

CRACCUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND STUDENT MAGAZINE

ISSUE 13, 19 JULY 2021

For the Love of All That Isn't Uni

Naomii Seah speaks to students who are maintaining side hustles outside of university, fuelled by what they're really passionate about.

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Sex Toy Review

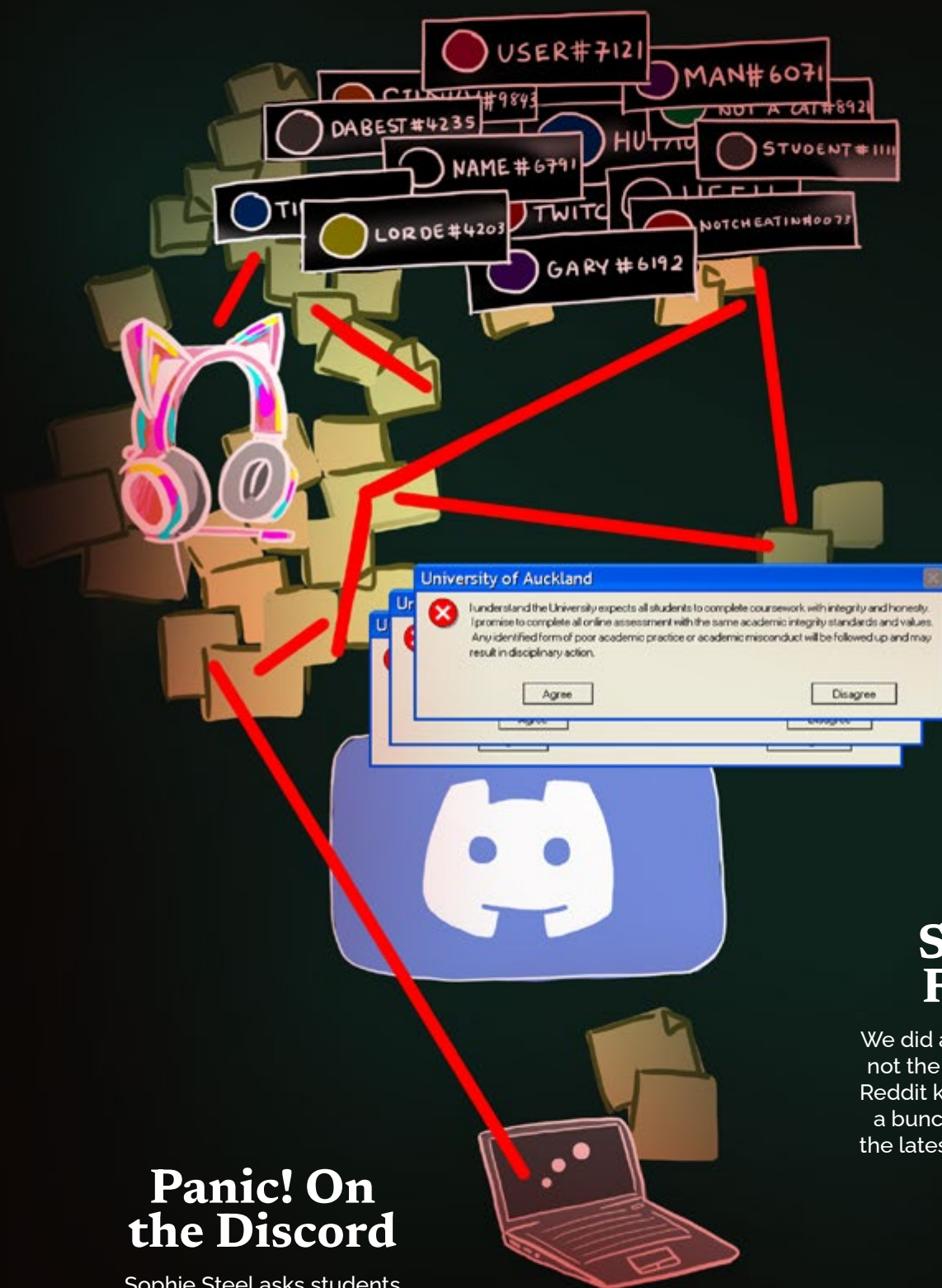
We did a vibe check, and no, not the Freshwater & Co on Reddit kind. *Craccum* sought a bunch of wankers to put the latest toys on the market to the test.

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Panic! On the Discord

Sophie Steel asks students what they think about open-book examinations in this week's *Whakarongo Mai*.

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AUSA
PRESENTS

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The People to Blame

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CONTRIBUTOR OF THE WEEK
SOPHIE STEEL
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WINNER OF \$50 SHADS VOUCHER

TE AO MĀORI EDITOR
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Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

This week, *Brian and Eda* write this editorial under open-book conditions

Whānau, welcome back to Semester Two. For some of you, welcome back to Auckland, but for everyone here, welcome back to the concrete jungle, where dreams are made of, the University of Auckland.

Whether you have been on break for only a couple of weeks or over a month, it's hard to get enough of that winter hibernation from thinking about university while we're fast asleep at 11am surrounded by damp laundry that's been out drying for three days. As that time comes to an end, it's time to sharpen your pencils (loljk, but maybe clean the fingerprints off your laptop screen) and prepare for part two.

If you enjoy being in a crowded room of sweaty teenagers who haven't showered in days sitting an 'open-book examination', then you'll be returning with an extra spring in your step. In what *NZ Herald* has hyped up as Earth's biggest challenge since Thanos, online cheating is running rife and laying the SmackDown™ over the University's Academic Integrity Policy. As a result, it didn't take long to come up with the *Inspira*-tion for this week's editorial.

It's raised the question of what place online exams have in fair learning assessment. This is all the more pertinent given the interesting perspective we approach this semester with, knowing it will culminate in online exams yet again.

From the University's standpoint, they've doubled down on their approach, with the Vice-Chancellor telling staff over email that "it is important to keep it in perspective. The group in question is a small subset of the total number currently sitting exams." While it is amusing how much Dawn chooses to downplay the issue, there is truth in suggesting the issue is not as one-sided as the media make it out to be.

Sophie Steele gauges student opinion on this matter in this week's *Whakarongo Mai*, and finds most students don't have any suggestions on how UoA's approach could be improved, or think it is working fine. Of course, one student suggests it should be kept in-person. However, we need to be realistic considering the Wellington COVID scare not too long ago.

Of course, we here at *Craccum* would be the first to point and laugh at Freshwater if she trips up and falls face-first into the mud, but credit should be given where credit is due. Media drama is just that, and it seems in this instance, on an issue where there is no ideal solution, people who want things both ways are speaking the loudest.

While the University so keenly watches us during the exam period, it's only right that we turn to invigilate them too, and to do so, we have geared up with a new news team lead by Jessica Hopkins as News Editor, and Karanama Ruru (Ngāti Raukawa/Ngāti Maniapoto) as Chief Reporter.

Semester Two will see the trees on Symonds Street turn green again, the AUSA elections, a mostly COVID-vaccinated country, and you, doing your damn best.

Yours faithfully,

Brian Gu (he/him) and Eda Tang (she/her)
Co-Editors of *Craccum* 2021



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'A Shot in the Dark'

Stray Theatre Company, LOT23, 4th
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night with a 2pm matinee on the Saturday.

Stray Theatre Company are stoked to be staging their Original Bill, an original written piece by members of Stray. Stray presents 'A Shot in the Dark' written and directed by Joseph Hisayasu and Tasman Clark. About the show: When best friends Lucy, Crystal, Flip and Milo attempt solving a murder for themselves, they must wade into the mire of secrets and lies that lurks within their hometown. However, they soon start to uncover not just the truth of what happened that night, but truths about themselves. Link to purchase tickets: bit.ly/ASITDTickets

WHAT'S ON?

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Potential AUSA Breakaway Leaves Group Funding in Question

KARANAMA RURU NGĀTI RAUKAWA/NGĀTI MANIAPOTO

The landmark proposal for AUSA to potentially leave the NZUSA has raised a number of questions and concerns surrounding funding around the University of Auckland rohe.

While the motion passed with a majority of 50 to 29 votes at AUSA's annual general meeting back in May, the proposal for AUSA to leave the New Zealand Union of Students Associations has since been met with scrutiny. This has largely been undertaken by groups that rely on the funding and support of the NZUSA and whether or not this would continue should AUSA make the significant decision to leave.

Whilst there is a large faction wanting to see UoA's Student Union leave NZUSA, citing the argument of a "lack of value for money" and little direct benefit from NZUSA membership for University of Auckland students, the key concern of funding — much of which comes from NZUSA contributions — remains strong.

An AUSA exit from NZUSA would be a significant move for groups within the University of Auckland sphere. Much of the funding that is given for student organisations and collectives comes from the national

union, and the levies. It is understood that Te Mana Ākonga, the Union of Māori Tertiary Education students, receives around \$40,000 from NZUSA through a Memorium of Understanding.

Minutes obtained by *Craccum* of the 2021 AUSA General Meeting (which are widely available on the AUSA website) on May 31st confirm that questions were raised by UoA Māori Students Association Ngā Tauria Māori surrounding funding concerns and the welfare of Māori and Pasifika students, of which form a sizable minority of the UoA student population. The documentation of said meeting states that both the AUSA President, and the General Manager do not intend to leave Te Mana Ākonga and their Pasifika counterpart, Tauria Pasifika out to dry and financially unstable. Rather, the minutes state that AUSA is willing to commit financially to the two groups should the decision be made to leave NZUSA, citing the significant impact that they have on Māori and Pasifika students.

After the conclusion of the annual meeting on the 31st May however, Te Mana Ākonga Tūmuaki Takirua/Co-President Renata White told *Craccum* that AUSA did not provide

enough information to address collective concerns presented by underserved groups, such as Pasifika, LGBTQ+ and International organisations within the University of Auckland Sphere^[1].

As of this week, financial concerns from Te Mana Ākonga remain at the forefront. Representatives from Aotearoa's Māori Tertiary Students Union told *Craccum* that TMA are awaiting to hui with AUSA regarding funding, and are yet to hear from the UoA union at all about the issue. They are, however, very much open to kōrero with AUSA regarding the matter.

AUSA President Anamika Harirajh told *Craccum* that throughout 2020, AUSA contributed 18.6% to NZUSA funding, of which NZUSA contributed around \$26,000 to TMA. Should AUSA make the decision to leave the NZUSA, Harirajh states that AUSA is committing to funding at least 18.6% of TMA funding, adding up to a total of just over four thousand dollars. Depending on the financial position of both AUSA and TMA however, they may consider a larger contribution.

[1] <http://craccum.co.nz/news/reporting/ausa-passes-motion-to-give-12-months-notice-to-leaving-nzusa/> by Eda Tang & Jessica Hopkins

UoA Forefronts the Largest COVID-19 Vaccine Monitoring Study

CHARLIE PARKER

After being awarded \$8 million NZD by a US health agency, University of Auckland scientists will undertake the world's biggest vaccine study, monitoring three hundred million people's post-vaccination reactions.

The University of Auckland is due to coordinate the largest vaccine monitoring study regarding the outcomes, risks and efficacy rates of various COVID-19 vaccines. The university has been given nearly \$8 million NZD to conduct the study, awarded by the United States national public health agency the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Three hundred million people from around the world will be involved as participants in the study, with more countries' populations expecting to enter the study as it progresses.

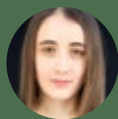
Through the use of data mining, researchers will assess adverse post-vaccination reactions, with the intention that unanticipated reactions can be predicted within populations. It further expands on the current vaccine research completed by the university's Faculty of Medical and Health Science. The present research explores different reactions to numerous vaccines both COVID-19 related and unrelated, whilst also studying various New Zealanders attitudes towards immunisation vaccines.

The study will be done through the Global Vaccine Data Network (GVDN), which for the past three years has been a leading network in vaccine monitoring. Co-director of GVDN and principal investigator of the project, Associate Professor Helen Petousis-Harris,

states on the University of Auckland's website that "many new COVID-19 vaccines require global, centralised surveillance to detect any very rare vaccine safety issues and to allow ongoing risk-benefit assessments". Petousis-Harris is the former chair of the World Health Organization's Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety.

The project will collaborate with international health organisations and national agencies globally. University of Cincinnati Professor Steve Black states on the University of Auckland's website that "through its scale, transparency, timeliness and open communication, it will contribute to vaccine confidence around the world".

Residents Claim AUT's Mayoral Drive Accommodation Advertising was Misleading



JESSICA HOPKINS

Residents of the Mayoral Drive Student Accommodation have expressed disappointment over what they describe as misleading advertising. Several students claim AUT promoted recreational facilities as part of the accommodation, however they have been unable to access them due to ongoing construction.

The Mayoral Drive Accommodation, which is part of AUT's WQ Building is open to all tertiary students, not just AUT students, and is home to several UoA students. Earlier this year, Debate Magazine reported that the WQ building was undergoing construction until at least mid-May. However, several residents told Craccum that they were not informed that recreational facilities were still under construction before moving in. The cost of a room at Mayoral Drive starts at \$375 per week, a rate some residents feel is high without access to these facilities.

Screenshots from April provided to Craccum from AUT's website shows images of the facilities at the WQ building as part of the Mayoral Drive accommodation. In emails to students, AUT also advertised the facilities as part of the accommodation experience. *"Staying at the WQ building offers students more than just a fantastic place to rest and study. It has a recreation centre, a sports court with balcony seating."* Some student residents feel it was dishonest to advertise these facilities if they were not yet open.

Addressing AUT in a formal complaint, 51 residents signed a petition, requesting their accommodation rate be reduced to \$300 per week until all facilities, including the sports court and gym, were fully open. *"The students assert that AUT has deceived them about the accommodation, and they were not informed of the construction delays until after they had made payments and moved in."* In the petition, residents also requested for AUT to update its webpage for the accommodation so that no other students were misled. AUT updated its website to remove photos and any mention of these facilities after the complaint was made.


In a reply to WQ residents, AUT told students that their accommodation fee *"does not specifically include an amount for use of the Recreation centre."* In AUT's official response to Craccum, they clarified that residents are charged a market related fee that does not include an amount for use of the recreation centre. *"This is clarified in the Residence Agreement that defines the accommodation as 'the room, the building, and the common areas/facilities.'"*

However, several residents told Craccum that they were not informed that recreational facilities were still under construction before moving in.

The WQ Complex recreation centre and facilities are separate from the student accommodation. These facilities are funded by the student building levy, which costs \$77.52 for each AUT student in addition to tuition fees. AUT emphasised this in their response to Craccum. *"The AUT student Recreation Centre is part of the WQ complex (along with staff offices and other spaces that are separate to the accommodation)."* AUT did not make any comment regarding claims of misleading advertising.

AUT's response to residents also detailed that residents who are not AUT students would pay a fee to use the Recreation Centre. *"This centre is for all AUT students, and in 2021, AUT students will not pay to make use of it."* One UoA resident told Craccum they believe not mentioning this in advertising was also misleading and that it would have impacted their decision to choose that accommodation. AUT said that more information on fees would be shared with any non-AUT residents. However, affected residents say they have not received any details since. The facilities are currently opening up for Semester Two.





"I don't think UoA should have online exams unless it is absolutely necessary, e.g. we are in level 2 or 3. I just found it a bit pointless having them online."

"I didn't feel the need to cheat as my online exams were open book, so it seemed worthless to collaborate with others when I could just google it or look at my notes."

"UoA could change their approach to exams but I don't really know how they would do that. With COVID-19 I think it is super hard to plan in advance and make executive decisions about whether the exams should be online or in person."

"It was definitely tempting to cheat, especially in halls because people were doing the same exam."

Whaka
Rongo
Mai

Whakarongo Mai! Listen up! Auckland Students Evaluate the Online Exam Cheating Scandal.



SOPHIE STEEL

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CONTRIBUTOR OF THE WEEK

Recently, several media outlets reported allegations of widespread cheating during UoA's online exams. Anonymous student sources accused other students of messaging and collaborating during their exams. Student reactions have been mixed; some are infuriated snitches had exposed their cheating "secrets", others are concerned about the legitimacy of these assessments. Professors have also questioned whether these online exams effectively measure a student's success in a course. We asked students to weigh in on the cheating scandal and for their thoughts on what the university should do going forward.

Ethan*, 18, Science

In my hall, I saw lots of people cheat. People working together, actually doing the exam together, sending answers to each other. In a hall, it was a lot easier for people to cheat, because you live there and so many people are around you. I think that online exams are unfair because it lowkey isn't a test of what you know, it is so easy to just google the answers and shit. It was definitely tempting to cheat especially in halls because people were doing the same exam. I don't think UoA should have online exams unless it is absolutely necessary, e.g. we are in Level 2 or 3. I just found it a bit

pointless having them online.

James*, 18, Arts

I saw cheating happen during my exam, and I know people who sat the exam with other students and discussed their answers. I found that the format of the exams and the difficulty of the questions were altered because of the fact that many of them were open book assessments. I felt that the way we were assessed in my own exams was still a good reflection of our understanding and preparation. However, for multi-choice exams, I feel this could be altered as in an online setting it allowed for more collaboration between students. So I wouldn't say that the approach as a whole needs to be changed, just the way some exams are assessed.

Anna* 19, Medical and Health Sciences

I had exams both in person and online, and I found that the online exams were questioned differently to the in person exams and therefore you had to answer differently. Although it might be easier to write a better answer in an online exam, it doesn't necessarily mean your grade will be better as I found that the grading of my online exams

was harder. I guess if UoA wants to change their exam format they can, I'm not really too phased as I only had two online exams and sat them both at home. I didn't feel the need to cheat as my online exams were open book, so it seemed worthless to collaborate with others when I could just google it or look at my notes.

Melanie* 20, Global Studies

I didn't really see cheating happen but I heard that a few of my friends had collaborated together via messages and chats. It didn't faze me though, I just did my own thing and since I had all my notes with me, talking to others seemed pointless. I don't think the online exams were unfair, all of mine were open book, but I definitely didn't feel the need to study super hard for them because I had many resources I could refer to. UoA could change their approach to exams but I don't really know how they would do that. With COVID-19 I think it is super hard to plan in advance and make executive decisions about whether the exams should be online or in person. I also think it would be hard to monitor the online exams if they were closed books, so I'm not sure how these exams will look in the future.

**Students' names have been changed.*

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Mānawatia a Matariki



MAIRĀTEA MOHI TE ARAWA

*Matariki atua ka eke ki runga
Nau mai ngā hua
Nau mai ngā taonga
Nau mai te Mātahi o te tau.
Tūturu whakamaua kia tīna! Tīna!
Haumi e.
Hui e.
Taiki e.*

*Matariki has risen.
Welcome the fruits of the year.
Welcome the many treasures.
Welcome the New Year.*

Māori believe that the appearance of Matariki, or Pleiades or M45 in the morning sky in mid-winter indicates the Māori New Year, or Te Mātahi o te Tau. The Māori New Year is a time to reflect, remember those who have passed and get ready for the upcoming year ahead. A sacred time it marks the harvest season with a plethora of food related ceremonies. Festivities were a mainstay during this time with a big emphasis on whānau.

With the recent news that Matariki would become a national holiday there have been

elaborate celebrations up and down the country. But these festivities have only been brought back to the Māori consciousness very recently. It was during the Māori renaissance of the 80's and 90's that Tangata Whenua began their rediscovery of ancient practices and traditions.

Leading astronomers like Dr Rangi Mātāmua have been researching the past 30 years to reeducate the masses on the significance of Matariki. Interestingly his research has revealed that the cluster of Matariki houses nine stars, instead of the perceived seven. Dubbed 'Te Iwa o Matariki,' Dr Mātāmua and his tūpuna believe the nine stars to be kaitiaki, or guardian, of a realm in nature.

These nine stars are:

Matariki is the whetū, or star, that signifies reflection, hope, our connection to the environment and the gathering of people. Matariki is also connected to the health and wellbeing of people.

Pōhutukawa is the star connected to those that have passed on.

Waiti is the star connected to all fresh water bodies and the food sources that are sustained by those waters.

Waitā is the star associated with the ocean, and food sources within it.

Waipuna-ā-Rangi is the whetū connected with the rain.

Tupūānuku is the star connected with everything that grows within the soil to be harvested or gathered for food.

Tupūārangi is star linked with everything that grows up in the trees: fruits, berries and birds.

Ururangi is the star connected with the winds.

Hiwaiterangi is the star connected with granting our wishes, and realising our aspirations for the coming year.

How to have a Home-tapu

The restoration of celebration also means the restoration of ceremonies. Recently people have been participating in rising commemorations known as Umu Kohukohu Whetū or Hautapu. Māori wait until the lunar phase of Tangaroa, the last quarter phase of the moon, to celebrate its rising with a ceremony called 'whāngai i te hau tapu'. You may want to have your own hautapu ceremony at home with your whānau. It can be as elaborate or simple as you want. The ceremony has four parts.

1: Te Tirohanga - The viewing

Rise early with the stars and start your year off right. The best time to see Matariki is just before the sun rises. Depending on the brightness of the different stars it would determine the bounty of the impending season. Try using a stargazing app to find the direction of the whetū. Many whānau have even started to climb their maunga as part of their ritual and to get a better view.

2: Te Whakamahara i ngā mate - Remembering the dead

Māori believe Matariki cares for those who die throughout the year, and when it rises again the spirits of those passed become stars in the sky. The names of those who had died since the last rising of Matariki should be called out in the presence of the star cluster. Take the time to mourn. The tears and the wailing encouraged the heavenly transformation of loved ones. Karakia and waiata should also be sung throughout this step.

3: Te Whāngai i ngā whetū - Feeding the stars

Here's the best part, the kai. Because many of the different stars in Matariki are associated with food, and its role is to care for our dead and bring forth the bounty of the year, Māori give thanks to this star cluster by offering food. Special food is cooked in an uncovered earth oven and the steam that rises into the sky 'feeds' Matariki. It is important you have the right kai. Try to get food associated with each whetū.

Here are some menu ideas:

Tupūānuku - something from the earth, a kūmara is what we'd use traditionally, but a rīwai (potato) is fine.

Tupūārangi - traditionally this would be a kererū, however, a heihei (chicken) will suffice, or a duck.

Waiti - something from fresh water, tuna (eel) or trout, kēwai (freshwater crayfish), or a bit of salmon.

Waitā - any fish from the ocean, such as a tāmure (snapper) or tarakihi or whatever you can get.

4. Te Whakawhanaungatanga - the festivities

Wrap up your Home-tapu by singing the night away and basking in the presence of your loved ones. Take the time to appreciate your whānau, friends and say thanks to those who matter. This time of year is about reflecting and revising so jump into the new year with nothing but enthusiasm and excitement! Wehi nā!

How did you celebrate Te Tau Hou Māori?

Atawhai:

Walked up Mauao and tried to do a reading of the whetū but the sky was pretty cloudy so I didn't get much out of it initially. I kept checking through the Tangaroa phase of the marama until I could get a good view of the stars. I was pretty relaxed this year during matariki; I didn't do a hautapu or anything until last week which is real late but it was the first time we could get together as a whānau so it made sense.

George:

I Spent the day with my family at the markets getting ready for a roast dinner on the first day that Matariki was visible. We cooked a

big kai then sat by the fire drinking, sharing stories and appreciating each other's presence.

Rāwhiti:

Alcoholism and Prayers.

Any resolutions or reflections?

Faith:

Learn more about and keep up to date with the Maramataka.

Kalehi:

Depression = cured lmao?

Mamaeroa:

Eat less meat.

What other maori holidays should we celebrate?

Atawhai:

National Hunters Day.

Mamaeroa:

Koroneihana.

George:

National Hongi a Māori Day.

A Lament on Pacific Queerness



ALLYSSA VERNER-PULA SAMOA, LEPEA

For a long time, there was a degree of severance between my queerness and Pacific-ness. Both impacted the way I saw the world but felt like they could never cross paths. They were like hats; one comes on, as the other comes off.

I've always known I was queer. From a young age, I questioned why young people were forced into romantic feelings of the opposing gender. It wasn't until I read a copy of *Seventeen* magazine when I was in my early teens that had Ke\$ha proudly announcing she was bisexual that I finally felt like I was understood. "That's how I feel," I thought to myself. I kept it to myself for a while.

Then, in Year 7, I decided to tell my friend group. I used the words of Santana Lopez from *Glee*: "I feel the way about girls that you're supposed to feel about boys" and added that I think I also like boys in the same way. I was shut down and told to keep it to myself.

When I was 14, I decided it was time to tell my mum. She needed to know. She had lots of questions but took it well. I think her embrace of my older brother, who identifies as gay, made it easier for me to come out.

My queerness, besides that coming out moment with those friends and a few other off handed comments that are a little bit funny because of their ignorance but still really sting, never really impacted on the way I see the world.

If you could choose, which one would you choose?

You're just confused.

You just need a man to straighten you out.

However, it was my Samoan-ness that was targeted, fixated on and ripped apart.

Throughout my life, that was the aspect of my identity that was constantly questioned. According to my palagi peers, there were only a few ways one could articulate their Pasifika-ness and even though I often didn't fit into any of those tropes (I'm not funny, not sporty, etc.), I was still victim to racist

jokes and comments. Even working in retail, customers could identify I wasn't white and would make the strangest comments about it.

Of course you eat KFC, you're Polynesian.

You're so smart, for a Samoan.

You're dark, like my granddaughter.

Bunga.

Even now, as a Pacific Studies major, people are quick to judge: *what do you even do in Pacific Studies?* Well, what do you do in chemistry, breather? Having your knowledge processes and methodologies questioned cuts like daggers; I don't think it'll ever get easier.

It wasn't until last year that I really *realised* my queerness. During lockdown, I, much like everyone, downloaded Tik Tok and the first hashtag I looked up was "bisexual" and then it was like the world became all lit up again. These were my people; they did the same things I do! I really was queer! And I finally stood the chance of being understood!

But there was always that extra uneasy feeling. All the people making content on Tik Tok, they're all palagi, or at least not Pacific Islander. I went through an identity crisis - did sexually-fluid Pasifika people, like myself, even exist? Where could I find them? Any prominent Pasifika person who inhabited a queer identity seemed to be cis gendered gay men. I was confronted with a feeling I knew all too well, that one that struck me when I came out in Year 7: isolation.

It's not that queer Pasifika women don't exist, it's that we're not seen. And like a lot of other queer Pasifika people, regardless of gender identity, you have that feeling aforementioned: You enter a queer space, the Pacific hat comes off; you enter a Pacific space, you have to go back into the closet for a little bit. It's incredibly confronting and internally conflicting to feel misunderstood, or to even be unsure which parts of you are fit for activation in specific spaces.

For a really long time, I prided

myself on being a good Samoan woman. Not rocking the boat, getting good grades, always being kind and inhabiting modesty. Then, I realised I couldn't possibly not rock the boat, because of that inherent difference that sits within me. If I was ever outed, my conservative family members would have words and prayers for me. However, on the other hand, it is almost as if my existence is a personal protest to queer/Rainbow spaces, which are predominately palagi-centric.

I am slowly on the journey to find peace in that uncomfortable space. I feel that severance of my identity markers less. I have come to realise that no matter the expression or who I'm with, I'm Samoan *and* queer in all spaces. That, in itself, validates me and is proof I do exist. I've come to understand that I do see queer Pacific women all the time. I see her as soon as I get out of bed in the morning. She smiles back at me in the mirror.





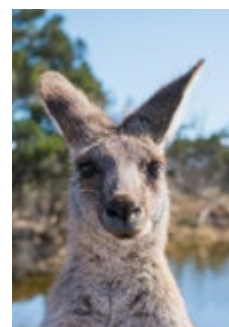
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Deadline
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15 August



STRESS OUT Goals



JAY ALEXANDER

DISCLAIMER: DON'T TAKE ANY OF THIS ADVICE, DUMBASS.

The uni student lifestyle is one of mountain climbing and tsunamis. We all know how terribly stressful exam periods are and how much of life there is to balance, budget and plan out. Most of the time we just want to find a way to relax, destress and feel calm. How do we get rid of the painful stress? How do we just relax and live the best life? If these are questions you want answered, and stress you would like to get rid of, then this article is definitely not for you. No, we will today be looking at all the means to heighten that awful stress you're dealing with. These pointers will help you seek new habits, behaviour and even a playlist to suit this transition from hopefully relaxing holiday into stressful focus and mind-altering change. You will never want to relax ever again! But who are we kidding, you probably didn't relax over the holidays either.

Maximise your screen time

The world now being front and centre on our phones is such a convenience to have. You can send your friends and family messages at any time, keep up to date with current events, and most importantly lose yourself in

the 24/7 cycle of content. All of those sound amazing right? Everyone has their phones shoved into their faces and attention all the time for a reason right? Well in order to ensure that you lose that productive edge, it's vital to make sure that you're beating everyone else at their own game and maximising your screen time every way you can. Hell, at times you'll feel like you'll never do anything else in your life again! Bring your phone to hangouts, toilets, meetings, mealtimes. You'll make the phone your best friend, with extra attention paid to using it the second you wake up and just before you go to bed. These times are vital so that the blue light can not only hold your eyes hostage, but affect the neurological signals from your hypothalamus that lessens the chances for a proper rest. Simply put, to keep yourself away from productivity and rest, get on that damn phone.

It's the second thought that counts

Oftentimes, we get a jolt of inspiration. An initial thought to finally do something with your time. Maybe you want to study hard? Make a home-made meal? Go to the gym? It's a real great feeling, and it's always important to make sure that the productivity flows well and motivation pushes you towards this first thought. And that is why to make sure you're more stressed than usual, you must always remember the second thought. It can come in the way of "what's the point?", "I probably can't do that actually" and my personal favourite, "Eh, I can just do it tomorrow". We naturally gravitate to negative thoughts on the fly, especially internalised criticisms that only make the worst even more so. These second thoughts are absolutely vital towards upping your levels of procrastination and in turn making you stress more, so make sure you're totally in touch with them.

Delete, unfriend, blocked

Who doesn't love friends? The best kind of social support that can go from stabbing your back for fun to being really intimate



and close in the next. You can call them at almost any time, and they will be more than happy to relieve all the worries you have. It's never a good idea to take them for granted and you should always be sure to take them to heart. So in the mind of a stressor, it is imperative for you to completely remove contact with your friends and make sure to miss out on any invite. You'll be facing all the worries and negativity by yourself in your own constructed space, which influences both of the above previous points. If you speak to them, be sure to ask about any event you missed so they gush all over you. This will give you the bitterness of missing out and will effectively add to your stress tenfold. The eventual loss of these friends will in turn increase your chances of achieving maximum stress.

Snacking Goodies

At the end of the day, most of our life's enjoyment depends on the food we eat. From good ol' cereals to high protein salads, the normal person will go to great lengths to maintain a high level of health and dedication to their meals. The best moods and relaxing feels come from this, and there are so many options to keep you in shape both mentally and physically from eating alone! So to maximise stress goals and to keep you in a constant bad mood, we encourage you to stop this management and eat only one category of food: beige. Beige foods, like



chips, hash browns, cookies, bread, and hummus. These are loaded with salt and sugar that give you bursts of energy only to take it all away. You're left with a decaying sense of feeling healthy which is all the better for lessening relaxation.

What's the bed for again?

You don't need us to tell you the importance of good sleep. For every waking year of your life, you've been told over and over that eight hours is the recommended and that you need rest to fully be you. And it's true; you do need to sleep to maintain sanity, manage brain activity, and of course to rid the risks of stress and high fatigue. So that is why it's important for you to make sure that you ignore the natural call to your bed. Binge watch movies, stare at your phone (refer above), walk around outside. Just do whatever you can to make sure that no Z's are caught, leaving you in a constant state of low energy and awful mood swings. To boost this

you might want to consider taking up copious amounts of coffee as your new water source. I would recommend at least seven cups a day of long blacks and nothing less (but maybe don't, to avoid cardiac arrest). Be sure to drink after 6pm and you will truly become the life of any event or activity by being totally incapable of function.

An essential playlist

While you're by yourself and needing to seek occupation, an obvious and good choice would be to immerse yourself in music. However, to maintain stress goals, you must listen to some of the most anxiety inducing sounds imaginable. Some artists that specialise in this include:

- Merzbow
- Swans
- Death Grips
- Daughters

To help we have made a playlist that will give you 30 songs to start with your stress inducing jam sessions. QR Code above/ below. Scan and listen at your own risk. (Editor's note: I only got through three songs so... yeah).

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/22LCr2Bzdh2YC8poLeK5oT?si=d011beda413f4aa1>



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Let's Get this Bread

Craccum speaks to students on side-hustles



NAOMII SEAH

Ok babies now let's get in formation. I mean it, get back in line. We're becoming adults and you all know what that means. Adult things like jobs because of adult things like money because of adult things like paying rent and buying groceries etc. It's all a bit much sometimes. And now, Studylink isn't paying enough to get by. Gone are the days where students were just students. Everyone I know has at least one part time job... or they live at home (or both, hey, no shade).

But the job market is looking pretty shit too. What happens if you don't have the patience to get yelled at by middle-aged Ponsonby Mums in LuluLemon at the fancy local cafe? The mid-year break is a time where many students take advantage of their freedom to pursue other interests. With the explosion

of platforms on the internet, there are so many things people can pick up as side hustles—though not all of them may result in consistent profits.

So whether you're looking to make some money on the side, or you're thinking of seriously pursuing an interest, keep reading. Craccum sat down with Gabbie, a BFA student at UoA with her own jewellery brand, Gabebes; Owen, a rising TikTok star studying Law and Sociology; and Rita, a musician currently studying toward a diploma in music production at SAE to discuss how exactly one starts and maintains a side-hustle while studying.

Gabbie de Baron

Instagram: @gabebes_

As well as being an all-star Craccum review writer and beloved contributor Gabbie de Baron runs her own jewellery business, using beads to make necklaces, rings and phone charms. Her Instagram account is taking off, with over 900 followers.

Tell me a bit more about how you started making jewellery.

Well, I was joking around with my Great-Aunt, my lma, at Kmart, and I asked her to get me a \$20 bead kit. She ended up getting me one, and then the three day lockdown happened at the start of this year. I thought, I guess I'll use it, it must be fun. I started playing and then I realised as I was doing it [that I loved it].

The lockdown happened the first week of uni, and it just all lined up. For Fine Arts, usually there's a lot of material research before the project, but I disregarded that because it was more [of a] fun [project], and I didn't want the uni pressure.

Originally I was selling reworked clothes [on the account @gabebes_], but the problem was that I had to keep looking for second hand clothing. I just ran out of materials at one point.

When I first started making necklaces I posted them on my Instagram just for fun, but I got questions from my friends about selling them, so I thought I might as well because the clothes thing wasn't really going anywhere.

So is sustainability a value of yours?

Yeah, I'd say so. I buy all my clothes from the op shop or my Nan gives them to me. It's so good when [clothes] are second hand, there's so much history.

I started focusing on sustainability because of lockdown. I hated how people would use the single-use masks, and throw them away. Even single-use gloves. It made me scared for the planet, you know, so I started reading about it more.

I'm looking at expanding [Gabebes] into ceramic and glass, learning how to make handmade pendants—resin, ceramic, metal. I do have to think about cost though, and they're very complicated to make!

What motivates you to create necklaces?

Really [it's] for my own sanity. I need it as a creative outlet. If you draw, it goes into piles, but when you make something like jewellery it goes out into the world and onto other people. It's a tangible result. It's nice to see that people want to wear it and they like it.

I realised I have [developed a good relationship with my customers]. Initially it was family and friends who ordered, but then I got regulars from Instagram, and a gig. There was a bunch of high schoolers at a gig I went to, and they just loved [the jewellery] and started ordering.



So how do you juggle Gabebes with University work?

Well, [Gabebes] is my brain child, so I want to put effort into it. This and [writing] are things I enjoy doing, so by default I put more effort and time into it. It's been such a rough past year for everybody, but personally I've learned to prioritise my mental health.

[Making jewellery] really de-stresses me, so it feels much better than Uni work to make these, though obviously I still have to study!

Any advice for those looking to do something similar?

I would say just go for it! [Don't do anything] that stresses you out too much just for the sake of making money. It just feels right to have [Gabebes], so if it feels right for you to have a side hustle then go for it.

Finally, where is Gabebes going? And where can we find you!

I want to branch out into slow fashion in general. I do want to go back to textile based stuff, but for me, right now I just honestly want [Gabebes] to be an extension of my existing art practice. Something that is tangible, and something I enjoy outside of the fine art realm.

As for events, right now I'm just chilling, because custom orders online are taking off way more at the moment. I want to make a TikTok but it's just so high tech!

For now, you can find me on Instagram: @gabebes_

Owen Zheng 郑铿 TikTok: @feetpimp69

Owen is a student at UoA, studying Sociology and Law, who started doing TikTok seriously in June of last year. He has 56.6K followers on the platform, and continues to grow.

How did you get started on TikTok?

So I had a friend who would send me TikToks every day for a month. I used to think they were stupid but I ended up making an account. I also used to be on Omegle as an [emotional] outlet, complaining to random strangers about uni; I'd be like "Hey guys, I failed Comp-Sci." Then, some random girl on Omegle told me I should make TikTok videos. So then I just started posting and it ended up replacing my close friends' story on Instagram.

So what were some challenges you faced putting yourself out there on TikTok? I imagine it can be scary having such a big platform.

I feel there's a lot of racism. I say "I hate it here" in almost all of my videos, and a lot of boomers take it the wrong way. They'd say if you hate New Zealand you should just leave New Zealand, and things like "go back to where you came from." Like ok, I can't. I was born here! Shall I crawl back into my Mother's womb? It's so annoying.

I also feel a lot of people don't know a lot about [the racism people face], so I reply to comments on TikTok. Before doing Sociology at UoA I really didn't know about New Zealand's racist history. But now that I've learned about it I think [the racism here] makes sense.

So is educating others something that motivates you to keep doing TikTok?

Yeah it's a part of it. [But] hate comments have decreased a lot nowadays because most of my audience isn't in NZ. The TikTok algorithm is so weird. [Feedback] depends where the algorithm takes my videos. Sometimes it reaches boomer TikTok and then there's hate, but most of the time it's really nice.

My audience is mostly from America, around 40%. Then it's about 10% NZ, 10% Australia, then Canada, UK.

When I was getting hate comments around the beginning of COVID-19 and the rise of Anti-Asian sentiment, most of my defenders were from America.

Do you think that's because racism in America is a lot more visible?

I think so, definitely, because there was the Anti-Asian hate that was happening, but people here completely forgot about it. It seemed over really quickly in New Zealand, but it has lingering effects.

When COVID started, Facebook Newshub comments were just so racist. But it's a lot more subtle in person.

[Another funny one is] sometimes when I go online people say "oh your English is really



good." I just say "oh thanks, yours is good too."

Boom bow, that's how you fix that!

But on a serious note, how did you manage to grow your platform so much?

My audience stagnated for six months actually. My TikTok anniversary, my first video was posted on the 13th June last year. I posted videos inconsistently until December. After exams I decided to post all the time and post whatever.

I believe in manifestation. I decided I wanted to grow on TikTok and when I went to Whitcoulls in December I saw this really ugly green journal. I swear I heard it talk to me. Like, "buy me". It could have been someone next to me saying that, but I felt I had a connection [to the journal]. I went back to the car and made a TikTok, and it was a boring one [about buying the journal] but it was the first talking one I did, and I grew by 500 followers.

Is it hard to manage TikTok and studying?

It's ok. I just set little goals for myself. I try to film a TikTok every day, because I feel like there's something to complain about every single day, ha. Sometimes I have good days where I do ten videos a day, but sometimes it'll just be one. That's how I balance [TikTok and Uni]. I try to post one a day and then just

turn off my phone and not think about TikTok.

Do you have any advice for students looking to do a side hustle?

Oh my God, yes. Kourtney Kardashian is my idol. She doesn't care about anything and I love that. She once said follow your heart and everything else will fall into place. And I really believe that. If I wanna do this, and I want to post [on socials], then I'm gonna do it. Follow your heart and don't care what anyone else says. I had one friend who told me I should stop making videos because I've plateaued. But even though I had [plateaued] I still really enjoyed it, and I eventually grew.

I'm not monetised but when I go live, people can send me gifts. I got an email from a brand, but I'm scared of monetising because I don't want to sell out. If someone wants a partnership I have to stand by whoever offers me money, so I'm skeptical. We don't have the creative fund [in New Zealand] either, so [NZ TikTok creators] don't get paid for views. I'll just see where it takes me. I'm still in uni, I haven't dropped out yet!

Yeah, and not everything has to be monetised all the time! Fuck capitalism. A platform like yours is still an achievement in and of itself.

So finally, where can our audience find you?



(Here, Owen gives a sheepish laugh). It's basically just TikTok at the moment. I'm @feetpimp69.

Rita May
Instagram: @ritamaymusic

Rita is a singer-songwriter based in Tāmaki Makaurau, producing melodic, indie tunes while studying audio production at SAE.

But I'll let you introduce yourself!

So, I'm Rita... hi, haha! I'm studying audio production at SAE in Parnell—it's like this cool creative institute that does film, music and audio. My course tends to lead to careers in the engineering side of audio. Most people in my class will be angling for those sorts of careers, but I'm trying to use it as a backup option if music fails. It's also so I have the skills (and access to the equipment) to support my music career. It's kind of like uni is my side hustle!

So how did you get into doing music professionally?

Well it was a bit of a slow burn, really. I knew I wanted to be a recording/performing artist from quite a young age. I was writing songs in primary school.

It's a bit classic but I thought music was impractical, so I actually started off wanting to do medicine! I ended up doing a Neuroscience degree. [But when I] got to the end of that [I] thought, fuck, I've got a whole degree that I'm probably not going to use because I'm still obsessed with music--so I signed up for SAE!

Can you talk about the challenges you've faced, getting started?

Well there's this gap between writing a song and being a musician and having a career. When you're at the very beginning, it's a weird place because no matter how good your stuff is there's no way for people to hear it. I hate the "it's not what you know, it's who you know" trope, but it is such a thing in the music community. You need connections and to be out there, almost hustling a little bit. It's so against my nature, but I guess it's probably like this in any field.

So what have you done since, and where to next?

["The Secret's Out"] came out of lockdown with a producer on SoundCloud, but there was a clash in creative vision. I ended up buying my masters off him and took them to a good family friend that used to play in bands with my Dad. He was an amateur producer, but we had similar tastes. We stripped [the track] way back and made it as close to how it was written as possible. It ended up feeling way better. That's how the first single kind of went.

I've been floundering a bit since then because I'm still trying to find a good producer and collaborator. I've been working with a few people since then, but [haven't been able] to find the right fit.

The current plan is to do [the album] myself. Over this break I want to go out to my Mum's house at Muriwai beach and turn off my phone, try not to see anyone, and get the whole guts of the album down and as close to how I want it as possible. From there, I'll take it to other people like my family friend. I just realised I *know* how I want my stuff to sound, and I'm quite anal about my songs, so I'm just going to do it.

Do you have any advice for others looking to pursue a creative career?

I've found a good thing—though it's generic—is to find some discipline with your practice. I used to only write when I felt inspired, or in the mood. [Creativity] can feel like a special thing that you want to keep fun. But it's so rewarding when you have discipline with it, see it as a little less magical. Finishing things is such a good habit to get into, even if you hate it in the end. I've only just started doing that. There's almost this fear that your inspiration will dry up, but [I find] the more I write, the more there is to write.

Meeting people that are interested in the same thing [is also great]. Not even in a hustle-y way. Just having friends that have similar interests is really inspiring. You can talk about where to go next together.

So what's coming up for you?

Next thing will be the album! The same friend who did the video for "The Secret's Out"; I want her to do the visuals for the next few projects. She's my best friend and I love working with my friends. I want my dog to be in every video, that's the goal.

You can find me at Rita May on every platform!

Side Hustle Reviews



MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

Gabebe's

With the increasing popularity of op-shopping and homemade clothing pieces, style on our university campus seems to be burgeoning away from the minimalist, Tumblr-y black and white preferences of the 2010s. Instead, students seem to favour a more playful, colourful and upbeat look, that evokes enthusiastic grins and giggles instead of envious glances. Gabebe's is clearly part of this shift. With her own caring hands, Gabbie strings together beautiful beads of different shapes, sizes, and colours, producing pieces that are exciting and interesting to look at.

A very welcome, but unexpected consequence that I've experienced after donning one of these necklaces is the impact it has on my mood. Usually, the Monday morning commute into uni is enough to have me crabby for a couple of days (shout out to Auckland Transport). However, if I have one of Gabbie's pieces on, I find I'm a little more energetic and lively throughout the whole day. It turns out that it's actually pretty difficult to walk around grumpily if you're wearing a necklace with a smiley face on it. That mood boost is also due to the nostalgic feel of those colours and shapes: my necklace has a bright blue flower, an orange flower, a shiny yellow star, a couple of gaudy transparent crystals, and freshwater pearls. It's definitely a piece I would have loved as a kid, which is likely why I'm so happy each time I wear it —



I'm playing dress up as my inner child.

The pieces look the best when they're absolutely stacked, leaning into a bright, maximalist aesthetic. They would also make excellent gifts for any forlorn 20 somethings who miss wearing candy jewellery (do you know anyone who DOESN'T fit that description?).

@feetpimp69

It's really difficult to quantify what makes a good TikTok. Many commenters would assert that it's the ability to capture a sort of 'vine energy' where complete absurdity meets an ironic detachment. Others would suggest it's a glorious lack of context for a chaotic group of boys screaming. Indisputably, the true mark of a good TikTok is the group chat test — do you send it on to any friends? @feetpimp69, UOA's own, passes this examination with flying colours.

There's such a huge variety of content styles on TikTok, from dances to edits to heavily filtered vanity vids. Owen Zheng 郑锴 leans more into a rant style, providing a pretty cathartic space for his inevitably tired and frustrated Gen Z audience. He catalogues social mishaps, makes fun of other cringy TikTokers, and raves about UNO. It's intensely relatable, putting words to those menial grumpy thoughts you probably have most days. A particular highlight, especially as someone with a strong kiwi accent, is seeing Owen yell "tomato" at followers who disparage his inflection. If you're trying to avoid taking frustrations out on those close



to you, @feetpimp69 is really worth a scroll at the end of a bad day. Let Owen do the talking for you and go to bed with a cleansed mind.

If there's anything that you can take from Owen's videos, it's that he, usually, hates it here.

"The Secret's Out" Rita May

As uni starts to kick into gear, it's time to reevaluate the tone of your playlists. Over break, you might have indulged in some more fast-paced, excitable tunes. However, as the stressful atmosphere starts to bubble up again, you'll likely be looking for music that's a bit more soothing and relaxing. This release promises a warm pat on the back, and more.

With "The Secret's Out," Rita May provides a pleasant lullaby while still guiding the listener through engrossing ebbs and flows. The guitar is dreamy and gentle, and complements the bittersweet mood of the lyrics well. The lyrics themselves are understanding and empathetic, articulating deeper anxieties and wanderings that you may have been hoping others experience too. The song has some big 'look out the window' energy, with the potential to make a small moment feel big and important. There's a lovely balance between an accepting embrace of the unknown and a clear apprehension for what might come, making it the perfect track to score your coming-of-age unease. If life was a movie, this would play right before the triumphant redemption (get those tissues ready, team).

Overall, the song is so cohesive, melding the instrumental seamlessly with the lyrical tone. It'll provide you with a head swaying catchiness that'll have you hitting replay over and over.





MUSIC AT AN
APPROPRIATE
VOLUME
(NO DNB)

LOFI CHILL HIPHOP
BEATS TO STUDY TO



ACTUALLY
ENROLLED

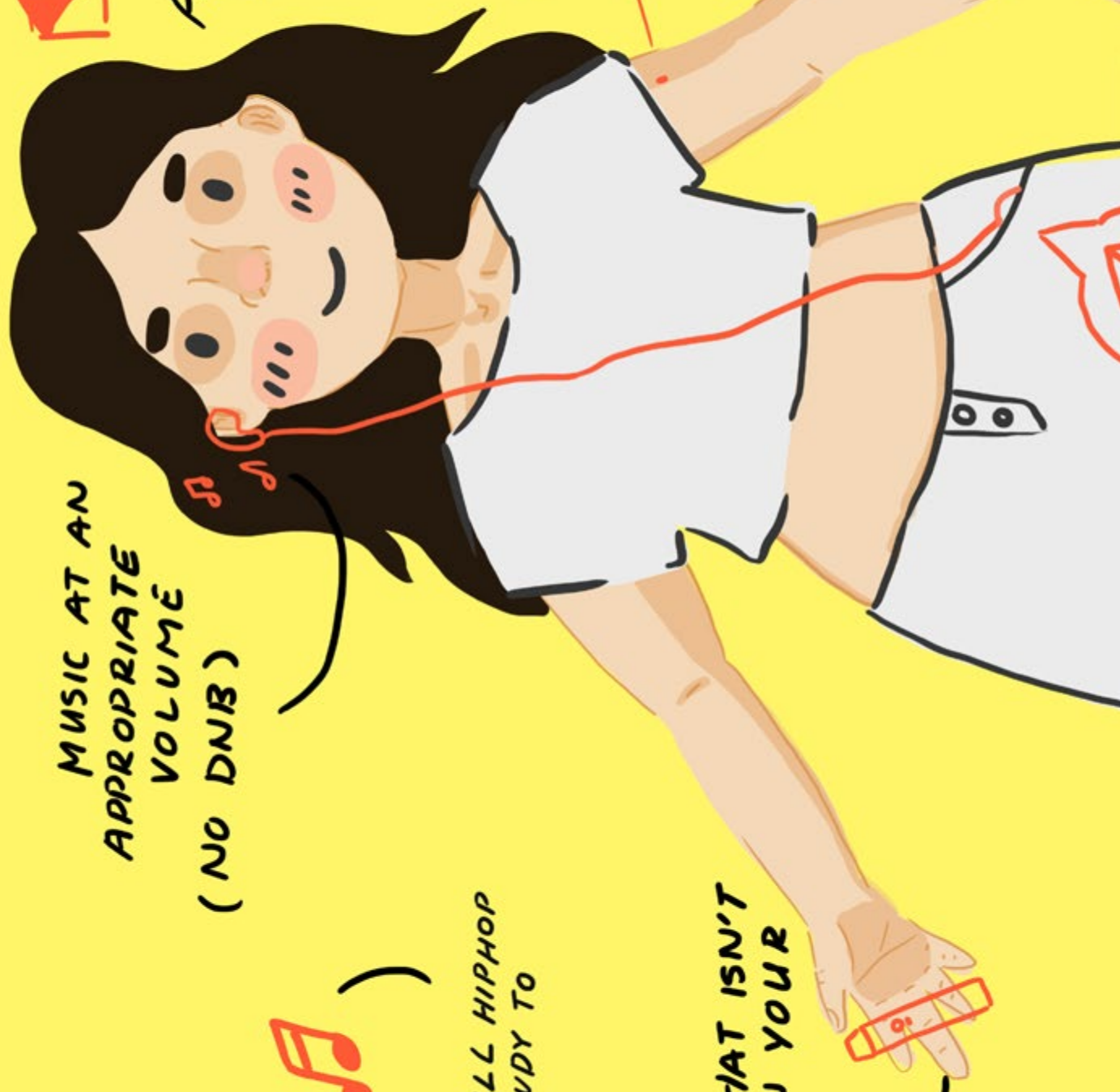
VACCINATIONS



STARTING
WORK BEFORE
THE DUE DATE



A VAPE THAT ISN'T
BLOWN IN YOUR
FACE



A FRIEND IN LECTURES
SO THEY DON'T
COME IN WHEN
THEY'RE SICK



SHOES THAT STAY ON
AND DON'T STINK UP
THE LIBRARY



ACTUALLY
READING THEIR UNI
EMAIL



A KEEP CUP FOR
A HEALTHY AMOUNT
OF COFFEE
AND GUM FOR
COFFEE BREATH

THE IDEAL STUDENT

Reviews.



FILM **THE MOLE AGENT** DIR. MAITE ALBERDI

JAY ALEXANDER

Ever wondered if there's a documentary as entertaining, thrilling and original as a fiction film? Well I have, and now *The Mole Agent* is here to fill that ponderance. Documentaries tend to get a bad wrap in the movie business. They tend to be shoved aside and be labelled as dull, monotonous, and just plain uninteresting. This is a hard medium to produce gems in, but *The Mole Agent* is a real crowning achievement. There's such a precise skillset at play that keeps you engaged and fixed to the edge of your seat. The film examines an old folk's home in Chile through the elder subject Sergio. He is absolutely delightful to watch. You're always following him with focus and he brings a levity that never distracts from the core topic of the film. You are granted a realistic grasp on each person in this space, with the elders interacting genuinely and going at their own pace. It feels really unique and at times there's a jarring feeling of some control of drama when there isn't any. This continues to the directing and shot coverage with such strong immersion adding flavour to the documentarian feel. You truly feel included, and the themes of growing old and elder neglect shine amongst some of the most humorous natural events. It all comes to a crushing finish that I can't get over but shouldn't reveal. This is a real treat you should give yourself and a definite recommended watch.

"Eight out of ten... Do we have any mole agents around us now?"



CRACCUM STAFF PICK **BLACK WIDOW**

FLORA XIE

The latest Marvel blockbuster release sees **Scarlett Johansson** resume her role as the spy Natasha Romanoff. Directed by **Cate Shortland**, *Black Widow* is every bit as action-packed as promised. Set after the events of *Captain America: Civil War* and before *Avengers: Infinity War*, this prequel story of Black Widow is fast-paced and gives audiences little to no time to take a breather between action sequences.

There's no doubt that visually, the film is stunning — the action shots and cinematography for it are well done. However, the downfall of Marvel's latest instalment is that there was very little room in the film left for fleshing out Natasha Romanoff's character. She's been in the Marvel Universe since 2008, but in each film we've only seen glimpses into her past and of who she really is.

What I had expected, probably like many other fans, was for this film to delve into all the dark corners of Natasha's past before joining the Avengers. While we do see bits of Natasha's childhood, events are set in the time of the film and not in the past (so no, not much about what happened in Budapest).

However, the film overall was very empowering to experience. There is immense satisfaction in seeing a powerful female kick ass, confront her abuser, and overcome her trauma. While the action sequences in the film might be a bit too grand and show-y for a spy like Black Widow, they made the film one hell of a send-off for her character.

"ScarJo is back for a good time, not a long time."



PLAYING AT ACADEMY'S \$5 WEDNESDAY **A QUIET PLACE PART II** DIR. JOHN KRASINSKI

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

After a long COVID delay, John Krasinski's *A Quiet Place Part II* has finally landed in theatres, carrying forward the impressive spooks of the original horror hit. In the wake of Jim's death, **Emily Blunt** confidently takes the lead, fleeing from killer librarians who just want some goddamn peace and quiet.

John Krasinski's confidence is clear from the opening scene of this film, as he nails a sense of dread and trepidation akin to *Jaws* or *It*. This demands a theatre viewing, as watching the reaction of an audience is almost as fun as watching the film itself. Like any other horror, there's certainly some jumping in seats and little squeals, but there's a quick hushing after any loud noises. This shows the high level of immersion that John Krasinski elicits with his directing; the audience is petrified that those hard-hitting monsters will come after them next.

While the thematic exploration falls a little short of its full potential, and the world-building is a little clunky, there's a lot to love in this sequel. Some of the early choices from the writers, like catching a young boy in a bear trap, mean that the story constantly feels dangerous and unpredictable. The tension is at its highest in the smallest moments, with clever use of camera movement and props pulling the audience to their edge of the seats. Never has an ill-placed coffee cup been so terrifying.

To go into the draw to win a double pass to A Quiet Place Part II at Academy's \$5 Wednesday, email arts@craccum.co.nz and tell us about the last film you watched!



LIVE TEEKS

CHANTAL DALEBROUX

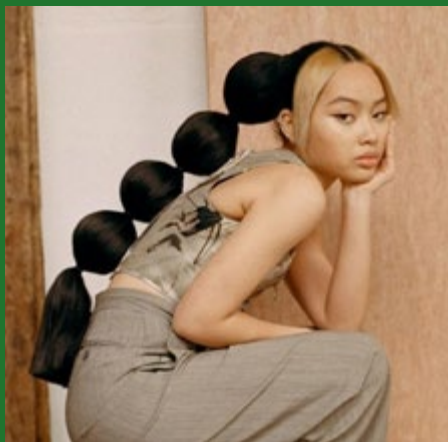
I don't know about anyone else, but when I first heard of **Teeks**, I was mildly skeptical—only because I wouldn't typically consider soul to be my genre. However, upon binge listening to his discography and attending his Auckland show, I am now a cemented fan for life.

With a voice that is indeed soulful and feels like the embodiment of auditory romance, Teeks burst onto the stage of the iconic Civic to a sold out crowd, all of whom were waiting in eager anticipation. His opener, **Majic**, had successfully captivated in advance, and it's worth mentioning her tunes were sung predominantly in crooning te reo.

By 8:20, Teeks had entered, bursting onto the stage with his signature flair and launching into tracks such as his current hits "Younger," "Remember Me," and "If You Were Mine." All of those songs echoed beautifully around the venue and brought tears to many eyes. This was great for new fans, who, like me, may have picked up on his recent music from his features on local radio stations. However, he also made a point to feature tracks from his original 2017 EP, *The Grapefruit Skies*. When Teeks launched into a song dedicated to his grandma in which the room was lit up with phone lights, it would have surprised me if anyone wasn't slightly emotional.

By providing such a powerful yet intimate experience, Teeks proved across the country why he is going to become a household name to watch.

"Ten out of ten. Deserved the standing ovation he received. Entirely phenomenal."



MUSIC ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER GRIFF

SANCHITA VYAS

If you've ever found yourself gently treading back and forth between hurt and hope, *One Foot in Front of the Other* might just be the next glimmering, pop soundscape to immerse yourself in. In **Griff**'s debut record, she ponders over the people in life who painfully slip in and out of reach, whilst also honouring those who hold us steady in turbulent times.

Griff cleverly bounces between vibrant colours and tones among each song, from the playful darkness that emerges in the heartbreak of "Black Hole," to the light that is reclaimed in "Shade of Yellow." This track emits a warm glow through its soft synth, bathing you in an unwavering trust. The song reminds me of the few people I can seek total solace and comfort in.

These feelings of safety unravel in "Remembering My Dreams," which recalls the feeling of *almost* moving on from someone who eventually paves their way back into your dreams. It describes an unwanted temptation that might leave you a little flustered, taunting you with a hopeless fantasy that feels so (momentarily) good to give in to! By ending on "Walk," Griff finishes with an anthem that bursts in support for the people we love endlessly. She is able to curate a world that is marked by the vulnerability of our relationships, where even the most scattered moments of resilience and joy feel like they matter. With every tentative step forward, Griff leaves behind a sacred trail that glistens in both its pain and relief, giving us much to appreciate and carefully uncover.

"The perfect balance of hope and heartbreak."



WEEKLY TOP TEN

- 1. GET TO WORK**
Grecco Romank
- 2. CROSSING**
Sulfate
- 3. HONEY BEES**
Grawlixes
- 4. REDUX**
Deepstate
- 5. SPISSKY**
Phoebe Rings
- 6. BEASTIE**
Reb Fountain
- 7. BEAT UP, BULLIED AND DUNKED ON**
Mazbou Q
- 8. SPEAK UP FOR WOMEN, YOU DON'T SPEAK FOR ME**
Unsanitary Napkin
- 9. THE CHANCE**
The Goon Sax
- 10. CAT DOOR**
A Blunt Jester

ILLUSTRATION BY NIRVANA HALDER

How to Get Into...

Folk Horror

THOMAS GIBLIN

You're at university now—no more Avengers, no more fun explosions. It's time to become a real adult, with refined taste and an interesting indie sensibility. Resident film expert, Thomas Giblin, provides you with a pathway to a more nuanced understanding of film. You're going to be so much fun at parties!

Where do we begin when thinking about folk horror, a sub-genre that escapes any coherent definition? We know that it exists in our subconscious as it evokes the fears that hide deep in our minds. It highlights that feeling of being watched as we go about our lives, the idea that we may not be in control of our lives, and the desire to return to 'safer' traditions instead of facing the discomforts of modernity. The horror in folk horror can stem from pagan faith rituals and cults or a character's isolation in the countryside that leads to madness and immortality.

How do we get into folk horror without any generic labelling? If we can't scroll through Netflix and pick one out at sight how do we begin? As a champion of the genre, it's my role to guide you from the familiar to the unknown. Here are my recommendations, best watched with the lights turned off.



The One We've All Heard Of #GirlBoss

Unless you've been living under a large rock you've heard of *Midsommar*. At the very least you've seen a film student wearing sandals, a white dress and a bouquet of flowers on their head. The film follows Dani (Florence Pugh), a traumatised psychology student, and her toxic partner Christian (Jack Reynor) as they attend a midsummer celebration at a friend's ancestral commune. In a subversion of the genre, the characters' descent into madness plays out in the bright Swedish sun. The horror is out in the blazing sun which means you cannot avert your eyes as Pawel Pogorzelski gorgeously captures a film that will shake you to your core. It continues to steer clear of so many horror genre tropes and clichés throughout, with Pugh's central performance of astounding nuance being a particular highlight. Henrik Svensson's

production design draws you into the maddening world of *Midsommar* so when the visceral climax begins, you are tripping on the high of Ari Aster's wonderfully deranged direction. This makes it one of the most immersive, intense and unique cinematic horrors in recent memory that is entirely worthy of the hype.

The Distant Cousin You Don't Speak Too

Kill List is the twice removed older cousin of *Midsommar* and to elaborate on that, it spoils the folk horror film I hold dearest to my heart. *Kill List* is the film that introduced me to the genre and is also a film I consider to be criminally underrated. The best way to watch this film is to go into it completely blind. Do this and you'll be rewarded with a film that gets under your skin and lingers there long after the credits roll. The less said the better about *Kill List*, so I implore you to watch Ben Wheatly's unsettling horror triumph right away. Just make sure to check your house for any strange symbols before you do and keep your loved ones close... or else.

The Reference Point

The cult classic horror *The Wicker Man* is the O.G. as so many films can be traced back to it as a point of inspiration or reference. I'm talking about the 1973 *Wicker Man* here and not the god awful 2006 version that stars Nicolas Cage and the infamous line, "OH, NO, NOT



THE BEES! NOT THE BEES! AAAAAHHHHH!"

Our stern-faced protagonist is Sergeant Howie (Edward Woodward) who is sent to a remote Scottish island to investigate a report of a missing child. The film is a masterful exercise in dread and paranoia, and features a surprising sum of musical numbers. It also offers a rich commentary on paganism, catholicism, religious extremism, and sexual freedom. All of these elements make *The Wicker Man* quite possibly the finest folk-horror film made. With so many great horror films there exists an iconic villain, and this film is no exception. Christopher Lee plays Lord Summerisle and delivers an over-the-top performance that both charms and terrifies you. This performance places him in the canon of great horror villains. Where this film excels is in the compelling hierarchies of knowledge: you know that Sergeant Howie is doomed but director Robin Hardy shows remarkable restraint so his fate doesn't become a matter of if or when, but how. This is where the palpable tension of *The Wicker Man* is found and what makes its grand finale so shocking in its simplicity. The film is nothing less than a masterpiece so make sure to watch it to "keep your appointment with the Wicker Man."

Lads! Lads! Lads!

Where would you go on holiday for some R&R? In *The Ritual*, their idea of a lads holiday isn't Ibiza, Mykonos or Benidorm, but a hike through the beautifully serene and seemingly peaceful landscapes of Sweden dedicated to the loss of a friend. But when one of them injures themselves they decide to take a shortcut through the woods — and then things go awry. Unbeknownst to them, there is something or someone stalking them that elicits such a feeling of unease you'll hide behind your blanket. Whilst *The Ritual* doesn't break the mould, it does what it aims to do exceptionally well. The atmosphere of dread the woods establishes, intoxicates and lures you to wander into the deepest darkest corners, a metaphor for Luke's (Rafe Spall) psyche which is plagued by guilt. When Luke's trauma and guilt begins to manifest itself in group hauntings, which they dismiss as tricks of the mind, their toxic masculinity rears its ugly head. Thus, chaos sets in, which is all strikingly catalogued by Andrew Shulkind, who captures the deep dark night as a beast of its own. Although *The Ritual* isn't the most inventive of folk-horror films, it's a quick horror fix available on Netflix that won't leave you disappointed.



What's Up, My Witches?

Witchfinder General is the one to watch if your feening for some sleazy 70's horror. However, beware of its brutal gore and torture. Vincent Price, the iconic horror actor, plays Matthew Hopkins, a famed English witch-hunter who was responsible for the deaths of over 300 women considered to be 'witches.' Under the direction of Michael Reeves, in his last directorial feature before his passing at only 25, Price plays the part with such conviction you begin to hate the man and not the character. Richard Marshall (Ian Ogilvy) plays a young roundhead who is wise to Hopkins' unjust practices and sets out to seek revenge in the most savage of ways. This savagery highlights *Witchfinder General* as a grim, uncompromising vision of "weaponised belief" which ultimately led the film upon its release in 1968 to be censored extensively. It was also scorned by critics who called it "peculiarly nauseating" and a "sadistic extravaganza." Such a strong reaction to a film makes it a necessary viewing. Is it not the point of art not to provoke a reaction, either negative or positive? Watch *Witchfinder General* to see if it is as discomforting now as it was then, or just simply watch to revel in the horror of unchecked, abusive power.



Serenity FLORA XIE





PLAYING AT REO 2021



Ben's love of bass and house music mash together to deliver the perfect mix of bangers. Plus the bants is 10/10.

Voted NZ's #1 DJ at the Georgies in 2018, Benny is one of George FM's most loved DJs and larrikins.

CYMBOL

Introducing Cymbol, Producer and composer whose melody-laced, beat-driven dance music is engineered to make hairs stand on end. This rising talent has put in untold time to perfect his cinematic sound, but Cymbol is no stranger to this game.

Biding his time with A-rotate tracks like Best Friends, Slipping and Roll It Up, Cymbol has etched his name into local airwaves. With racked up studio hours under his belt, he's matched his hit delivery and consistency with a masterful-ear and a prolific, but meticulous, work ethic.

Enigmatic Producer, Cymbol, returns from a lengthy hiatus with "Miss These Days" - this time, with the assist from David Dallas to help kick down the door. Consistent with his recent run, DDot continues to hammer home that despite all the odds, roadblocks and doubters - he's still the undisputed. A theme that runs parallel with the canvas that Cymbol has provided him. Heavy hitting stadium drums, dominant keys and his trademark synth hook - Cymbol echo's Dave's

punchlines with his own message that he's also one to not be forgotten about. "Miss These Days" marks the commencement of a run of releases for Cymbol, which will conclude with a forthcoming album expected in Autumn 2021.

DIMPRI

The Sister DJ & Production Duo - DIMPRI (aka sisters Dimple & Priya) are originally from the UK of Indian descent. They hold an eclectic taste with a healthy dose of Dance, Electro, House, Soul, Afrobeats and an injection of RnB/Hip Hop.

DIMPRI first stepped behind the decks in 2010, hosting 'The REEM Show' for Radio Ponsonby on Sunday mornings and just a few short years later they could be found regularly spinning their unique selections at well known hang-outs. They can currently be heard on BASE FM every fortnight hosting 'DIMPRI Radio' and on Music For The People every Saturday.

MIXCLOUD: <https://www.mixcloud.com/Dimpri>



KY.T is a South African born, Auckland based hip-hop artist. He released his first project titled 'P.C.P' at the age of 17 and has since been developing his sound to be more

diverse. He started making recording music in high school, performing at a number of talent shows until he got his first gig opening for NZ rapper legend, Savage. He has since been performing at clubs in Auckland and releasing new music, collaborating with artists such as Mazbou Q, Kevin Posey and MUESLIBEATS. KY.T grew up listening to artists like Andre 3000, Kendrick Lamar and Drake, drawing on them for inspiration when creating music.



LUCA has been DJ'ing actively for nearly 5 years and has spun for some of Aotearoa's greats such as JessB, ENO x DIRTY, Not to mention the international Grime MC 'Koder'. He Also has supported acts like Stormzy, Denzel Curry, Keith Ape & Big Boi (Outkast) and performed at all of our local festivals Rhythm & Vines / Nothern Bass / Joes Farm (The other side Festival) Soundsplash.

Rather than sticking to a particular genre, 'Feel Good' music has been Jordan's forte, reading the crowd and delivering a mix worth listening too

SUGARJAMES

Originating from the deep south, Sugar is a Hip-Hop artist specializing in vocalism and beat making. Now based in Christchurch, Sugar has been honing in on his craft and reinvigorating fading values and styles of rap music.

Check out facebook.com/AUSASStudents for more information about ReO 2021



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JUMPING GOAT
PRESENTS

GOATS INAPPROPRIATE BINGO


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THURSDAY 22ND JULY // SHADOWS BAR // 7PM // R18

SHADOWS BAR & CAFE  JUMPING GOAT

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Dry July Mindset

Sprawled out on the floor, no more. For this month, at least.



VICTORIA HAWTHORNE

I love overpriced Red Bull vodka as much as anyone living off part-time jobs and Studylink, but this month I decided to give Dry July a good go. There are three reasons why:

1. Raising money for Dry July NZ Trust (going towards cancer funds like Prostate Cancer Foundation, Bowel Cancer NZ and more)
2. My own health
3. For a meme (mates said I wouldn't do it)

My most asked question so far this month has been "why?" (closely followed by "are you an alcoholic?" but let's not dwell on that).

Coming into Dry July with the mindset that it'd be easy, I figured why not swap the house beer for an evening coffee? What's the difference between a mojito and a virgin mojito anyway? But to be honest, I missed the point of why I drink and probably why a lot of us drink. I sure don't drink because it's cheap - looking @ you \$12 watered-down shots on the Viaduct!! A beer or three on weeknights with flatties and a whole pile of drinks every second weekend in town is my vibe. I like to tell myself I'll never drink again after every night out as I sprawl across someone else's bathroom floor and relish in how cold the tiles feel, but give me two weeks and a drinking buddy and I'm all-in, once again.

I asked a few students* for their take on drinking culture:

"When I'm in social situations I drink quite a lot, usually weaker drinks because it helps calm my social anxiety" ~ Charlie, undergrad, 22.

"I don't drink a lot at home. Maybe an occasional glass of savvy b if I'm feeling fancy" ~ Jing, postgrad, 22.

"What started as infrequent, and not a lot, swiftly became frequent and a lot" ~ Alex, undergrad, 21.

*names have been changed for privacy

I wondered whether cutting down would help me out in my quest to be awake and functioning on a Saturday morning. Could I be like those weekend morning runners I see while slumped in the back of an Uber at 5:26am on a Saturday morning? Maybe. I jumped onto this site - cheers.org.nz and filled out their drinking quiz to tell me about my personal habits and compare them to other women my age (21yo's). I won't tell you my life story, but here's the summary:

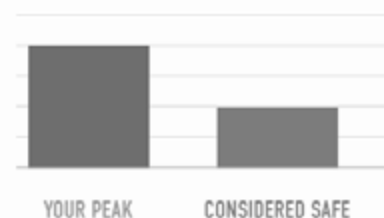
"You drink more than most people like you" - Big surprise (not)! I have a feeling the 'person like me' they're basing this off isn't accruing a student loan, four years into uni and working a couple jobs to pay their rent in a mouldy flat with a shared laundry-come-bathroom, but it's chill. Can't say I'm surprised that I'm above average, and I'd be a terrible Shore Girl if it didn't give me just a little bit of pride. Either I'm going too hard, or 21yo women aren't going hard enough - but alas, like the AA mantra, the first step is admitting it's on me, right?

This cute little graph tells me I'm a binge drinker. Am I surprised? No. Will I go back to binge drinking after this month? Yes. But, I'll probably do so a little less often, and with a little bit more caution. The site gave me good advice: drinking four or less 'standard drinks' per night out, and doing so over an increased spread of time = long-term quality of life benefits. I'll run through the benefits I gathered from a few sources like it's an American pharmaceutical ad. *Cutting down alcohol consumption may lead to benefits of liver relief, decreased risk of cardiovascular*



Am I a binge drinker?

BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL



disease, healthier skin, weight loss, better sleep, increased energy, better mood and cost-saving.

Cold turkey on alcohol = health benefits isn't necessarily the answer, as the same benefits can come from Dry July (translation: taking any month of the year off alcohol). They can also come from cutting down just a little and drinking only a few nights per week: up to four standard drinks spread across a few hours. For the Average Joe who can't tell four standard drinks in a line-up, that's four 330ml beers at 4% strength, or four correctly poured wines (in my case, maybe 1.5 full-to-the-brim wines). Fun time to note that the correct portion of wine is only 100ml, so I suppose I'm not being ripped off on a night out with my tiny cab sav.

It was a bit of a struggle to link an event to *not* drinking, but we've managed it. In week two of the semester, **Thursday the 29th of July**, there will be **Free Mocktail Making at Shadows**, from **1-3pm**. Come check it out, have a few and follow the FB event via the QR code here:

Cheers



Totally, Definitely Suffering from Success

I'm ready to live my Hot Girl Semester.



NANCY GUO

It is time to level up on the bad bitch scale and become the main character. Join me on my quest to become a better human through following questionable self-help advice off the internet!

In this week's episode of desperate self-improvement, I'll be utilizing the ancient wisdom of WikiHow. It's an educational one-stop-shop that can teach you how to change a lightbulb *and* how to admit to having a foot fetish. However, the latter seems to be more of an act of self-degradation than self-improvement...

Everyone knows that the No #1 criteria for being a bad bitch is a bangin' personality. As great as being hot is, you can't be the artsy heartbreaker protagonist of an indie coming-of-age film with the personality of a stale cracker. If there's nothing going on upstairs, how are you supposed to speak in poetry and curbstomp the patriarchy at the same time? Luckily, WikiHow's godsend "4 Ways to Develop Personality" tutorial has got me covered. While I'd like to think I'm a mildly interesting person to be around, I'm bored of current me. There's only so much fun you can have being yourself. Life's too short not to ~spice~ things up!

According to WikiHow, the first step of developing a personality is "evaluating yourself". I began by opening up to a random page in my journal, scribbling a shitty pros and cons list with accompanying ambiguous doodles. As much as I'd like to change everything, sadly personality development is not a game of Sims or a Build-A-Bear factory where you can start from scratch if you're not happy with the prototype. However, with some deep self-reflection and contemplation, I formulated a clear picture of what it would look like being "that girl".

After the self-evaluation, I was ready to move onto the second step of "focusing on positive personality traits". In a nutshell, the tutorial encourages us to work on cultivating positive qualities like confidence, reliability and agreeability. Damn, I guess I'll have to stop threatening to throw hands at anyone who slightly inconveniences me and maybe start replying to messages without a 3-5 business day delay. As for the confidence part, WikiHow references maintaining "good eye

contact" and "smiling" as ways of displaying confident body language. Noted! I decided to test this out at work by grinning from ear to ear for as long as my facial muscles allowed throughout the shift. Long story short, my co-workers were creeped out and concerned as to why I wasn't in my usual state of misery and despair.

The next step was, you guessed it, "avoiding negative personality traits", AKA exercising control over "undesirable" qualities like anger, greed and doubt. Even though most of the time I'm super Type B, there's nothing like Auckland Transport that triggers my fight-or-flight mode. Their unreliable services make me literally take flight in an attempt to catch buses that hurtle past three minutes early *and* square up with the app developers when services are cancelled without notification. However, we gotta be the main character and follow WikiHow's invaluable recommendation to "take long and deep breaths" and "imagine yourself in a calm and relaxed place". Weirdly enough, aggressively huffing and puffing at the bus stop gained me some weird looks from the local gold-card-holding grandmas. It's okay, I think I managed to breathe out all my anger as soon as I started picturing myself zooming along in a Tesla gifted and built by Elon Musk himself. It turns out imagining my life as a sugar baby was oddly calming—maybe those green-juice-drinking yogis were onto something with meditation!

Even though I was happy meditating life away, it would be criminal not to complete the last step of this extremely inspiring guide: "believing in yourself". It was recommended as part of this to continuously remind yourself of your uniqueness which I did by reciting Jughead's "I'm a Weirdo" monologue in front of the mirror continuously while sporting a quirky beanie. As per usual, it did the trick and I was left feeling extra not like other girls! To wrap up this highly informative guide, WikiHow concluded with the simple suggestion of "finding your inner happiness". You've got to give it to WikiHow for giving instructions with the same energy as a "live laugh love" mug: the most inspiring quote ever written. Who would've thought simply being happy was the cure-all to my chronic existential dread and imposter syndrome? We must gate-keep this ground-breaking advice at all costs!

I feel forever indebted to WikiHow for providing extremely innovative tips for personality development. After following this guide, I am a new and enlightened woman with the personality of a *fresh* cracker—a notable improvement if you ask me. Let's kick off Hot Girl Semester!



Vegan Eats for a Meat-Eater

The ultimate challenge for an arrogant carnivore



CARAY VIEGAS

I'm a stubborn person. When my mom told me, "vegan food just isn't tasty" during an argument, I couldn't let it go. I waited for her to take it back. She didn't. So, of course, the side of me that flips Monopoly boards came out, and pretty soon, I was writing a list of places to prove her wrong. I'm not gonna try to convert you to a plant-eater. This is, however, a bet. I bet that if you complete this entire list, you won't be able to deny that vegan food can be mouth-wateringly glorious. If I can't change your mind... then you have pretty terrible taste buds! xoxo

Vegan Zinger Noodles from Pheast

Whenever I tell students to buy this, they say something along the lines of "we have noodles at home". Oh yeah? I have noodles at home too. I also really don't want to end up like the student who was hospitalised for eating too much ramen (honestly, Google it!). Finally! THIS IS WHAT NOODLES ARE SUPPOSED TO TASTE LIKE. Fresh, homemade noodles in a spicy lime, chilli and ginger sauce.

When to buy: When Netflix and procrastinating. So... tonight.

Price: \$15. Suck it up, you're just gonna have to spend \$15 less when you're at Shads next.

Vegan Duck Chinese Burrito from Belly Worship

When I saw the menu at Belly Worship, I calculated how much it would be to buy all the vegan things. Fortunately for me, I remembered that and contacting Studylink to beg for money is a nightmare that I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy.

The wrap was golden and had that little crunch. The "duck" was outstanding. They nailed the marinade, and it encapsulated all the best parts about Chinese food. I couldn't tell it was fake meat, at all.

When to buy: On a Monday.

Price: Usually \$14, but on Mondays only \$7.

Jackfruit Tacos from Mr Taco

The jackfruit came in bold, spicy and confident. It was smokey with the texture of pulled pork and paired perfectly with raw onion, cilantro and lime. The tortillas were perfect. No, I'm not talking about the one brand (yellow box) of dry, cracked, somehow always stuck-together, tortillas from Countdown. I'm talking about freshly made, soft tortillas, which you wouldn't mind dying after eating. Only downside was that it was terribly small and left me craving much more.

When to buy: When you're not necessarily hungry but just got paid and gotta spend it.

Price: 3 for \$12

Crispy Fried Chick from Wise Boys

I *hate* chicken burgers. Even as a carnivore, chicken was the economy class of a long haul flight. It's soggy yet dry and a downright disappointment. Until this burger.

The only thing in common was the name. An angelic slab of crispy, starchy goodness. Bun toasted to perfection, the usual veggies and some vegan aioli and sriracha slapped all over. It was not a chicken burger. It's most certainly a vegan patty that makes you feel privileged to eat it.

When to buy: Just before opening your grades -- best way to ensure the rest of your day goes well.

Price: \$15 (remember its insurance for collateral damage).

BBQ 'Pork' bao from The Butcher's Son

A good starter says a lot about the food to come. These pork bao were incredible. The bao was soft and fluffy. The 'pork' was crispy and sexy. The veggies were fresh. I can't say much more other than perfection. The plating was so pretty that I wouldn't even mind if my boyfriend dumped me for it.

I'm not an idiot. I know most of you read my intro, thought "challenge accepted" (in a

Barney Stinson voice) but now realise that you are broke and simply can't be bothered. So if you were looking for a way out, just one dish to change your mind... this is it!

When to buy: On a date that isn't going so well. That way, when the bill comes around, you can make them pay without feeling bad.

Price: Let your bad date handle it. They deserve it for talking about INFOSYS the whole time.

Cinna-Walnut Scroll from Tart Bakery

Recently, it's been colder than that chick from *Too Hot to Handle*. The one who's like, "I'm just going to kiss my best friend because I don't care about everyone else here" I know you Aucklanders are used to it, but 69 is not what I signed up for when I moved from Fiji. Anyways, it's been freezing, and this scroll was a warm, autumny angel. Unlike most cinnamon scrolls, the walnut was the star of the show. It was like a walnut jam, paired ever so carefully with orange zest.

When to buy: When you forget to bring your jacket to OGGB.

Price: \$6.50. If you're too broke, I give you my permission to have it for lunch.



Sex Toy Reviews

If we all had sex toys, many of us would avoid unwarranted heartbreak and be five years ahead in life. But sex toys, in *this economy*? Ha. Save your time and buck before you next peruse the aisles of *Lovehoney* and consider the expertise of your Crac(cum) contributors.

CRACCUM CONTRIBUTORS



Deluxe Rechargeable Mini Massage Wand Vibrator HOT SINGLE IN YOUR AREA

Folks, it's true: size doesn't matter. The Lovehoney Deluxe Mini Massage Wand Vibrator (bit of a mouthful, no innuendo intended) packs a surprisingly powerful punch for its cute and compact size of 18.5cm. With a rounded silicone head and plastic handle, the mini wand is flexible, splashproof, and best of all, USB rechargeable. Forget about scavenging for batteries like a horny raccoon!

As someone who'd never used a sex toy before, I was pretty intimidated the first-time round. I didn't need to worry. This wand was super easy to use and perfect for beginners, especially since you're stimulating the clit instead of inserting anything inside! You also get the choice of ten different speeds (from lowkey buzzing to construction drilling in your vag) and seven vibrating patterns. It almost felt too extra.

Although it was sometimes tricky adjusting between patterns (you have to cycle through them one-by-one if you're on number five and wanting ten, for instance), it really didn't bother me too much when I was having such a rollicking fun, zesty time.

4.5/5



Womanizer Premium THUNDER THIGHS

My trusty bullet vibrator that I bought from the Dunedin *Peaches and Cream* three years ago has gotten me through some memorable horny moments, sleepless nights and...*like 50 AAA batteries*. I decided it was time to be a responsible wanker: time to invest in a Big Girl Toy that charges at the wall.

The Womanizer Premium was recommended to me as a better version of the famed Satisfyer Pro, with a stronger motor, an autopilot mode that changes between the 12 intensities for a sexy surprise, and a Smart Silence mode which means that it only goes when the toy is touching you. No more PANIC when your flatmates barge into your room mid-wank. Oh yeah, it's also waterproof and has incredibly orgasmic packaging.

The catch is, I wish I liked this sexy little clit-sucker more. I was excited that I might be able to cum hands-free, but despite the ability to adjust the intensity of the sucking, I found the experience painful, and it has been painful every time I've attempted to rekindle my relationship with it.

2/5, but has great potential.



Ignite 20 Function Mini Rabbit Vibrator

SAMANTHA JONES

This silicone vibrator has a 3.5" insertion length, has three speeds and 17 vibration patterns, is waterproof, and USB rechargeable. The description also mentioned that it's a perfect size for sex toy beginners, and I agree — it's a good starting point for people who feel a little intimidated by sex toys or having sex.

This was my first vibrator, and from the generally raving reviews of vibrators, I had high expectations. Unfortunately, when your expectations are high, it's easy for things to fall short. Don't get me wrong, it's not a bad toy. The settings were all enjoyable, but none of them were particularly memorable (or really did anything for me) — if anything, it was more of a relaxing experience.

My only complaints are just that the vibrator is a bit too loud, and the size of it is too small. Sometimes, as much as I hate to admit it, you just need a real man (or whoever you prefer) to do the job.

2.5/5

Ignite 20 Function Vibrating Penis Sleeve

RICHARD CRANIUM

My partner and I have a few toys between us, but the *Ignite* is the first toy for me and more specifically, my penis. It's an open-ended four-inch long silicone sleeve with a loop at either end connected by a vibrating section. When I was first given the toy, the lingering toxicity of years gone by murmured how unacceptably flamboyant owning such a toy was. These thoughts quickly faded as my excitement (and penis) grew while opening the shiny box, only to be flogged with the reality of a horny wait as the sleeve needed to be charged.

Once ready, I squeezed the sleeve on — unfortunately it was too tight around the base and too loose before the head. Because the thick silicone would barely stretch, I lay on my back with a strangled penis throbbing,

wondering if I would ever be able to cum for *Craccum*. Spoiler: the sleeve came off before I could. Sorry, *Craccum*.

With 20 different vibration rhythms, there is something for everyone. If the shoe fits, wear it. If the *Lovehoney Ignite 20 Function Vibrating Penis Sleeve* fits, wear it. But not all penises are going to fit comfortably inside this stiff sleeve.

Star rating dependant on how archetypal your penis is (0/5 for mine)

Cheers to our friends at Lovehoney for hooking us up! If you feel so inspired, you can get a 20% Student Discount with UNiDAYS at www.lovehoney.co.nz at any time of the year.




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PUZZLES



Down

Across

1. New wave band, hits 'Atomic', 'Call Me', etc (7)
2. Double (blank), where you cannot be tried twice for the same crime (8)
3. My my, at (blank) Napoleon did surrender (8)
5. Foreboding vision of imminent disaster (11)
6. Intimate connection, but not sexual in nature (8)
7. German word for emperor, derived from Caesar (6)
9. Māori word for rivers, streams (3)
11. Pharaoh famed for her beauty - not Cleo! (9)
14. The snappy butler in The Nanny (5)
15. Hatsune (blank), blue-haired hologram singer (4)
16. To believe without evidence (5)

4. Formal ceremony where the new monarch is crowned (10)
8. Lost the Euros to Italy <3 So sad <3 (7)
10. Space Shuttle that exploded in 1986 (10) 1
2. Fish egg delicacy (6)
13. Most well-known radioactive element (7)
17. Yzma's himbo in The Emperor's New Groove (5)
18. Capital of Indonesia (7)
19. The second book in the Bible (6)

		3			5		
	6			8		4	
4			9		7		3
	5	6	7		8	3	1
			6		5		
	7	8	4		1	9	6
6			1		9		2
	2			5			7
		9				1	

HOROSCOPES

Craccum is back, and you know who ELSE is back? Furbys. They're booming. We're booming. They're ugly. We're... less so.. A perfect match for horoscopes, says *Delma Vinkley*.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) *Banana Peel*

You look like the scene in *Batman Returns* where Michelle Pfeiffer wakes up after falling out the window, kinda dead-but-not-really, but still glamorous. So quirky! So ditzy! It's what we love about you, and we hope you never lose your charm. Lucky numbers are 19 and 20.



Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) *Mink*

You look like a garish pillow my aunt would buy at the Habitat for Humanity in Pukekohe, not anything close to the glamour of minks. But even in your ugliness, you serve a purpose: comfort beyond belief. Don't let your looks distract you from your talents this week. Lucky numbers are 11 and 22.



Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20) *Witches Cat*

Part of the first generation of Furby, you started the trend. People say they hate you, but for there to be a trend to begin with, there had to be something about you they became obsessed with, ain't there? You might not be in their homes anymore, but you'll always be in their hearts. Lucky numbers are 78 and 94.



Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22) *Parrot*

Yeah, to be honest, your colour scheme is... a bit of a raw deal. It's messy, shameful, like someone just walked in on you trying jeans a size too small. It doesn't evoke 'parrot', it evokes 'JonBenét, Christmas Day, 1996'. Which is a real pity. Because I like you. We all do. You deserve better than how you put yourself out there. Lucky numbers are 7 and 14.



Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22) *Juicy Grape*

It's a stretch to give Furby any branding that brings words like 'succulent' to mind, but that's the choice they're going for. Luckily, you fit the bill! Not the Furby. You. When in your jeans, you could reasonably call yourself juicy. Maybe a grape, if that turns you on? I don't know. The point is to keep that self-confidence! Lucky numbers are 26 and 31.



Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22) *Raspberry Sundae*

I've had one particular Virgo in my ear every day over the holidays. I'm a bit over it, only because you girls just don't... shut up! Just because you're right, doesn't mean I want to hear it! Run your own lives. This is not particularly Furby-related, I just needed to get that off my chest. Lucky numbers are 49 and 88.



Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 23) *Pink Flamingo*

You're so beautiful. No, babe, don't blush. Don't go so pink! Haha, you're such a sexy Furby. Look at me with those lifeless eyes. Nooooo babe don't try to kiss me with your sexy Kraken beak aha. Noooo babe of course I'll watch Love Island with you, I just gotta finish writing this. Love ya xxxxxx. Lucky numbers are 1 and 2.



Scorpio (Oct 24 – Nov 21) *Tart Tangerine*

You're the tangy taste in life, the sharp aftertaste in any meal. You put the spring in our step, though not necessarily out of joy – we're moving fast because we can feel you hanging around every corner, watching, waiting for something to judge. Stop it! Lucky numbers are 10 and 44.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) *Sherbet*

Furbys are known for their resilience, able to wake up in the middle of the night after years of dormancy, never quite fading away from the mortal coil. And with the semester break having ended, you must put your own resilience to the test. Can you face the week ahead? Lucky numbers are 54 and 55.



Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) *Ocean Ripples*

When one looks into the colour scheme of your Furby, they see more than the turquoise fur, they see themselves. Like the ocean, you're salty to the core, but you're always around for whoever wants some reflection time. And that's what we love about you. Lucky numbers are 37 and 90.



Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18) *Gold Fish*

I've been watching a lot of Ted Lasso lately. He praised the memory span of a goldfish, though in a more metaphorical sense, a nice story about Moving On. However, for you, the memory span is a bit more literal, isn't it? Poor you. Oh well, it explains why you're always so happy. Lucky numbers are 43 and 89.



Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20) *Tye-Dye*

You're the Furby that understood what you were, and decided to lean into the repellent nature of being a Furby. If only you remember to not do that in real life. We're trying to like you, not like you in spite of being frustrating to be around. Lucky numbers are 16 and 97.



2 FOR 1
TOASTIES
AND FREE POOL



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BUY ONE GET ONE FREE TOASTIES
AND
FREE POOL

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BURGER
&
PINT NIGHT



EVERY TUESDAY
BUY A DRINK OFF TAP OR A NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINK
AND
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T&C APPLY

SHADOWS
BAR & EATERY

2 FOR 1
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T&C APPLY

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