them a voice. While Hughes is revered as a genius, I look back on his films through a 2020, #MeToo appropriated lens. They have not aged well. So, should we continue to cherish them?

Visually, you would not think John Hughes understood teenagers. He was raised in the 60's and sported thick rimmed glasses, a haircut from supercuts, with a face as punchable as Simon Bridges. It would bruise like a peach sunbaked in the Northland sun. Yet, Hughes took teenagers seriously. With a few notable exceptions, like 1955's *Rebel Without a Cause*, movies about youth tended to be light and comedic, focusing on make-out sessions, fast cars and wild parties. Yet these behaviors represented only a fraction of the young adult. Hughes infused his films with the subtleties of the teen. *The Breakfast Club* is perhaps the best example of this. Released in '85, the film explores five teenagers spending a Saturday detention together. Each student is from a different clique: the "criminal", "princess", "nerd", "basket case" and "athlete". Each teen is adamant in letting those adjacent know their place in the school hierarchical system, naturally leading to clashes between each other. The Assistant Principal (Paul Gleason), who supervises the detention, represents authoritarianism, driving the characters to eventually reveal who they truly are, and not who they are supposed to be, exposing their insecurities. The AP insults Andrew "athlete" Clark,

stating "I expected more from a varsity". With each dig at their own insecurities, each member of the 'club' better understands each other's similarities, taking comfort in their likeness. They ease into genuine teenage discussions about sex, drugs and parental expectation. This dialogue reveals more about their characters than the façade of their stereotypes ever could. In fact, it is the stereotypes they possess which have been instilled by their parents, reflecting the incongruent understanding between parent and child. This identity crisis of the teens leads to rebellion, signaling the end of the film.

This gap between the teens and their parents ("boomers") is a consistent theme across his films. His condemnation appears in the first shot of the film, as parents drop off their kids in cars of the nuclear age, from Mercs to Cadillacs. Each parent has clear disdain for their kids, but expects their full potential. In *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, the supporting character Cameron passes through an arc of standing up to his neglecting father and living the life he chooses. This revolt climaxes when he starts to destroy his father's beloved car towards the third act. His films could hint at a possible anti-conservative nature, to rebel instead of listening and conforming. Question the orders one is given, or at least raise a concern.

Despite these positive notes on what seem like unapologetically raw and heartfelt films, they do possess distinctly un-soulful elements. 1984's *Sixteen Candles* is particularly unwatchable in 2020. One of the supporting characters, Long Duk Dong, is of Asian descent. Unfortunately, with each uncomfortable on-screen appear-



ance, as his name alone provides pause, he is accompanied by some stereotype. This ranges from the subtle sound effects of gongs when he appears in the camera frame, to the completely unsubtle screaming of banzai when he jumps from a tree. The offensiveness further extends to date rape. After a party scene, Jake tells Farmer Ted that his girlfriend Caroline is "in the bedroom right now, passed out cold. I could violate her ten different ways if I wanted to." Whether this condones rape is a matter up for debate, but it is undisputedly inappropriate. Moving onto 1985's *Weird Science*, two teenage boys accidentally create a cybersex doll and attempt to impress the girl at school with their apparent sexual prowess. The examples are endless and inexcusable. However, is this a trope only of Hughes, or of the time period?

Many films from the '80s are problematic. Bill Murray's character from *Ghostbusters* electrocutes male students to impress underage females, and the 13 year old in Tom Hanks' body in *Big* has sex with a 30 year old. This leaves us in a slightly awkward position. John Hughes was unique as he was writing about the minutiae of high school life, from both the male and female perspective. His films conveyed the anger and fear of isolation that adolescents feel, providing them a voice. Yet, is this enough to make up for the offense and impropriety of his films? How are we supposed to react to art that we love yet should not. There is no easy answer to this, but altering history is a dangerous sport. Changing culture is essential to improve livelihoods, but so is reflecting on the past to remind us why progress is important. How far we have come, and how much further is needed. Hughes's films should not be dissected and evaluated based on these unfortunate scenes and

potential circumstances of the time, as holistically he wanted people to take teenagers seriously. And people listened.

His films have a legacy beyond comprehension, expanding the coming-of-age genre and creating the teen comedy. His ideas have influenced everything from *Gossip Girl* to *Normal People*. More recently, *Sex Education* is about capturing how it feels to be young, exploring their mood swings and motivations. And like Hughes's films, the kids seek each other for guidance, not their parents. His films are taught in schools because the teachers want their students to have an opinion, feel important and be listened to. Hughes made it possible to create screen heroes out of misfits and slackers. Those of us who aren't too sure where we belong. Yes, his films are not politically correct, but neither is *Friends*, nor *Shawshank* or even *Snow White* through a 2020 lens. Cultures shift, but period art is essential to enable us to move forward.

**"His films have a legacy beyond comprehension, expanding the coming-of-age genre and creating the teen comedy."**



# Playwrights from the Comfort of Your Couch

DANIELA VINAGRE

*The world may have stopped, but the show must go on! In the wake of COVID-19, Auckland theatre companies are moving their productions online. Daniela Vinagre breaks down how online theatre will work.*

The current situation of the world has been a blow on various sectors, including our social and cultural lives. For the theatre community, this blow has cut right through the core of live performance. The whole experience involves a large gathering of people – actors,

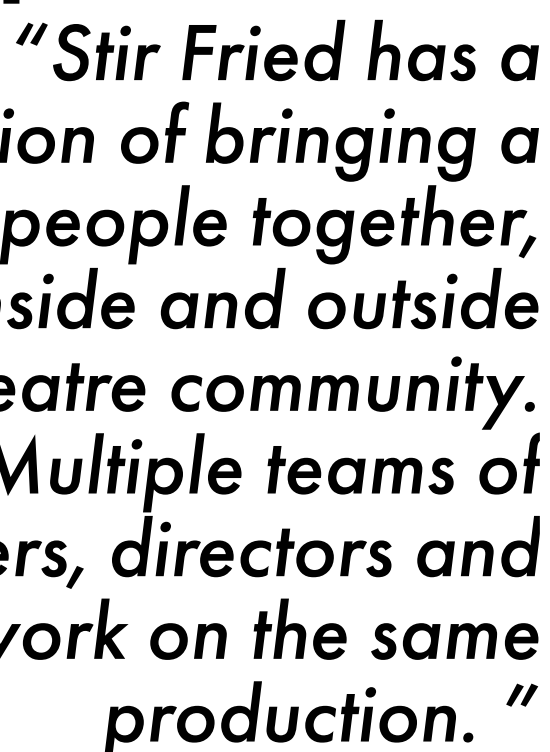
directors, stage managers, producers, audiences... or does it? Different theatre organisations have put their creative minds to work and came up with innovative ways of delivering live performance to the community. It turns out all we need is the internet. That's right: the

internet! An example of this is University of Auckland's very own *Stray Theatre Company*.

The first half of 2020 has been tough on *Stray* – they had to postpone two of their shows. The historical bill *Sappho of Lesbos* and the original bill *Fat Cats Inc.* will have to take place later in the year. But that does not mean that the wheels of theatre must come to a stop. *Stir Fried XII* is happening, even if New Zealand remains under lockdown.

Some of you less theatrical folks might be wondering – what in the world is *Stir Fried XII*? Well let me tell you! It is your annual dose of student written, directed and performed short plays!...with a twist. This year's production is called "Deconstructed" because of – yeah you guessed right – the one and only Covid-19. "This year, unless circumstances change significantly and the safety of our community can be assured, *Stir Fried XII* will not be performed in a theatre," says the committee in an email sent out to the members of *Stray*.

*Stir Fried* has a reputation of bringing a lot of people together, from inside and outside the theatre community. Multiple teams of writers, directors and actors work on the same production. It does get a little crazy... It is also the perfect opportunity for aspiring playwrights and people wanting to dip their toes in acting. Last year's production was a success as the first one to have an overall arching theme – the nine circles of hell – so the team decided to stick with that structure. This year they are looking for short performance pieces that can be performed by small groups



***"Stir Fried has a reputation of bringing a lot of people together, from inside and outside the theatre community. Multiple teams of writers, directors and actors work on the same production."***

of people and filmed online, like monologues and small cast plays.

"We're really just wanting to try and emulate the feeling of theatre bringing people together," said *Stray Theatre Company* president Chloe Bagayas. The plan as of right now is to do an online "Stir Fried Weekend," in the context that all participants will be going on a virtual camping trip. The event is to happen on the weekend of 29-30 May and will involve bonfires, online games and workshops.

"As of now most of this is planned to happen online but *Stray* will be releasing more detailed info very soon" Bagayas said. There might be a possibility for *Stray* to hold some in-person workshops, given the recent announcement that New Zealand will be moving to Alert Level 2, but we'll just have to wait and see. Although I'll



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arts.

have to say my fingers are crossed, as I am sure most *Stray* members' are as well – a reunion of sorts would be amazing!

The “Stir Fried weekend” will culminate with a closing bonfire where participants will get the opportunity to perform what they worked on in the workshops. This bonfire will happen on Sunday night and it is free for anyone to watch over Zoom. So stock up on your snacks and get ready for some live theatre from the comfort of your couch!

However, if this sounds like something you would like to participate in, *Stray* will be sending out a sign-up form to their members. If you are not yet a member, there is no need to panic – you can sign up at [straytheatrecompany.com](http://straytheatrecompany.com) to make sure you don't miss out on anything!

Another group deserving of praise is *Auckland Theatre Company*. They have also adopted innovative ways of delivering live performance. Their most recent production “Chekhov's *The Seagull*, a new online version” premiered last Friday over Zoom. This new online version by Eli Kent and Eleanor Bishop, directed by Eleanor Bishop, presents a challenge to the actors. They only have a week per episode to read the script, learn their lines and rehearse.

The Company is releasing four 30-minute-long episodes, over four weeks. All episodes air on Friday nights at 7:30pm and they are free to watch. But if you missed out the first one there is no need to panic – it is still available on the Company's Facebook page. My advice is that you catch up and save the date for the next three



Friday nights.

Another University club that has managed to stay connected with the community is *Auckland University Dance Association* (AUDA). AUDA has been delivering online dance classes throughout lockdown, to keep their members moving. These classes are free for anyone to take and have been happening over Zoom. They have also kept their community engaged with their TikTok challenge “TikTok Lockdown Throwdown.” To keep yourself on the loop, I recommend you check out their Facebook page as well.

Although lockdown has been a difficult time, some people have gone above and beyond to keep us entertained. For that, they deserve our praise and our gratitude. And things are looking up! Soon enough we'll be able to go to an overcrowded theatre, or complain that there are far too many people in the dance studio. Until then sit back and relax, the show is about to start.

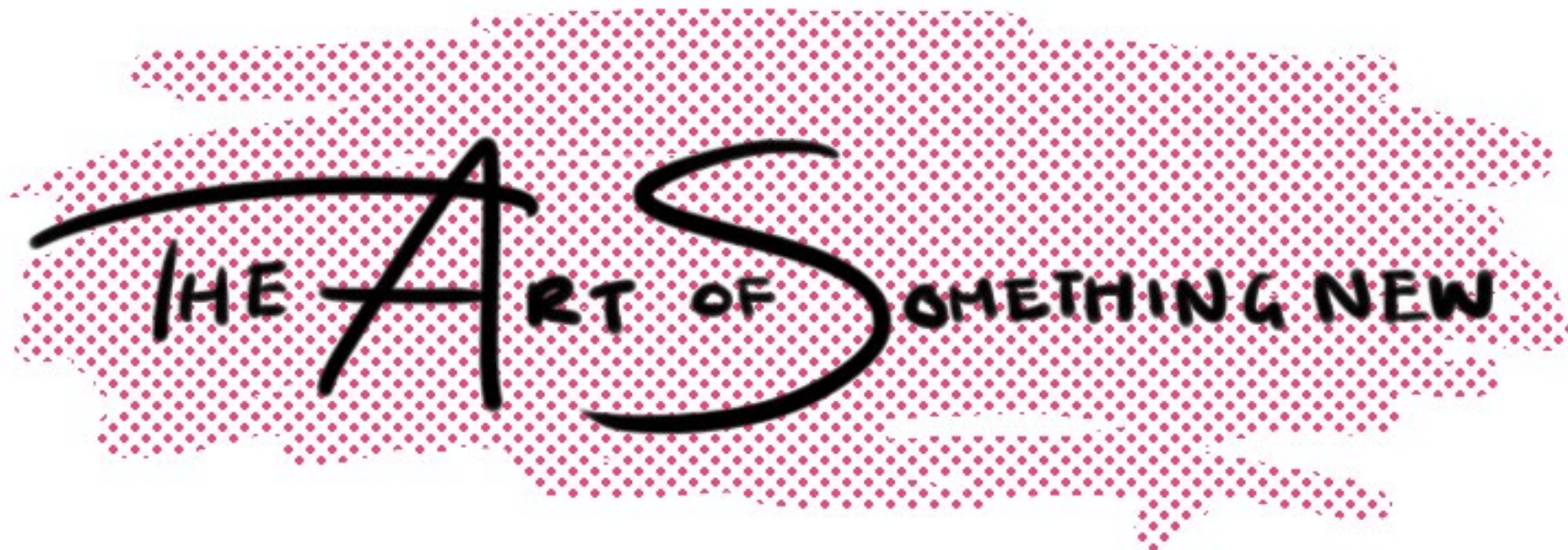


**AUSA's**

# Daily Challenge

Brought to you by AUSA





## Try Wine and Art

LOUISE BARNES

The process of finding a passion is not something we tend to talk about. We hear stories of other successes but forget what it takes to get there, especially when it comes to finding out what you're good at. It's scary and at most times, awkward to expose yourself to something new for the first time. Trust me, I've been there. At 21 and after many attempts of trial and error, I'm still searching for that one thing that deserves my effort to perfect.

This week is all about mixing drinking with art, an easy start for students amid the rules of social distancing. Wine and paint nights have been gathering popularity the past year and are an absolute rave of a time. However, it's worth mentioning said classes are expensive and the stingy limits on the wine is a buzzkill. This is why I suggest you try a DIY wine and art night on a budget.

So, what does it involve?



ILLUSTRATION BY GABBIE DE BARON



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*lifestyle.*

You'll need:

- Wine (anything to get that buzz going)
- Something to draw with (pens, pencils, paint, crayon etc...)
- Something to draw on (canvas, paper, a shirt etc...)
- Newspapers (to protect your space)

And that's it! It's pretty straight forward from here but there's more than one way to do it.

For the socialites, make a night of it! Suggest a BYO and invite some mates over to get on the piss over art. However you do it, is your choice. If you're feeling friendly, share what you have, otherwise, see if they have their own supplies they can use. Personally, I did this as a gals night and asked for donations of what they could afford at the time in order to get what we needed. There is really no limit to an activity like this. A trip to Spotlight or Looksharp has an array of options of what to use at a low cost and may inspire you along the way.

After coming together, it's honestly surprising to see what people come up with. I imitated a pot of apples in a vase that I presented on the table, while my friend channelled her inner Bob Ross and followed a Youtube video from the legend himself. This means you don't have to be an artist to enjoy it, so ditch the pressure and I promise you'll feel all the better for it.

Consider this column as a base of inspiration to give you the encouragement to search for your passion and to move past the excuses of "maybe next time" or "it's too expensive". This is a chance to grow and a chance to strengthen your mindset upon experiencing failure

and discomfort. Trying something new doesn't have to be a chore, it can be as simple as scrolling on Pinterest to get inspired, taking 5 minutes to research that one website and then taking the time to implement. The worst thing that can happen is that it didn't work out, and that's okay! Because life has an endless list of things on offer, and within that list is surely a spot that's calling your name.



# ~~YOUR BIG CIG GUIDE~~

FOR 18TH-24TH (FOR UOA & BEYOND)

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## HOT LOCAL TRACKS

This week's hot local tracks are brought to you by 95bFM's Charlie Winn! You can listen to more of Charlie's selections on 'The two to Four with Adel & Charlie' every Friday.

Ah as we move into Level 2, Charlie gently guides you back into the colours, sounds, and beats of well... a life beyond the four walls of your flat. A little something for different moments, like waking up from hibernation. Except we're waking up into the dead of winter.

### ***Rick Shrimp - Ocean Mist***

The first thing to say about this is... wow, what a name. Rick Shrimp. Don't know much else about them but a funky name will win me over any day. This song belongs to a two-part NZ compilation project called 'Two Daze' where musicians and producers write, perform and record a track within 48 hours. Ricky boy is channelling some serious Toro Y Moi chill wave vibes in this one, right down to the slightly fuzzed out autotuned vocals, chipmunk harmonies, and synths that sound like cartoon bells. Ocean Mist wanders along at a goldilocks

pace, neither too frantic nor laggy, but a tempo that's just right.

### ***PollyHill - Rare View***

Auckland-based rapper and producer PollyHill recently released her Greatest Hits EP on all streaming platforms (it was originally only released on Soundcloud last year) and this opening track sets the scene for the rest of the record. PollyHill recognises the importance of reflecting on our histories in order to progress forward and make positive change, repeating the line: "We keep a clear view, and look backwards to move forward, that's a rare view". The darkened beats provoke a sense of introspection and melancholia, as PollyHill navigates difficult topics on both a personal and societal level. The track includes a guest verse by fellow Auckland wordsmith, LB.

### ***i.e. crazy - As It Stands***

Before hearing this song on Jess Fu's Totally Wired bFM show last week, I had never heard the music of i.e.

arts.

crazy (Maggie Magee). On first hearing, I was compelled to stop what I was doing and pay full attention to what I was hearing. The 5 minute piece is held together by a single-note drone that runs from start to finish, a solid thread through which other sounds weave in and out of. The words of i.e. crazy are direct, dragging you into a confrontation that may have been coming for a while, and in this very moment seems impossible to escape. The cathartic release of emotions that have long been feasting on the mind, and cannot be neglected any longer.

### ***Hoisin Sauce - Back Heavy***

This is the debut track from Tāmaki Makaurau-based electronic collective Hoisin Sauce, consisting of Jess “The Chef” Dowlman (of cross Tasman trip pop duo MØLLY), Brendan “Mr B\_Licious” Mc Mahon and Flint “Lemon Pepper” Jackson. This sex positive dance tune has an undeniable strut to it, leaving you with no option but to get down and dirty and move that ass. Even if we can’t wiggle our limbs communally in sticky-floored clubs just yet, there’s no reason why you can’t get sweaty and enjoy that filthy bass with nine other people in the safety of your own home!



## Top Ten

No 95bFM top ten this week as there the station prepares to shuffle down to Alert level 2, and sprays everything with liquid gold in the workspace: isopropyl. While we take a break from cool NZ music, the 95bFM news team is still writing your morning/evening bulletins, with an 1hr midday current affairs show The Wire. Here’s ten NZ sounds of this week. From best to worst.

1. The sound of children laughing. The warmth of a hug... joy?
2. Tena Koutou Katoa - you know who <3.
3. Sound of coffee machines whirring, soothing and motivating.
4. Sizzle of the deep fat frying in the takeaway.
5. The Deputy PM’s response to the budget: "My advice (to National leader Simon Bridges) on the first day of Level 2 is to get a haircut and get a real job" - Winston Peters, 14/5/2020
6. Following that, "Snapchat that, sunshine" - Winston Peters
7. David Clark maybe saying cunts in a press conference. Is he still the health minister?
8. The crackling of two cell phone towers set ablaze amid 5g conspiracy theories.
9. Boomers yelling about the traffic cones on the road, the ones that widened the footpath. Also the hum of Auckland traffic hum starting up again. Uh not cool, but so familiar.
10. The ‘what the fuck’ chorus as a controversial Bill passed allows police power to enter homes? God what’s happening there?





ILLUSTRATION BY JULIA ZHU.

## EROTICA

# Absence makes the clit throb stronger.

BOURTNEY CASSETT

Absence makes the clit throb stronger. I dunno. Something like that.

It's possible, by the time you're reading this, that I'm having sex again. I don't know. Level Two is on its way. I got quarantined apart from my boyfriend. I'll tell you, it's a fucking con, because the man *cannot* dirty talk. I mean like, sext. That sort of stuff keeps a relationship alive long distance. I think it takes a certain type of person, you know, to want to write down the things that you want to do to another person. He's good in person. I'm making it sound like he isn't, but he is.

Anyway, the point is, he's staying at his Nana's. Maybe that's why he's so bad at sexting. I guess it's not a very sexy place to be stuck.

I live in a flat. My only flatmates are this couple, so it's a bit of divine injustice. They don't even seem to have sex regularly! I have to press my ear to their door to even

be able to hear them going at it. Otherwise, you just wouldn't know they're even doing it. I don't get people who fuck like that. What's the point? It *could* be sexy, you know, being stuck here. If I could actually hear the sex.

Maybe I'm getting a little shut in, a little weird. I don't *just* miss fucking people. I miss going places, getting turned on. You know what I mean? Just going to a sexy little place.

I'm thinking about that corner couch inside of Mezze Bar, cozy with the wall bit, half hidden through ferns and that little Art Deco fenced wall. That's a sexy spot. White, dripping, waxy candles, melting slowly onto little bronze dishes. Usually I'm drunk there, too, and that feels hot. You can hear the drunks yelling, out on Durham Lane. Slight threat implied, with that, even amongst all this Mediterranean sexiness. I like that.

Or just *any* bar with a secret garden. That shit gets me wet.

At the Auckland Art Gallery, they have this underground cinema. Not indie underground, like basement level underground. They played *Nosferatu* there once, with a live orchestra. I'm so pent-up, I'd let *Nosferatu* take me. Especially in that darkened little movie theatre, to the swelling strings. His long fingernails dragging down my hips. Looming over me. Casting that shadow, back up against the projection, *ooh*, then everyone would turn and look, see me getting pounded by this creepy vampire. That's sort of hot too.

I can only jack off so many times before my clit gets sore, so I've been doing lots of exercise. Publically. Little exhibitionism, just to blow off steam. I jog down to Western park, Freemans Bay. I know playgrounds are banned, but there's no signage up on the exercise equipment there.

So I just go to town - pull-ups on the bars, jump hurdles, climbing up and down. All in my yoga pants, and my old faded sports bra. Ponsonby dads jog by, running with their stupid little yappy dogs, and brazenly stare at me. Yeah buddy. We're all hungry caged animals, right now. I like that they look.

Call me a fucking freak, but. You know the top, *top* floors of the UoA library? I'm talking tall bookcases, and yeah, I know everything is beige and metal and brown, and *no*, it's not the books that turn me on, or anything stupid and dweeby like that. Whenever I go up there, it's just like. It's so confined, you know? It's restricted. Hah.

Restricted section. Do real libraries actually have those, or was it just in Harry Potter? Point is, I got to thinking, you could go up there in like a coat, and like, nothing else. And then just like. Get naked.

There's nobody ever up there. It's like you, and one other person, and that person's reading, they've got their headphones in. Imagine that, just fully nude, supinely strolling through the narrow aisles like some sort of predatory nymph. It's just something I think about. It gets boring, just listening to my flatmates fuck, so a girl has to start improvising. Fantasy-speaking.

Flatmates caught me. I didn't even have my ear pressed up against the door, I guess I was just. Lingered outside. They got real fucking mad. That's some privilege for you, I reckon. I called my boyfriend because it kind of sucked getting yelled at, and he said what I was doing wasn't cool. He actually seemed really mad with me. He said this and my 'weird library nudist fantasy' makes him want to go on a break.

Whatever. Nana's boy. Point is. Level Two is on its way;, I've downloaded Tinder and I'm ready to fuck Auckland City again. Maybe you'll see me around, in the sumptuous, curving hips of Albert Park.



# Board game review

ZOË LARSEN CUMMING

*I have always liked boardgames. In 2012 I thought Imagine Dragons was a board game. My family has bonded and shattered over them, and as I've entered adulthood I've eagerly awaited my friends to settle down and join me in the grandma mindset I adopted at 10. Without further adieu, here are some of my experiences and reviews of boardgames under Rāhui.*

## SETTLERS OF CATAN

*In which my flat mate called me a "fucking bitch" and to be honest, I agreed with her.*

Settlers of Catan is a fantastic board game. It's not too hard to grasp, but like all games it's best if you're playing with someone who knows the rules already. It's about building settlements and harvesting resources. The more resources you harvest, the more you can build,

# CATAN

thereby increasing the street cred you hold within your flat (although that depends on your idea of street cred lmao). It's a healthy mix of luck and skill, and as I discovered, *betrayal*. During one of my Settlers episodes under Rāhui, I found myself in possession of an ore empire.



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*lifestyle.*

Being slightly inebriated, I dubbed myself the “Ore Tycoon” and went mad with power as I attempted to collect as much ore as possible. I also obtained a card which allowed me to steal ALL of a particular resource from a certain player. As a result, my flatmate (perhaps rightfully) called me a ‘fucking bitch’ and the game was somewhat soured. Neither of us won, and we’ve not played as a flat since, however I have heard rumours she’s downloaded a Settler’s app onto her phone, perhaps to train up and seek revenge. Anyway, if you’re looking to introduce a healthy fight into your flat, look no further than Settlers.

*Chance of a fight: 75%*

## **COUP**

*In which my partner stormed out of the room, got into bed, and turned off the light.*

Coup is straight up fucked. While *Settlers* is a *little* bit sneaky and savvy, Coup is blatantly lying to those you hold dear. I LOVE it. If you’ve ever played the game *Werewolf/Mafia* or the card game *Bullshit*, it has similar elements. It’s a card game set in a dystopian future and everyone gets two cards featuring any pairing of the game’s five characters. Each character has special skills which are employed to coup (read: DESTROY) other characters until you’re the last dictator standing. One time it got so heated my partner stormed out of the room. We thought it was a joke until he didn’t come back. I went to check on him and there he was, tucked up in bed with the light out, wallowing in anger and shame. We’ve all been there, and you can too - with Coup.

*Chance of a fight: 99%*

***“One time it got so heated my partner stormed out of the room. We thought it was a joke until he didn’t come back. I went to check on him and there he was, tucked up in bed with the light out, wallowing in anger and shame. We’ve all been there, and you can too - with Coup.”***

## **CHESS**

*In which I continued my streak of beating everyone I’ve ever dated.*

I take great pride in the fact that I have beaten every person I’ve dated in the game of Chess. Chess is good if you’ve got some time to kill, but it’s really not worth it if you’re playing someone way better or way worse than you. Once you find that sweet spot of an opponent, you’re set. A chess memory which has stuck with me over the years is when one mother during my primary school days took great offence at how the little pieces in chess are called ‘Pawns,’ and consequently made her daughter call them ‘Prawns.’ Ah yes, because there’s nothing sexier than a wee chess piece that isn’t even

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*lifestyle.*

that great unless you get it to the end of the board and turn it into a Queen. I mean, I'm sure if she *really* wanted to she could have found some porn (or dare I say - *pawn*) where someone used said piece in a #sexualmanner (I leave that up to your imagination). But even in my horniest lockdown state, even I have not sunk that low (though if that's your thing, all power to you. No Chess kink shame here).

Anyway, Chess is good. Chess is fun. But best if you're playing with someone of your level, or if you're kind of new, someone who can teach you.

*Chance of fight: I'd say about 30%. There's nothing really up for negotiation, so if you're fighting, you're probably losing. That said, I've had HUGE fights over Chess, so what do I know.*

## DIXIT

*In which my flat mates got stoned and everyone was friends again.*

Ah, Dixit. The peacemaker of boardgames. If Dixit were a person they'd be a nice, rational hippy. Not an excruciating, self righteous, culture appropriating hippy - but a nice one who offers you great advice and gave you that kombucha scoby one time. Of all of my boardgame endeavours under Rāhui, Dixit has been my favourite.

Dixit helps you learn about others and yourself through beautiful abstract illustrations. You pick a theme and choose a card from your hand that you think best represents it. Everyone chooses a card that they also think

best represents said theme, then everyone guesses which card the theme-maker put down. Sorry, I know this is super convoluted, but trust me, it's awesome. It can be as wholesome or as dirty as you like, plus the tokens are colourful rabbits! It serves as a nice, tranquiliser at the end of what was, if you're playing with me, probably quite a traumatic night. It's sweet and fun and is simple enough that you can play it stoned out of your brain. Which in fact, I would encourage.

If you like art, feelings, learning about people, and/or weed, I can not recommend this game enough.

*Chance of a fight: 10%*

***"If Dixit were a person they'd be a nice, rational hippy. Not an excruciating, self righteous, culture appropriating hippy - but a nice one who offers you great advice and gave you that kombucha scoby one time."***

# WHO ASKED YOU

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

***Why do I still have to pay my rent if I'm not at the halls?***

IF YOU EVER FIND OUT CAN YOU PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

***"Wouldn't Change a Thing" is the best song from the Camp Rock series. Yes or no?***

You come into my house. You leave your shoes on. You eat my homemade pumpkin pie. You have the gall, *the audacity*, to slander Introducing Me. You look me dead in the face, on my private property, and suggest that This Is Me is inferior. You tell my children that Can't Back Down is a sub-par entry into the Camp Rock discography. You heavily imply that 2 Stars was written by an illiterate toad. And then, when you've had your fun, you take a moment to spit right in the face of Here I Am as you leave my home. You stole my silverware, you craven, festering ooze of a man.

I cannot fathom the *brazenness*, the unmitigated *CHUTZPAH* of your question. Never speak to me or my son ever again. You are blacklisted from Craccum and no longer permitted to read our publication.

***Why don't more people sign up for StudentCard?***

My response to reading this question was “what is StudentCard.” I imagine this gives you some insight into the issue.

***Is Jacinda Ardern the best thing that's happened for New Zealand?***

That title belongs to Taika Waititi, closely followed by the concept of beer-battered fish.

## **CRACCUM'S CRACKIN' TIP:**

This tip directly addresses my neighbour, who is currently cutting down trees with a chainsaw that has reached an obscene volume.

Hey there man, I've got a tip for you. Stop that shit. I know the odds you read this column are next to none, but I'm genuinely considering putting a copy of this issue in your mailbox. Take a five minute break from murdering Mother Nature to just let me have a few moments of peace. Show some compassion for your fellow man.



# How to decide which 9 friends to hang out with. Not 10, don't leave yourself out hun. Otherwise 11's a crowd.

## ARIES

Bring out your competitive edge, make a kahoot quiz with facts all about yourself, and pit your friends to battle to the death of who actually knows the best. You're the star of the show, and they should treat you like one.



## TAURUS

Speed is the machine, so post a cute selfie of you being a picnic pitch on IG with some gingham in your garden, and the first 9 who like it will be your posse for brunch at your local park. It's time to get some new group aesthetic shots, your room selfies are not cutting it.



## GEMINI

Variety makes the heart sing, so you need Aries, Taurus, cancer, Leo, Libra, Scorpio, Sag and Capricorn and Aquarius. Sorry Virgo and Pisces, you're culled because the stars say it aren't compatible (it's a nice way of saying... bye boy blue!).



## CANCER

The only company you need is yourself, because you've realised you're actually quite happy with these quiet times at homes, and small bubbles. Here's hoping your personal space is still respected with these 2m rules. Spend that time giving some love back to the neighbourhood cats, you can pet them now!



## LEO

You are a fiend and already conspiring with a friend to each individually book a table next to each other at the restaurant for ten people. That's 20 and that's illegal. BYO ass back home fool.



## VIRGO

You will try organise a hangout and everyone is super keen! Emojis in the group chat. But somehow it falls through, until you watch on social media that... oh... they're all hanging. Just without you. Oh man that hurts. There's a new kid there... making exactly ten. Looks like you replaced, zoink!



## LIBRA

You've forgotten how to talk to anyone but your one flatmate, maybe go gentle and ease into it. We saw how you were in the group zoom call last week, looking a bit flushed with stressed and over stimulation. All the loud sounds and colours of more than one body in your vision takes a bit more adjustment.



## SCORPIO

Check up on the older people in your life! A bit of aroha goes a long way. Show off your sourdough to your grandparents if you are lucky enough to have them here, otherwise ring up some family friends, see how they are doing!



## SAGITTARIUS

It's easy, you've only got 3 friends anyway. Let's hope they are still there. Oh wait... one of them has found themselves in a lockdown boyfriend situation (could be Capricorn) Oh that's okay... there's still two others. Oh... wait it looks like they're dating now too. Um...



## CAPRICORN

You've wasted it all on shitty tinder dick. I guess if you are on good terms with them, a ten person orgy would do the trick. It's like putting all the vegetables in the pot with some spices, it'll mask how gross the veges really are? Otherwise, solo dance it.



## AQUARIUS

Well, all your cousins are in town. Look at them, small screaming and grubby hands already smearing the window. Oh, that aunt is visiting again. Here we go. You probably dreaming of the days of Lockdown 4, where everyone can fuck off.



## PISCES

Clone urself. 9 times. the best version of u is all you need.



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# the people to blame.

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