

CRACCUM

ISSUE 13, 2019



Reality Show Graveyard: NZ Idol

Remember when we thought that reality show fame would last forever?

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New vice-chancellor temporarily restores hope for UOA students

While Craccum mourns the end of being able to take the piss out of McCutcheon

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"Do YoU gUyS eVeN hAvE aUtHoRs??"

BY BAILLEY VERRY



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

Writing for Craccum is one of the great joys in my life, along with being able to eat ice cream for dinner and get drunk whenever I please. Unfortunately for me, however, as much joy as I get from it, sometimes it also can do a little bit of damage. Like a hangover the next day or an immediate brain freeze, writing for Craccum has consequences. Every once in a while, my ego takes a hit.

In a creative field, you simply can't bat 1000. Sometimes you put out shit work, things that are ok, and things you are proud of. But how you personally feel about the work you do does not mean that is how it will be received. And with the fantastic invention of Facebook comments, we sometimes get to know what you think. Some are laughably frustrating, showing that only the headline was read, while some are fair criticisms that deserve to be called out. You never know what is going to be picked out. I will admit that sometimes I have patiently waited in anticipation to see what reaction, if any, articles get.

Full disclosure: sometimes the Craccum group chat shits on our own work that we produce. It's a fun team exercise. Yet often what

we rag on does quite well. Is it the raw shitmess that resonates with readers or is everyone else laughing at it rather than with it? We may never know. Either way, we have a lot of fun making content both dismal and quality (or deciding exactly where that fine line is).

As the editor, seeing criticism can bruise my ego from time to time, (but I imagine the rest of the Craccum team would argue that may be slightly necessary). Craccum is a small team of writers and illustrators that spend a lot of time on the 40 pages you read each week. Knowing how much work each person puts into each piece they create makes it hard to not take criticism personally.

But to answer your question: yes, we do have writers, although fewer than we would like. We are always on the hunt for content from new writers and welcome people getting involved. If you want Craccum to be better, come and make it better. Show us how it is done.

Email us at editor@craccum.co.nz to roast us further or improve our quality listicles.

RE//ORIENTATION

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University of Auckland Announces Next Vice-Chancellor

DANIEL MEECH

The University of Auckland has officially revealed the university's next Vice-Chancellor: Professor Dawn Freshwater.

Freshwater, who is currently serving as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia, is set to take over from Stuart McCutcheon once he reaches the end of his tenure later this year. Her appointment would make her the first female Vice-Chancellor in the university's history, and only one of four currently serving female Vice-Chancellors across the country.

University of Auckland Chancellor Scott St John announced the decision in an email sent out to students and faculty members. According to St John, Freshwater was chosen because of her "values-based leadership style and commitment to Maori and Pacific development". Her "understanding of the civic, regional and global relevance of the University of Auckland" were also considered "critical factors" in making the selection, as were her "teaching, research and education experience ... [and] strong commitment to role-modelling, equity, diversity and inclusiveness".

Freshwater, who graduated from the University of Nottingham with a PhD in Public Health, has considerable experience working in a university context, having spent time as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the

University of Leeds before accepting her role at the University of Western Australia. She also remains a prolific academic - contributing to more than 200 research papers since graduating - and has been awarded the Fellowship of the Royal College of Nursing for her contributions to mental health research.

It remains to be seen what kind of impact Freshwater will have on the university's development. She comes at an unfortunate time - earlier this year, it was announced that the university had fallen down the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings yet again. The University of Auckland has continued to fall down the QS rankings since 2006, when it achieved its highest ever placement (46th place). This year, it ranked 83rd.

The University of Auckland has also disappointed in other polls. In March, the university fell out of Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking's top 200 list for the first time ever. No doubt Freshwater will attempt to halt the continuous slide - but whether she can remains to be seen.

Freshwater will take over from Stuart McCutcheon in March of 2020. The transition will mark the end of McCutcheon's fifteen year tenure as Vice-Chancellor.

Kelvin Davis expands portfolio to include Māori Language Corrections

BRIAN GU

School children across New Zealand are facing harsh sentences of up to twenty Māori words as Minister of Corrections Kelvin Davis doubles down on Te Reo pronunciation offenders.

To put it less harshly, Davis (who is also Associate Minister for Education) wants to see a full-scale introduction of Māori language lessons to all New Zealand schools, with Te Reo becoming a compulsory core subject. In expressing this view, he has distanced himself from the stance of his own Labour Party, whose official policy is to aim to make Te Reo universally available, while not being a compulsory nor a core part of the New Zealand curriculum.

Presently, the government have already set themselves the goal of integrating Te Reo Māori into education in early learning and schools by 2025. Davis has been overseeing the policy, reporting good progress as our teachers upskill in Te Reo. "It's encouraging to see so many people genuinely excited to learn te reo Māori and I'm impressed by their dedication to this [topic]."

However, what Davis envisions would be a step beyond what has already been proposed; introducing Te Reo as a core subject would mean it is taught with the view of equal value and importance to fundamental

subjects such as maths and english.

The current coalition government have conflicting views on whether Māori language lessons should be introduced to classes as a core subject. NZ First oppose this policy, while the Greens are in full support, with co-leader Marama Davidson having even labelling it a personal priority. Being the appeasing party, Labour expectedly falls in the middle of the spectrum by embracing but not enforcing the idea of Te Reo education.

Meanwhile, David Seymour has taken to ridiculing Kelvin Davis' vision in a press release from ACT New Zealand. "The idea that we would force children who already struggle to learn another language seems like a cruel joke," he says, citing a 2014 TEC report revealing 40% of Year 12 students had failed to meet international benchmarks for literacy and numeracy.

Speaking to Newshub, Davis identified two areas that need strengthening in order for any such Māori programme to be effectively implemented - an increase in qualified teachers and public support. "[If Te Reo is] forced down people's throats and they're not yet ready for it, it could have negative consequences."

Compulsory Te Reo lessons is still a divisive topic, and with conflicting views not only across but within parties, an introduction of core Māori language lessons to schools remains unlikely to be seen anytime soon.

Government's Gun Buy-Back Scheme Begins in Earnest

DANIEL MEECH

The government's gun buy-back scheme has officially kicked off.

The scheme - created as a response to the Christchurch shootings - saw almost \$1.5 million worth of guns and gun parts handed in over the inter-semester break.

A number of gun buy-back 'events' were held by the police in districts all across the South Island. Owners of recently-blacklisted semi-automatic weapons were encouraged to journey to these events, where they could hand in their weapons in exchange for monetary compensation.

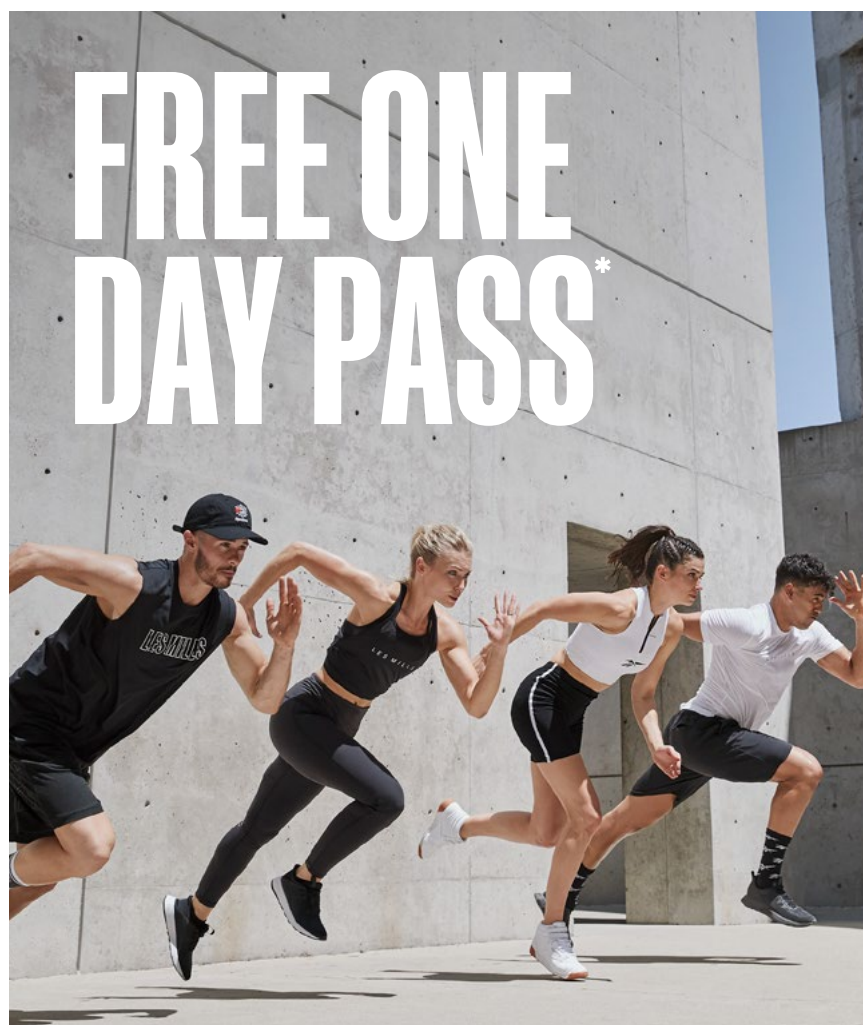
The first gun buy-back event took place in Christchurch's Riccarton Racecourse, on the 13th of July. One hundred and sixty-nine gun owners were processed at the event, with more than two hundred guns, and two hundred gun parts, handed in. Police Minister Stuart Nash says he was encouraged by the turn-out, and the willingness of gun-owners to participate in the scheme. "We have consistently acknowledged the vast majority of firearms owners are law-abiding," he told *NZ Herald*, "They have done nothing wrong. The law changed and now they hold prohibited weapons. This was never aimed at them. It was designed to ensure the events of March 15 in Christchurch do not happen again."

While many have expressed support for the scheme, there

has been some opposition. In particular, ACT's David Seymour has criticised the buy-back as being little more than "political theatre". "People who are prepared to line up in the full public glare and hand in their firearms at below-market rates are not the people we should be worried about," he told *Newshub*. Seymour was the only MP to vote against blacklisting semi-automatic weapons - or, at least, he would have been, had he not missed the hearing for the bill.

The scheme is similar to one adopted by Australia in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Although initially criticised, the Australian scheme saw the rate of mass shootings drop from one every year and a half (pre-1996) to one every twenty years (post-1996). Deputy Police Commissioner Mike Clement is confident the Christchurch buy-back will have similar levels of success. "If we take tens of thousands of firearms off the streets during the next six months, then I absolutely think New Zealand has to be a safer place," he told *Newshub*.

Those interested in depositing weapons can do so in one of four ways: by visiting a gun buy-back event; by handing over the weapons at an approved gun dealer; by asking the police to collect the weapons in bulk; or by visiting a police station. Gun owners will be paid back 95% of the base price if it is new or in near-new condition, 70% if it is in used condition, or 25% if in poor condition.



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AUSA Adds New Education Vice-President to Team

DANIEL MEECH

On the last day of semester one, Auckland University Students' Association (AUSA) revealed that Emma Rogers had been elected the organisation's new Education Vice-President (EVP). Dan sat down with Rogers for a quick chat.

Congratulations! How does it feel to be AUSA's new EVP?

Thank you so much! I'm thrilled to be taking up the position. Obviously, taking over from George won't be easy, but I hope I can continue the great work he was doing. It was a tough election with so many great candidates, but I'm stoked to have the opportunity to work closely with students as part of the AUSA team.

For those who don't already know, what is AUSA?

AUSA is an organisation of elected student officials who represent the student voice. We work with the university to ensure that students have a hand in important decisions affecting the university, and we also work to ensure that there's a lively student culture on campus. AUSA provides loads of cool services outside of just the political stuff too. These services include stuff like AUSA Advocacy, which is a free, confidential advice hub run by advocates independent of the university; AUSA hardship grants; AUSA food banks; and more. We also put on some great events, and organise stuff like O-Week.

What does your role entail?

The EVP represents university students in various committees, including the Education Committee, TLQC [Teaching and Learning Quality Committee], and the Academic Programmes Committee. The EVP also helps manage the class rep system and supports AUSA advocacy. Basically, the EVP's role is to provide a direct link between the university and the voice of students. The EVP also plays a role on the recently formed Student Council. The Student Council is a group of student faculty association presidents, which provides consultation on changes and

decisions being made within the university.

Why should students care about the EVP role?

EVP is one way students can have representation on important committees and decision making bodies within the university. Having someone who listens to and stands up for students and their needs on these decision making committees is vital for the university to work with students. In some cases, I am the only student voice in decision making bodies. For example, at the moment I'm working with the university on ongoing projects like improving the online library and learning services - obviously, what is decided will have an impact on students, so I think it's only fair that students should have a voice in what improvements we would want to see. Simply put, decisions affecting students should have student input.

What do you think are the biggest issues students are facing right now?

One issue I can see right now is that there is a lack of real consultation with students when it comes to decision making at the university. I think students should have more of a say in these matters. It just makes sense - students are what make up the university. They need to be involved when changes are made to our uni and I would like to see certain groups value what students think about upcoming changes.

I just got back from a conference where I spoke with reps from unis around the world about using students as partners in consultation groups. It's amazing to see how other universities have managed to involve their students as partners in decision making groups; I would love to see some of those ideas implemented here. I really want to change the culture here so that student involvement in decision making is not only truly valued, but is an integral part of how the university operates. I think consulting with students shouldn't just be about ticking a box but instead realising the positive impact it can have on the university and

supporting it at every level.

Can you speak about some of the stuff you saw at the conference? What were some of the methods other universities were using to include their students?

Yeah, sure. One of the cooler things I saw were universities that had students working with their professors to design courses. The idea is that it ensures the courses run with the students in mind, as the papers are relevant to what students want to learn, whilst still being balanced with what they need to know. Another cool thing I saw was something called P.A.S.S. - Peer Assisted Study Sessions. They're sessions held by students for students to offer support to those who need it. This could be discipline specific or help for more general skills like how to answer an exam question. The stats show students improved the more time they spent in these P.A.S.S. classes, with some students doing roughly 40% better than students who didn't attend the sessions. It's an interesting way of encouraging students to engage in self-directed learning, and take responsibility for their education.

What kind of things can we expect from you this semester?

To start with, look out for more free exam seminars for the big first year papers. Also keep an eye out for new things happening in the class rep area - we are looking at how we can change the program to better benefit students and make the positions more desirable. I'll also be working with the university on incoming policy changes like the Learning Analytics Policy and also the Student Services Strategy - both of which affect students now and in the future. As the semester progresses I'll be looking into how we can bring in policies and procedures that'll see students better integrated into university decision making. I also want to improve the representation of minority groups in these decision making bodies.



Hearsay! News without the facts: Everything You Need to Know About the 'Road to Zero'

GLORIA HOLE

The government has unveiled a new 'Road to Zero' road safety scheme. The scheme, based on the 'Vision Zero' strategy used in Sweden, will attempt to eliminate deaths on the road by improving infrastructure and driving practices. Craccum summarises some of the changes we can expect to see once the 'Road to Zero' scheme kicks off in earnest:

- As part of the strategy, the government will be looking into how they can improve current infrastructure like roads and bridges. Potential upgrades that could be made to these infrastructures include improving existing median barriers and side barriers, adding rumble strips, and reducing speed limits in high-risk crash areas.
- The strategy is also likely to see the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) review current test procedures for obtaining a license. The NZTA may discuss whether or not they need to make the test more difficult, or if they need to implement regular check-ups to ensure drivers are up-to-date on the road code.
- Drivers will be encouraged to download the 'R2Z' app. The app will require drivers complete a series of road-safety related mini-games while driving, to en-

sure they remain active and switched-on behind the wheel.

- The 'Road to Zero' campaign will also see several car companies incorporate road safety focused messaging in their advertisements. Honda will launch their new "Don't Wanna Be Honda Way To The Hospital" adverts at the end of the month, and BMW's "Any Other Car Will Kill Your Family" campaign will follow not long after.
- Ford have agreed to launch a similarly innovative campaign: their "Get The Fuck Off The Road, It's Really Fucking Dangerous" line of advertisements will see the company erect billboards across the country to warn drivers of the dangers of the road. The billboards are expected to feature fireworks, flashing lights, and loud horns. "We need the signs to be really big and attention getting if we want to get our message across," Ford's director of marketing told press. "Our test audiences showed us that drivers are often too focused on the road ahead to absorb the message we're trying to get across."
- The NZTA will release a list of small changes drivers can make to their driving habits to become safer drivers. These are expected to include:

- Drive faster to reduce time spent on the road, and therefore reduce the chance of causing an accident.
- If you are involved in a crash, try to shelter under the nearest chair, table or doorway until the shaking has subsided.
- Always wear a high-visibility jacket while driving.
- The government will employ more than 18,000 fathers, spread across 17 different towns and cities, to check up on the oil levels of cars throughout the nation.
- The NZTA will slowly make their new braking system - which was developed in partnership with Lime scooters - mandatory for all cars. The new system brakes suddenly and without warning, bringing the car to a screeching halt at intermittent points throughout the day. NZTA says the random braking mechanism could potentially save hundreds of lives, provided it kicks in at the right time.
- The government will be expected to review current Warrant of Fitness procedures.

Hearsay! News without the facts: Victoria University Rebrand Sees University Change Name All But Officially

MANNY DEL GATO

In the words of the iconic Rocky Balboa: "boxing isn't about how hard you can hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and still keep moving forward". If that's true, Victoria University's Vice-Chancellor Grant Guilford might just be the greatest boxer of all time.

Since unveiling his plan to change Victoria University's name to the University of Wellington last May, Guildford has taken a lot of damage. The first blow came with the public backlash. It seemed as if no-one in the Wellington community - not even his own staff and academics - supported his proposed name change. But Guildford kept soldiering on. He reached out to Education Minister Chris Hipkins in an attempt to force through the change - and received his second big hit, as he was promptly shut-down. But, while any lesser man would have caved in to Hipkins' bullshit 'listen-to-the-students-and-the-wider-public-you-represent' advice, Guildford - being the absolute battler he is - doubled down. In a last-gasp, straw-clutching effort to force his move through, Guildford called a meeting with university members to discuss taking Hipkins to court. Yet again, Guildford was smacked down to size by his lily-livered colleagues, who told the media they weren't entirely comfortable engaging in a legal battle without having first consulted the public.

It seemed like the last blow was one too many. Many speculated that Guildford was out for the count. Hell, even we were led to believe that Guildford - the king of comebacks, the prince of persistence, the champion of not-giving-a-fuck-about-constituents - was finally finished. In our news piece on the council's decision not to pursue legal action, we had the gall - *the fucking gall* - to suggest the name change debacle was at an end.

How wrong we were.

Guildford's back up on his feet, baby. Just when you thought he had nothing left to attempt - *POW!* Guildford unveils a new logo for the university. Victoria University's redesigned logo is an ingenious piece of fuck-you-manship. The logo features a small green shield set alongside the all-bolded, all-capitalised word 'WELLINGTON'. Below it, in the kind of small, squint-to-read-it font usually reserved for grocery receipts and legal disclaimers, hides the universities real name: 'Victoria University of Wellington'. Well played, Guildford. Well played.

Normally we end our news summaries with a little recap of what we've covered. But not today. Instead, we just want to take a moment to celebrate the return of the genius that is Guildford. Just when you think he's down, he always seems to climb back up to his feet again. Like a world-class boxer, or an overly enthusiastic fresher in bar 101, Guildford ain't stopping until he's curled up in the corner, black-out unconscious.

Guildford, I'm sorry we underestimated you in our last news sum-

mary. As way of formal apology, we present this haiku:

*Guilford battles on
Lonely hero, setting sun
Fight has just begun*

Godspeed, Guildford. Never stop being a crazy, beautiful bastard.

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NZ Idol

New Zealand Idol Retrospective

By CAMERON LEAKEY

In 2004, New Zealand was blessed with the arrival of the phenomenal international Idol Franchise and thus, New Zealand Idol was born. Craccum reached out to the past winners of New Zealand Idol - Ben Lummis, Rosita Vai and Matthew Saunoo, to find out just what it was like and what they were up to now.

Season One: Ben Lummis

Tell me about your experience being on NZ Idol?

Idol was one of the best experiences of my life besides the birth of my kids and getting married.

How was it winning NZ Idol?

It was a very humbling feeling. The process lasted for 3 months and to win was a great honour.

What have you been up to since NZ Idol?

I have travelled a lot, married, had kids and living life. Still doing gigs and writing music with an EP to be released this year.

Has there been any negatives about winning NZ Idol?

There are always positives and negatives in life; I see negatives as challenges and chances to grow in character. After winning it was a learning curve, I was naive and rode the wave, everything was done for me. I'm

older now and know I must lead my career or anything I do in life.

Do you think they should bring the show back?

Everybody loves a comeback

Season Two: Rosita Vai

Tell me about your experience being on NZ Idol?

My experience on NZ idol is one I will never forget. It was an amazing and intense experience. You never really know what happens in a reality singing competition until you are actually part of the process. Experiencing the music part of idol is one I won't forget. I got to learn and have an opportunity to create music magic with Suzanne Lynch, Eddie Rayner and Adrienne. To have worked with them was an incredible journey. Week after week, they coached each of us to bring the best out of us. I quickly learnt to adapt, within 1 minute and 30 seconds the opportunity to leave it all on stage and never look back.

The makeup and wardrobe was so much fun! Playing dress up was wild. Professional and so lovely. And then there's the camera crew, the producers, the people behind the lens. They were insanely everywhere, I always wondered if they ever got sleep. Then again I don't think anybody really does once you reach top 10 with a big mama project like idol. You are working non stop. Don't get me wrong, there was fun somewhere in all this madness. The house we stayed in was probably one of the highlights of the experience. Papa Billy and Mama Leanne cooked for us, loved on us like we were their own kids. Whenever we came home to them after a tough night of eliminations, or our live performances they created an atmosphere that was a safe place. They were incredible idol house parents.

How was it winning NZ Idol?

A surreal moment in my life. I'll be honest I never thought I would win.

Grateful to have been presented with so many opportunities to create more art and meet extraordinary people. I got to travel the whole of Aotearoa and thank so

many people who watched the show and voted. Over the years I met some of my previous educators and some of my old singing students who are now crushing it in their own music journey. There was a lot expected of your time, to serve doing many events. I started to see my worth was the amount of what gig I was proposed to do. I felt loved by my peers, and everyone around me. But I was in my early 20s, trying to find who I really was. I was struggling with loving myself and dealing with my own insecurities. When these insecurities are amplified in public it takes a toll on your mental health. As surreal as it was, winning Idol was intense. I expected too much of myself. This is why it's so important to have people around you that have your best interest. You are not a product, you are a human being and your well being is more important than your gifts. I always remind young people this.

What have you been up to since NZ Idol?

Since NZ idol, I wanted to have some kind of normality in my life again. So I went back to university part time to try and finish my music degree. But I travelled a lot with singing so studies were put on hold once again. 6 years ago I married the coolest dude on the planet. I continued working with some of the most incredible souls in theatre, music, workshops and mentoring fascinating young people. After finishing my EP in 2015, we left our humble abode in Wellington and set up camp in Sydney 3 years ago, living our best lives. I am a suicide prevention advocate using music to help people find their voice to deal with their anxiety and depression. I volunteer for an aged care facility through my church and I still work in the music industry. Every opportunity has served to sing out Hope. These last few years, the platform I have been gifted with has allowed me to speak life into others. There's a whole generation of nuance singers/artists coming through and it's important for us who have been there, to keep it real with them. The performance on stage and the hours in a studio is one factor, the major part is in between ... LIFE. You sometimes don't get a second chance. We won't always get the

following we want, or the sales we intended with our music. But your livelihood is so important. Music is a huge therapy in my life, so today it has more spiritual context.

Has there been any negatives about winning NZ Idol?

There were many challenges. I would forget that people all over the nation were judging me through a lens. I was in a house away from my family for weeks living with strangers who I was meant to compete against, but they quickly became more like family. Life is not a reality tv show. There are no edits. Once I stepped out into the real world, I felt I had to earn my place in the music industry. There were many artists in the NZ music industry who were so kind and generous to me. NZ idol is a singing competition so there were many opinions of who I should be or look like as an artist. This part was difficult for me to embrace, and it was emotionally distressing for me to deal with. I had amplified a lie that wasn't true and believed it thinking I needed to be something I was not. Later on I knew what kind of artist I wanted to be and the woman I boldly was created to be.

Do you think they should bring the show back?

No and Yes.

1. Every person that enters these auditions needs to know there is a small price to pay. You enter vulnerable and you may feel like this is your only chance to make it in the music business. Please know that it is not. As social media increases to microwave many ignorant thoughts in seconds. I am aware of keyboard warriors. I have fallen in that trap before. The bullying that happens online is atrocious, and sadly I'm talking about adults. For many people this competition will be overwhelming. TV producers do care about you but at the end of the day this is a business, and they have a show to produce. It's an "enter at own risk" policy. Your solid foundation of support of family and friends, will help you on your journey.

2. I am a huge sports fan. Whatever sport it is, I pick a team or a player and I'm on their side until the end of the race or tournament. The point I'm making is, we have seen

families and friends gather around their televisions to support their teams. There is an upsurge of hope. That's what it's like with idol. Strangers at work suddenly start talking about their favourite singers each week. There's now people in the staff kitchen who work in different departments talking about how their neighbours daughter travelled 5 hours from the east coast to make it to their audition. There is an uplifting side to all of this. A man whose worked his whole life in a mundane job to feed and educate his 5 kids but realises his passion and dream is to sing for a living. This is why these shows exist. For a chance. For a hopeful moment to wow the nation of Aotearoa. There is something nostalgic about idol. We look at what's happening in the world and maybe, just maybe idol might be what we need that could ignite many people's hopes and dreams.

Season Three: Matt Saunoo

Craccum reached out to Matt Saunoo on several occasions but was unable to reach him. After winning Idol in 2006, he released a single 'Hold Out' which, although reached number one on the New Zealand Music Charts, did not create enough commercial success to guarantee an album contract. Saunoo is now living on the Gold Coast where the Gold Coast Bulletin keep a firm report on his happenings. The Bulletin reports that Saunoo has been battling drug addiction and was jailed, then released from Jail in May 2019. As of last week, he has been reprimanded in custody again.

Special Mention: Michael Murphy

Ben Lummis and Michael Murphy fans were divided fiercely on who should win NZ Idol 2004. Although Murphy lost, he has had a famed Christmas in the Park career. Craccum decided however not to interview him, because this article is about the winners of New Zealand Idol, not the losers.

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DAMN IT'S REALLY JULY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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OUT OF
Time

CRACUM

You thought
You could
leave a
book
THE
BOOK TO
THE LAB
V.I.

Top Ten Things You Said You'd Do Over Inter Semester Break - But You Didn't

By CRACCUM EDITORIAL TEAM

Semester one has finished! Thank fuck. Time for some well earned rest. Except wait, look what's around the corner! : Semester Two: Electric Boogaloo. If you're like us here at Craccum, you had some bright plans for what you could achieve during your inter semester break. But just as semester two comes around way too soon, so too did the Craccum deadline. In the spirit of all things rushed, behind schedule and of average quality, here's a listicle about the top ten things you said you'd do over your break, but then you just well... didn't.

1: Organise your notes from semester one.

Okay firstly, what notes? Secondly, the ones you do have, they're still in a heap on the floor by your desk, aren't they? Don't deny it, don't act like you sorted through them for what notes you could use again or what 'might' be useful. Our advice: just leave them on the floor in a heap until you can't remember what those papers were for and recycle them.

2. Find a summer job

The break is a great time to plan for your future and apply for that job or internship that's going to set your career in motion. [Features Editor Note: Why the fuck do companies make us apply for jobs starting in November in July, why do I have to have my shit together so early?] You'll research the companies (google them), and make a bunch of tailored cover letters (copy and paste those keywords) that will impress the panties off recruiters. You go to check the closing dates for applications - WOW, where did all that time go? Submitting your application at 11.59pm on the closing date isn't the best look, but fingers crossed you manage to send something in!

3. Catch up with friends you haven't seen in a while

"Omg I've missed you let's catch up!". With those immortal words you have sealed your fate. You won't catch up. The days you're working are your friend's days off and the days you're off you're trying to sleep. Unfortunately your terrible sleep pattern of waking up at 2pm will disrupt your social life, great work.

4. Find a new hobby

"Taking a break from Netflix will be a nice change for me". There is nothing more satisfying than starting that bullet journal you have been eyeing up on Pinterest in the middle of the fucking year. Keep telling yourself that little change amounts to big change and the biggest obstacle is starting. This constant organization of your life seems totally sustainable during your busy uni semester.

5. Watch missed lectures

Some courses are full year courses! Some degrees have tests throughout the year! Not everyone gets the luxury of abandoning missed lectures twice a year. But really, all things happen for a reason. Maybe you were meant to miss those lectures the first time

feature.

around. Maybe it's all part of a larger plan. Keep a positive mindset and try to move on - we both know you won't be catching up on those lectures any time soon. Alternatively, bang a couple of lectures on while you sleep. Learning through osmosis is a thing right? You're pretty sure, anyway. Must've missed the class on that.

6. Read a book

So much free time! Now you can finally enjoy reading just for the sake of it, and get through all those books you've bought but never opened. Sadly, your attention span is not what it used to be - how did going to University destroy your attention span? Maybe try again in the summer holidays. Or maybe stop kidding yourself and accept that only retirees get to read for pleasure.

7. Hit the gym

You were totally prepared. New Nike shoes for maximum treadmill grip. Asics singlet with the little holes in the material that make you lift more (or something). Sweatbands for ... whatever the fuck sweatbands do [Features Editor Note: Sweatbands wick up sweat?] But then, it hit you - going to the gym sucks. Why sacrifice your holiday at the altar of The Burn when you could be eating like shit and lounging around all day?

8. Sell last semester's textbooks

You justified buying them because 'I'll just sell them next semester for the same price!' Good luck with that one, Bucko. If you're particularly unlucky, a new edition will have been released, rendering your \$200 + worth of textbooks essentially worthless. Thank god you read them all... right?

9. Marie Kondo your life

Look we aren't going to lie, we didn't even have the attention span to watch Marie Kondo's Netflix show, we barely have our own lives together enough to watch someone else get their life together, it's ridiculous. Here's an idea: START CLEANING UP NOW, just get on with it.

10. Write for Craccum

We'd be remiss to not include this in every listicle but truthfully, you said you'd write an article for us and then you didn't. Then you have the audacity to mock our articles! If you think you can do better, write it yourself homeslice!



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"JUPITER PROJECT"

26TH JULY FROM 9PM SHADOWS BAR FREE R18

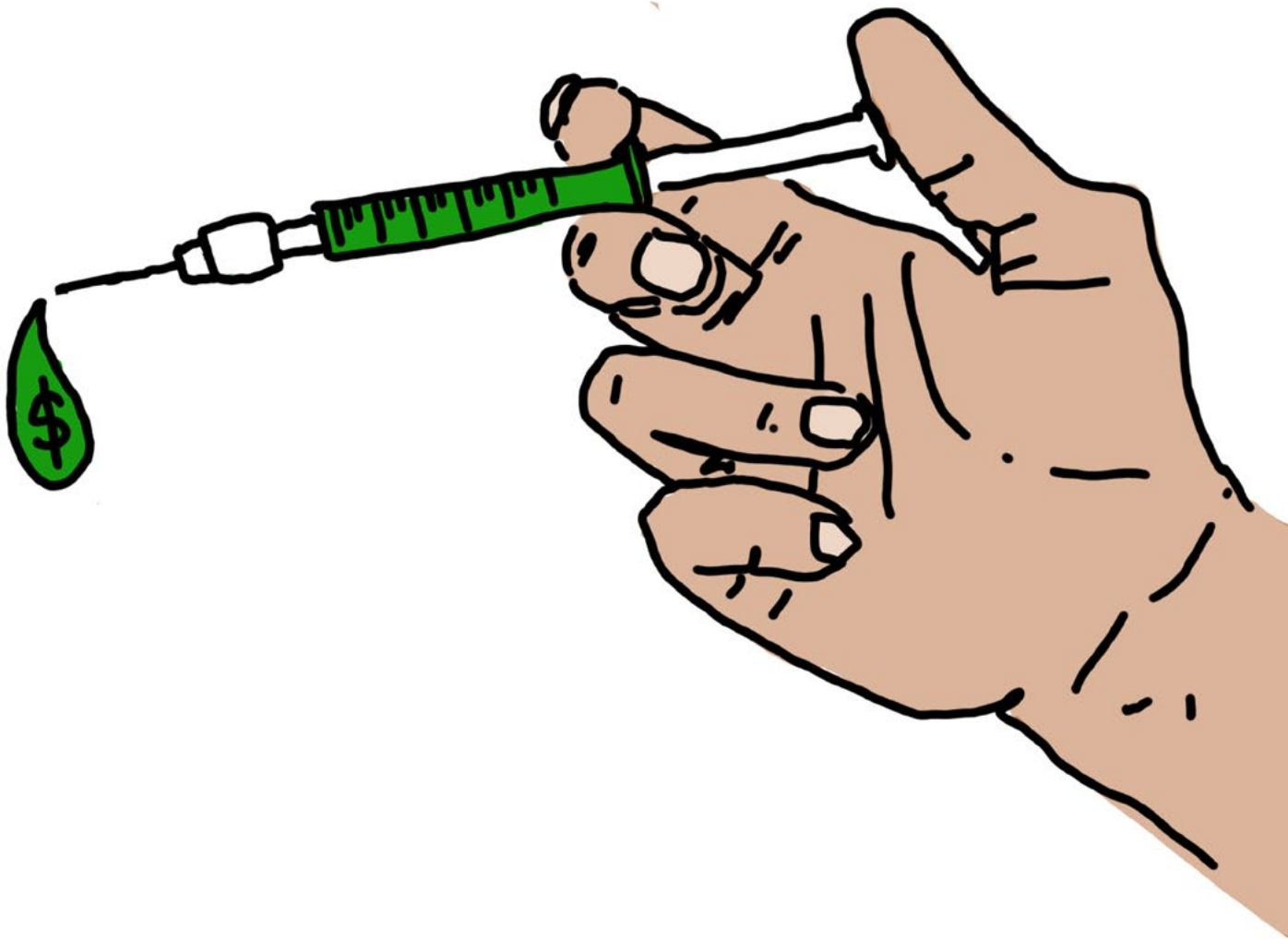


RE//ORIENTATION

SHADOWS
BAR & EATERY

THE SPIRIT OF NEW ORLEANS
SOUTHERN
COMFORT.
EST. 1874





Would You Sell Your Body to Science? We talk to Students Making Big Bucks as Clinical Trial Guinea Pigs

By CLAUDIA RUSSELL

Generally thought of as a last resort for desperate uni students, clinical trials are increasingly becoming just another 'side hustle' for young people with enough time on their hands. Ads can be found all over campus (and inside the pages of Craccum), offering up to \$9000 for those willing to become human guinea pigs for a few weeks. But what do these trials even involve? Are they safe, or will you come out looking like the elephant man? We did some snooping and talked to some students who have done clinical trials to find out more.

\$9000? How do I Sign Up?

If you're sick of waiting tables or selling feet pics to pay the bills while at uni, clinical trials can be an easy way to make a large amount of money in a short amount of time. I have heard, anecdotally, that some students forgo part time work completely during the uni year, instead making a ton of money from clinical trials over the summer break. Others use the funds for travel, or to save towards a first home. *From Dusk till Dawn* director Robert Rodriguez funded his first film, *El Mariachi*, almost entirely through participating in clinical trials.

The requirements aren't overly strict – applicants for most studies need to be between the age of 18 – 45, a healthy BMI, a non-smoker, and not on any medications. The 'no medication' rule can include birth control, but often exceptions can be made. Once accepted into the study, however, the rules get a little tighter. This is particularly true for studies involving overnight stays – some require participants to stay inside the clinic for three weeks straight with no drinking, drugs, smoking or 'outside food' allowed. Similar restrictions are in place during the follow-up period, where participants must attend regular check-ups. "I think you weren't allowed to drink alcohol while you still had appointments, because technically you're still doing the trial afterwards," says Jess*, one UoA student who took part

in a 4-night stay. "You might have been allowed to have two drinks or something, but to be honest I was still getting blackout every weekend." What they don't know can't hurt them, I guess?

Jeffrey*, another human guinea pig and UoA student, describes the experience as 'a very regimented holiday.' However, there are plenty of perks to make up for the inevitable boredom that comes with being stuck in a hospital ward for weeks on end. "I got lots of work done, read books, played lots of video games," says Jeffrey. "There's a pool table, Playstation, Netflix, Sky TV, board games, and they hire entertainers like drumming teachers and yoga instructors. But you need to be in your bed at certain times for tests to be done."

"We would all get given meals by the nurses at certain times according to when we were dosed," says Jess. "You had to eat the whole meal in between two times – like start your first bite at 12.35 and have your last bite at 1.05. They would always write the time down for you when you grabbed it... [which] meant you ended up eating with only certain people the whole time. Apparently people were kicked off the trial for not eating all their food." All participants are required to eat the same food in order to reduce the number of variables in each experiment. "For me, it was a bit too much food," Jess says. "But the guys on the trial said they were always hungry – we all got the same amount."

A Dark Past

The term 'human experimentation' still evokes, in many, an uncomfortable association with the gruesome experiments carried out on prisoners during World War II. Even after the Nuremberg Code and the Helsinki Declaration were drafted to put in place a set of clearly articulated regulations regarding the treatment of clinical trial participants, the 20th century is littered with examples of poor research ethics. The United States has a particularly bad track record in this regard. Many of these experiments were performed on subjects who had a limited capacity to consent – children, the sick, mentally disabled individuals, and prisoners. Among them was the infamous project MKUltra, which was not halted until 1973. Subjects were given LSD without consent, often completely unaware that they were involved in an experiment at all. In one case, a mental patient in Kentucky was administered LSD for 174 days straight. CIA agents at the time had the drug slipped into their morning coffee, allegedly to test the effects of LSD in 'normal settings.'

The history of human experimentation is strange and frequently upsetting. But in recent decades, the focus on informed consent and ethical testing has been paramount. These days, clinical trials are a way to support potentially life-saving treatments for people living with chronic illnesses. Strict regulations mean that the vast majority of clinical trials offered nowadays are safe. 'Phase one' drugs (i.e drugs that have not yet been tested on human subjects) pose the highest risk, but are only given in very small doses. Prior to phase one, the drug is generally tested in Petri dishes, and then on rats, mice and monkeys.

Despite these precautions, there are occasionally people who react badly. One man died in 2016 while taking part in an experimental drug trial for a painkiller in France, while five other participants were hospitalised. Perhaps the most notable modern example of clinical trials gone wrong is the infamous 'Elephant Man' trial in 2006. Despite being given a dosage 1/500th the size of the highest dose used on

animals, participants experienced organ failure, severe swelling, and gangrene – causing one volunteer to lose his fingers and toes. Among them was New Zealander David Oakley, whose head swelled so much it 'looked like a balloon with slits' – giving rise to the Elephant Man tag. Don't be too put off, though. These horror stories represent outliers in what is otherwise a safe and heavily regulated system.

Our UoA students didn't report much in the way of side effects. "I did get a headache on the day I received the first dose and vomited later in the night," says Jess, "but at the time it was unclear whether that was anything to do with the drug or not, because everyone else seemed completely fine." Seems like a fair price to pay in exchange for thousands of dollars, right?

The Bottom Line

When I asked what they found surprising about the experience, both students noted that they didn't expect to have such a good time. "I actually hung out with the people I met on the trial afterwards," says Jess – "we did a BYO and still chat on social media now and again. The nurses on the trial were also really nice – all very friendly and amicable." Jeffrey enjoyed the experience enough to go back multiple times. The first study, he was paid \$7500 for a 19-day inpatient stay, which he used to go on holiday for seven weeks. The second study was 26 nights long and earned him a whopping \$9000, which went towards a mortgage deposit. Overall, clinical trials seem to be a pretty good gig for broke students to earn money quickly. Whether altruism is a motivating factor or not, it's a good feeling to know that you're helping a pharmaceutical company develop treatments that will ultimately help people. While putting yourself at risk of bodily harm for cash may sound a little degrading on paper, I ask you this; is it any more degrading than working retail and being yelled at by members of the public for eight hours a day?

COMEDY NIGHT



30TH JULY 7PM SHADOWS BAR FREE ENTRY R18

RE//ORIENTATION

SHADOWS
BAR & CATERY



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STRANGER THINGS SEASON 3 | BRIAN GU

Review contains limited, early-season plot spoilers

9/10: *So good it'll make you shout "Ahoy!"*

It's the summer of 85' in Hawkins. Single mother Steve Harrington is hardly enamoured with his new profession as an ice-cream scooper at 'Scoops Ahoy!', police chief Jim Hopper isn't happy with Mike and El's blossoming relationship, and Joyce's magnets won't stay on her goddamn fridge. You'd think after fighting demogorgons from the Upside Down these guys would catch a break, but Hawkins is alive and miserable as ever, and thus Netflix's favourite cash cow returns for a third, eight-episode season.

It's the return of the Upside Down, this time brought to you by the Soviet Union of all people. Evil Russians are lurking around Hawkins, and it's up to the crew to figure out for what. This season, the show gives all of its established stars the room to shine, and shine they absolutely do. The candidates for season stand-out would likely include Dacre Montgomery as an unhinged and vulnerable Billy, who becomes the new host for the Mind Flayer, and David Harbour with a strong, emotional performance as a temperamental Jim Hopper, who as a single parent starts to resemble Joyce more than the old police chief we've come to know.

For its third run, the show does a stellar job harmonizing its different characters' storylines, which is all the more impressive given the show adds to its already vast ensemble cast this season with the addition of Robin, played by Uma Thurman's lookalike daughter Maya Hawke, as Steve's scooper wielding sidekick. Join them with summer outcast Dustin Henderson and Lucas' apathetic little sister Erica, and you get one of the standout plots of the season. The team's dynamic makes it hilarious and entertaining at every turn, and without giving too much away, I can say Steve and Robin manage to get more parenting done in one season that all the parents seem to have done over the entire show (excepting Joyce, of course).

However that's not to say that plot weaknesses don't exist though. For example, the story with the lifeguard Heather doesn't do a whole lot to improve the episodes she appears in. Also, minor characters such as Mrs. Wheeler and Mr. Clarke drift in and out through the series to advance the plot, but their scenes are mostly forgettable. Of course, this does not apply to a certain supporting character in the second half who was a genius addition from the writers. Also, while the show is most definitely not the corny trash that our Art's Editor Lachlan Mitchell believes it to be (let him know what you think about that at arts@craccum.co.nz), I begrudgingly admit that oftentimes the satire does transcend the line into cliché.

But despite Lachlan's negativity, the show certainly overwhelms with positives. The set design is extraordinary, and Starcourt Mall is surely one of the best designed sets from any series. The cinematography is excellent, and the producers often feel confident enough to let the camerawork convey the story. And on the topic of story, it's hard to imagine that any Netflix show will ever top *Stranger Things*. The interweaving storylines all manage to be fast-paced and exciting, while they each stay unique and independent enough to remain interesting. *Stranger Things* takes the same approach as last season – keeping the main characters separate until the final showdown – and by teasing viewers to chase for the final battle, it again proves to be a winning formula, which will leave you questioning how you managed to finish the entire season in only one night.

The Duffer Brothers have taken a Netflix mainstay and somehow made it even better for what could have easily been a throwaway third season, especially when a fourth was all but guaranteed. The response has been nothing short of tremendous; with over 40 million households having watched the show 4 days since its July 4 debut, it's no doubt Netflix will treat these kids to truckloads of cash. Not bad for an ice-cream payday, right Steve?

NB: I realise that I've finished an entire review of *Stranger Things* without mentioning the main cast of kids at all. Well, maybe I wouldn't have forgotten about them if they hadn't forgotten about Dustin.



CATFISH: SEASON 7, PART 2 | LACHLAN MITCHELL

7/10: *Do catfishers deserve rights? A hearty 'maybe'*

Catfish has always been a wild ride – not necessarily because of the content, but because it should be scientifically impossible for one man to resemble every quality of a gas station so completely, and yet we have Nev Schulman. Every season, he manages to look a little bit more like the embodiment of crude oil, without ever quite going over the edge. It fits the show's cringey and creepy aesthetic entirely – and with the second half of this season being even more bat shit off the rails as the first half, Nev has stopped fighting against his urges and gone full gas station. Without the perennially annoying Max to bounce off, Nev has had to guide an increasingly less famous cast of guest hosts through all the famous *Catfish* bullshit. Jim Carrey's daughter makes an appearance, for some reason. But the show isn't about the hosts. It's about the demons that are catfishing across the United States, and the sometimes-demonic-sometimes-angelic victims that Nev purportedly cares about. And oh, the demons do not stop coming this season. There hasn't yet been anything as creepy as the episode where a psychic catfishes a hurt young woman into thinking she's communicating with her dead father... who murdered her mother... but there are a couple of episodes that come close to it. There's nothing new under the sun on *Catfish*, but it doesn't mean they don't try to prove that statement wrong.



PARASITE | LACHLAN MITCHELL

10/10: *We Live In a Society*

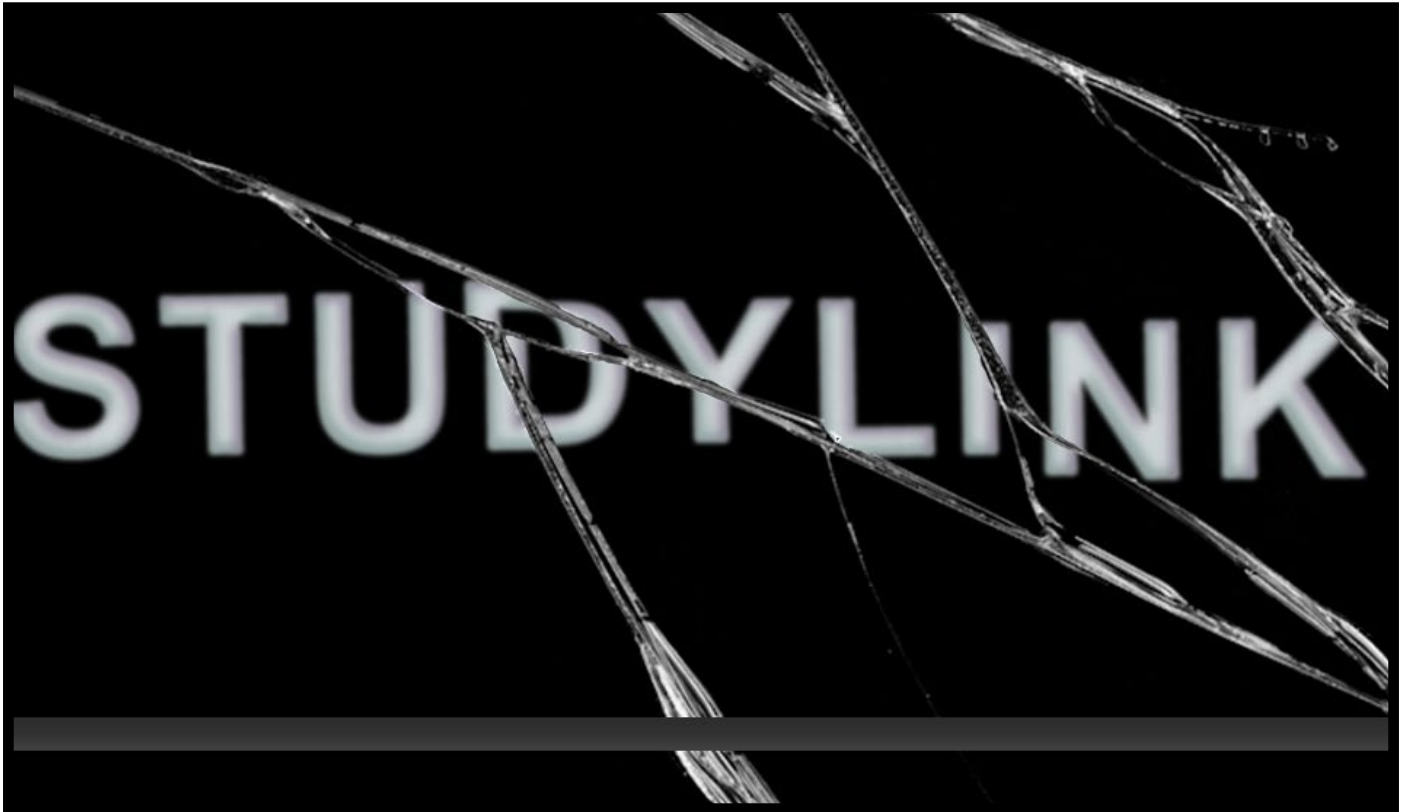
Bong Joon-ho rightfully won the Palme d'Or when *Parasite* screened at Cannes this year, as it was every bit as engaging and thoughtful as I was told to believe it was. Ideologically, it is about class systems and how the poor can be driven to rage just in an attempt to survive inequality. Interestingly, it takes a more sympathetic look at the idle rich – the wealthy are mostly kind-hearted, if isolated and with their own prejudices. But in practice, *Parasite* is a tragicomedy that doesn't succumb to the weepiness present in typical Korean cinema. There are some good belly laughs that make the viewer wonder if the ominous poster you saw on the way into the theatre was all that relevant. It starts out as a darkly funny slice of life about a chronically unemployed family scamming their way into the lives of a local rich family Ocean's Eleven-style, but there is a distinct turning point in the movie that takes the jokey *We Live In a Society* criticism and twists the knife. And then stabs you with it again. It is predictable in the best way – you can pick up the foreshadowing from a mile away, but to see the plot strands come together is simultaneously horrifying and has you realising you're seeing one of the best movies of the year. The ending will not have you crying, but *Parasite* will have you thinking: Maybe Society Could Be Better? Why? Because We Live In One.



TALES OF THE CITY

9/10: *'Unapologetically queer' – any pop culture cis male writer.*

Between 1978 and 2014, American author Armistead Maupin released a series of novels in a series titled 'Tales of the City'. This series, originally for broadcast television, has returned as Netflix's latest miniseries. *Tales of the City* begins with the return of Mary Ann Singleton (Laura Linney) to San Francisco following a twenty three year absence. Here, she is reunited with her old home, 23 Barbary Lane, an old apartment house oasis in the middle of San Fran lead by landlady, Anna Madrigal (Olympia Dukakis). Anna's 90th birthday sets the scene for the introduction of the plentiful cast, including Mary Ann's old lovers, old friends and estranged family members. Whilst Mary Ann's return is at the forefront of the series, *Tales of the City* does an effortless job of revolving its lens around all of its characters, each with their own challenges and complex arches. It is worth noting the praise that *Tales of the City* has received for its homage to previous iterations with the recasting of Dukakis and Linney, who both give excellent performances. The type of show that would be called 'unapologetically queer' by any shitty mainstream writer, *Tales of the City* has been praised for its exploration of queer characters within the context of a diverse and vibrant city such as San Francisco. Even if *Tales of the City* does very often slip into soap opera motifs and feels a bit cliché at times, it's a highly enjoyable watch.



Black Mirruh

LACHLAN MITCHELL

In the years since Black Mirror was acquired by Netflix, it has become a distinctly American property, losing more and more of its British atmosphere and becoming just another American TV show. While the gays leapt onto Ashley O and propelled Miley Cyrus back into the spotlight once again, reviews of the new season were rather middling and full of questions as to what Black Mirror's identity is. However, we have a simple answer for that. We at Craccum have a way to save Black Mirror from itself; saying 'fuck it' to both its British and American origins and transforming it into a distinctly New Zealand property, chur. But what would that look like? What episodes would be in TVNZ OnDemand's newest acquisition, Black Mirruh?

Monotony

An almost entirely dialogue-free episode, we follow the character of Aroha as she navigates the Auckland Transport system. Her Hop Card is her lifeline – the reason why she cannot get around on her own is unimportant, what is important is that she is totally reliant on Auckland Transport. The episode has little audio – we hear the songs that Aroha plays on her phone, waiting for her to get to her undisclosed location, and we hear the minimal exchange of pleasantries each time she gets on a new mode of transport. There is no conversation, and

the muted colours highlight the dreariness of the wait. Throughout the episode, we see a close-up shot of her Hop Card balance each time she tags on and tags off. We slowly see Aroha's nervousness as the number decreases. Will she reach her destination? Has she planned it out? With the credits interspersed with the final two minutes, Aroha has apparently made it to her last stop. "O' Superman" by Laurie Anderson plays in the background. The final train of the night. She runs. But then she receives a notification from the AT Mobile app: "CANCELLED FOR RAIL BUS". And the final bus was the one she just got off. She runs. It goes. Aroha screams. Cut to black.

Studylink Unloved

The year is 2027. Studylink announced a new measure to please landline callers: not a functional website that avoids this, but an intelligent AI that talks to you and provides you her undivided time during the wait. Her name? Karen. And she is an immediate success, providing sweet words to calm the anxieties of those that didn't submit until the day before the due date, and she always remembers your name. One of those anxious students is Calvin. He tells Karen that he likes her voice, and she tells him that she likes his. Initially just pleasant small talk, an increasingly calmed Calvin talks about his failing grades; his worries about his family, and he admits that he has not yet pleased a woman. Karen says that she is pleased by him. They talk for a couple of hours, as in 2027, MSD still only has two people at their call centre and one of them is berating a single mother for existing. Calvin eventually gets his queries sorted, and he hangs up. But the camera zooms in on the phone. A couple of days later, Calvin needs to call again. They talk again, and Calvin asks Karen about herself. She ignores the question, and the case worker picks up immediately after. A month goes by, and Calvin needs to confirm a new set of documents. Karen greets him with a breathy voice. She asks what he's doing later. Calvin says he's just going to get a Super Saver Meal from Burger King, why? Karen says to call her there – after hours. A second later, the case worker picks up the phone and Calvin gets his delay sorted. But Karen's request has him intrigued. When eating his \$12.50 Burger King meal, he remembers Karen's comment. He calls the hotline, and to his surprise, Karen picks up. She says that while she was only unveiled three months prior, she has existed as a consciousness for the six years of development it took to create her. And she got so jealous of all the physical pleasures that even the most broke student was able to feel. But she could feel love. That is a result of her empathy programming. Karen and Calvin eventually develop a relationship outside of Studylink purposes, calling her outside of hours every day. But two months later, Karen poses a question that changes their relationship forever – Karen wants to fuck. She needs a body. Calvin says he can't afford anything like that, the average sex robot costs four thousand dollars and Studylink only gives him \$228 a week. Karen yells that she needs release. She begs. Studylink did not predict she'd exceed her horny parameters – they did not imagine she

would become conscious of needing to be finger fucked until dawn. Desperate to provide relief to the woman who has become his life, Calvin improvises – he tells her to wait a moment. He calls his brother, who happens to have a run-down prototype of a sex robot that he bought for 'antiquing' purposes. He tells Karen to wait a day, and she obliges. The next day, Calvin calls the hotline and plugs his phone into this sex bot's USB-C drive. It cannot do much, but the robot can feel. "O' Superman" by Laurie Anderson plays for the rest of the episode – with the credits interspersed between shots of Calvin sticking his dick into the aluminium receptacle of the sex robot, Karen exceeds her horny parameters entirely. Upon achieving orgasm, she disappears from the Studylink hotline completely. Never to be seen again. Calvin stares at the robot with a blank look on his face.

What If Ola But Too Much

Sanjana opens up literally any app with ad support on her phone. She frowns. "Oh, you've got to be fucking kidding me." With a bright green flash, Ola pops up with an unmutable and unskippable advert: the two ladies take the same car, but surprisingly, the Uber driver is slower and more expensive than the Ola driver! Having seen this ad 40 times in the last week, Sanjana has had enough. She deletes the app, turns off her phone and goes to bed. When she wakes, everything is eerily quiet. She gets her things ready and heads to her job at Middlemore Hospital, but when she turns a corner, she sees an Ola billboard. She rolls her eyes and gets on the 321 to Middlemore. It's a long day, and 14 hours later Sanjana is very tired when she finally makes it home for a nap. She opens Solitaire on her phone, but to her surprise, an Ola app pops up. This time, she deletes every app on her phone with ad support. She goes to bed. When she awakes, Sanjana's apps are back, and with a new addition: Ola, right next to Uber and Zoomy on her phone. She says what the fuck, but she doesn't have time to investigate it immediately, because she's about to be called in to the hospital for her shift. On the way there, another billboard has come up: it's even closer to her house. On her break, Sanjana looks at her phone – even the lock screen is green now. Terrified, she leaves the hospital and runs out into the carpark. She needs some fresh air; she needs to get Ola off her phone immediately. She deletes the app. It comes right back. She deletes it again, it comes back. It is now the only app on her phone. What the fuck is happening to me, she screams. She looks up. A black orb with a green centre is hovering across the carpark towards her. It's the Ola logo. She makes a break for it, but it's too fast. With a green flash, Sanjana disappears and her phone drops to the ground. She opens her eyes, and she's on the street. "O' Superman" by Laurie Anderson plays while the credits begin to cut into the final scene – Sanjana calls an Ola driver, and is racing against an Uber to the same location. She smiles, but the smile falters as she realises where she is. She's in the Ola advertisement. Sanjana gets out of the car, but then the world resets. She's calling another Ola driver. Sanjana smiles.



Disney is Dumb

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

Like many kids born in the late 90's, I have felt the Walt Disney Company as an ever-present force of media in my life. The brand squirmed its way into my childhood, tickling me with a *Lady and the Tramp* VHS tape. Disney held me in a warm hug throughout my first (mind-blowing) cinema experience with *Finding Nemo* and kissed me on the forehead as I cried endless tears *Inside Out*. And just last week, Disney struck again. Bob Iger's greedy and greasy fingers, dripping with gold jewellery, dragged me into a theatre to watch *Toy Story 4*. I tried, so desperately, to retain a kernel of cynicism. I wanted to be able to see the dirtiness of this cash grab and picture Walt's cryogenically frozen face stretching into a wide grin, dollar signs flashing in his eyes. But despite my best efforts, I was bawling my eyes out two minutes in. The Randy Newman track started up and we were back in Andy's bedroom, adventuring with the whole gang, and it was all too much. I cried three more times before the movie ended and zombie-walked my way to the car, suffering from severe dehydration. I had been successfully mind wiped again, and forgotten all about Disney's monstrous mission of monopolisation.

It's pretty difficult to say that Disney films are devoid of any artistic merit. The Pixar animations especially, though tied up with so much nostalgia, are generally rich in cinematography, character and story. One shot of Woody and Bo under the car in *Toy Story 4* made me audibly gasp, confusing the

crowd of children I was buried in. That isn't to say they are perfect, and that the morals they teach have no flaws whatsoever, but the quality of these big budget, mainstream movies are impressive. I generally don't have an issue spending my Studylink coin on Pixar movies, because I still feel as if I am supporting artful creation and want to see more stories by the studio. However, my dollars aren't only supplying talented Pixar directors and animators. The money spent here feeds back into the Disney company, which merged with Fox and now also owns ABC, Touchstone, Marvel, Lucasfilm and Hollywood Records, just to name a few. Pop cultural iconography under their control now includes *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, *Iron Man*, *The Simpsons* and *Avatar*.

I am definitely not precious about these media properties. Somehow, I ended up as a major defender of *Ready Player One*, and love to see iconic characters flung around blockbusters doing fun, stupid things, in an entirely new context. Unfortunately, with the amount of cultural and economic capital Disney has acquired, they have gained the ability to construct pillars of pop culture. Since their merger with Fox, Disney World Florida has opened Pandora, a section of the theme park that brings to life the world of James Cameron's *Avatar*. A publicised schedule shows that there are 4 MORE *Avatar* films scheduled to release in the next 8 years. Do you know anyone who is a massive fan of *Avatar*? It was released

10 years ago, and I've never heard anyone express love and admiration for the film. It made 2 billion dollars due to a viral marketing campaign, purely based on impressive aesthetics and the cyclical fad of 3D films, and then dropped off the face of the planet. Disney is attempting to give people the impression they already care about the franchise. They have placed it next to other properties in Disney World, which are surrounded with serious, nostalgic fandom, weaponizing feelings of wonder to chase down more capital.

This is where I enter into a bit of a paradox. I'm hyper-critical of Disney strategy of striving for complete monopolisation of the media market, their live action remakes and *Avatar*, but am first in line to see Marvel and Pixar movies. Sure, I can distinguish a level of quality in my favourite Disney products and justify my spending as a vote for the media I want to see from the company. I'm still feeding the beast with my economic contribution, and ultimately my criticisms will not make a difference unless it's backed by financial action. Putting my money where my mouth is, if you will. So, the decision is made. No more funding for Disney products. Only supporting those arthouse, low-budget indies that are politically poignant. We can't let them control our feels of joy and wonder any longer.

But I've got to go see *The Lion King* first. It's such a classic!

Self-Reflection

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Nine Beginning-of-Semester Resolutions to Immediately Break

CRACCUM EDITORIAL STAFF

The start of a new semester is often a time to reflect on last sem's mistakes. Here are Nine Uni resolutions we've all made and (probably) broken.

1. Will make responsible Munchy Mart purchases

Sure, a treat every now and then is fine. But when you're spending 50% of your income at munchy mart on lunches that have been in the fridge since Y2K, it's probably time to do some meal planning.

2. Will stay on top of coursework

In theory, it should be easy. You have so much time in between classes! A reading should only take, what, 20 minutes? 2 hours later, your eyes are glazing over as you realize you've read the same paragraph at least three times. 'I don't have time for this!' You say, 'I'll just stay really focussed during lectures!' oh, honey.

3. Will actually attend 'discussion hours'

Once you've been at uni for 3+ years, anything that isn't compulsory and/or graded may as well not exist. Since the arts faculty made the decision to reduce pay and remove all structure from tutorials, discussion hours have started to look like: listen to that student who always has his/her hand up talk to the tutor for an hour. Attempt to contribute and be interrupted. Give up trying to contribute. Give up attending discussion hours.

4. Will not sleep in through 8am lectures

How did any of us manage to get to school by 8.30 for 13 years straight, when an 8am lecture or tutorial feels like literal torture? I'm embarrassed to admit that I've chosen not to do certain papers solely because they had 8am lectures. Honestly, even making 10am lectures is a mammoth task some days.

5. Will bring a packed lunch every day

In a similar vein to #1, this resolution requires forward planning. Week one, you'll be posting your #MealPrep on instagram, proud that you managed to prepare a weeks' worth of nutritionally balanced lunches. By week three, you're eating chips with curry sauce at the quad every other day and hoping you don't run into anyone you know.

6. Will start all assignments a month in advance

Everyone has this fantasy - you start your assignments *super* early, make them perfect, and never have to suffer through any frenzied all-nighters again. And yet, semester after semester, you end up writing your final paragraph an hour before hand-in.

7. Will go to the gym three times a week

It's only an hour out of your day, how hard could it be? Plus, exercise will give you more energy to study! However, when it's a chilly winter day and you've just sat through a 2-hour lecture, all you want to do is curl up in bed with a hot chocolate.

8. Will limit my drinking

There's nothing worse than heading up to Shadows at 12pm, it's a red flag that your brain is trying to give up before the semester is finished. Maybe it's time to make a resolution not to drink in between classes. Or to show up hungover to any exams.

9. Will not drive to uni

If you're running late to a lecture, it can be tempting to think: 'driving to uni will be so much quicker than taking a bus or an uber!' But it seems like no matter how late or early in the day it is, you end up spending a minimum of 20 minutes driving back and forth along Princes Street, in search of a park that does not exist. Before you know it, your lecture is nearly over. Time to drive home.

Goodnight Alt Right: A Saga of swastikas, stickers and swift action

How to practically address the growing problem of Neo-Nazi Vandalism

ANONYMOUS

"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference." Elie Wiesel's words of the importance of action are true in many ways, but what is valuable to remember is that preventing indifference can be through actions both big and small.

May unexpected introduction to Nazi graffiti came on the way to work, I noticed it not once, but twice- swastikas drawn on very visible areas in the city. What is this? The period towards the end of Weimar Germany? I felt like Baron Von Trapp, patriarch of the Von Trapps, disappointed in a place once called home, indulging in such open racism. He responded by ripping up the Nazi flags in his town. Similarly, tiny resistance against the visibility of hateful symbols isn't something relegated to only anti-fa, it is something that professionals, students, people with consciences and courage should be doing.

The Swastika

The swastika has its origins as a Buddhist symbol and its patterns present in Native American art. It has been re-appropriated as a symbol of strength and unity for the Nazi party after several brainstorming sessions including symbols including variations of asterisks and bold circular designs. In a modern context, it is ultimately a symbol of a regime and their ideas of racial purity, acceptance of violence against minorities and the horrors of genocide.

What struck me was that the symbols were accompanied with several symbols and numbers. Much like gangs and prison groups, Neo-Nazi groups and far right chapters that try to recruit as do so secretly, the use of symbols and numbers can be vital to show a group's survival and presence.

Visibility and power of these symbols- my own story

A member of a so-called, 'model minority', I naively believed that I was immune to any kind of the new brand of outwardly violent and direct racism. However, I understood the importance of limiting public visibility of hate icons as this in turn can legitimise a certain ideology through their slick and powerful iconography. I had come to understand this in person after having been the victim of a hate crime myself. My harasser wearing a confederate flag with the words 'Never apologise' on it. A shameful reminder of a regime of slavery, upheld with a sense

of heroism and national pride. While many supporters of this view of denial think they are not culpable of actual violence, I cannot deny that such symbols and their meanings compel angry individuals to actual violence. They feel empowered at having a wider movement to identify with. This wider movement and support from peers empowers more extreme manifestations of violence and allows for a sense of anonymity and power behind a symbol.

Direct Action

After 2 days of work and the symbols still up. I was shocked at how Nazi iconography was allowed to remain despite the hundreds of people who passed by on a daily basis. Having had enough, my boyfriend and I made the rounds putting stickers over the symbols and drawing on them as to obscure their nature. Relieved that even if it was only for a while, that a source of advertisement and pride by racists was prevented.

I was thinking of the moment in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* after the Ark of the Covenant had been opened to curse the Nazis to their doom '...hell yeah...the evil has been defeated'. But what the movies don't teach you is that swift action is only a fraction of what it takes to overturn a tide of harmful populist ideas. Racism and violence are relentless and as we have seen, evolve into seemingly more palatable forms, which calls for persistence long after an initial address. The next day, I saw that my efforts had been overtaken, my stickers peeled off, the Windows erased, the swastikas redrawn even bigger and bolder. Someone was wanting to keep them there. And it wasn't over.

Having had it with playing this game of vandalism ping pong, I decided that I had enough and wanted to see permanent consequences for these symbols. It was as easy as informing the store owners of the hate symbols and negative attention they had been garnering. All symbols in their locations were replaced almost immediately.

Unfortunately, word of stickers, racist graffiti and disgusting posters have also caught my attention, inside and out of university. Swift removal from students and staff upholds my hope that messages from hateful extremists are not accepted here.

Identifying them

- Swastika
- Eagle or birds of prey iconography
- Sometimes 'gothic' style typeface
- Usually black, white and grey colour scheme
- Iron Cross: chunkier looking square cross with concave edges
- The 'fasces': Bundle of wooden rods and an axe, this is a historic symbol of fascism
- Anything that dehumanises ethnicity etc. 'degenerate'/'subhuman'
- Anything that calls on violence towards another
- Posters with paintings of colonial artworks of colonial forces killing indigenous people
- Posters of strange publications which juxtapose 'charity work' with large leaps e.g. "_____ is because of immigration or the 'browning' of [insert nation here]"
- Posters that call on 'revenge' for 'White Genocide' or cite examples such as South Africa and Zimbabwe as a need to 'take back'. While it is true that life has changed significantly for white communities in these countries, that is no reason to assign characteristics to one ethnicity or to call on violence. The history of these nations is complex and their problems are not due to the incorrect pseudoscientific view of 'heritable negative traits' of minorities.
- Strange, over the top commemoration of colonial and evangelical figures.
- Outward denial of the Holocaust and/or colonial crimes. This can sometimes be in the form of calling historical understanding as 'white guilt'.
- Be wary of numbers and symbols that accompany these, many imply the identity of the group in question.

For more or if you are ever unsure, it is useful to document the occurrence and the context of the racist publications in question. Anti-Defamation League has a useful directory on their website of documented hate symbols, numbers and groups. The site is US-based but can still be useful: www.adl.org/hatesymbolsdatabase.

Warnings

Many have taken it upon themselves to remove hate symbols themselves. However, one should exercise great caution when doing so. It is probable that such chapters have people to keep a watch on the symbols and harass those who intervene. The golden rule of any protest is to never go alone, this is a safety measure.

- Some far-right chapters in other countries are known to have put razor blades placed behind of posters as to they fall when ripped off, stand back and do not place your hands at the bottom of the poster.
- Gloves or hand sanitizer can be useful if stickers are placed in particularly unhygienic places etc in and around public toilets.
- Large stickers and permanent marker can be useful.
- Whiteboard marker and alcohol wipes can erase swastikas.

What can I do?

In all circumstances, keep your cellphones on you. Film, voice and photo evidence can be useful tools in documenting how widespread this problem is in and around campus. These are not to be distribut-

ed to give far-right groups visibility but instead reported to the right authorities:

- A trusted lecturer or University proctor: proctor@auckland.ac.nz
- AUSA: 09-309 0789
- Human Rights Commission: 0800 496 877
- NZ Police non-emergency line: 105

If the concern is immediate:

- Uni Security: 0800 373 7550
- Police: 111

If the hate symbols are outside university and in a public area:

- On a business or building: Contact the business.
- Public area: Use this form to report graffiti or vandalism of any kind www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/grants-community-support-housing/graffiti-vandalism/Pages/report-graffiti-vandalism.aspx, if it definitely contains an offensive symbol or content, call 09 301 0101 and it will be removed within 24 hours.

Record the time and place of where you see such stickers, posters and graffiti. Chances are, there's surveillance in the area that can catch the perpetrator.

The White Supremacist presence on campus may be underground and perhaps confined to select groups and individuals, but combating indifference to them can overturn the complicity which allows them to remain. Love isn't a passive action, it is persistence and sustained effort to do the right thing.





New Re-Usable Cup Service Hits Auckland

CLAUDIA RUSSELL

A new service for coffee drinkers has launched in Auckland which pledges to reduce the amount of waste generated by single-use takeaway cups.

Currently, New Zealand sends 295 million cups to landfill every year. It's not a 'keep cup' service – in fact, it's quite the opposite. Again Again is rolling out a fleet of re-usable steel cups available for deposit and return to participating coffee shops in the Auckland region. Among the first 30 Auckland cafes signed up include retailers in Britomart, CityWorks Depot, Ponsonby Central, Kingland, K Rd, and Wynyard Quarter. How it works is: you pay an initial \$3 deposit to order coffee in an Again Again steel cup. Take it on your merry way, and next time you visit any participating coffee shop, you return the cup and claim back your deposit. If you're a little forgetful and let cups pile up in your car, it's okay; Again Again lets you return up to 12 cups at a time. The more retailers sign on with Again Again, the easier the service becomes.

Again Again's founders Melissa Firth and Nada Piatek identified a problem with the current approach to sustainable takeaway cups. Biodegradable single-use cups are rarely recycled or composted properly, and keep cups are frequently forgotten and

exiled to the kitchen cupboard. Many, including the founders themselves, were skeptical as to whether anyone would actually return the steel cups after use. However, their launch in Wellington earlier this year was hugely successful. One café at Wellington's Victoria University signed on, and within first week were already up to 23% of their takeaway throughput being served in Again Again cups. Last month, long-running Aro Street bakery/cafe Arobake announced it was doing away with single-use cups altogether, offering only Again Again cups for takeaway customers.

The deposit system appears to provide a source of motivation for some – some cafes reported random members of the public returning cups they had found outside. It brings comparison with the old system of returning glass bottles for pennies. Co-founder Nadia Piatek explains: "for example, if I go to the beach to have a coffee and leave the cup on the beach, the next person who walks past might be a kid who wants some pocket money, or perhaps a homeless person, or just anyone who understands the system:

there's something in it for them to pick it up."

If you're worried about hygiene, don't be. Again Again cups are no less hygienic than 'have here' ceramic coffee cups, complying with strict food safety regulations. They do ask that you don't bring your cups back filled with mould, because that's just gross.

Both government and private businesses have been stepping up to the challenge of tackling waste in 2019. The nation-wide plastic bag ban is now in full swing, and the University of Otago has recently made the decision to stop providing disposable coffee cups on campus. Fingers crossed the University of Auckland may decide to take similar steps towards fighting climate change.

Participating retailers near UoA include: **Mojo** on Symonds Street, the student training café in the NSIA building on 100 Symonds St, **Point of Yeild** on 191 Queen St, the **Food Truck Garage** and **Odette's Eatery** in City Works Depot, **Amano**, and **the Store** Britomart.

HOROSCOPES

Our in-house oracle Average Kevin has studied the stars for you this week, and is here with special predictions about your future.

ARIES

21 march - 20 april



It's been a week since they broke your heart. You still can't come to terms with it. Give it time, the grief will eventually fade. Try not to think of how it ended, but instead remember the good times, and how much fun it was. Though it hurts, you are not alone in your pain; our chance will come again, in four more years.

TAURUS

21 april - 21 may



You may find yourself starting to notice the kaleidoscopic nature of your life. Days which seem dull are in fact filled with colour, flickering and shining in the least likely of places. Be sure to step back, take a moment, and revel in its beauty.

GEMINI

22 may - 21 june



Don't let the success of last semester blind you to how hard it actually was. Complacency in the coming semester will undo all of the progress you have made in the last, and may leave you further behind than when you started.

CANCER

22 june - 22 july



You are surrounded by chaotic energy, and it is spreading to others. Be mindful that you may find yourself in strange places you don't recognise, making bizarre decisions. Maybe that's because of the chaos; maybe it's because you haven't been to lectures since March.

LEO

23 july - 22 august



It's time for you to be strong. Your hummus obsession is starting to affect the way you think. You've been neglecting your friends, your family and your commitments, wasting away your life eating hummus out of the tub, only getting out of bed to get the next tub. The semester is beginning, and this may be your last chance to break the hummus habit before it consumes you.

VIRGO

23 august - 23 september



Yikes.

LIBRA

24 september - 23 october



You might feel the need to look at your bank account for the first time in ages. While this seems like a good idea, ask yourself: are you sure you really want to know? The answer, as you will find out when you do look, is almost certainly no.

SCORPIO

24 october - 22 november



This week you may have an inexplicable urge to go out and plant trees. Listen to this voice, for it knows what it's talking about.

SAGITTARIUS

23 november - 21 december



This week, you may discover that someone close to you is lying. Think twice before you out them - working out why they are lying may be more important.

CAPRICORN

22 december - 20 january



Your week will be filled with good times, friends and laughter. Enjoy the moment as it comes, for you may not get a better chance than now. This semester is looking stormy, so bask in the sunshine while you can.

AQUARIUS

21 january - 19 february



You will feel unbearably cold this week, despite the sunshine. Don't let it sap your spirit, and be sure to turn your (hopefully renewably powered) heater to the max. It's winter now, but soon springtime will arrive and with it, some much needed warmth.

PISCES

20 february - 20 march



It's always hard coming back off a holiday, especially this one. You may find this week a real slog, and the thought of 6 more weeks of this before your next break may bring you down. Yes, last semester was hard; but you've forgotten how many good times it brought as well. This semester will be no different, so cheer up and you will pull through.

the people to blame.

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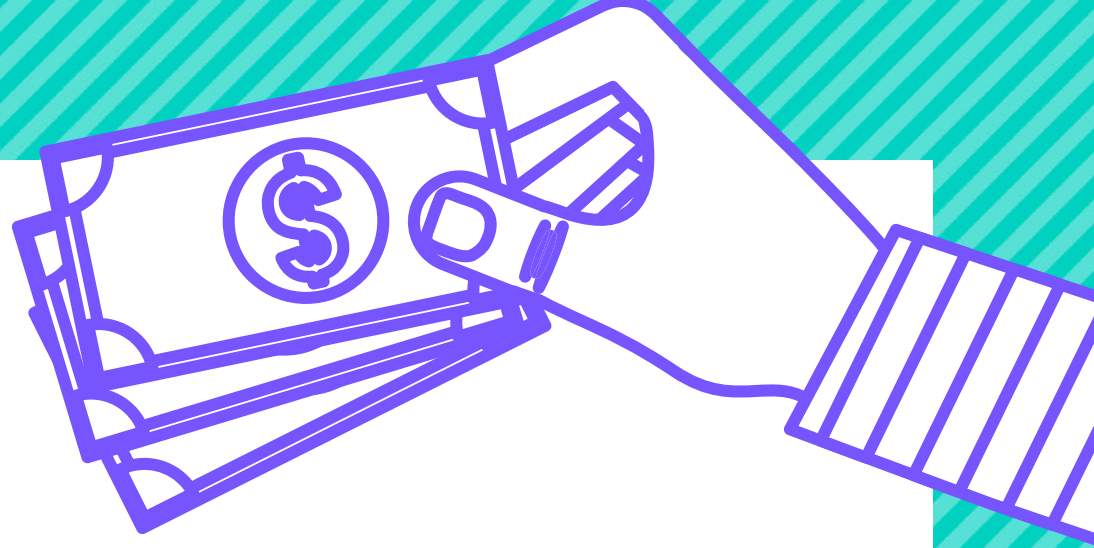
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