

CRACCU



He Tohu

Catriona Britton discusses some missing markers of New Zealand history

Top Tunes

A lowdown of the best of this year's music to date

Eraserhead

Caitlin Abley salts the earth of her social media shenanigans



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ISSUE FIFTEEN CONTENTS



8 NEWS

BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW

Michael Calderwood examines the fuckery of US healthcare



13 LIFESTYLE

BROWNIES AT BESTIE

A review of the K Road café for the bestest of best friends



26 ARTS

BOOKS, BLANKETS AND BITTER NIGHTS

A run-down of classic reads to keep you occupied during wintry days

10 COMMUNITY

WEAPONS OF MASS FRUSTRATION

How the University of Auckland contributes to ongoing warfare



16 FEATURES

THE SILENT STRUGGLE

A look at how Law students cope with mental health and wellbeing



35 COLUMNS

FUCK (CERTAIN) SPORTS

Mark Fullerton raises his middle finger to the scummy “sports” in our lives



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**EXHIBIT +
POETRY
NIGHT**

'THIS IS WHAT A FEMINIST LOOKS LIKE'

**7-11
AUGUST**

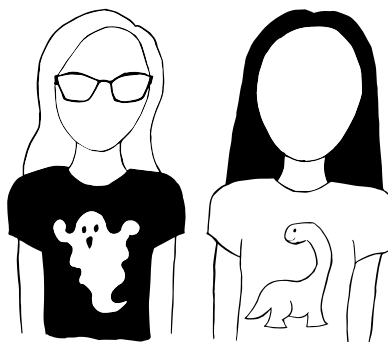
Catch the exhibit as it pops up in a different location on campus every day, then join us for poetry reading and open mic on Friday 11 August in the Student Common Room above the Quad, 5-7pm! All welcome.



Australian University Students Association presents
Womensfest



Catriona Britton



Samantha Gianotti

Womb! There It Is

Last week, in a surprising turn of events that elevated New Zealand politics from “peanut butter sammy” to “spicy meatball”, the leadership of the opposition once again came under scrutiny, with Andrew Little resigning and being replaced by Jacinda Ardern as Leader of the Labour Party. *Valar morgulis*. In a turn of events that surprised literally no one, within 24 hours of her taking the mantle, Ardern was questioned about how her new position would impact upon her plans for a family; a woman’s uterus once again the focus of interrogation with all the rigour and sensitivity of someone evaluating their options on Airbnb. One larrikin even suggested that it was an employer’s right to ask women if they intend to have children, so they can decide whether to employ them or, presumably, put them out to parenting pasture. Last time a man was this concerned with women’s proclivity to bear progeny, it spawned a religious reformation, a fairly shitty novelisation, and ol’ mate Anne Boleyn found herself on the chopping block.

Please stop asking women dumb things. Please stop prioritising questions about their looks and their diet and their reproductive desires in lieu of questions about their achievements and their goals and their inspirations. Please consult this handy list of things you just really shouldn’t ask women, ya dig?

“Babes, are you on the rag?”

Sometimes, women are angry. Sometimes this is because they’re bleeding out of their vagina. Sometimes it’s because a dickwad (who whispers

words he’s uncomfortable saying like *tampon* or *period* or *the mystery of the female orgasm*) asked them whether they’re bleeding out of their vagina.

“Don’t you think that skirt’s a little short?”

The inevitable reply: “Don’t you think your dick is a little short?” followed by the woman you are conversing with pulling her shirt over her head like a soccer player who’s just scored a goal, loudly screaming the words to DJ Otzi’s “Hey Baby (If You’ll Be My Girl)”, which has seemingly played at every sporting event in human history.

[To a woman wearing a t-shirt with something ostensibly nerdy on it]: “Have you even seen [ostensibly nerdy thing that you are wearing emblazoned across your chest]?”

We have never seen *Teh Lurd of Teh Reings* or *Star Wores* or touched a comic book in all our little lives. We know that Darf Farter is Loot Skywarter’s daddy, and we know that Freddo Bogtrotter offered to take that evil bracelet to Morpork. That’s about it. We wear these things for your approval. We crave it. Feed us, papi.

“Did Han or Greedo shoot first?”

Han & Greedo? Are those them German magicians that were attacked by their tiger?

“Who is your favourite singer from the successful Irish boyband Westlife?”

This is a nonsensical question. There can be no

favourite. Shane Filan is the backbone. Mark Feehily does all the fancy trills. Nicky and Kian were there, offering moral support if nothing else. There cannot be one without the others. (We thought that was a quote from *Stab Wazz*. Turns out it’s a quote from *The Notebook*. Which we read while listening to Westlife. Or watch on mute while listening to Westlife.)

“What does Bill Murray whisper to Scarlett Johansson at the end of *Lost in Translation*?”

Not a fucking clue. But we’d wager it wasn’t “Hey babe, can I put it in ya?” while you try to grind on a gal to the dulcet tones of “Bend Ova” by Lil Jon ft. Tyga.

“Do you think Faye Dunaway was coached to read the card for this year’s Best Picture winner incorrectly to counteract waning interest in glitzy Hollywood awards ceremonies?”

OBVIOUSLY.

“In the song ‘Photograph’ by Nickelback, what can Chad Kroeger see on Joey’s head?”

“And what the hell is on Joey’s head” is up there with the great mysteries of the ages like Stonehenge, the Zodiac murders, or how Mike Hosking is still granted daily airtime. In any case, it likely wasn’t a hat embroidered with the invitation “Ask Me About the State of My Eggs”, an accessory which many a woman apparently sports. Leave us alone. Let us be. *Zaldvizes buzdari iksos daor*. •



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CRACKS FORMING IN THE GREENS-LABOUR CONSENSUS

BY MICHAEL CALDERWOOD

A few weeks ago, Green Party Co-Leader Metiria Turei admitted that she, as a solo parent in the 90s, lied to the Government in order to claim additional benefits while studying for her Law degree.

The response among the New Zealand commentariat was varied. On one end, some largely white, affluent middle-aged male commentators (in particular, Mike Hosking) said that it was shameful for Turei to defraud the Government and proudly admit it.

Noted intellectual and climate change skeptic Rodney Hide proclaimed that Turei had won the “handout vote”.

Newshub also came under fire for running the headline “Turei campaigned for a joke party instead of looking for a job”, prompting criticism over whether a beneficiary who is both a student and a parent of a young child has the right to political expression.

On the other end, some noted that her admission, for them, represents how broken the system is—highlighting the fact that a young mother attempting to better herself by going to university had to lie to the Government simply to ensure she could put food on the table. Turei’s argument is that yes, she did lie, but she and the Green Party will work to fix the system so that no solo parent ever has to game the system just to afford the basics of food and shelter.

Obviously, this puts Labour in a tight spot.

Labour has virtually no chance of forming a Government without the Green Party and/or New Zealand First.

However, also in the mix is the perception that much of “middle New Zealand”, whom Labour are attempting to court with their pitch to the centre of politics, would likely be turned off by Turei’s admission of benefit fraud.

But Labour cannot condemn Turei’s admission, who would likely become a minister in a Labour-led government, without questioning her credibility as a lawmaker.

It was notable that then-Labour Deputy Leader Jacinda Ardern offered a qualified criticism of Turei’s credibility, which seems to be shaping up as Labour’s party line.

Speaking to *The AM Show*, Ardern said that because she had never been in the same situation, she would not be passing judgment. But she did raise questions about Turei’s credibility and lack of remorse.

“When you’re lawmakers, you can’t condone lawbreaking. You can share your story from your past, but of course you can’t then condone it.

“When you are a lawmaker, you have to be very clear about when what you’ve done in your past has been right or it’s been wrong,” she said.

When asked on *Newshub’s The Nation* about whether Turei’s benefit fraud was acceptable, Labour candidate Willie Jackson also responded

with what seems to be Labour’s party line.

While sympathising with Turei’s situation that led her to commit benefit fraud, he also offered a qualified condemnation of the law breaking.

“Of course it’s not, but I still have a lot of sympathy for what she went through at the time, and I understand the plight of our people. We had a National Government at the time that was bashing beneficiaries—no doubt about it,” he said.

Due to Ardern’s popularity amongst young people in particular, *Craccum* contacted the leaders of Labour and the Greens’ respective youth wings to find out what they thought about the then-Labour Deputy Leader’s criticism.

Young Greens co-convenor Meg Williams said that Labour’s party line on Turei’s benefit fraud was grounded in a simplistic view of all law breaking being bad, regardless of the morality of the law.

“Labour MPs and candidates have clearly been told that they have to target a group of people who sympathise with Metiria and her actions, but who also have some very simplistic, moralistic views about breaking the law.”

“It’d be interesting to find out what this specific group of people think about Nelson Mandela breaking the law, or gay people having sex before gay sex was legalised. What Jacinda said is gross and dumb, but predictable,” she said to *Craccum*.

Young Labour President Matt Van Wijk, however, declined to comment. ♦



WHERE’S ALINA? A DEFENCE OF NEW ZEALAND

JACK MILLER ANALYSES A RECENT RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT BLOGPIECE ON “WEST NEW ZEALAND”

As most of us would agree, New Zealand is a relatively great country. We have water, food and shelter for most—and our biggest problems range from inequality issues to thinking of new ways to insult Auckland’s transport system.

However, our beautiful little Slice of Heaven has recently come under fire from the single most objective news source in the world—a Russian site called mpsh.ru.

In a hilarious blog post about New Zealand’s poisonous snakes and unlivable conditions, a Ukrainian woman named Alina talks of her times battling in Flintstone-esque conditions while she waited for a job in New Zealand.

Due to the harshness of her experience, she was forced to collect fruit from trees and catch birds to eat—losing a record 48kg in a matter of months, according to the blog. Even after all of this, Alina still couldn’t find a job due to local people’s incomprehensible “laziness and slowness”.

Of course, the question must be asked:

where in New Zealand could Alina possibly have had this awful experience?

Our first clue comes from her description of our rampant drug problems. She says that, in New Zealand, marijuana is in “EVERY” home and that the police simply close their eyes to this problem. Obviously due to our laziness and slowness.

From this we can infer that she probably spent at least a small part of her time in Hamilton. However, for me at least, Hamilton has more of a Waikato-loving bogan vibe, rather than the “island life” vibe Alina describes.

So maybe we can try and figure out some of the geographical traits of her stay. To quote “In this country it is terrible to live—there are many active volcanoes, earthquakes often happen. Because of the scorching sun, the most common disease on the island is skin cancer. No sunscreen helps!”

Blimey—and here was I thinking our daily volcanic eruptions were normal! The last place

a serious earthquake took place was obviously Christchurch, but last time I checked they definitely had sunscreen on sale. Still no luck in pinpointing Alina.

But alas! The clue we needed was here all along, guys! Alina herself gives her exact location at the end of the article. It’s not the North Island, or the South, where snake bites are daily and scavenging for fruit is commonplace (sorry, Otago students).

Instead, this article points to West New Zealand—in our capital city, of, er... Australia.

In all seriousness, while Alina’s blog post was riddled with casual racism and distaste for our views on LGBT people, the important message was hidden away in two little sentences.

“We had to go to Russia,” the blog concludes. “There, there is stability, prosperity: and everyone has enough work.”

I don’t know about you, but I’m packing my bags. ♦

WHO RUN THE WORLD: GIRLS

MARK CASSON CATCHES UP WITH ALEXIA HILBERTIDOU, DIRECTOR OF GIRLBOSS NEW ZEALAND

While most of us were probably just happy to do nothing over the mid-semester break, spare a thought for 18-year-old Alexia Hilbertidou, who typically spends her break encouraging and influencing teenage girls to jump into the male-dominated fields of science, technology and entrepreneurship.

Oh, and you know, just working for NASA.

The young Aucklander founded the company GirlBoss New Zealand two years ago at the age of 16. The inspiration for the company, she says, came from the fact she was the only girl in most of her higher-level science classes.

"When I was 16, I was the only girl taking digital technology in my class and at 17, I was the only girl taking advanced physics at my school," she said.

Hilbertidou started questioning why women were misrepresented in fields such as science and technology, as it left her feeling isolated, unusual and out of her depth in some classes.

She felt this had to change and launched the network GirlBoss New Zealand to encourage more women to break into STEM (science, technology, engineering, and maths) worlds.

"GirlBoss combats all of these problems,

so we collaborate with women working in the industry to prove that those paths are viable career paths for them."

"We create a community where young women can come together and connect with other like-minded youth."

As well as influencing young women to achieve their true potential, last year Hilbertidou accepted the Westpac Women of Influence 2016 Young Leader Award, where she was recognised for GirlBoss' achievements to date.

"It was a fantastic opportunity to receive the Westpac Women of Influence Award and really gave me a platform to raise awareness of GirlBoss NZ and really help spread the message of diversity and inclusion."

This year, NASA personally contacted Hilbertidou during the semester break to ask her to take part in an observatory mission called "SOFIA", an acronym for Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy.

SOFIA is the largest airborne observatory in the world and is typically based in an aircraft operating from the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Programme facility.

The mission aims to study celestial observa-

tions, such as the Southern Lights, in a whole new way by being able to conduct observations from anywhere in the world, including space.

Hilbertidou felt it was an offer she couldn't possibly turn down, especially at the age of 18.

"It was a really fantastic, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Yet she never lost sight of her main commitment to GirlBoss along the way.

"Working with NASA was an extremely exciting opportunity. It really allowed for me to spread what I had learnt on board SOFIA and share that with the young women I work with—spreading that knowledge from those top scientists into the local community."

Hilbertidou looks to grow GirlBoss even further this year and influence even more women around New Zealand to take up different roles in the STEM workforce.

"I think it's fantastic that I got to have that experience and hopefully more young women can follow in a similar path and go into those fields." ♦

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT GIRLBOSS NEW ZEALAND, HEAD TO WWW.GIRLBOSS.NZ.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ADMITS INCOMPETENCE, SURPRISES NOBODY

GINNY WOO HAS MAJOR, MAJOR BEEF WITH THE NATIONAL PARTY

It's probably come as no surprise that almost everyone about to vote this year has a bone to pick with the National Government. The size of that bone really depends on how comfortable you are with rising levels of socioeconomic inequality and an utter disregard for vulnerable people. Perhaps the less you care, the smaller the bone. However, for all the frustration and the general sense that the National Government have been doing *something* wrong, we've never really had a clear admission from the boys in blue that they're having an absolute whale of a time pretending to run a country competently. That is, until now.

In the form of an unexpected blessing from Amy Adams (a sentence I never thought I'd utter unless she was delivering a mercy killing to the country on the cusp of a zombie invasion), the current Government has openly admitted that it had

no idea of the impact the housing crisis would have on the country. Let's take some time to unpack that: the people in charge of leading our country's policy in the right direction admitted that, while many a scholar and statistician had banged on about the housing crisis since 2013, they had absolutely no concrete idea of what it would cost the Government. That's an incredibly damning statement.

It's no secret that the housing crisis has worsened rapidly over time, to the tune of the social housing waitlist increasing by 40% last year alone.

The Government has struggled to stem the tide, and it's done a good job of patting itself on the back for providing an extra 1,000 homes through Housing NZ in the last quarter. Unfortunately, that 1,000 is an utter disgrace when we consider that the waiting list for social housing is way past the 5,000 that it was in 2014.

We're meeting barely a fraction of the housing crisis head on, and for the Government to choose now to start trumpeting the fact that it's caved to common decency is appalling. Bill English is flabbergasted that people would have an issue with the Government's emergency housing expenditure, but he thinks that New Zealanders are angry because the Government is spending too much taxpayer money.

What's true is likely the opposite: New Zealanders are sick of the Government not doing enough and being proud of a situation where the poor and vulnerable are left to rot. We're not angry because it's now a state of emergency. The Government finally being self-aware enough to admit it is less of a hollow victory and more a slap in the face for those who have known that they were being failed by the system all along. ♦



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UNDERSTANDING PRIVATISED HEALTHCARE

ACTUAL AMERICAN MICHAEL CALDERWOOD EXPLAINS TRUMP'S FAILED HEALTHCARE BILL

The Congressional Budget Office, the US Congress's official budget arbiter, recently announced that Donald Trump and the Republicans' plan to repeal Obamacare would immediately un-insure 15 million people and 22 million people by 2026.

The scale of this is truly astounding: tens of millions of people would lose access to healthcare, with the brunt of this falling on the most vulnerable people in America. Many of these people who could lose their healthcare are Trump's red-state working-class supporters, who live in states like West Virginia that expanded the Medicaid programme that provides healthcare for low-income people.

The sick irony of it all is that Trump—who claimed to be the ultimate anti-politician—lied to his supporters to get elected (indeed, he promised that his healthcare plan would provide “insurance for everybody”).

From New Zealand, it can be hard to comprehend just how horrible the privatised American healthcare system is, even as we face underfunded hospitals and rising fees for things like GP visits.

I grew up in America, and the sheer cruelty and stupidity of the healthcare system is incomprehensible. Even if you're middle class and have good health insurance provided by your employer, you can still face thousands of dollars in out-of-

pocket costs, and claims can be denied by your insurance company for no reason at all.

While visiting family in America over the inter-semester break, I got sick and had to go to a doctor and get prescribed antibiotics. All up, this cost me \$260 NZD—something that would cost \$17 NZD here in Auckland. Luckily, I bought travel insurance so I can claim it back later, but the fact that a run-of-the-mill infection can set someone back hundreds of dollars is beyond absurd.

Indeed, it is hard to understand why anyone would *want* to have the healthcare system the way it is in the US. The reality of the political situation is, however, that most people hate the healthcare system. Nobody actually wants it to be like this. Most people endorse universal health coverage, and almost everyone agrees that it is broken.

Nothing changes, though, because the for-profit health insurers and drug companies contribute so heavily to political parties. That is the simple truth: tens of thousands of people *die* each year because some rich health insurance and pharmaceutical executives and shareholders would rather stay extremely rich instead of making sure people don't have to die.

For example, the CEO of Aetna, one of the largest health insurers, received over \$41 mil-

lion USD in compensation last year. And according to the Center for Responsive Politics, the healthcare sector contributed over \$140 million USD to members of Congress during the 2015–2016 election cycle with a near-even split between the Democratic and Republican parties. That is called blood money.

Obamacare improved things somewhat: it funnelled more money into subsidised healthcare for low and middle-income people and placed new rules on health insurance companies to make sure people were not denied care for reasons beyond their control.

But it was more of a Band-Aid than a solution, as it largely left the broken system in tact: for-profit insurers remain the key funders of healthcare, and now they get to enjoy billions of dollars in government subsidies each year.

The only answer to America's healthcare woes is a single-payer, tax-funded universal healthcare system. This will only happen if American politicians (and particularly Democrats) reject the healthcare industry's money.

Whether that can happen remains to be seen. Hopefully, the failures of the US healthcare system can remind us in New Zealand how lucky we are to have a universal public healthcare system, and how important it is that we keep it publicly run and well-funded. ♦

GOVERNMENT COMES UNDER FIRE FOR VISA ISSUES

BY LAURA KVIGSTAD

The National Government, after announcing plans for changes to temporary work visas back in April, has received over 170 public submissions on these changes, in an unprecedented wave of backlash.

The original planned changes would define a low-skilled worker as someone who earned under \$48,000 a year.

Low-skilled temporary visa holders would only be able to stay for three years and experience a stand-down period of one year before they would be able to re-apply for a visa. They would also be unable to bring their families with them.

Dr Francis Collins, a senior lecturer who submitted to Government after the original proposal, expressed grave concerns about temporary visa holders staying for three years. Collins explained that his concerns over the original proposal were as follows:

- Temporary visa holders not having their families with them would create greater dependence on the employer;
- Employers may not be willing to upskill and

develop employees who would only work for them for three years; and

- Depreciating wages for those on temporary work visas due to the above factors.

One industry that would be severely impacted by the changes is the dairy industry.

Dr Tim Mackle, DairyNZ Chief Executive, said about 10 per cent of on-farm jobs were filled by people from overseas.

Under the original proposal, dairy farmers would have to pay their overseas labourers \$35.24 per hour before they could stay longer than three years and bring their families with them.

The current confirmed changes to temporary work visas would now define a low-skilled worker as someone who earns below \$41,538 a year.

A mid-skilled worker would earn between \$42,538 and \$73,299, as well as be in a profession classified as Level 1–3 by the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).

Finally a high-skilled temporary work visa

holder would earn over \$73,299 regardless of their occupation.

The use of salary to define skill level has received harsh criticism from the opposition.

Iain Lees-Galloway, Labour's spokesperson for immigration, said that a major issue facing New Zealand is regions struggling to find skilled labourers. He explained that due to different occupations and regions paying differently, using salary to define skill level was flawed.

Instead, Lees-Galloway has advocated Labour's proposal of having work visas that allow people to work in New Zealand while they live within the regions.

Michael Woodhouse, Minister of Immigration, has expressed there are additional issues that need to be addressed in phase two of the Bill, such as some jobs not being ranked by the ANZSCO, making it unclear who is eligible for a mid-skilled temporary work visa.

The changes, as standing, to temporary work visas will go into effect on August 28th. ♦

ALL RISE, QUEEN JACINDA

BY ELOISE SIMS

Jacinda Ardern has announced that the Labour Party will “run the campaign of our lives” in this year’s election, after being unanimously elected to become the new party Leader last Tuesday.

Ardern’s election came after Andrew Little’s dramatic resignation from the position merely eight weeks out from the election, citing consistent poor polling results for Labour.

It is understood that Little himself nominated Ardern for the position, with Te Tai Tokerau MP Kelvin Davis also nominated to become Deputy Leader of the party.

Little claimed full responsibility for Labour’s recent poor polling, insisting his resignation was designed to bring new life to the party.

“I do take responsibility and believe that Labour must have an opportunity to perform better under new leadership through to the election,” Little said in a press conference.

Ardern was quick to praise Little in a press conference after her election as Leader, claiming that his loyalty to the party had encouraged him to resign.

“In my time working with Andrew, I know one thing to be true: he is first and foremost loyal to Labour.”

“I thank him for the support he gave me and for his incredible work over the last few years.”

Ardern readily admitted the road ahead to

the election in September would be a tough one for the Labour Party, especially post a leadership change.

“The circumstances may not be what Labour had planned for this campaign, but that has not weakened our resolve or focus.”

“We are determined and steadfast.”

Other politicians have weighed in on the 37-year-old’s election, with Greens Co-Leader Metiria Turei congratulating both Ardern and Davis.

“Our goal remains the same: to change the Government this September, and we’re working together to achieve this,” Turei said.

The Māori Party has also suggested that the change in leadership offered fresh new prospects for a potential Labour-Māori Party election.

“We’ve always said we’d work with both sides—blue or red—but Andrew Little killed off any hope of that happening when he closed the door on us,” Māori Party President Tukoroirangi Morgan said in speaking to *Radio New Zealand*.

“We’re hoping Jacinda and Kelvin won’t be as closed-minded and that they’ll agree to work with kaupapa Māori.”

New Zealand First Leader Winston Peters has also remarked Ardern and Davis face a seemingly impossible task ahead of them.

“Jacinda and Kelvin will know that they have taken on a big job, some will say an insurmount-

able task, but we tender our congratulations,” Peters said.

He also offered his sympathies for Little, saying that “Politics is a tough business.”

Ardern’s connection with young people in particular has been much heralded throughout the campaign so far, with commentators going so far as to claim the leader is capable of engineering a “youthquake”.

“Her understanding of the needs of others and endless empathy will see her in good stead as she rises to the position that she never asked for,” said Young Labour President Matt van Wijk.

Some voters have already announced they will be changing their votes in this upcoming election as a result of the Labour leadership change, such as Arts student Florence Esson.

“I just believe in her. She cares about students... it’s amazing. She offered to come over for dinner in my flat last year,” Esson said.

However, others are more skeptical.

“Good job Labour, but I’m still going to be voting Greens,” commented postgraduate Arts student Matthew Nickless.

“Last week Jacinda had some weird response to Metiria coming out on the welfare thing. This doesn’t change that. This reinforces it.”

This year’s election is scheduled to take place on September 23rd. ♦

BORIS JOHNSON VISITS NZ: ANOTHER BRIT FLEEING BREXIT

BY ULYSSE BELLIER

UK’s Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson was in New Zealand two weeks ago in a visit to invigorate trading links between the two countries, as the British Government struggles in its Brexit talks with the European Union.

On July 25th, Johnson met Prime Minister Bill English with whom he claimed he had a “total failure to disagree on any point of substance” when speaking to the *NZ Herald*.

Before this, the oft-eccentric Foreign Minister was introduced to the hongi (a traditional Māori greeting where two individuals press noses), which he said, “might be misinterpreted in a pub in Glasgow.”

Johnson also visited Kaikoura to formally thank the New Zealand people for having hosted British travellers during the November 2016 earthquake.

Johnson later took the time to visit natural park Zealandia with Conservation Minister Maggie Barry, where he was notably enthralled by the wildlife—holding a tuatara with his bare hands. He added New Zealand was the “most

mind-blowingly, mind-numbingly beautiful country that I’ve ever seen.”

However, an undertone was obvious in Johnson’s inauguration of a new war memorial in Wellington: the need for Britain to build post-Brexit relationships in a future where Britain may be left adrift from its European allies.

Johnson, who advocated for “Leave” during the Referendum campaign, believes that a strong Commonwealth can be of equal benefit to the UK as that gained by previous European Union trading relationships. Following his visit, he was quick to move on to Australia, having previously visited Japan.

In a press conference, he claimed that the purpose of his trip was for the UK to be “rediscovering friendships and partnerships around the world.”

During his time in New Zealand, Johnson held talks with Prime Minister English on security issues and visa troubles for Kiwis in England.

However, the tough topic was a potential free trade agreement.

Johnson stated that “New Zealand is at or near the very front of the queue” for a trade deal after the proper Brexit, but that no agreement could be reached before Britain formally leaves the UK. However, no tangible information was released on a possible trade deal, or on the visa issue.

His diplomatic visit comes after the June snap election in Britain, when Prime Minister Theresa May lost a proper majority in the Commons.

Asked about conflicts in his own party, Johnson replied, “Any such activities completely passed me by.”

When inaugurating the Wellington War Memorial built by Weta Workshop, Johnson paid sincere tribute to “the memory of the 18,500 New Zealanders, Māori and Pākehā who did not return.”

A century after World War I, which Johnson claimed “created a deep and permanent sense of gratitude in Britain to the sacrifice so readily made by New Zealand,” it seems today that Britain still need its former colonies to face Europe’s challenges. ♦



The War Machine on Campus

By Auckland Peace Action

At the end of May, a group of courageous students occupied the Vice-Chancellor's office demanding divestment from fossil fuels. This action followed a long tradition of student activism, and it raised further questions for local peace group Auckland Peace Action about the involvement of the University in other morally questionable investments and research. In particular, we wanted to find out if the University of Auckland is supporting the global arms trade and war-making through its investments and research. Here's what we've discovered.

Weapons Investment

Like fossil fuel extraction, weapons production is a global industry. For an institution's money to stay out of this industry, it needs an investment policy that bars investment in weapons companies. The University of Auckland Foundation, which manages the University's financial assets, has no such policy. Given the profitability of the weapons industry, we can be certain that some of the approximately \$180 million in net assets they manage is funding weaponry and warfare. As a point of comparison, the New Zealand Superannuation Fund holds \$136 million worth of stock in "Defence and Aerospace" industries, including 23 companies on the list of Top 100 Arms Dealers.

Several weeks ago, we made an Official Information Act (OIA) request to the University to get the details of which weapons companies the Foundation is invested in. We provided them with the Top 100 list of Arms Companies. One of the University's lawyers responded to us saying that since the University hasn't checked its information about the Foundation's investments against the list of weapons companies we provided, the University doesn't hold any information as to whether the Foundation is invested in these companies. Her response is ludicrous, but unsurprising to anyone familiar with making OIA requests.

It is clear that the University wants its investments in weapons companies to remain obscured. Given the widespread indignation amongst students and staff at the University's fossil fuel investments, their approach comes as no surprise.

Weapons Research

Throughout the years of the Vietnam War, universities across the United States were the sites of major protests relating to military research. At Columbia University in New York City, demonstrations against war research culminated in the occupation of five buildings and shut down the campus for a

semester. Students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) "not only organised occupations, they also organised a mass picket of the University's nuclear missile laboratories."

While the University of Auckland is not involved in nuclear missile research, the military-industrial complex is alive and well within the University. This takes two forms: first, funding by weapons companies of specific research projects, and second, the desire by the University to commercialise research for use by militaries across the globe.

The Mathematics Department notes that it did research for Rakon, an Auckland company that produces crystal oscillators. Rakon's product goes into the Joint Direct Action Munition (JDAM), one of the most widely used missile guidance systems in the world, used by (among other nations) Saudi Arabia, Israel and the US.

The research done by the Mathematics Department specifically relates to the production of the crystal oscillators. The major issue with this kind of oscillator is thermal drift: the frequency given out changes with temperature. This isn't usually a problem, but in military applications electronics will often be exposed to high temperatures: guided missiles, for example, produce a *lot* of heat for obvious reasons. If enough heat is given off, the clock signal can speed up, the electronics start making mistakes and you end up blowing up a hospital rather than the school you were aiming for. There is thus quite a lot of interest in making oscillators that are less affected by thermal drift. We believe that the research mentioned relates to writing algorithms that correct for the drift, meaning that the electronics are less affected.

In late 2015, the *Listener* magazine published an article about New Zealand's weapons industry and its political lobby group, the New Zealand Defence Industry Association (NZDIA). It is noted in the article that Lockheed Martin, the world's largest weapons dealer and maker of nuclear weapons, was funding research at the University of Auckland related to the verification of unspecified software. Such computer work is central to modern military research, as war becomes increasingly dependent on digital and electronic technology. Computer science, particularly in the fields of cryptography, machine learning and numerical simulation, is becoming increasingly important for the design and operation of offensive weapons (such as drones and autonomous weapon systems) and the operation of mass surveillance systems.

A second OIA sent to the Mathematics De-

partment Dean, Dr Bernd Krauskopf, asked about funding by Lockheed. The University has responded to us saying that no money from Lockheed has been received.

Along with commissioned research for weapons companies like Rakon, the University is a member of the NZDIA through UniServices, an agency that seeks to commercialise university work. What this means is that research done by Auckland academics with potential military applications is likely to be taken up by UniServices in an attempt to turn them into saleable products. UniServices can even arrange to have private corporate researchers embedded directly within the University, using University researchers and equipment to advance private enterprises.

New Zealand & the Global Arms Trade

The weapons industry in New Zealand is estimated to be worth about \$60 million in profits a year: small on a global scale, but growing in its contribution to wars and international conflicts. The University's research work and investments are a small, but not insignificant, contribution to war profiteering. Research done by the University gives legitimacy to an industry that profits from finding better ways to kill and maim human beings. This is, quite frankly, shameful and abhorrent.

Major weapons companies operate within New Zealand getting both government contracts and free government money for research, development and business promotion. Of most concern is the annual weapons expo where 500 delegates come to buy and sell weapons and other military services. This year, the weapons expo is happening in Wellington on 10th & 11th October. Auckland Peace Action will be launching our campaign to shut it down with a non-violent blockade of the event. Some of you may have been involved in the blockade last year on the Auckland waterfront and know what an amazing success it was with over 300 delegates kept out for 8 hours!

Political parties are, at this stage, unwilling to commit to stopping the New Zealand weapons industry, so we've got to take non-violent direct action to make real change.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE OR GET INVOLVED, PLEASE COME ALONG TO OUR CAMPAIGN MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 16TH AUGUST AT 6:30PM AT THE PEACE PLACE, 22 EMILY PLACE (JUST NEAR THE LAW SCHOOL) FOR A FULL RUN-DOWN AND FOOD!



Why Should I Bother Voting For A Third Party?

By Rebecca Hallas

Why should I bother voting for a third party? They won't win anyway!

I'm glad you asked. Aside from typical collective action issues (if everyone who said their vote didn't matter actually voted for third parties, we wouldn't have a two-party system anymore) there are other reasons why a third party vote isn't a "wasted" vote in New Zealand.

In NZ we have a Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system. This is different to a First Past the Post (FPP) system (which a lot of people seem to think we have). Under a FPP political system, the government is almost always dominated by one of the two main parties, and Parliament doesn't accurately represent the votes of the general population.

MMP on the other hand, is designed to truly reflect the views of voters.

New Zealand's Parliament is made up of 120 Members of Parliament (MPs). There are 70 electorates. Each electorate elects one MP to represent them. When you look at your ballot paper on election day, you'll see a list of candidates from different parties, who want to represent you in your respective area.

The other 50 MPs (out of the total 120) are elected from political party lists, and we call them List MPs. If a party wins at least one electorate seat OR, alternatively, 5% of the party vote, then that party gets a share of the seats in Parliament of roughly the

same size as its share of the party vote. If a third party gets say, 10% of the public's vote, then that 10% proportion of votes will be represented in the number of MPs they have in Parliament (and thus those MPs will have influence over legislation). So basically, your third party vote does have real-world consequences, and your ballot paper didn't just disappear into oblivion.

We often phrase our political system as one in which there is a sole "winner" and the rest are "losers" with no power. People don't want to vote for parties like the Greens, NZ First, United Future and so on because they won't "win" the election i.e. get the majority of the votes. But it's incredibly difficult for one party to achieve a majority alone (so far, the closest has been the last election, where National was one MP short of a majority). The more seats third parties get, the more difficult it is for the larger parties to force legislation through alone, or with the assistance of one or two other parties. This forces politicians to work together, to make compromises, and to create legislation that better reflects the will of the general population, rather than a small percentage of Kiwis.

If you're someone who's been thinking about voting third party, and thought your vote would be wasted, then give that third party a chance! One extra vote could be the difference in putting another third party MP in Parliament, helping to provide a check on the dominant two parties. ♦



CHARITY/ORGANISATION OF THE WEEK

This week we're drawing your attention to the Auckland Women's Centre. The Centre's mission is to facilitate the empowerment and wellbeing of all women, and is designed to be a provider of free or low-cost services and activities aimed at promoting these goals. The Centre is open to women of all eth-

nicities, incomes, ages, and abilities. Whether you want to check out their self-defence classes, use the library, or talk to a trained staff member for emotional support, there's something for everyone. Head over to www.awc.org.nz to learn more about what they do, and support them. ♦

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Head along to the march and rally to support

Vote Equal Pay 2017!

When: Saturday 12th August, 11am–2pm

Where: Takutai Square, Britomart

Price: Free!

Age restrictions: All ages

Event info: "The caregivers equal pay victory was huge and significant with pay increases to 55,000 workers, mostly women. However it was just a start; many more women in various occupations need equal pay now. Come and hear the different political parties' specific proposals for eliminating the enduring gender pay gap as speedily as possible."

11am: Gather at Takutai Square and begin March up Queen Street to the rally

12pm: Rally at Te Hā o Hine Place to listen to reps from the main political parties

Come hear about how election policies will affect refugees in

Refugees Welcome!

When: Wednesday 9th August, 6pm–8pm

Where: Unitarian Church, Ponsonby

Price: Free!

Age restrictions: All ages

Event info: "Murdoch Stephens from the Doing Our Bit campaign will speak to where the refugee crisis has gone in the last year, what New Zealand's policies are—including the new community sponsorship model—and how local communities can get involved. Find out more about the campaign here: <http://www.doingourbit.co.nz/>" ♦

What's On

Kanohi Ki Te Kanohi: Poetry

TIME OUT BOOKSTORE

In the lead-up to National Poetry Day, Time Out Bookstore will host a reading from some remarkable New Zealand poets on Friday 11th August at 7pm. On the line-up is: Bob Orr, Ruby Porter, Makyla Curtis, Vaughan Rapa-tahana, Olivia Macassey, Iain Britton and Selina Tusitala Marsh.

The Experiment 2017

THE WINE CELLAR

Head along to The Wine Cellar for The Experiment 2017, an annual music and arts festival showcasing some of Auckland's best talent. There'll be bands, live DJs, art and more! It'll run from 7pm to 3am on Friday 11th August, so get hyped for this completely free, amazing experience.

The Effect

Q THEATRE

You're just in time to catch the last few days of *The Effect* at the Q Theatre. This award-winning play will be on until Saturday 12th August and is an intelligent, electrifying play you don't want to miss. Student tickets are \$27 on the Q Theatre website.

Auckland Tertiary Policy Conference

UOA BUSINESS SCHOOL

Interested in issues that face uni students? Want to hear new voices and be heard in return? The Auckland Tertiary Policy Conference is back for 2017 on Saturday 12th August with nine committees throughout the day for you to choose from. Registration is free. Check out UN Youth online for tickets.

"Rhapsody in Blue"

AUCKLAND TOWN HALL

Auckland Symphony Orchestra's second free concert of the year "Rhapsody in Blue" is on at the Town Hall on Sunday 13th August. Jazz meets classical in this awesome event! Doors open at 2pm. ♦

GUIDE TO... Op Shopping

Op shopping is one of the best things ever. Who doesn't want one-off radically retro clothing, houseware items, or designer pieces for a fraction of the price? If you're new to op shopping, here are a few tips on how to make the most of it.

Be open-minded: Don't go into it with an exact image of what you're looking for because it doesn't always work out. Thinking outside the square really helps when op shopping. Get creative and try to look at things differently—maybe that men's button-up will be a sick dress, or those baggy-ass pants will be cool cut-off shorts?

Try before you buy: Definitely try stuff on! Even though they might only cost a few dollars, a lot of the time it's hard to tell if something is going to look as great as you envision without trying it.

Search the men's rack: Some of the coolest things you can find are on the men's rack. If you're into the baggy blue jeans trend but finding it super difficult to

find a pair the right colour and fit, I beg you, try the men's section! Men also have great grandpa sweaters and cardigans.

Be prepared for disappointment: Part of the op shopping experience is not always coming home with anything. Instead of feeling like you wasted your day, think about the moment when you do find that one unique as fark thing that you cherish forever more. It makes successful days all the better!

Be prepared for lengthiness: Another thing to remember is don't expect to be in and out. Op shopping can often take an entire day, especially when you have to travel between them. Settle in for several hours of dedicated perusing and you'll be fine. ♦

Essential Apps for Every Student

Don't be alarmed! Despite the ridiculous amount of product promotion that is to follow, this is not The Emoji Movie. The following apps are genuine tools that we can use to help make our uni lives a little bit easier.

OneNote/Evernote

Apple/Android/Windows | Free

For those laptop users out there, it can be rather difficult to keep track of the many notes documents you generate throughout the year. OneNote collates all your notes in one streamlined place, and you can get to them on your laptop or mobile. However, it does make you look a bit inattentive if you have forgotten your laptop and are trying to keep notes by typing into your phone.

Sleep Cycle Alarm Clock

Apple/Android | Free

You've heard about REM cycles? This app will help to calculate them for you, choosing to wake you up when you're sleeping the lightest (in a time period you set, so you won't be late!) This alarm clock app may definitely help you if you're having trouble getting to class on time, so it's worth giving a go. It does use a lot of battery, however, so you'll need to keep your phone plugged in.

Office Lens

Apple/Android/Windows | Free

How many of us have given up part way through a lecture and decided to take a picture of the board instead? This app will take pictures of whiteboards, notes, projector screens and more and will convert them into editable text. It lets you take pictures from

random angles, and will clear the files up, so you certainly won't miss anything from any of your classes.

Dropbox/Box

Apple/Android/Windows | Free

Everyone knows about Dropbox, but not many know about their other cousin—Box. Both are online servers which you can use to upload and back-up all your files—documents, photos and videos. These folders will be integrated onto your computer and you can simply start to save to that folder instead of your hard-drive folders. You will never have to worry about losing or not having access to your notes again. You can pay a monthly subscription for unlimited storage, but can also get a lot out of the free storage.

Wunderlist

Apple/Android/Windows | Free

There are so many to-do and list apps out there, it's too hard to choose. If you're using one that works for you, then keep to that. But if you're on the hunt, Wunderlist might be for you. It's pretty, streamlined and has a great mix of features for different users. You can make multiple lists, create reminders and even use the app to collaborate with other users on a project. Maybe this will help ease the stress of the dreaded group project and help keep the balance of work even. ♦



CAFÉ REVIEW: Bestie, Saint Kevins Arcade

Like eightthirty coffee and/or the wonderfully eccentric K Rd? These two things combined were what initially drew me to Bestie, located at the end of Saint Kevins Arcade in a pool of glorious sunlight. The café looks out over Myers Park and has a chilled, hipster vibe. There's a cactus window (!!!), plenty of leafy green plants and a wall full of polaroid photos. So, environment: check.

Coffee-wise, 10/10. You really can't go wrong with eightthirty, unless the barista's a blimmin' fool—which the Bestie baristas are not. Enjoy a strong cappuccino with the optional addition of coconut sugar and you'll be happy as Larry.

While I'm yet to sample the cabinet food, it

certainly looks delicious. There's always a good range of decent-sized brownies and other cakes, as well as a few salads and sandwiches. The cabinet food changes daily, so if you're a regular you won't get bored.

The menu food I can vouch for, especially the Toasted Vanilla and Cinnamon Muesli. It's vegan and possibly the best breakfast ever. Other delights include Ricotta Donuts, Flatbread with Spicy Chorizo, Tandoori Fried Chicken and Crispy Potato Skins. Sah good.

In a nutshell, Bestie is definitely worth a visit. It's the perfect place for an early morning coffee or a leisurely weekend brunch in the sun. ♦

Homemade Tortilla Chips

This easy-peasy chip (or crisp) recipe is one of my favourites for a quick and filling snack. You can have them with salad, guacamole or on their own! Choosing to make chips from scratch is an easy, but impressive culinary achievement. It'll leave you feeling like you're prepared and responsible with almost no-effort. How's that for us procrastinators?

What you need:

Tortilla base
Margarine
Lemon pepper and/or garlic salt
Cooking spray (recommended)

What you do:

1. Pre-heat the oven on fan-bake at 180°C.
2. Get out your tortilla base. This could really be anything you buy from the supermarket. You can even substitute a tortilla base for a pita pocket, or something like that. (When desperate, you could even flatten out bread using a rolling pin.)
3. Margarine both sides of the base. Be prepared for sticky fingers!
4. Shake your chosen topping over one side of the base. Lemon-pepper is a banger, but other seasonings are also delicious! Feel free to experiment. Have more than one base, with a different seasoning on each!
5. Cut into small triangles.
6. Spray tray(s) with cooking spray and lay the chips out on them.
7. Leave in oven for roughly 10 minutes. Play it by ear, and take out when golden.
8. Enjoy! ♦

Top 5... Local Mexican Eateries

Mexico

BRITOMART, PONSONBY, TAKAPUNA

Mexico tops the list because... dat fried chicken. Also, everything else on the menu is darn delightful and the service is super speedy. One visit and you'll never look back.

Mexican Café

VICTORIA ST, CBD

Chimichanga. Chimichanga is all we need to say. Deep fried burrito jam-packed with meat or beans and covered in a very generous amount of avo, sour cream and salsa. Go for the chimichanga, stay for the margarita slushie juqs.

Frida Cocina

CUSTOMS ST, CBD

Frida's is a great option if you're vegan and love Mexican. Most items on the menu can be made vegan, and they're all pretty damn tasty. Like all Mexican joints, the atmosphere is loud and fun too.

Dos Amigos

MISSION BAY

Dos Amigos is perfect for those that live in the burbs/just dislike going into the CBD. Their meals are reasonably priced and they have some killer sides, such as the amazing blackened prawns. What's more, the staff will hand out sombreros for you to wear while you munch on your quesadilla if ya fancy feeling that bit more festive.

Little Mexico

WELLESLEY ST, CBD

This place has been around a long time and it definitely shows. They serve all the classics and the food tastes a lot more authentic than your Mexicali and Zombrero's. Plus, the hand-painted décor adds to the experience. ♦



A LAMENT FOR THE GREEN PARTY

Julia Wiener offers her opinion on how the Green Party's organisation and policies fare in the upcoming general election

Every election for the past three or so, the political legitimacy of the Green Party has grown in the eyes of the New Zealand public. This has been reflected by its growing share of the party vote, hovering around 11% for the last two elections. Formerly considered the domain of people who think crystals can cure tuberculosis and the one pink-haired communist in every liberal arts class you've ever taken, the Greens have come up with increasingly innovative tax policies, sensible transport proposals and common-sense environmental regulations.

Part of this rise to normalcy can be attributed to the fact that we are taking climate change more seriously now than we were ten years ago—but, then again, one could argue that in New Zealand the causal relationship goes the other way. With James Shaw showing Parliamentary leadership and Julie-Anne Genter's transport plans being taken seriously by an Auckland public furious at

the perennial sea of brake lights in front of them, the Greens are seeming less like hippie stoners and more like a serious political alternative to Labour and National.

Leading up to the election, I've read over the Greens' policy documents with increasing respect for the insane level of detail in every element of their platform. They have four pages worth of sports and recreation policy, a nine-page refugee policy and eleven pages of environment policy. The Greens, fewer than 50 days from the general election, have by far the most comprehensive policies on every issue from ICT access to domestic violence. However, their kooky old image still shines through, due both to how they continue to operate as a political party, and some of their policies.

Party Organisation

What does it take to be high up on the Greens

party list? Law-making experience? Policy contributions? Increasingly, the answer is fame. Moving in the opposite direction to their red bedfellow, the Green Party has chosen to promote its candidates based on popularity, moving new, well-known and well-liked faces up the list at the expense of veteran Green MPs. National's tax cuts in the 2017 Budget may be cynical electioneering, but at least that budget makes sense outside the paradigm of the election.

Moving stalwart MPs like Denise Roche and David Clendon down the list to promote Chlöe Swarbrick to a glowing 9th place will get the Greens more press, but may not lend itself to good law-making once the new faces are in Parliament. Don't get me wrong, I'm a huge supporter of Swarbrick, Golriz Ghahraman and the other new Greens. I voted for Swarbrick in the mayoral election and think Ghahraman would be a genuinely wonderful addition to our Par-

liament. However, their political inexperience is concerning. Even if the Greens' share of the party vote drops significantly, Swarbrick will be Hon Chlöe Swarbrick MP this time next year. With Todd Barclay, current baby of the house, making a widely publicised mess of his position in June, 2017 may not be the time to bring a 23-year-old into New Zealand's supreme law-making body.

Gripes aside, I do really like the Green Party candidates. Having a human rights lawyer from a refugee background in Parliament will be a gain, no matter what party she represented. Of all the 23-year-olds in New Zealand, Swarbrick is the one I would trust most to shape our law. We can only hope that the popularity boost (and, hopefully, increased youth turnout) Ghahraman and Swarbrick may have brings the Greens a few more seats in Parliament. How will they do once they're in? We'll have to wait and see.

Old Policies—The Good, The Bad, and The Nonsensical

On the whole, I agree with the Greens' policies. I am genuinely enthusiastic about Genter's transport proposals. I think New Zealand needs a capital gains tax. I support an increase in the refugee quota and I think we need to take drastic action on climate change. I'm planning to vote Greens this September. However, some of the Green Party's policies bring them down, in both

my own esteem and that of the public.

Foremost among these is their position on genetic engineering. Hidden away in an eleven-page agriculture and rural affairs policy document, it reads like something off an anti-vaxxer mum's blog:

"The Green Party supports... maintaining 'zero' tolerance for all GE derived micro-organism, seed, plant, and animal imports... discouraging GE products, such as enzymes and processing aids, vaccinations and animal remedies, from being released into the NZ food chain or environment... the marketing of Aotearoa/NZ and its products as GE free."

As New Zealand's agriculture is increasingly threatened by climate change, the engineering of crops which need less water to grow or are impervious to common pests could become crucial to farmers around the country. The use of genetically-engineered substances is already tightly controlled under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. Pandering to the fears of a scientifically illiterate public at the expense of productive, forward-looking agricultural techniques is bad policy-making.

Putting my own opinion to the side and turning to the wider electorate, there is little doubt that policies like these contribute to the Greens' continued image as wacky tree-huggers. Compared with their more serious proposals, policies like these delegitimise the Greens in the eyes of a

citizenry looking for sensible economic management from a forward-looking political party.

What's more, the Green Party wouldn't really alienate any of its existing voter base by scrapping this policy. People terrified of GMOs would still vote for the Greens even if the Party dropped their genetic engineering phobia, because who else would they vote for—National? The only other party with an anti-GMO policy is New Zealand First, but the segment of the population whose allegiance swings between the Greens and New Zealand First is probably just one old woman in Hamilton who has been vegan for 20 years and hates Chinese people.

This is nothing compared to their 2014 health policy, which included an opt-out clause for water fluoridation. The Party caucus also apparently couldn't make its mind up about whether vaccines were a good idea. I'm surprised they got 11% of the vote that year. Scrapping the ambiguity over fluoride and vaccines was a good first step to being taken seriously. Listening to the scientific consensus on genetic modification should be their next.

I'm sure that as the new waves of Greens' candidates and Greens' supporters get into politics, the Party will move away from its science-sceptical history towards the issues that are causing me, and many others, to vote Greens this September: wealth inequality, mass transit, and protecting the environment. ♦

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THE SILENT STRUGGLE

Haya Khan looks at how Law students struggle with mental health and wellbeing

CONTENT WARNING: THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS MENTIONS OF SUICIDE

“Wellbeing Warriors” is one of the multiple mental health groups from the University of Auckland. The Warriors aim to promote positive discussion around issues of mental health and spread awareness by creating an inclusive atmosphere within Law School. In doing so, they hope to lower stress levels and anxieties that are rarely discussed, but which are collectively faced by the majority of students. Student volunteer for the committee, Veronica Shepherd, believes that the isolation and small size of the Law School is a contributing factor to the stress Law students face, as “it contributes to the effect on the mental health of students encouraging a competitive environment.”

Law students often find themselves comparing their grades and extracurricular involvement, which places pressure on them to perform at the same level as their peers. “Law School is filled with Type A personalities,” Veronica noted, further stating that “people [who] excel in high

school, [and] top the classes—I think if you put enough of those people in a pressure-filled environment, [they] are bound to crack under the pressure.”

Out of the eight wellbeing focuses of the University, the Wellbeing Warriors have chosen to focus on two: “Connect” and “Power off”. The focus on wellbeing has been relatively recent, and Veronica believes the response has been positive stating that “‘Connect’ is about connecting with one another more. ‘We are proposing non-alcoholic events as it has been a common request by members of the group and wellbeing surveys.’ Part 2 study groups have also been proposed by the Wellbeing Warriors, as Veronica believes that “students can connect with other students to formulate discussions on different areas of the course.” The concept of connection is heavily focused on creating a community feeling, which helps to reduce a competitive atmosphere that pits students

against one another. Instead, the Wellbeing group wants students to find common ground with their fellow students.

The “Power Off” concept explained by Veronica focuses on individual stress management. “This is mainly promoting good sleeping practices, caffeine alternatives and turning blue-light electronics off before bed. We are also promoting mindfulness as a relaxation technique through an app called ‘smiling mind’ and more sessions on campus for those new to mindfulness.” A study carried out by the *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* in Australia reiterates the idea of “Type A personalities”. The study considered various factors that lead to exacerbating or creating mental illness in Law students, these being: social appraisal, status as a Law student, appraisal of university-related activities, and online leisure activities. All of these factors, combined with a social pressure to excel among peers by achieving straight A’s

and clerkship offers, placed immense pressure on students.

Though maintaining mental wellbeing is emphasised in the Faculty as important for Law students, it is an easier route for students to dismiss it: Part 2 Law student Ben Bowley Drinnan expressed apathy toward “mental health stuff”. The maintenance of a mask of confidence to partake in the competitive atmosphere that Law School presents creates stigma around mental illness and shared stress and anxiety amongst students. Part 2 Law student Ben Seto agreed that competition among peers for “social appraisal” also has an effect on the anxiety of students. Adjustment to the competition of Part 2 Law is a huge step up from Part 1, and Ben believed, “[adjustment to Part 2] is something we only learn when we go through the ropes, [and] to stand out amongst 379 other competent Law students in the Part 2 cohort causes anxiety.”

The “13 Reasons Why Not” board in the Law café allows the creation of a sense of inclusion and community that may have been stifled within the competitive atmosphere. In the *13 Reasons Why* Netflix show, one of the contributing factors to the protagonist’s suicide was not only the sense of distance she felt from her peers, but also the lack of appropriate support. The show highlights the role mental illness stigma plays in preventing people from getting support, and the Wellbeing Warriors use the concept of the show as a way to encourage discourse around wellbeing. The board asks students to post “tips to their younger selves” regarding mental wellbeing. Much like the show, the board unapologetically brings sensitive topics, often brushed under the rug, back out into the public sphere. There is also an “Elephant” board alongside the “13 Reasons Why Not” board, which anonymously discusses the negative feelings experienced by Law students in their private life. Veronica believes that the board creates a communal support system, and it’s nice for students “to know that people are going through the same things, and that there are options for people feeling stressed and unwell.”

The University of Auckland currently offers short-term counselling sessions for each student. However, there is no ability to pay for more, as they aim to accommodate everyone equally. This is a flaw in the University’s mental health support system, as the help that students with severe mental illnesses may need is unavailable. Although the University has taken up many other initiatives such as faculty wellbeing groups, they are often not a substitute for proper psychological support.

The introduction of the Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015 demonstrates a lost opportunity to address the status of mental illness constructively in New Zealand’s legal framework. This is due to the section 22(1)(b) requirement of an objective test to determine the seriousness of the “harm” to the victim in determining whether the defendant can be held liable. The potential for failure to take into account the mental wellbeing of the victim continues to foster the stigma of mental illness in New Zealand.

This was addressed recently in March 2017 by High Court Justice Mathew Downs in *Police v B*. The issue of whether the defendant was liable under the Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015 was raised. It was said his actions caused “serious emotional distress”. In the original decision in the District Court, it was said, “it is not enough to prove that the digital communication would cause harm to an *objective person*. The prosecution must establish that the communication did, in fact, cause harm to the *victim*.” The defendant was originally held not liable under section 22 of the Act as the trial Judge did not believe the digital communication would have caused “serious emotional distress” to a reasonable person. Justice Downs in the High Court disagreed and believed context was important in determining the liability for harm imposed upon the victim.

The status of mental illness remains a mitigating factor in criminal sentencing, as was discussed in *Singh v Police* where the defendant had ADHD. Justice Edwards required that there be a causative link between Singh’s ADHD and the crime. He explained further that authority from the Court of Appeal cautioned against mental illness mitigating moral fault (and therefore criminal culpability). Therefore, care must be taken when assessing the impact of mental illness. The lack of causative link between the illness and the crime provides discretion for the Judge to not grant a discount; however, Justice Edwards recognised the difficulties regarding impulse control experienced by those with ADHD, and granted a 2-month discount.

The different perceptions in case law demonstrate that there is a lack of clarity around the topic of mental illness due to its sensitive nature, and the fact that the stigma is only starting to be addressed. The contrast in the opinions of the trial Judge and the Appeal Judge regarding “serious emotional distress” in *Police v B* reflects the fact that the recognition of the severity of a defendant’s mental illness rests purely in the discretion of the particular judge, rather than in any legal guidelines. It is important for the mental wellbeing of students that the legal framework of New Zealand ap-

propriately addresses mental wellbeing issues in a manner that helps to generate discourse and which highlights its detrimental effects.

A Part 2 Law student anonymously stated that though the stigma around mental illness is changing with education, he still believes that many people are ignorant: “So many people are just incredibly flippant about it or don’t understand the seriousness of it.” He referred specifically to New Zealand culture, which he believes creates reluctance to share one’s mental wellbeing. “The whole ‘suck it up bro’ thing.”

But it is not only Law students affected by educational anxiety; this is a universal issue faced by all age groups and faculties. Statistics from the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand show that in 2014, one out of six adults were diagnosed with some common mental disorder at some point in their lives, with mental disorders being the third leading cause for health loss just behind cancer and vascular and blood disorders. The study showed that though the rates of suicide in youth had decreased significantly from 2011, with 2014 seeing the lowest rate of suicide in people aged 15–19, mental illness still severely impacts the youth of New Zealand.

The pressure to be a perfect Law student places such detrimental effects on mental wellbeing, and it is essential to address it effectively and not as a weakness. Unapologetic discussion regarding the topic of mental illness is essential, as demonstrated by the initiatives taken by the University. Reducing stigma and allowing people to discuss their stress assists in creating an atmosphere that fuels positive wellbeing rather than fostering hidden negativity. ♦

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MĀORI PARTY - CINNAMON WHITLOCK (NGAPUHI,
NGATI-KAHU KI WHANGAROA, TE RARAWA)

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HE TOHU: A DECLARATION, A TREATY, A PETITION

Catriona Britton looks at the significance of Aotearoa New Zealand's three constitutional documents

If you took Social Studies or History in high school, you may remember having a crash-course in New Zealand history and the significance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi). As a Pākehā who went to a high-decile school, I remember how the same basic information was fed to me year in, year out about Te Tiriti—who signed it, when, what the differences were in the articles. In part, I think this is a reason why some people become disillusioned by New Zealand history. The facts became a bit “boring” and monotonous. I cannot speak for what school curriculums are like nowadays, but certainly 8–10 years ago, the information I was fed did not build upon the knowledge we had already been taught. There was no exploration of ideas or detail that allowed us to deepen our understanding of its significance.

What's more astounding is that other equally important documents, such as He Whakaputanga (the Declaration of Independence) and the Women's Suffrage Petition (Te Petihana Whakamana Pōti Wahine) were barely covered, if only mentioned in passing. When visiting the *He Tohu* exhibition in the semester break, I overheard a schoolteacher reaffirming my thoughts

and telling a guide, “I didn't even realise the Declaration was that important. We barely mention it in class.” I'm also ashamed to say that the only three facts I knew about the Women's Suffrage Petition was that it was signed in 1893 (thank you, intermediate school general knowledge quiz), that Kate Sheppard was an important lass (thank you, \$10 bank note) and that New Zealand was the first self-governing country to grant women the right to vote in all parliamentary elections (thank you, Year Nine Social Studies teacher).

The *He Tohu* exhibition, a permanent and free exhibition housed at the National Library in Wellington, aims to preserve these three constitutional documents and to educate New Zealanders on the importance of them: He Whakaputanga, Te Tiriti and the Women's Suffrage Petition. Each is an invaluable historical document that informs our everyday lives, and has framed the nation we are today. It is a fantastic exhibition that incorporates all three of our national languages (Māori, English and Sign Language), covers the trajectory of each document's history and relevance, and shows the documents on public display.

The conservation of the documents in the past, particularly Te Tiriti, has been curious, to say the least. Te Tiriti survived fire from a burning official's cottage in 1841, then disappeared for years before being rediscovered in 1908 in Wellington's Government Building's basement. Its discolouration and rugged edges can be put down to water-staining and hungry rats, respectively, during its time hidden in the basement. Since 1990, all three documents have been displayed in National Archives' Constitution Room. However, due to the aging conditions of this room and the sensitivity of the documents to light, temperature and vibration, the National Library's upgrade provided a great opportunity to rehouse these documents in a purpose-built room. As part of the exhibition, they can now be found in a cave-like room lined with rimu, each in its own atmospherically-controlled and alarmed display case. The Petition, which runs for almost 200 metres, is mounted on a custom-made roll, where different portions of it will be on display at different times. He Whakaputanga is placed on a vertical mount that allows visitors to look at a page of the double-sided document.

He Tohu is a unique project in that it is a part-

nership between the Crown and Māori. The content of the exhibition is drawn not only from both of these perspectives on the history and futures of the documents, but also those of young adults. Dr Aroha Harris (Te Rarawa and Ngāpuhi), Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Auckland, was a member of the Māori advisory group, with a particular focus on He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti, up until July 2016 and that was established to give a wide range of advice on *He Tohu* as it developed. A similar advisory group was set up to provide advice on the Petition. Harris was among many other experts on the advisory team, such as those who specialised in te reo Māori, design, and Māori and mainstream education.

He Whakaputanga was signed in 1835 by northern rangatira (chiefs) and was the document in which Māori pronounced their independence, which was formally recognised by the British Crown. The relationship between Māori and Europeans was continuing to evolve at the time. Māori were enjoying the economic benefits of trading, as well as adapting and sharing ideas about technology, culture and education with a growing population of European settlers putting down roots in Te Tai Tokerau (Northland). However, the threat of other European nations establishing sovereign leaders on Aotearoa soil was very real, with British Resident (government representative) James Busby receiving word that Frenchman, Charles de Thierry, had plans to set himself up as a sovereign leader in the Hokianga. In response to this, rangatira gathered at Busby's residence in Waitangi and signed He Whakaputanga.

But how did Māori understand the purpose or meaning of a signed document, such as a declaration, when the majority of them would not have encountered one before?

"Māori had been learning to read and write since the 1810s—mostly in Māori to begin [with], but also in English," said Harris. "I imagine it would have been difficult even if people had a good grasp of English. For example, the Treaty contains a reference to Crown pre-emption, which can be a difficult concept to understand even for the most fluent readers of English text, both back then and now. Most scholars accept that meaning and understanding of the documents would have been conveyed primarily through the in-person oral discussions and debates that surrounded them, which begs the question—how did the British understand the documents when they were perhaps unfamiliar with the oral and performed nature of Māori debate and agreement?"

He Whakaputanga comprises four sections that set out the governance of "the United Tribes of New Zealand". However, according to Harris, the frame-

work for governance did not differ greatly from what Māori were used to, "especially given the congressional approach and emphasis on 'collective capacity.'" By the time He Whakaputanga was signed, Māori had been exposed to European politics and governmental structures through their interactions with Europeans. As such, "any newer elements of governance in the Declaration would have had a degree of familiarity about them."

He Whakaputanga's significance rests in the fact that upon signing it, rangatira were telling the world that they had "ko to Kingitanga ko te mana" (sovereign power and authority) in Aotearoa. It was a means of protecting their relationships with foreigners, their interests and their well-being. It also strengthened the bond Māori had with the British, which had been developing over several decades, and remained a strong statement of Māori authority and rights throughout the nineteenth century and into the twentieth. For Harris, He Whakaputanga is "an historical icon of my ancestors at their best—confident, in charge, innovative, stating the obvious about Māori independence."

Te Tiriti is the most well-known of the three documents and is largely considered to be Aotearoa New Zealand's founding document as a nation. In 1840, rangatira gathered at Waitangi once again to sign the written agreement between themselves, as representatives of iwi and hapū, and the British Crown. However, due to the two language versions of Te Tiriti, written in English and te reo Māori, each party had different expectations and understandings of what Te Tiriti guaranteed. A lot of Māori saw it as a confirmation of rangatiratanga (sovereignty), like in He Whakaputanga, where mana of the land would be retained, but the introduction of kāwanatanga (government) from the British would keep British subjects in check.

The British, on the other hand, saw it as a way to secure sovereignty over New Zealand. A key tension lies in the use of the term kāwanatanga, which for Māori did not encompass the same sense of authority that rangatiratanga did. So in the Māori-language version of Te Tiriti, Māori understood they were ceding an abstract form of governorship, rather than sovereignty, but would retain te tino rangatiratanga or chiefly possession over lands and property of all kinds. However, the English-language version declared that Māori were ceding sovereignty to Queen Victoria, but were to keep the "full exclusive and undisturbed possession" of lands, estates, forests, fisheries and other properties they collectively or individually possessed.

Nine sheets comprise Te Tiriti, and as the docu-

ments travelled the length of the country, over 500 rangatira signed it. Given the differences in the two treaties, Harris says our current-day knowledge of how the contents were described to Māori around the country is “uneven”. “We know quite a bit about discussions at Waitangi, but not everything. We know very little about the discussions held in the Kāwhia area, where the missionaries responsible for collecting those signatures—John Whiteley and James Wallis—left no detailed records of their explanations or discussions. An important point about the discussions we do have a record of, is that they were not necessarily one-sided explanations of what was in the Treaty. At the northern signings, there was a lot of debate, not just about Te Tiriti per se, but also land, trade, and the enduring mana of rangatira, chiefs.”

But why is Te Tiriti recognised more than He Whakaputanga? Harris believes it’s because in modern New Zealand it is recognised as “a term or thing”. The likely reason people know more about it than He Whakaputanga is because of the output of work that scholars have done on it, the work of the Waitangi Tribunal and the negotiations and settlements that started to come into play from the late 1980s. “Yet again, that is an explanation for recognition among wider New Zealand society,” she says, “whereas there hasn’t been a generation of Māori who did not in some way raise Te Tiriti o Waitangi as an issue in need of attention.”

Today, Māori continue to reclaim and assert te tino rangatiratanga in numerous ways. For Harris, the process of making claims under the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 and negotiating for settlement is seen as a way “of pushing for some formal or legal acceptance of rangatiratanga.” But it remains to be seen whether or not rangatiratanga is truly restored through these processes. Harris also points to many other iwi and Māori initiatives throughout the country that could be regarded as expressions of rangatiratanga: iwi festivals, like the biennial Tūhoe festival (Te Ahurei o Tūhoe), inter-marae sports days (“pā wars”), and iwi home-ownership or education schemes. “I think there are a range of large and small expressions of rangatiratanga all around us, alongside a range of challenges to those expressions.”

The final document that makes up the trinity is the Women’s Suffrage Petition, signed in 1893. It was a significant instrument of change in which women steered their future and demanded the right to participate in political life. Almost 32,000 women signed thirteen separate petitions (nearly a quarter of all women living in New Zealand at the time). The Petition contains 554 separate sheets of paper joined together. Kate Sheppard was the most prominent figure

and member of New Zealand’s suffrage movement. She was a founding member of the New Zealand branch of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), which was responsible for the Petition. The suffrage movement was an international movement throughout the USA, Europe and the British Commonwealth. The WCTU, an international organisation established in Ohio in the 1870s, gained momentum in New Zealand in the 1880s. “The kaupapa of women’s suffrage was in a sense regarded as an international issue at the outset,” says Harris, “but it had to be put into practice in individual nations, so national movements and activities were critical.”

The right to vote extended to all New Zealand women, Māori and Pākehā. It is difficult to gauge what the Petition would have meant to Māori women. Harris says that many were “highly involved in Māori politics, including Te Kotahitanga (Māori Parliament), and issues concerning Māori land.” Some were also active members of the WCTU, “so enfranchisement would have been high on their agenda.”

According to Harris, the success of the Petition “could hardly be taken for granted.” Before the 1893 Petition, two previous petitions—one in 1891 and one in 1892—were defeated, and prior to this there were moves to extend the vote to women as far back as the late 1870s. When asked whether the “general sentiment” among the male population concerning the Petition could be gauged, Harris said it would be difficult to measure. However, she acknowledged that there is “plenty of evidence of men opposing the Petition and the suffragists, both when they sought signatures and later when they voted.” There were also a few men who signed the Petition, and she says, “of course the Petition could not have won the support of Parliament without the support of enough of the men who held those parliamentary seats.”

The importance of these documents cannot be debated. I would consider us lucky to have *three* documents (as opposed to one, like the US Constitution), which are so full of history and debate and progress, that we can point to as evidence of our nation shaping itself. Te Tiriti in particular may be somewhat flawed in its use of conflicting terminology, but it signals when an important step in our history was made, as the British Crown and Māori created a partnership that still continues today. Looking to the future, New Zealanders must continue to recognise these documents, and respect and express the relationships they forged in new, evolving and creative ways. The *He Tohu* exhibition plays a part in this, preserving the histories of these documents and conserving them for future generations. ♦

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A concept: hot boys talking politics

With Anoushka Maharaj

Of the many things that we are taught to be ashamed of, watching reality television is relatively high on that list—right above stalking your ex-boyfriend’s social media, and right below eating cheese fries three out of seven days of the week (I am aware that these three things create a domino effect). Anyway. For the second time this year, I am diving headfirst into a subject we all claim to despise, but the psychology of which we cannot seem to resist—*The Bachelorette*.

Initially starting in 2003, it is both unsurprising and depressing that Rachel Lindsay is the first-ever African-American lead. It is also unsurprising that she has been hailed as the most genuine and charismatic Bachelorette that the show has ever had, managing to be as forthright and charming as possible despite the “obvious” issues we expected from this season. Look, I’m not a total bing bong. I understand that reality television is maybe only 55% grounded in reality, and there are obvious narratives that needed to be fulfilled to keep consumers interested. But overall, this season of *The Bachelorette* did an incredible job of making a fool out of gender stereotypes and embraced very real, raw and upsetting realities that addressed race and class—and hopefully offered a little education to those watching.

An expectedly cheesy trope, *The Bachelorette* hosts an episode dedicated entirely to allowing the men to “tell all”; to air their grievances; to beat their chests and howl at each other in full view of their women and their country. But this episode was unlike any other—when the resident villain, Lee, was caught out for a few racist and misogynistic tweets he had sent out in 2016, the rest of the men suddenly displayed real depth and integrity for the first time in the season. To allow some context, a particularly awful tweet said the NAACP and the KKK were one in the same (except that “one has a sense of shame to cover their racist ass fac-

es”), which is absurd and incredibly offensive.

But what surprised me the most was just how outraged everyone really was—in most social situations it’s difficult to find people who will openly call out someone for their racist or sexist bullshit, let alone *men*, and let alone on a show that is so often dismissed as fickle and superficial. Chris Harrison, the host (who has been respectful of every contestant and has been there to advise them—especially Rachel, who he clearly adores) was visibly upset when he said, “*Just having to read that out makes me uncomfortable*”, which is a pretty clear renouncement of any apolitical nonsense that I expected from him. For a good forty minutes, the men took repeated shots at Lee to get him to admit that what he had said was racist, and questioned his integrity—“*Would you still be sorry if you hadn’t been caught?*”.

I have to admit, it was initially pretty satisfying to see Lee set ablaze in front of a cheering audience, but the confrontation started to become a little too on-the-nose for me (if you hadn’t heard, there is a growing disparity between liberals and far leftists which is becoming increasingly uglier), causing viewers to question, I’m sure, whether the best way to persuade someone to see your perspective is to berate them until they break.

But whatever tiny defence I had for Lee was easier to push aside when I considered the black men on that stage who were calmly yet passionately talking about how hurt they were; when Rachel came out to say that she’d be happy to give Lee “*a black history lesson and a lesson on women’s rights*”; how Josiah pointed out that the NAACP represented those who had come before him who fought to make it possible “*for you and I to sit on this couch together, to go to the same school*”; for Kenny, the “*most likeable guy in the house*,” was trying to raise a young black woman to be better than he was—and raising any child in this current climate

is an undoubtedly terrifying and challenging feat, especially as a minority. While the demon’s name was not spoken, the air was heavy with political and social nuance, and it was both delightful and outrageous to consider that even *The Bachelorette* is not safe from politics.

Aside from The Men eventually offering to help educate an apologetic Lee, which led to an honest-to-goodness “come to Jesus” moment, the best thing about this season of *The Bachelorette* is how sharply it refuted the “traditional” and ultimately harmful idea of what a man should be. The audience was introduced to a *lot* of tearful backstories—with Dean having to address years of trauma in one episode, introducing everyone to a father that had pretty much lost his mind after the loss of Dean’s mother; Peter talking about how guilty he felt about “abandoning” his ex-girlfriend; and Eric, sharing intense personal stories about how he had grown up with a family of drug dealers. Eric’s trajectory has been one of the most inspiring things to witness, as he started the season as a relatively unhappy, brooding and insecure person, but towards the end of the season he has become someone more open and evidently more excited by life (and about love, where he sweetly says, “*All my life I’ve been running from love, but I don’t want to run no more.*” It’s not scripted. Shut up).

While it seems dubious that we might find a shining beacon in the form of *The Bachelorette*, that’s kind of exactly what happened. It did its part in “resisting,” so to speak, by refusing to ignore the persistent injustices that plague modern society. Although *The Bachelorette* might not be 100% real, the issues it addressed were. This is our reality. Simply being alive—as a woman, as a person of colour—is an act of protest in a world that is becoming more unfriendly and more unforgiving as the days go by. ♦



Classic reads for your winter needs

by Hetal Ranchhod

Cold days seem to be getting more and more excruciating, making you wish that you could spend the rest of winter wrapped up in the warmth of your blankets. These long wintry nights not only make you feel like you're becoming a human icicle, but it also makes your brain feel like frozen mush, which won't register anything but the feeling of how to brave the bitter sting of the winter air. I reckon one of the best ways to toast up those brain waves against the frosty sting is by indulging in a series of great books.

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Some say this is one of the "greatest novels of the twentieth century", while others suggest that it's downright "annoying"—*The Catcher in the Rye* tells the story of teenager Holden Caulfield, who is undergoing treatment at a sanatorium. Although this novel is subjected to mixed impressions, one thing that is unanimous among its readers is that the novel revives the teenager in all of us as Holden becomes an icon for teenage rebellion. Holden is portrayed as an extremely rendered character that anyone can identify with.

Although this novel is controversial in the sense that many think that Holden is a mere cynical teenager, I find the opposite of this to be true, seeing as the novel is emotionally powerful due to Salinger's perfect capturing of the adolescent voice through Holden's personality. Some say he's just a cynical teenager dealing with mundane teenage angsts, but I reckon he's a compassionate teen who's struggling to deal with the cynical world. Let's see what you make of it—a definite must-read during these bitterly cold nights.

The Beautiful and the Damned

by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Set during the 1900s, *The Beautiful and the Damned* is a pleasant innovation of classic traditions which are still relevant today. This classic tale

follows the story of Antony Patch, a well-known member of society and potential heir to his grandfather's fortune, and his marriage to the narcissistic Gloria Gilbert. Although the descriptive backstory makes it harder to get to the actual dialogue, the pure quality of characterisation and prose makes it a very enjoyable read. Fitzgerald not only captures the essence of the Jazz Age, but he also skilfully depicts the central characters, and all their self-indulgent glory, in an insightful manner.

The writer's confidence in his own brilliance intertwined with the spirited style of the overall novel made me feel as though I was being immersed in a brand new literary world. Here's hoping that it will embrace you on the same journey.

Milk and Honey by Rupi Kaur

Poetry may not be considered a mainstream form of reading, but thanks to the digital age, poetry has become more relevant. *Milk and Honey* seems to be on everyone's "must-read" list—and that it should be. The novel not only makes you feel invasive, like you're reading someone's diary when you know you shouldn't be, but it also shows the beauty of words as an art form. Although not all poems resonated with me, the unapologetic honesty lingering in each word demonstrates how writing is a therapeutic outlet, no matter the platform it's displayed through.

I undoubtedly believe that to discover the right kind of poetry in order to appreciate it, it's got to speak to you in the same way any book or music genre gets to you. Kaur successfully manages to present her poetry in a real and relatable way, which I reckon is what makes *Milk and Honey* resonate with so many young readers. Whether you're an adamant poetry reader or just choose to indulge in this lyrical world once in awhile, I strongly recommend picking up a copy of *Milk and Honey*. I, for one, will be re-reading it for a very long time.

South of the Border, West of the Sun

by Haruki Murakami

If you're on the hunt for something which will feed your imagination this winter season, then Murakami's *South of the Border, West of the Sun* is the book for you. This novel is an endearing love story of childhood star-crossed lovers mixed with the magic of Japanese realism, leaving you with the overpowering feeling of multiple moods, rather than the pure feeling of satisfaction you get once you've finished a book.

Whilst reading this book multiple times, I have discovered that the best way to describe the narrative style is by imagining an empty Japanese room and then using your mind in order to furnish the apparent emptiness. Although this book may not completely succeed in giving its readers a clear-cut ending, Murakami does show that the surface of a person isn't nearly as important as the substance of their mind. There is always more to the surface of something, just like this charming novel displays.

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

After enduring the cold during the day, there's nothing better than going home to your warm bed, warm food and a light read to bring in the wintry night. *The Outsiders* is a coming-of-age novel which follows the journey of 14-year-old Ponyboy Curtis as he deals with the oh-so-popular adolescent themes of smoking, drinking and sex.

The novel's famous statement "stay gold" is a representation of its theme and, despite the novel being targeted towards high school readers, adults will still find it resonates, as it recreates those idealistic teenage years. Although not many of us would pick an adolescent fiction book as our go-to, this novel definitely cuts through the lovey-dovey couple shit you find in most juvenile fiction and addresses real issues like violence, sexuality and gender, with relevant insight and nuance. For an easy, quiet read on a rainy, cold night, this will definitely be my go-to. ♦



To The Bone

FILM REVIEW BY HETAL RANCHHOD

CONTENT WARNING: DISCUSSES ANOREXIA

There are many films which address the issue of drug and alcohol abuse as well as problems with mental health, yet we still don't see many films which deal with the seriousness of threatening disorders, like anorexia, head on. This all changed earlier this month when renowned film writer and director Marti Noxon, writer and executive producer of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, exhibited the shrugged-off subject exclusively on Netflix's *To The Bone*, which will no doubt reach a wide audience.

The feature film follows the journey of a 20-year-old anorexic girl named Ellen (Lily Collins), who begins her road to recovery by becoming an in-patient at a facility run by the unorthodox Doctor Beckham (Keanu Reeves).

It's important to establish that, although it lacks depth, part of the authenticity of the film was due to Collins and Noxon's own struggles with the self-destructive disease. However, because society today seems to idealise the idea of thinness, more so in Hollywood than anywhere else, this well-intended film may resort to reflecting this "trend".

To the Bone is somewhat disappointing in the sense that Ellen's story isn't particularly out of the norm, but also the budding romance between Ellen and fellow in-patient, Alex Sharp, transforms the film into something along the lines of *The Fault in Our Stars*. The focus on this romance is probably to reach a target audience of adolescents, but it just withdraws the focus from a serious issue and turns it into something superficial. Romanticising anorexia results in gaps in the film, leaving viewers with the question of "how exactly did she get from point A to point B?"

Although this film lacked depth, Collins' performance was outstanding and for young viewers, this film will definitely provide simplistic clarity on the issue of eating disorders. However, for experienced viewers looking for a much needed, hard-hitting story about anorexia, this film doesn't accomplish that. ♦



The Love Witch

FILM REVIEW BY ASTRID CROSLAND

Unapologetically precise and lavishly colourful, *The Love Witch* (Anna Biller, 2016) promo shots caught my eye in the Film Festival schedule immediately. Addressing the figure of the witch as a metaphor for the place of traditional gender archetypes in the modern age, *The Love Witch* revels in the extreme juxtaposition of the roles Elaine tries to embody simultaneously: widow, wife, whore, witch.

Elaine marks herself as a deliberately anachronistic figure in a modern world, attempting to claim witchcraft as religion and a freedom from the expectations of gender she is subjected to, while simultaneously having her personal wholeness marked as dependent on finding a man. Her spells are rituals intended to draw a man to herself and her hex is the effect she has on the men she gives herself to.

The film also offers a visual spectacle. The costuming, hairstyling, makeup, set design, and prop design draw from mid-century pulp fiction, Giallo, vintage revival fashion, and the Rider-Waite tarot in equal parts. Together, these elements make what is probably an instant cult favourite. Treading on camp and melodrama, *The Love Witch* is not afraid to be a film that nods at its own construction, much like Elaine. Her hair is boosted with a synthetic topper and her wardrobe is chosen to "give him his fantasy", but Elaine doesn't seem to care if the audience knows this.

In several lines of voiceover, Elaine and the detective she is romantically pursuing reveal opposite thoughts about how much one should know about the one they love. His thoughts on the topic? Never give up the fantasy for the truth. Elaine performs this impeccably. Her "love" for the men she seduces, the reality of her "witchcraft", and even her hair are all subjectively "real". The one "true" thing we know about Elaine at the end of the film is that she is a woman. ♦



The Beguiled

FILM REVIEW BY JASPER LAU

A remake of the 1971 Don Siegel version starring Clint Eastwood, Sofia Coppola's latest cinematic effort is a masterful reimagining that elevates the original adaptation into a film full of delights and thrills encompassed by the director's signature touches.

Set in 1864 during the American Civil War, the story is about a Union army corporal who is found wounded in the South before being nursed back to health at the local girls-only seminary. Initially skeptical of his presence, they in turn become charmed and begin to fight for his attention.

Although the plot is relatively thin, what pulls the audience in throughout its 90-minute running time is the inherent sexual tension between the characters and the uncertain fate of the corporal. The underrated Colin Farrell plays the wounded corporal with such charisma that the audience is never certain of his intentions, as the female teachers, played excellently by both Kirsten Dunst and Nicole Kidman, struggle with his presence.

Whilst Coppola's version of *The Beguiled* is taken from a feminist perspective that questions the role of men, it is evidenced throughout the film that Coppola is far more interested in the dynamics between the females. She notes that the unhappiness between Dunst and Kidman's characters stems from the lack of men in their constrained lifestyle, and they are therefore trapped by their own fantasies. We get Coppola's signature dreamlike cinematography throughout the film to capture this recurring motif, which is enhanced by the stylistic lighting and eerie silence choices reminiscent of Stanley Kubrick's *Barry Lyndon*.

Arguably, the only weaknesses from Coppola's version is that the third act begins and ends rather abruptly, sacrificing much of the drama that had been set up previously by its characters, and more risks could have been taken with the narrative—but these are minor problems that can be easily overlooked. With *The Beguiled*, Coppola has finally returned back to form and delivered an excellent remake that will certainly leave you beguiled by the end. ♦



The Kite String Tangle

The Kite String Tangle

ALBUM REVIEW BY AIMEE MATTHEWS

The Kite String Triangle's namesake album is an album that prefers to swim in the deep levels of the ocean. It's cold there, sad too, maybe disturbing, and for a brief second, swims a bit higher before returning to the deep dark ocean for the rest of the album.

"Know By Now" swims deep. I had to check my ears to see what he was singing. Heard correctly, it was "*And when you drink too much I will hold your hair*". Good to see this guy cares about this girl's hair, and maybe not her (possible) drinking problem. Just kidding. I may have read too much into it. But I won't forget hair ties now.

Thankfully, *The Kite String Triangle* swims higher into the light blue in "Wanderlust", but only briefly before swimming down back into the deep ocean. In "Selfish", the song is deep, quite literally. "*It only hurts if it draws blood*" is an actual line in the song. I told you it was dark.

Having recently returned to listening to the radio again, I had forgotten that swear words are bleeped or blurred terribly from the ear-friendly radio shows. Of course, for the sake of the broad audiences that popular shows garner to include young kids and parents, they must satisfy both parties and blur naughty words out. But having been attuned to its absence, when I heard "*If we both stop fucking around, it'll be alright*" in "Beneath the Canopy", I was reassured that it's nice to hear swear words in music once in awhile. Plus, sometimes it sounds good too.

The album doesn't swim too deep into the ocean where it gets pitch black and scary. It holds a bearable amount of sadness that won't bore you entirely of its mellow tone, and still allows you to comfortably swim deeply into the ocean. ♦



A Ghost Story

FILM REVIEW BY MAMANTHA CHIANOTTY

A Ghost Story is one of independent film company A24's latest releases, the purveyors behind *Swiss Army Man* (total banger), *Moonlight* (absolute banger), *The Lobster* (weirdo banger) and the like. It is a tale of love and loss between Rooney Mara and Casey Affleck, the latter of whom becomes a sheeted ghost following his unexpected death, claustrophobically confined to the home he and his partner once shared. For those of us who find Casey Affleck's continued presence in excellent movies upsetting (see: Brie Larson striking a power pose and refusing to applaud his win at this year's Oscars), we can take small comfort in assuming that he probably dutched himself at least twice.

Director David Lowery's great success lies in the way he manages to convey so much with so little; the film is eerily quiet (to the point that your rustling paper bag of sour coke bottles is cast asunder), lingering on scenes that you feel you have no business bearing witness to (see: Rooney Mara weeping and going at a chocolate cream pie for a reported nine minutes uninterrupted). We learn little from dialogue, and there is little in the way of an expansive plot—we are bound to our phantom friend as he is bound to his house, waiting for the return of his loved one long after her departure. Despite an absence of expression or speech from our sheet-wearing spectre, your heart aches for this fella, detached from time and physical space with nothing to do but reflect (sounds like me lying in bed at 2am, amirite?!).

An indie film anchored by drawn out scenes and protracted silence has all the makings of pretentious wank. While *A Ghost Story* sometimes comes close to the pretentious cliff edge, it never leaps off headfirst. Saved by a beautiful score and moments of piercing humour, *A Ghost Story* manages to tell a melancholy tale of appreciation for love and life, on both a small and significant scale. ♦



Spiderman: Homecoming

FILM REVIEW BY DARIO DAVIDSON

SPOILERS

The latest instalment in Marvel's ever-growing behemoth franchise, *Spider-Man: Homecoming* picks up directly after the events of Marvel's *Civil War*.

The story focuses on a 15 year old Peter Parker (portrayed by the surprisingly English Tom Holland), and the usual problems that go with our favourite web-slinger that we are becoming all too familiar with—School, love interests, nerdy science exploits, and sneaking out to fight bike thieves in Brooklyn. Blissfully, we were not subjected to sitting through another spider bite scene, or a weepy, raspy death sequence involving the doomed Uncle Ben.

The tone of this film definitely indicates it is aimed at Marvel's younger demographic, as indeed it should be. *Spider-Man* has always been the teenaged hero for teenagers, and as such you can be forgiven for finding parts of this film a bit juvenile or glazed with angst. None of these make it a bad film, it's good for what it is. It fits in well to Marvel's larger universe. With frequent appearances by the armoured Avenger himself, a somewhat careworn looking Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man adopts the role of mentor and supervisor for the youngest ever Spider-Man in film, and as a plot driver it works well.

The film's antagonist, excellently portrayed by an aged Michael Keaton, is a suitably bad and scary villain. A far cry from his squawking and hawk-nosed comic book origins, his wingsuit and mask are flawlessly animated next to some thrilling sound effects. My personal favourites are the vulture inspired talon-boots he uses. Although there are some plot holes and inevitable inconsistencies, overall this film is a pretty good way to spend 140 minutes.

On the Marvel-ometer, using the *Fantastic 4* reboot as a big steaming pile of 0/10 and *Captain America 2: The Winter Soldier* as a shiny golden 10/10, *Spider-Man: Homecoming* would get a 7/10 from me. Great action scenes, and a few good laughs too. ♦



The Best Albums of 2017 (So Far)

Helen Yeung rants about her favourite album releases of the year with Chris Wong

Although we've only just passed the halfway mark for 2017, there have been some exceptional album releases already. Before we start though, here's the backstory behind our spotlight. We met at *Craccum* drinks a few months back and bonded over the fact that we're both Chinese, constantly sleep deprived from assignments and massive music nerds, which is rare, you know? We became pals and decided we should collaborate to write this spotlight. So, here it goes!

HELEN'S PICKS

Toro Y Moi – *Boo Boo*

I'll let you in on a secret, folks. When I was in high school, I had the biggest crush on Chazwick Bradley, who we all know as Toro Y Moi. His cute glasses, beanie, floral pastel aesthetics—all so dreamy. I am also a huge fan of his previous albums—*Anything in Return*, containing thirteen of the most atmospheric, chill, electronic tracks, and *What For?*, which showcases a fusion of his trademark electronic beats with early 90s indie rock artists such as Elliott Smith and The Flaming Lips.

This year, Bradley released his fifth studio album titled *Boo Boo*, an emotive album heavily

influenced by his breakup at the end of 2015. Replicating his stylistic approach in *Anything in Return*, particularly in tracks such as “Girl Like You”, “Mirage” and “Inside My Head”, he features a synthy, futuristic play on electronically-generated sounds. In an earlier interview, Bradley discussed how his fame got in the way of his personal life, placing him in a difficult headspace and consequently leading to his breakup. Featuring indie musician Madeline Kenney in the track “W.I.W.T.W.”, her verse in the song clearly reflects how the woman has fallen out of love in the relationship. Packed full of emotion and feelings, give *Boo Boo* a listen if you haven't already.

Jay Som – *Everybody Works*

Literally got into Jay Som because of her cover of Dido's “White Flag” on a compilation mixtape called *Group Effort Vol. 1* (find it on Bandcamp or Spotify). You'd be lying if you haven't secretly loved Dido's hit at some point of your life, right? Anyway, meet Jay Som, the musical project of California-based songwriter Melina Duterte—who is, in my opinion, one of the coolest women of colour I've come across in my music searches this year. Recently releasing *Everybody Works*,

this 10-track album embodies a soft, romantic vibe whilst showcasing Duterte's voice more than ever. Particularly in comparison to the vocals on her last album, *Turn Into*, which was clearly influenced by a multiplicity of shoegaze bands such as My Bloody Valentine and Cocteau Twins. There is undoubtedly an overpowering pop influence in *Everybody Works*, with Duterte celebrating her influence from Carly Rae Jepsen's 2016 album, *E•MO•TION*, as present in the vocals of her track “One More Time, Please”.

She doesn't fail to maintain an indie, lo-fi edge to her tracks, particularly in the track “Bay-bee”, serving as a reminder of Mac Demarco or Ariel Pink. But most of all, *Everybody Works* is a tribute to 90s indie rock, much like present-day bands such as Pity Sex and Modern Baseball.

Japanese Breakfast – *Soft Sounds From Another Planet*

Another amazing woman of colour in music right now, Japanese Breakfast is the solo music project of Michelle Zauner, who despite the name “Japanese” Breakfast, is of Korean descent. With her previous album *Psychopomp*, Zauner's project set off to showcase a juxtaposition of Asian exoti-

cism and dominant American culture.

This year's *Soft Sounds From Another Planet* resonates similar themes of connecting with Asian culture, particularly in the song "Diving Woman", where through drawing parallels to "haenyeo", the Korean tradition of female divers, she expresses the guilt she faces putting her career ahead of her family as a touring woman musician. This imbalance in work expectations for men and women in Asian culture Zauner sings of is definitely relatable: "*The men have gone and left again / And no one's shocked or blames them / Another day is shot, my friend I'm picking up the pieces*".

Throughout *Soft Sounds From Another Planet*, love and sexuality are themes which dominate the tracks. While in "Boyish", she sings of her inability to keep away from her lover: "*I can't get you off my mind, I can't get you off in general*", in "12 Steps" Zauner discovers the love of her life, giving an apology to the person she was seeing at the time. Did I mention she's an advocate for pushing marginalised voices forward in queer, women, non-binary music communities? All the more reason to check out Japanese Breakfast.

Fazerdaze – Morningside

How can I review my favourites without including local sounds?! I started listening to Fazerdaze right after I saw them live at Aotea Square and bawled my eyes out at Sufjan Stevens that same night. I also spent a good hour listening to Sufjan Stevens preach about existentialism and his favourite French philosopher, but that's another story. Bathing in warm sunlight, taking a walk in the Domain Wintergardens or a long road trip down to the beach in summer... That's what Fazerdaze really reminds me of—featuring vocals from Amelia Murray with a light, airy indie pop beat. The tracks "Jennifer", "Bedroom Talks" and "Little Uneasy" are my personal favourites. *Morningside* evoked a sense of nostalgia for me, reminiscent of bands I listened to a few years back—The Drums, Seapony and Eternal Summers. With Fazerdaze's dreamy sounds, I promise it's something to take the edge off after a long day.

CHRIS'S PICKS

Tyler, The Creator – Flower Boy

With the album release surrounded by over-

blown speculation of Tyler's sexuality, *Flower Boy* had a lot to live up to, in order to cut through the chatter. On *Flower Boy*, Tyler shows immense growth in every aspect of songwriting and production, while also opening up and confessing about his anxieties and worries, and going on a journey of self-discovery and growth.

Stylistically, *Flower Boy* ventures all over the place from the pretty trappings of "Garden Shed" to the no-holds-barred energy of "Who Dat Boy" and "I Ain't Got Time", but also feels much more cohesive than previous projects due to its length and less filler. The extremely layered and intricate production also makes it feel as if you're always discovering something new on each listen. Yet after listening to it all so many times, we're still no closer to understanding his sexuality, but Tyler doesn't seem to care as the only way for him to go is up.

Brockhampton – Saturation

In what is probably my favourite discovery of the year, the "All-American boy band" and hip-hop collective Brockhampton come out with all guns blazing on their debut album, seamlessly mixing together their influences from genres across the board.

Album opener "HEAT" has the group giving us their take on aggressive and experimental hip-hop with a raw distorted bassline and angsty vocals. Meanwhile at the latter end of the album, on songs like "SWIM", "MILK" and "WASTE", Brockhampton put on display their more melodic indie stylings. They're also not afraid to break barriers and discuss topics commonly avoided in hip-hop, discussing sexuality, self-acceptance, and fitting in on songs like "TRIP", and deeming themselves the "South Side One Direction" in "BOYS".

Intertwined with skits in between, the album really takes on a life of its own, and their effortless melding of many contrasting genres makes *Saturation* stand out from the rest of the crowd of hip-hop projects released this year. Not bad for a group of kids who had originally met on an Internet forum.

SZA – Ctrl

SZA's polished up her alternative R&B vibe on debut album *Ctrl*, cleaning up some of the hazi-

ness of her older EPs and bringing in a more commercial sound, while still not being afraid to test the boundaries of the genre. A majority of the album is built from deeply personal experiences, with SZA tearing apart her exes and discussing regretful relationships. This is shown from the beginning as SZA savagely confesses on opener "Supermodel" that she had been secretly banging her ex's homeboy while he had been in Vegas, as he had purposely left her on Valentine's Day to party there.

On "The Weekend", SZA describes the dual perspectives of acting as the main chick and the sidekick of an unloyal man, only there to keep him satisfied through the weekend. Not to mention, the features on *Ctrl* are outstanding; Kendrick Lamar gives an interesting verse on "Doves in the Wind"—an anthem dedicated to pussy and female empowerment—while Travis Scott guests on "Love Galore", a song about recovering from a loveless relationship. *Ctrl* is a feminist affair, coming from a point of view that has all too often been ignored.

Lorde – Melodrama

Melodrama sees Lorde fleshing out a much fuller sound, drawing from elements of 80s retro pop and new wave. With no huge "Royals"-esque hit to spearhead the album, *Melodrama* is left to carry itself on its own terms, which it does comfortably and is just as cohesive as *Pure Heroine* while being more embracing and rich, detailing the emotional rollercoaster of a house party.

While heavy on the themes of heartache, loneliness and solitude, the hooks on the album are infectious, without sounding like your typical pop choruses, with Max Martin even going as far to call Lorde out on "*incorrect songwriting*". "Green Light" and "Sober" each bring fresh sounds to the table with their house piano and blaring horn sections, while "The Louvre" with Flume and Malay's guest production and intimate-yet-powerful lyrics makes it one of the best pop songs of the year.

The haunting "Writer In The Dark" sees her most capable vocal performance yet, with her channelling Kate Bush-inspired wails during the chorus, lamenting an ex-lover. Where *Pure Heroine* was a sparse black and white venture, *Melodrama* is a fully realised technicolour vision. ♦

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NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN FOR NOMINATIONS OF 2018 AUSA EXECUTIVE & 2017 ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICER

2018 OFFICER POSITIONS: President, Administrative Vice-President, Education Vice-President, Welfare Vice-President, Treasurer.

2018 PORTFOLIO POSITIONS: Culture and Communications Officer, Environmental Affairs Officer, Grafton Representative (Must be a Grafton Student), International Students' Officer (Must be an International Student), Political Engagement Officer, Queer Rights Officer, Student Engagement Officer, Women's Rights Officer, *Craccum* Editor

Nominations open on Monday, 24 July 2017. Nomination forms are available from AUSA Reception, 4 Alfred Street. Nominations close at 3.00 pm on Friday, 11 August 2017. They must be handed in to AUSA Reception only.

In accordance with the Auckland University Students' Association's Constitution, nominations are open to currently enrolled students of the University of Auckland, who must be members of AUSA. Accordingly, all nominees must present proof of current enrolment, and any other required information, to the Returning Officer no later than the close of nominations, or their nomination will be ruled invalid.

Please Note: To run for the Treasurer's position you must have passed at least two Accounting papers at the University of Auckland and show proof of this.

- AUSA Returning Officer

US LEADERSHIP TOUR 2018

We are beyond excited to announce the US Leadership Tour 2018! Co-Directors Victoria Brownlee and Penelope Jones will be taking 14 talented NZ tertiary students on an educational tour of the US in January/February 2018. Delegates will compete at the Harvard Model United Nations, meet the biggest players in foreign affairs and visit famous US attractions. Will you join them? Applications are open NOW and close on 13 August 2017. More information and application packs are available at <https://unyouth.org.nz/events/us-leadership-tour/>. Feel free to contact usleadershiptour@unyouth.org.nz with any questions.

- UN Youth Auckland

Womensfest 2017

Womensfest is back and better than ever! Get ready for some fun events celebrating women and highlighting diverse experiences of women on campus!

Monday features the "This is what feminists look like" photo exhibit, popping up everyday in a new location on campus. Later at 7-9pm is the Women's Choice Election Forum in the Library Basement, Room B28.

Get ready to be active on Tuesday between 11:45am and 1:30pm when Sport and Rec host lunchtime sports at the recreation centre! Register for this on the Womensfest Facebook page! Later at 6pm is the Womensfest movie night! Come along to the Shadows back room to watch 10 Things I Hate About You!

Womensfest continues on Wednesday with a Communicating with Confidence Workshop from 12-1pm in the Science Building (303-310). For all you Epsom students out there, have fun at the Womensfest

sausage sizzle hosted by ESSA from 12:30pm at the Epsom campus.

On Thursday there will be a Women's Expo in the quad from 12pm to 3pm! Some pretty cool companies, charities and clubs who are all for women empowerment will be running stalls. There will be free food and entertainment from talented students. In evening, there will be a Women's Self-defence Class from 6:15pm - register on the Facebook page as space is limited!.

Friday contains an awesome "This is what feminists look like" poetry and tea with Campus Feminist Collective and Thursday's in Black! This will be taking place from 5-7pm in the Student Common Room above the food court. Come along to see the full exhibit and hear awesome poetry. Straight after that is the Campus Feminist Collective Feminist Pub Quiz in Shadows at 7pm.

We hope to see everyone there! •



Women's Self-defence Class

Thursday 10 August, 6pm,
Old SJS Office (above Quad)

This is for women who wish to learn the basics of self-defence. Spaces are limited and filling up quick, so register on Facebook!

Womensfest



f @ausawro

Amateur
Hour
*With
Jordan Margetts*

An Inappropriate Question

Each week Jordan, disgraced former-editor-in-chief, tries to impart political wisdom but mainly just cries in the shower.

Six weeks before the election and we get some rather fantastic news: a lady and a Māori are leading our nation's second largest party. This is all very wonderful. As it turns out, a certain *Craccum* columnist argued (somewhere around Issue Two) that Ardern has a kind of public charisma totally lacking in our post-Clark Labour leadership. Ardern (or "Jacinda" as everyone keeps referring to her) is a sort of perfect balance for the Labour Party: she's young-ish (she's addressed this herself: "youth adjacent"); she's basically empty (as far as I can tell she has no policy views that weren't developed by a marketing team); and she's publicly compelling.

Look how she managed to turn some vague sexism from Mark Richardson (asking about baby plans and how these relate to her leadership potential) into the ultimate Jacinda moment. Now, obviously, the question was sexist—at least deeply unfair—the idea that we have a (politically speaking) young woman running for office and suddenly commentators are at pains to point out that she's of fertile age. But the question also mirrors a pretty common concern about employing young(ish) women in senior positions: young(ish) women sometimes get pregnant, sometimes this pregnancy results in babies, sometimes these babies result in, like, 9+ months not working.

It may seem pretty obvious that given half the human race (potentially) have baby-crafting capacities, it's just shitty to inhibit jobbery on that basis (despite my being a white straight bloke

means I'd pretty much be Don Draper if not for all these ladies in the workforce). But to a few former cricketers and current radio broadcasters, this question is a deep complex leadership problem. And to non-cricketeering non-radio-broadcasting students this is even better: a prime moment for virtue signalling. Imagine, my god, if you can scream that you totally fucking hate what's been done to Jacinda across the Law School cafe. Fuck. Impressive. Feminist. Outrage.

But this aside, what impresses me isn't Jacinda's pretty lame (but, naturally, lauded) attempts at feminism. I mean, "this is a fine question for me... but for anyone else it's absolutely inappropriate", is pretty lame.¹ A few classic alternatives—"you're being sexist", "I could easily have only two weeks off, get fucked", "you seem like a cunt", and "shut up, you're jealous"—would all work better. But somehow "it's fine you asked me, but asking anyone else is shit" is about the most middling, boring, tedious response possible. Jacinda can appeal to the youth by making some kind of stand, and can appeal to the old by dealing with the question *honestly*, because, hey, she asked for it.

Now, here's the point: that in claiming that she "opened [herself] up for it", she's actually being a pretty shit feminist. Because, surely if running for office "opens [you] up for it" then so does applying for an executive position, or

a professorship, or, fuck, *Craccum* Editor. The question is either appropriate or not. If a woman getting pregnant is a massive cost to the employer, and that question is wrong (given that women are sort of forced by biological necessity to be bound to the ole egg-sack-n-chain), then office-runner or not, surely it's a shitty thing to ask? Do we think Jacinda said it was fine in her case specifically because she felt that way? Because Richardson was asking a question that *was* legitimate to her but not others? Of course not. Jacinda fucking knows that's either a shit question or it isn't, one particular woman going for one particular job does not excuse it. But if you're talking with a former-cricketer player and current radio presenter, then you know who you're speaking with: middle New Zealand. The grey-haired, ruddy-skinned, beer-bellied, douche-bag masses. The champions who scratch their balls in public, belch on command, and fart when they vomit. The sort of people with fucking no time for rabid feminism. But of course, if you appeal solely to these testicle-ticklers you risk alienating the weird-of-hair and pert-of-cheek and social-of-justice-warrior.

And thus the brilliance of J-dawg. She gets to sound tough and snarky, but also reasonable, she responds to the totally legitimate critiques of her womb, but is also feminist and tell-it-like-it-is. We all know Labour will have a tough time doing okay. We all know Winny is the only hope for a left(ish) government. But hey, at least they have a leader who's brilliant at public manipulation. ♦

¹ She discussed this once before. Apparently that separates her from the full rest of the female non-boomer population.

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Quarter-Life Crisis



With
Caitlin Abley

Erasebook

Each week Caitlin, disgraced former-editor-in-chief, tackles an item from her list of Twenty Things To Do In Your Twenties and tries to pass it off as journalism.

I had reasonably optimistic expectations going into *Baby Driver* last week. Edgar Wright proved himself Director of the Millennium with his tour de force/tour de fucking great *Hot Fuzz*—call me Judge Judy and Executioner, because I sentence that film to a lifetime of BEING A TIMELESS CLASSIC. *Baby Driver* was pretty solid, with a ripper soundtrack and lots of vroom vroom. My main complaint centred on the scene in which Jon Hamm and Ansel Elgort shared a pair of headphones and *they both put the buds in their right ears*—one of them had to have the left earbud! C'mon!

Aside from this, I couldn't shake the feeling that Elgort was a bit odd. A bit squiffy. His face made me feel like I'd just stepped into a little wet patch on the kitchen floor while wearing socks. Turns out this feeling had some foundation; shortly after seeing the film, Old Mate editor-in-chief sent me an excellent piece of journalism that ruthlessly exposed Elgort's sordid underbelly—the BuzzFeed list, "I'm Starting To Think Ansel Elgort Is Really Fucking Obsessed With His Girlfriend". The list is composed of a series of screenshots displaying the weird-as-fuck stuff Elgort comments on his girlfriend's *very public* Instagram account, including: "Omfg why aren't you here", "Come over please... [dead face emoji, tongue poke emoji]" and la crème de la creep, "I want to lick you everywhere".

This nightmarish hellscape inspired me to tackle the following item on my list, proposed by an obscure Pennsylvania radio station (98fm THIS IS BIGFOOT COUNTRY, courtesy of page eight of my Google search). According to these fun-loving dudes, a must-do in your twenties is to:

Sanitise your social media profiles.

I hope to ever-loving god that I have never written the equivalent of "I want to lick you everywhere" anywhere ever, let alone on a digital platform, but I thought this one was worth a shot. My Instagram account is full of bullshit hippie platitudes from my "finding myself" phase, but nothing that a prospective employer would look twice at. My Facebook page, on the other hand...

At the tender age of fifteen, when I first set up a Facebook account, I was trying *very hard* to be liked by my peers. I truly conceptualised myself as a wisecracking, straight-shooting larrikin that could find popularity in hilarious statuses and contrived satirical (I use this word generously) photoshoots. I was, in short, a cunt. And I can tell you that going back through my social media output from high school has proved to be a colossal blow to my self-esteem. I wouldn't recommend it to anyone.

After deleting the *hundreds* of posts between me and an ex (why god, why did we ever think it was acceptable to communicate via separate fucking wall posts instead of in a chat window whhh-hhyyyyyyyyyy relieve me from this torment), I was forced to turn my attention to my old statuses. I can vividly remember the nervous excitement I would get while crafting each status, convinced that I truly was a paragon of wit, when in reality I was, in fact, a dumbass. There seem to have been some recurring themes.

15-Year-Old Me (A Dipshit) On Family

"Mum just implied that the only way I'll be giving her grandchildren is through artificial insemination. Love you too Mum." (This actually happened. It was a fair call.)

"I just walked in on my dad commentating a scrap between my dog and my cat. His finishing line was 'Yo, cat bitch, what you gonna do now?' What a hoodrat." (This almost certainly never happened. Shut the fuck up.)

"Me: 'But dad, what if the HPV vaccination makes me infertile?!' My father: (after a long pause) 'Get a cat?'" (I feel it's necessary to point out that my Catholic educators threatened us with both pregnancy and infertility as an outcome of pretty much any sexual contact and to this day I'm scared of french kissing.)

15-Year-Old Me (An Asshole) On Pop Culture

"Just watched *Stormbreaker* again. It's still crap, but the scenery more than makes up for it!" (I'm

sorry, but the saddest day of my whole goddamn life was when I realised I was too old to think 14-year-old Alex Pettyfer was sexy as all heck.)

"Just discovered a family tree I made for French back in '06. Underneath the title "Moi" was a picture of Eva Longoria. Oh, the wishful thinking of a chubby year eight..." (A few years ago, someone saw my year eight school photo and said I looked like a dishwasher. When I asked whether they meant the machine or someone who literally washes dishes, they replied, "...both". I was a little troll.)

"I just read the Glamour.com sexiest men list. The entire top five play either vampires or werewolves. JUSTIN BIEBER WAS NUMBER SEVEN. I weep for the state of this world." (Oh fuck off Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner and Justin B are all hot as hell what is this nonsense?!)

[Accompanied by a link to Taylor Swift's latest album] "I just keep listening to it and the more I do the better it gets!!! Why is she so amazing. WHY." (You're all going to hate me but... I stand by this.)

15-Year-Old Me (A Relentless Jerk) On Miscellaneous Matters

"Loves it when my 70 year old boss suggests that teenagers should have sex more so we can sell more pregnancy tests." (I got paid \$7 an hour for this job. Ha ha. Help me.)

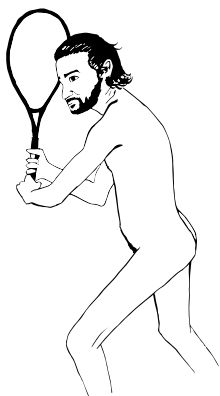
"I think I'm in love with ZUMBA!" (I stand by this one too.)

"Got shut down by the po-po on New Year's Eve—Riding my bike without a helmet. Oooh hope mum doesn't find out!" (I got caught by the police a second time later on, for carrying a four-pack of raspberry Vodka Cruisers under my jumper. I cried as they poured them out on the sand.)

"Two ants mating on my bed. Are you on her bottom, or on her head? I can't tell, you are too small. But it sure seems you're having a ball." (I hate myself.)

The worst part of this whole process is knowing I'll look back on the tens of thousands of words I have printed in Craccum and be equally ashamed. Shit. ♦

How to Talk About Sport



*With
Mark Fullerton*

Things That Are Called Sports That Are Not Sports

Each week Mark, disgraced former-editor-in-chief, tries desperately to convince everyone that he does believe in fairies, he does, he does, while fending off pleading midnight texts from Columns Editor Caitlin "Sorry I'm Late, I Was Taking A Poo And It Was A Real Wrestler" Abley asking where his column is.

Winter is upon us, which means a number of things. First and foremost, the Super Rugby Final.¹ Second and secondmost, it means that the gentle slopes of every artificially-powdered downhill slope along our islands will be overrun by the rich and white who pay exorbitant prices to stand still while sliding forward on two sticks. Third and thirdmost, my throat is sore and I don't have TIME to be sick. Fuck winter. The cunt.

Skiing isn't a sport. No matter what you say, a sport where you stand still for the duration of your competition is not fun to watch, nor is it fun to do.² But skiing is not alone in things that are not sports being considered sports, and because I can't (and don't really want to, to be honest) write on the Super Rugby final,³ and Caitlin

1 But, of course, that was two days before you read this, which puts it at a fuckin' inconvenient three days after this column is due, but I won't bore you with yet more complaints about deadlines, nor will I bore you by toeing the *Herald* party line of "If The Crusaders Lose It Is Not Because The Lions Are Actually A Formidable Force But Rather Because The Crusaders Had To Travel To South Africa Wah Wah Wah How Unfair". Here's a thought—maybe the Lions having to travel to New Zealand is the reason why they haven't been as effective whenever they've come to New Zealand, and the same goes for every other South African Super Rugby team. I said it a few weeks ago: just because the Lions didn't have to face any New Zealand sides in the lead-up to the playoffs doesn't necessarily mean they were going to lose to them. But no, travel only becomes a factor when New Zealand teams have to travel to the Highveld, and not the other way round, and what the fuck is the Highveld anyway?

2 Fuck skiing. I once saw a kid slide down Mt Victoria in a cardboard box. Not on a box—IN a box. It was fucking tense, watching his grandfather bundle him up and close the lid, then gently push him down the slope. Adrenaline, danger, the real potential for injury and/or a visit from CYFS. THAT'S a spectator sport.

3 Fuck the Hurricanes. Fuck the Chiefs. Fuck the Lions. While I'm all for the Lions, and think they definitely deserve to win this season despite what people not on the Highveld will tell you, and once (twice) vehemently

keeps telling me how easy listicles are in lieu of well thought-out analytical columns, this is what we're doing this week.

BOXING

A.K.A two people wandering around a square touching each other until one falls over. There is a special place in Hell reserved for people who think boxing is a legitimate spectator sport. But not because of the violence—if you're good at knocking people the FUCK out, you may as well be wearing gloves and get a bit of fitness value out of it. Partially it comes down to the price. All things considered, \$50 is about right for the time and money that goes into arranging a fight, but surely promoters can understand that a) no one wants to watch the undercard, and b) no one wants to pay \$50 for a fight that could be over within three minutes à la the Tua/Cameron "Fight of the Century" in 2009. Fuck boxing.

DRESSAGE

A dancing horse is not a sport, it is a dancing horse. And people win Olympic medals for that shit. Fuck dressage.

BOBSLEIGH

Cool Runnings fucking binged, but that doesn't mean that hopping in a tube and sliding around on some ice is a sport. The light-hearted 1993 Jon Turteltaub comedy generated enough goodwill to see bobsleigh included in the Winter Olympics for years to come, which is a fucking rort. Fuck bobsleigh. Or bobsled? Who knows. Fuck 'em both.

advocated for the immediate assassination of the entire Crusaders squad, the boys from ChCh have come so close so many times. The Lions will have their time, but it is not this day. Or was it? Fuck these deadlines.

LUGE

The luge is like bobsleigh, a sport which involves making yourself as flat as possible and hiding from wind. Is a sport where you make a conscious effort to diminish your physical presence really a sport? Short answer, no. Fuck the luge.⁴

SKELETON

The skeleton is like the luge, except you lie face-forward instead of on your back. Important questions being a) why does a sport so similar to another sport warrant a separate category, and b) why. Fuck it.

CHESS

Not a sport, and whenever I try to play I always fall victim to that three-move checkmate. Fuck chess.

SQUASH

Tennis, but in a box. I played squash at high school, and our team had a slightly worse winning record than the Southern Kings (read: one win in three years).

The modern pentathlon is the one true sport. Fuck everything else. Up the pentathlon! •

4 But not the Rotorua luge, which is a thrilling journey down winding roads with stunning scenery, until you realise that you've chosen the vehicle with a fucking octagonal wheel or some shit and after you judder-bar to the end you awkwardly stumble out of the cart, letting go of the handle and allowing the luge to make one final leap for freedom because the "stop" position is located just after the "go really fucking fast" position, and you wonder if the person who invented the luge control system is somehow related to the person who invented the shower system where you have to cycle back through "hot" to "not hot" to "kinda cold" to "fucking freezing" before it turns off, or whether they collaborated specifically to fuck with you, and then you remember how much you're paying for the anus-numbing experience. You know what? Fuck the Rotorua luge.

**By Popular
Demand**



*With
Michael Clark*

Ode to Emojis Part II: Navigating the Racial Politics of Emojis

Each week Michael, long-time writer and all-round teddy bear, tries to persuade you to take pop culture seriously.

For those who didn't get to last week's column, I talked about the relationship we had with the emojis we use and what they really mean when they're used. Oxford likens them to words, but many linguists disagree. Emojis are facial expressions, gestures, concepts and objects shrunk down into a single character for the ease of data transference. But because emojis stand in for our gestures and faces, they represent the individual using them. So, can a person use an emoji with a different skin tone to their own?

Last December, Ellen Pompeo (Meredith Grey in *Grey's Anatomy*) got some backlash when she used a black emoji in a well-meaning tweet. She promptly defended herself and so did a lot of her followers, resulting in a back and forth between passionate tweeters. Things were said, accounts were made private, the argument progressed to something else, but it brought to the frontier the unease in the racial politics of emojis.

Rapper The Game on *The Nightly Show* finds the usage "offensive"—using someone else's colour as a bit of a pat on the back for being inclusive. At the same time, Aminatou Sow from podcast *Call Your Girlfriend* says that she doesn't really mind how it's used and she just wants to be "a fly on the wall for white people having this conversation." Paige Tutt in *The Washington Post* also agrees with that and goes one step further, challenging the necessity of race in emojis: "Because I'm black, should I now feel compelled to use the 'appropriate' brown-skinned nail-painting emoji? Why would I use the white one? Now in simple text messages and tweets, I have to identify myself racially." She argues that it would have been better to exclude race from emojis

rather than be inclusive of more races. This plays into Annemarie Shrouder's question "who are the skin tones for?", suggesting that it could be a signal of pride, but also a way for white people to feel less guilty about their situation.

I don't know if I have a clear answer to this question. Of all the articles I've read on this topic, most of the vocal ones have been written by white people, which I have generally taken with a pinch of salt. But it brings me to the idea that, for the most part, white people are the most uncomfortable using the skin tones in emojis.

Andrew McGill has beautifully written an article about the topic, and if you're going to read anything, read this. He records the ratio of emoji skin tone usage on Twitter and breaks down the statistics. There is a severe discrepancy between the ratio of users and the ratio of emojis used. White people are opting more for the yellow emoji than the emojis with the light coloured texture. After interviewing many people about their emoji preference and why they choose it, he states:

"This effect may also signal a squeamishness on the part of white people. The folks I talked to before writing this story said it felt awkward to use an affirmatively white emoji; at a time when skin-tone modifiers are used to assert racial identity, proclaiming whiteness felt uncomfortably close to displaying 'white pride', with all the baggage of intolerance that carries. At the same time, they said, it feels like co-opting something that doesn't exactly belong to white people."

White people become self-conscious when they use their skin colour in an emoji because the act of choosing a skin colour is a process. The

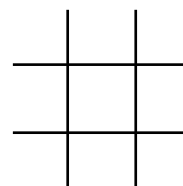
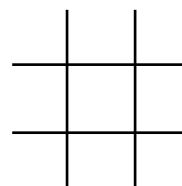
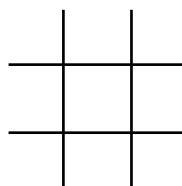
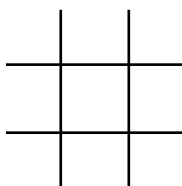
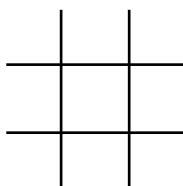
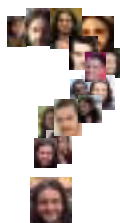
user goes out of their way to choose the white emoji and runs the risk of it being a political statement. From a distance, rather than looking like an organic decision, the choice of a white emoji seems like a response to the explosive use of black emojis, like how the whole #alllivesmatter "movement" came as a response to the misinterpretation of #blacklivesmatter. So the yellow emojis seem like an easy opt-out future for misinterpretations involving racial politics.

This ties into Tutt's anxiety over using the darker skin emoji—some people of colour don't want to politically charge every conversation with black pride, but they don't want to allow total misrepresentation. "It's disempowering," Aditya Mukerjee writes, "because people of color are uniquely burdened with this choice." White people are not burdened by this choice at all and can easily slip into non-representation and still be considered the default. Part of the reason why white anxiety exists when selecting an emoji is the forced acknowledgement that we still live in a world where we are the default.

Our emojis are digital stand-ins for ourselves; what is contested is how much of ourselves we should put in these handy little characters. Is the point of these things just to send facial expressions and gestures, or do we want these to be text message avatars of our real selves? The inclusivity of more skin tone options makes it seem like the Unicode Consortium are gunning for the latter, but not everyone is in agreement. These are the questions that need to be answered if we want to progress with our idealistic fantasy of emojis being something more than what they are now. ♦

BABY'S BOTTOM SUDOKU

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



KISSES AND QUIZZES

EASY (ONE POINT)

1. The Dominion Post is based in which city?
2. What colour were the 99 balloons sung about by Nena in the English version of the 1983 hit?
3. What are the three main states in which matter can exist?

MEDIUM (TWO POINTS)

4. What was the nickname of Anthony Scaramucci, the recently fired White House Director of Communications?
5. In which country would you find the Terracotta Warriors?
6. What creature was featured on the old five-cent coin?
7. *Under the Mountain* was primarily set around which Auckland lake?

HARD (THREE POINTS)

8. Name two countries that will be playing the Black Caps over the summer.
9. Timbuktu is a city in which north-west African country?
10. Which major US television network was hacked last week, with unreleased episodes of shows being leaked?

ROCK SOLID SUDOKU

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

HERALD'S HEROES

Every week we'll trawl the comments section of the NZ Herald Facebook page to find the hilarious, the repulsive, and the outright absurd.



Andrew seems to be a very confused man, which is the kind of thing you could expect from a man who wears shirts which read, among other things, "IF YOU LOVE A PAINTER RAISE YOUR HAND, IF NOT RAISE YOUR STANDARDS" and "I PAINT BECAUSE I DON'T MIND HARD WORK - IF I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING EASY I'D CALL YOUR MOM." •

the people to blame.

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SHADOWS


Head to Shadows to redeem your \$50 bar tab!


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Womensfest

Auckland University Students' Association presents...

7-11 August

MONDAY

"This is what a feminist looks like" Photo Exhibit

POPPING UP IN A DIFFERENT LOCATION EVERY DAY IN THE CITY CAMPUS

Women's Choice Election Forum

7-9PM, LIB B28 (109-B28)

TUESDAY

Sport & Rec Lunch Time Sports for Women

VOLLEYBALL, TURBO TOUCH, BASKETBALL AND SPOT PRIZES AT 11:45AM IN THE SPORTS HALL (REGISTER ONLINE)

Movie night: 10 Things I Hate About You

6PM, SHADOWS BAR BACK ROOM

WEDNESDAY

Sausage Sizzle

12:30PM @ EPSOM CAMPUS. COME WRITE ON OUR "FEMINISM MATTERS" WALL AND HAVE A FREE LUNCH WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!

THURSDAY

Women's Expo

12-3PM, QUAD

Women's self-defence Class

6PM, OLD SJS OFFICE (ABOVE QUAD FOOD COURT) (REGISTER ONLINE)

FRIDAY

"This is what a feminist looks like" Poetry Slam

5-7PM, STUDENT COMMON ROOM (ABOVE QUAD FOOD COURT)

CFC Pub Quiz

7PM, SHADOWS



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