

# CRACCUM

ISSUE 15, 2019



*Heart and SOUL of Ihumātao*

Can it be "privately-owned" if you stole it?

*Esports for All Sorts*

Finally sports trainings that don't require burpees!

*University of Auckland Denies Bullying*

Despite there being plenty of evidence of it



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# How to Improve Your Social Media Clout: A Guide

BY BAILLEY VERRY



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

Do you find yourself with great opinions but screaming into the void? Do you want people to pay more attention to you but don't know how to stand out from the pack of people with the same opinions but better written? Have no fear, *Craccum* is here to help. Our definitive guide can take you from 'old man yelling at cloud' to 'young woke man shouting about injustice' in a few simple steps.

## 1. Choose your platform

This may sound like a simple step, but using the wrong platform can be detrimental. It all depends on what you want to achieve. Facebook is a good tool for alienating friends and family with your long-winded posts that leave you arguing with a boomer in the comments. If you want attention from those you know, this is the platform for you. Instagram, on the other hand, is great for making a point about 'perceived image'. Make sure to post either a black and white selfie of you not looking your greatest, or an artfully composed shot of you looking at a

wide expanse next to your rant about being picture-perfect. Finally, Twitter is the perfect platform for informing people that they don't know that you, a woke individual, are mad... again. Make sure to let people know that your opinion is the be-all and end-all of the conversation - if people challenge you, make sure to do some serious sub-tweeting to assert your dominance.

## 2. Join a bandwagon

This needs to be one already at the peak of the news cycle. Why bring up another point when you can add your voice to the masses? This way, when people skim through the hashtag, your input will be briefly read in the process. Extra points if you're not part of the minority but an ally, and then only talk to other allies rather than those affected.

## 3. Pick a fight

DRAMA. Conflict is a key tool in getting people to pay attention to what's going on. You

can utilise this in your everyday life; don't be afraid to call someone out - it doesn't matter if you like them or hate them, just go in (Pro tip: don't forget to tag them). All issues can be solved in the DM's later, and you have earned your clout points. After resolving your created drama, remember to leave your call-out on your account to show that you are a brave keyboard warrior.

## 4. Rinse, Repeat, Rejoice

Once you have the first three steps down it's pretty easy. Repeat the simple formula to your heart's content until you gain all the clout you desired. Soon you can go to flat parties and introduce yourself as 'kinda a big deal online'. The true test of when you have clout is when you have more followers than you are following. Don't be sad if you don't pass just yet, just follow *Craccum's* simple guide and you'll make it one day friend.

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## UoA Students Clash Over Hong Kong Protests

DANIEL MEECH

**The University of Auckland has launched a formal investigation after students clashed over the Hong Kong protests.**

The investigation was commissioned shortly after the Auckland-based group 'We Are Hong Kongers' posted a video of the incident on their Facebook page. The video shows several students arguing in the university quad.

The argument appears to start when three Chinese students approach a group of 'We Are Hong Kongers', who are expressing support for the Hong Kong protests. The two groups begin arguing in a mixture of Mandarin and English - the anti-protest students call the 'We Are Hong Kongers' "fucking pigs ... [who] cannot understand human language", and advise them Hong Kong should "get out of China" if they don't like the country. Things threaten to get physical when one anti-protest student pushes a pro-protest student with his shoulder, causing them to fall. Shortly afterwards, the anti-protest students leave the area.

Shortly after the video was posted, Stuart McCutcheon sent out a mass email to all students. "An incident on Monday led to what we consider to be a conduct issue, and the University is investigating

it accordingly. I have asked Campus Security to ensure that these situations do not allow the safety or security of any member of the University community to be placed at risk," McCutcheon wrote, "While people may have different opinions on a matter, they are expected to express those opinions in a manner that respects the rights and opinions of others".

Serena Lee - the student who fell to the ground - says the university's response has been encouraging. "This university has so many different cultures, backgrounds," she told *Craccum*. It was good of the university to "remind students [what] ... we treasure in New Zealand [and that] ... you cannot personally attack someone for their opinions".

The Hong Kong protests began after the government of Hong Kong proposed the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill. The bill would make it possible for China - who were given sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997 by the United Kingdom - to request criminals facing trial in Hong Kong be extradited to the mainland. Those who oppose the bill fear that it will erode Hong Kong's legal system, and afford China more control over their legal process than is necessary.

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## University of Canterbury's New Student Hub Opens

CAMERON LEAKEY

**This month, the new student hub for the University of Canterbury will open, leaving University of Auckland students to wonder when the current dusty student union building might be replaced.**

The new student hub, named *Haere-roa* (meaning longest stream or longest wanderer) replaces the previous University of Canterbury Students' Association's (UCSA) building which was severely damaged in the earthquake in February 2011. The new building will maintain a 51% ownership by UCSA. The building occupies 4000 square metres and contains an office space, a bar, social space, two performance areas and connects to an outdoor amphitheatre that overlooks the Ōtakaro Avon River.

Finances for the new building came from an insurance claim, alongside investments from the university and the Student Association. Alumni were also encouraged to donate money by sponsoring

seats in the new Ngaio Marsh Performance Centre. The new building will be an asset to students of the University who benefit from the wider redevelopment of the city alongside their university. The University of Canterbury recently maintained its ranking as 231th in the QS University Rankings - it is currently the fourth highest-ranked university in the country.

In contrast to the University of Canterbury, the current UOA student union building was erected approximately 50 years ago on City Campus - with the most recent change to the building being the demolishing of the Maidment Theatre following failure to pass earthquake tests. Since then, the space previously occupied by the theatre has remained vacant, a sparse reminder to students of the now missing part of the university building and the lack of performance space. *Craccum* hopes that it won't take a disaster for the University to consider investment in the redevelopment of the Student Union building alongside the current redevelopment of the recreation centre.

# AUSA Queer Rights Officer Steps Down From Office

BRIAN GU

**Last Wednesday, AUSA announced that Queer Rights Officer Sophie Canning would be stepping down this week after almost two years in the role.**

"Sophie has told us that as this is her last Semester at the University of Auckland, she wants to put herself and her studies first," says Acting President George Barton.

Sophie first joined the AUSA executive in 2018, and was re-elected to the role again following the AUSA election in August. "During her time as Queer Rights Officer, Sophie has been an exceptionally hard working and devoted advocate for our LGBTQITakatapui+ students, and an incredible member of our 2018 and 2019 Executives," says George.

"I would like to especially acknowledge Sophie's incredible mahi in changing the University's official rainbow acronym, moving AUSA's Queerspace to a bigger and more accommodating venue and being a massive part of AUSA's response to discrimination at this University."

"On behalf of AUSA – thank you Sophie for all you've done in

your role."

"I'm incredibly thankful to AUSA for affording me the opportunity to advocate for, and represent the Queer community at UoA over the past year and a half," Sophie tells *Craccum*. "Resigning from the role was a difficult decision to make, and it certainly wasn't made lightly. However, I'm conscious that for my own benefit, that it's time to pass on the role to someone who cares for the Queer community just as much as I do, and will continue to seek absolute equity and equality on behalf of the LGBTQITakatapui+ students on campus."

"My time as the Queer Rights Officer has been nothing short of amazing, and it saddens me that I am unable to continue on. But I know I leave AUSA as a better person for having filled the QRO role, and for that I am grateful."

It is expected that a by-election will be held in the coming days to find a new candidate to fill Sophie's role. As of yet, no announcement has been made by AUSA.

*Craccum* wishes Sophie the best of luck as she leaves AUSA and focuses on concluding her studies.

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# Interview: Disarmament and Security Centre

KEEARA OFREN

*War! What is it good for? And indeed, what is it good for? The words of this protest song may very well be relevant even today. In light of aggressive foreign policy and international stalemates over banning nuclear weapons, a May 2019 article by Reuters quoted an armour-piercing observation by U.N. Institute for Disarmament Research director, Renata Dawn. The risk of nuclear war is the highest it has been since WW2, with nuclear weapons seemingly used as a political pawn.*

With lives on the line as with devastating consequences for our planet, it is worth raising that the horrors are beyond the Chernobyl show but already observable and never to be repeated, Marshall Islands, the Pacific, parts of rural United States have had their environment, infrastructure and plant life totally irradiated, leaving wastelands and irreversible damage and trauma. With Cold War-esque furore in the air, synthpop on the charts and a steady roll of global tensions, perhaps a can of hairspray is enough to make this the 80s? But we remember these times too for optimism and youth spirit. In searching for answers to the disarmament debate and hearing Lucy's inspirational words, the song line from 99 Red Balloons comes to mind, "everyone's a superhero, everyone's a Captain Kirk".

Perhaps it is worth looking into New Zealand's protest past for hope for the future and understandings of how to critically view matters of war and peace and to find our sense of initiative. I interviewed Mrs Lucy Stewart of the Disarmament and Security centre. They are a team of activists, students, educators and experts who aim to raise awareness of disarmament issues, the importance of disarmament in today's political arena and who facilitate educational opportunities for research and discussion.

*Describe your job in three words.*

Disarmament education / outreach

*What is disarmament and does it have a role in understanding current events?*

Disarmament is the concept that weapons don't make us safer - in fact, they make us less secure. This is especially true when we are talking about particular types of weapons, for example weapons of mass destruction, such as Nuclear, Chemical or Biological weap-

ons as well as other banned weapon types, such as Landmines and Cluster Munitions. But it is not only the weapon type, it also applies to the level of spending and investment in weapons systems and the amount of weapons a country or group has in its arsenal. Excessive build up of arms leads to instability as it makes other countries feel threatened, whom then often retaliate with their own arms build ups - hence the term the 'arms race'. Absolutely, the concept of disarmament has a role to play in current events - one only needs to look at the volatile Iran / US relationship at present, this is primarily about nuclear weapons and a sense of threat from these weapons (from both sides), the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Yemen (would these conflicts have been so deadly and carried on so long if the weapons flow from abroad had been curbed?), the DPRK and US relationship, and closer to home, the terrorist attack in Christchurch. Weapons, sadly, drive a lot of our current events. Meanwhile, before anyone casts the idea of disarmament off as complete idealism, I'm not talking about abolishing all arms in every circumstance. Most disarmament advocates also believe that it is totally legitimate for a country to maintain their armed forces to a level that allows them to be secure, or that certain professions or individuals might have a legitimate need for a firearm. The difference here though is that we maintain that there are certain types of weapons that should never be in circulation, and also that the number of arms be appropriate for the need. Currently, we have a world that spends more money on arms than it does on health, education and the public good - so we think this is seriously out of kilter and we should be talking about it and asking whether all these arms are necessary, or whether perhaps they are perpetuating conflicts and global instability.

### *Was there a moment that solidified your motivation and passion for disarmament?*

I lived in Northern Iraq (Iraqi Kurdistan) for three years after my undergraduate Degree and the experience of living in a post-conflict society and witnessing first-hand the carnage that conflict wreaks on the people, land, society, infrastructure, citizenship and democratic processes, was powerful. I came to see the true cost of conflict, that carries on for decades, if not indefinitely, after conflict. I became convinced that avoiding violent conflict and instead resolving differences through negotiation, dialogue and other peaceful means was critical. And I also began to realise that if the weapons are available, a violent conflict is far more likely. One of the most powerful ways to prevent violent conflict is to restrict or abolish particular weapons, reduce arms numbers overall and change the narrative into one that is open to dialogue and negotiation.

*We see and hear about disarmament issues regularly in media, whether it be from nuclear threats to gun control in communities. As well as this, there are plenty of misconceptions and one sided narratives about war and violence. What*

### *advice do you have to young people who wish to view weapons news in media critically?*

Like everything online, I would suggest choosing your news sources wisely and only read media (and especially social media) that is from credible sources, there is an incredible amount of very slanted and / or bogus news out there. I tend to get my news from sources such as Radio New Zealand, the Guardian and The New York Times. For disarmament related issues, I go to the experts on these topics such as Reaching Critical Will, SIPRI and UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). Many media sources love a good shock headline, and particular countries and groups are all too often constructed as a threat - such as North Korea, Iran, and that is all we might hear about these countries in mainstream media. Of course, there is a whole wider context to every situation, and it's very important to read wider than just the shock headline and also consider how and why these countries may have earned this 'threat' status and whether that label is fair.

### *Are there historical moments you always think about as pivotal to bringing disarmament to the forefront of political discourse?*

Well of course, here in New Zealand, the nuclear testing that was going on in the Pacific during the second half of last century, and came to a head with the French nuclear testing in the '70s and '80s brought the issue of nuclear weapons right into the public domain here and it became an election issue in the 1980s. Jumping right forwards, in 2017, we saw the heated Twitter storm between President Trump and Kim Jong Un threatening each other that they would hit the nuclear button, which made the whole world sit up and remember the nascent danger that nuclear weapons pose. Time and time again, we see these crisis moments and they do cause a flurry of media and political attention. But it's not enough to just respond to these crisis moments and then let it fade from consciousness when things calm down, as they'll just re-emerge some other time in some other place. We actually need to continually pursue disarmament and work towards abolition (especially of nuclear weapons) so that these crisis moments cease to be possible.

### *The rhetoric that individuals and nations are entitled to weapons has come out strongly in issues of global security and even in New Zealand, do you have any words in response to those who believe that disarmament has lost its meaning?*

In the context of nuclear weapons, I think you only need to look at the global instability it causes when you have some countries (for example the US) that consider it their right to have nuclear weapons - and how that is incredibly threatening to other countries, and in many



cases, has led to proliferation. For example, North Korea, and now the ongoing saga with Iran. For both of these countries having such a militarily powerful foe, such as the US, who is nuclear armed, and under this particular President, not afraid to openly taunt them with it, is very threatening. These countries have seen what has happened in other less powerful countries, such as Libya and Iraq and they don't want that to happen to them. There was a big global movement for disarmament after WW1 as many believed that this war had happened because the world was awash in weapons at this time, and I think this sentiment is as true today as it has ever been. If you have a world that spends more money on arms than it does on health, education and the public good, and you have a small number of countries that claim it is their right to possess nuclear weapons and are not afraid to openly threaten other countries with them, then you are far more likely to solve disagreements through violent conflict. So no, disarmament has far from lost its meaning, it is critical to achieving world peace today.

### *Do you believe that there is a unique role for New Zealand and young people in the future of disarmament?*

Absolutely. New Zealand has such a long and proud history of being a disarmament advocate, our nuclear free legislation is over 30 years old now and was achieved through a groundswell of public support across the country. Internationally at global forums such as the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, New Zealand diplomats are well respected for being knowledgeable on the subject and true disarmament proponents. So I think for young New Zealanders today, it's important to learn about New Zealand's history in this area, to learn about how our nuclear free legislation came about and why Kiwis were concerned about it at the time, and then to pick this sentiment up for our own generation and keep on with this important work. There is a strong group of Kiwis out there today working in disarmament related positions across the globe, diplomats, academics, lawyers, activists and NGO professionals for example.

### *How can students get involved with the Disarmament and Security Centre?*

We'd love students to get involved with the Disarmament and Security Centre. Firstly, they can send me an email at [lucy@disarmsecure.org](mailto:lucy@disarmsecure.org) and I can add them to our database so they will get any updates from me about various events and opportunities such as internships, scholarships, positions on delegations to conference etc. They can head on over to our website at [www.disarmsecure.org](http://www.disarmsecure.org) and check out all our various resources and follow our blog. They can follow us on Facebook and Twitter at DisarmSecureNZ. And they may also like to join our online network: <https://disarmsecure-online.mn.co/> this is a platform for disarmament proponents in NZ where we share ideas and build community in the disarmament space.



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sport.



# A Week In Sport

JOSHUA JAYDE

*This week, our token Sports Contributor Joshua Jayde tries and fails to make sense of deeper issues in sport.*

## *Bridging the Gap:*

Inspiration for this column came as I looked up from my phone for only the second time that day, to look out the window of my bus. Looking for a topic which was light, funny and cheerful, I finally realised what I wanted to write about: deeply rooted and corrupt gender inequality in sports!

Outside, I saw an advertisement for the New Zealand Police featuring the Northern Netball player Eseta Autagavaia, who also



has a job with the Police. In the news that week was the Netball World Cup; New Zealand, having just won the pinnacle tournament in the sport, were awarded less than I was when I finished 6th in a 12 team orienteering fun run, or more precisely, nothing. Why do these players get so little, and why do they need jobs outside of their sport, when men's teams in so many codes of sport get paid hundreds of thousands if not millions a year?

Netball is a hard sport for adequately quantifying inequality, as it is predominantly a women's code. However, it seems unfair that the team gets nothing from the tournament for winning a World Cup (on top of their salaries). In comparison, the prize money for just turning up to the FIFA World Cup is \$8 million, coming second in the Cricket World Cup, like the Black Caps did, is \$3 million, while coming third in your local pub quiz gets you (if you're lucky) a \$50 bar tab. In fairness, some sponsors such as ANZ and Sky have pledged prize money to address this, but it still pales in comparison to the men's codes in many other sports.

Take football, the sport that spends 11 months of the year building up to the moment when your chosen club finally scrapes together enough money to buy another icon for their Instagram. In June we had the Women's World Cup, which showcased all the best of sport - drama, technical skill and politicians getting into Twitter spats with players. It also provided an opportunity for the teams, particularly the USA team, to push for equal pay. This team just became world champions for the fifth time; the men's team couldn't even make it to the World Cup after losing to Trinidad and Tobago, a country most Americans don't even know exists, but guess which team gets paid more? Unsurprisingly, at the end of the World Cup, all 28 players in the women's squad filed lawsuits against US Soccer (\*shudders uncontrollably at the word Soccer\*) over the pay disparity.

But why is this such a big deal? Many people (mostly men, for some reason) point to various reasons, such as "the harsh realities of the market", television ratings, and that men's sport is better to watch. But is this really true? FIFA, just to take football as an example, has so much money that its President and world's richest bowling ball, Gianni Infantino, feels comfortable making jokes about how much of it is just sitting, unused, in Swiss banks. I could bore you to death about television ratings stats and wages, in fact I probably already have, but it doesn't take a genius to see that they don't match up. Women's sport deserves the same investment as the men's sport, and in fact, there is a way!.

Tennis, a sport which still struggles with the technological concept of a roof, is perhaps the most progressive of all the major sports in that it actually gives equal pay to both women and men in the Grand Slam tournaments. This has led to huge growth in the women's game, technically and financially, and it has become just as popular as the men's game. What's more, the first tournament to pay equally was in 1973! In comparison Women's football has only been legally allowed in England since 1971. Tennis shows how easily this problem can be addressed, but with the top sports' boards filled with balding millionaire men, it may take much more than a lawsuit to finally bring some balance.

## *Springboks Riding High*

The All Blacks drew with South Africa the other week after a last minute try by young halfback Herschel Jantjies allowed the Springboks to level the scores. This means that South Africa have now been awarded the World Cup on number of points scored by players under 1.7m.

## *Go The Warriors*

After some very contentious (a phrase used in sports commentary to mean downright suspicious) calls against them, the Warriors' coach has suggested spectators bring their own whistles and dress up as referees at their next home game.

## *Fact*

To all you misogynists out there who made it this far; women's sport is just as good as men's sport. Deal with it.

**“  
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sport**

**”**





# Ihumātao: A War Without End

By OMNI ARONA

*You'd be excused for thinking that the industrial area by the side of Auckland's State Highway 20A contained little more than warehouses. But if you follow the coastal line far enough south-west, you'll begin to see coastal farmland, built upon fertile volcanic soil that nourished the first arrival of Maori people to Aotearoa after the great migration. "When people hear Ihumātao, they don't even think it's in Auckland". I certainly didn't. But the fact is this piece of land is situated in Mangere - at the heart of Auckland - a 23-minute drive from the Sky Tower and a 13-minute bus ride from Manukau. If you catch the train towards Manukau, you might even pass Ōrākei, the site of the infamous Invasion of Bastion Point on May 1978 by 600 police officers and members of the armed forces leading to the arrest of 222 protestors. A disheartening sight as people ride on towards Ihumātao to fight the same battles they did 41 years ago.*

## *A brief history of Ihumātao*

**Circa 12th century:** Waka that carried the ancestors of New Zealand's indigenous Maori arrive in New Zealand. During the early 19th century, the land at Ihumātao, farmed by Maori, would nourish and feed the growing population of colonial Auckland.

**1863:** The land at Ihumātao was seized by the crown "by proclamation" thus breaching the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi agreement. This was done because the iwi and the people of Ihumātao would not pledge their allegiance to the crown.

**January 30th, 1865:** Proclamations under the act were issued for the seizure of the East Wairoa and West Pukekohe blocks for settlement and colonisation, followed by the Central Waikato district and the Mangere, Pukaki, Ihumata and Kerikeri blocks on May 16th 1865.

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feature.

As occupants were evicted from their land, their belongings were looted by colonial forces and neighbouring settlers. Houses were ransacked, cattle were seized, and their horses were transported for sale in Auckland.

**1869:** The land at Ihumātao was sold to European farmers, Gavin Wallace and the Wallace family, whose descendants have privately owned the area since. Once the Maori returned after the Waikato wars, the land they had tended to for 800 years was now in Pākehā hands.

The volcanic cone of Ōtuataua, site of the first pā (village) on the southern side of the stone fields, is an ancestral maunga (mountain) viewed by the iwi as both a defining landmark and the physical embodiment of their connection to the land. In the 1950s, it was quarried until nothing but a hole remained. The same fate befell Maungataketake to the west.

**1960:** The Manukau Harbour, where the people of Ihumātao got their fish and kai, was closed by the Auckland drainage board to build oxidation ponds for the city's new wastewater-management system. Sewage was pumped through the Manukau basin, which meant the closing of the iwi's ancestral river, Ōruarangi.

**1990s:** Efforts were made to rejuvenate the waters surrounding Ihumātao that saw results but in 2013, freight company Jenners Worldwide spilt more than 1000 litres of methyl violet industrial dye into the stormwater system. It turned the creek purple and killed the life within it.

**2008:** An encroachment to the south side of the airport was ap-

proved despite protests from iwi that there were urupā (burial sites) on the land. Earthworks in 2008 unearthed about 90 kōiwi, skeletal remains of their ancestors.

## SOUL

This became too much for the Mana Whenua residing in Ihumātao. "I will die for this land," says Pania Newton, one of six cousins who formed the SOUL campaign (Save our unique landscape). The protectors say **"The real Mana Whenua are here! 95% of real Mana Whenua are out here doing the real Mahi!"**. The disagreement stems from a divide in the iwi who are split in their approach to the development of the land. Te Wharena Taua, a spokesperson for Te Kawerau a Maki Iwi Authority, shifted his focus from opposing urban development on Ihumātao land once he learned that the area was selected as a Special Housing Area (SHA). Those at Ihumātao believe these to be of selfish intentions as more than a quarter of the 480 houses being built will be given away. Fletchers have not decided who this land will be given to, but those protesting see this quarter of returned land as "not good enough!" Pania and the SOUL movement were angered when they learned they had immediately agreed to terms instead of fighting for more than just 25% of the land they once held.

National MP Judith Collins said it was a "private dispute" as the land has been "privately-owned" for 150 years, and backed the "Mana Whenua's decision to sell. She maintains no sympathy for those arrested on the site and refers to those protesting as "excited white kids". Speaking with those protecting the land from Fletcher, it is evident that the crowd is one of the most diverse gatherings anyone can witness, including Maori elders and their tamariki, from Joe Hawke, a former Labour MP who also led the Bastion Point protests, to Green Party MP Chlöe Swarbrick. Those on the other side of SOUL's campaign? Don Brash probably. David Seymour made his thoughts public: "The protestors need to leave the site and let Fletcher Building exercise their property rights" and "This is why we can't have nice things". Surprisingly, or perhaps not, Jacinda Ardern said that the government would not intervene.

Remarkably, Ardern and Seymour share the same stance when it comes to who they initially sided with. Both initially sided with the "local iwi" who support the housing development. But the fact is that only one iwi rūnanga (Te Kawerau a Maki Iwi Authority) supported the housing development. But the crown's own Treaty settlement legislation acknowledges at least three iwi that whakapapa back to Ihumātao. Apparently, these are not "the local iwi". "The Mana Whenua are not the ones protesting," says Ardern. But the fact is that they

“

*Pania and the SOUL movement were angered when they learned they had immediately agreed to terms instead of fighting for more than just 25% of the land they once held.*

”

ARE the Mana Whenua, just not the Mana Whenua who agreed to have their land built on. Since then, Jacinda has stated the government would halt housing development until a mutual resolution can be reached.

Few are denying that the confiscation of this land in 1863 was justified or right in any way, but the language used to describe the situation at Ihumātao becomes increasingly dismissive of what SOUL is fighting for. **"Privately owned" is a loaded definition that dismisses and ignores the immoral seizure of land.** It hides someone's bias behind legal definitions and ignores every bit of history before the area became "privately owned".

There has been much criticism with people saying this is not another Bastion Point and that "they were very much different situations". The main difference being that the land at Bastion Point was confiscated by the New Zealand government for public works (health and safety, employment, and recreational infrastructure) while Ihumātao was seized and sold into "private ownership".

### *Where we are today*

On the night of July 25th, 2019, after waiata and kai of all cultures, a modest man approaches the front line of a police barricade at Ihumātao with the eyes of Mana Whenua slowing taking notice to his presence. The crowd slowly begins to hush, and the man starts to speak.

"Whanau I have come here today to share some of my thoughts on this issue."

"I've seen what this has done to our people."

"This is what colonisation does to our people."

It is evident that the situation at Ihumātao speaks to more than just Maori land rights issues but the effects of colonisation on indigenous people all over the world. "Why do Maori, who make up 15% of New Zealand's population, also make up 50% of our prison population? Are we just messed up? Or is there a reason, whanau? This is what colonisation does to our people," the man says. Undoubtedly, despite the efforts of many that try and tell you otherwise, the issue resides in the environments Maori and PI are raised in and the after-effects of colonisation on Maori that are still felt today. In present-day Aotearoa, it is not uncommon to hear the "pick yourself up by your bootstraps". Notions of Maori being where they are today because of their characteristics are still prevalent in the mentalities of many New Zealanders. Unfortunately, people don't see classism and colonisation as legitimate forms of violence because they still believe being poor is indicative of a person's character rather than being because of the effects of systematic oppression.

“

*"Privately owned" is a loaded definition that dismisses and ignores the immoral seizure of land*

”

The unassuming yet powerful man who spoke touched all the themes of the day better than anybody else. He was full with the symbolism of Mana Whenua, and the cadence of a modern Māori leader. He was both militant and sad, and he sent the crowd away feeling that the long journey had been worthwhile.

Fires burn at night with the flags of every Pacific nation planted into the ground in solidarity with Pania and her Whanau. For it is not only the land at Ihumātao that these people are fighting for. Mauna Kea, a mountain on the island of Hawaii, has become subject to the same development issues as Ihumātao, and when measured from its oceanic base, Mauna Kea becomes the tallest mountain in the world. The peaks of the island of Hawaii are sacred in Hawaiian mythology.

If you have the chance to visit, Ihumātao transports you into a different decade. A glimpse into the possible future of Pacific unity. Speaking with people there, it is evident they are not here in self-interest but in support. "All Pacific Islanders have a home outside NZ, but for Maori this is it. This is their fanua, their whenua." All sorts of magic are happening at Ihumātao. Rival gangs arrive and share the same space in solidarity against the events and conditions that placed them there in the first place. "I fucking hate Destiny church but if you come here to tautoko (support) then ka pai," the young protectors say as they chuckle.

Go there. Go place your feet on the land. Go cast your eyes on the Maunga and Moana. Go drive through into this peaceful secluded, unspoilt, green oasis on the fringes of Tamaki Makaurau. Go listen to the pleas, the laughter, the waiata, the anguish of rangatahi and tamariki, of pakeke and kaumatua of Te Akitai Waiohū, Te Ahiwaru, Ngati Rori, Ngati Mahuta, Ngati Naho and others who can trace direct descent to families who have occupied the land for 800 years or more, as you decide if the theft of our culture is worth .5 of a GPA consideration. As you decide if a quarter of this small piece of land and 40 houses is a good enough of a deal to settle for. There can never really be justice on stolen land.



• PLEASE COME!

LET THIS

• PLEASE DON'T BE THE LAST

LECTURE YOU ATTEND THIS SEMESTER

• yes i know all the lectures are  
recorded now but its rly fuckin  
sad talking to an empty room (ty)



# Craccum Investigates: The Best (and Worst) of Random Introduction Lectures

By the CRACCUM EDITORIAL TEAM

*During week one of Semester Two, the craccum team bravely dived into some random lecture theatres to review some of the best lectures on campus. These are definitely not the best lectures on campus but with eight different faculties and countless lecture rooms, it was going to be impossible to find the best. We chose week one for the fact we thought the introductory lectures would be easier to understand. While we weren't entirely wrong, this didn't stop disaster striking, with one lecture-hopping mission being aborted midway through by a stealthy (Features Editor Note: Not stealthy at all) exit.*

*The last time this team tackled an investigation, we conclusively managed to pin the Madeleine McCann disappearance on a prime suspect. Unfortunately, as of yet, no charges have been pressed against the Jewel of India takeaway downstairs. Thus riding high on our previous success, we decided to confidently tackle this next investigation! So continue reading as Craccum uncovers only a few of the best (and worst) of courses you couldn't care less about.*

*I feel it cannot be stressed enough that we had absolutely no obligation to attend these lectures. In fact, it's truly a wonder how we managed to pull this off as some (all) of us struggle to make it to even our **own** lectures.*

## **Monday: THEOREL 101G - The Bible in Popular Culture**

**Roll Call: Daphne, Claudia, Brian.**

*Wandering through the Human Sciences Building on a Monday afternoon, we saw a girl open the door and walk into the large lecture theatre HSB 1. Curious, we follow her into the room. Our interest is immediately piqued as a portrait of Tupac graces the projector screen.*

**1 Hour to go:**

**Claudia:** So we've ended up in 'the Bible in Popular Culture'.



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feature.

**Daphne:** Brian thinks that Tupac is Kendrick.

**Brian:** Most of the class do not look thrilled to be here. The girl next to me who was nice enough to start a conversation picked this course because it was the only one that fit her timetable.

**50 Mins to go:**

*The lecture begins and the lecturer, a lovely lady, has introduced herself.*

**Claudia:** Now they're very awkwardly introducing all the tutors.

**Brian:** One of the tutors has a twenty-letter last name. Must be a nightmare for IRD tax forms.

**Claudia:** We're given the classic spiel about where to find readings on canvas, whether lectures are recorded etc.

**Daphne:** One of the learning outcomes is to enjoy the course! Which personally I think is just lovely.

**Brian:** It sounds like the majority of the class is graded by an essay. Good thing this is bible studies as it sounds like many students will be needing help from God to pass this course.

**Claudia:** The lecturer mentions to students "some topics may be challenging or confrontational for some of you."

**Daphne:** "Is the controversial content where people are confronted with the fact that Jesus isn't white?"

**30 Mins to End:**

*The lecturer starts to give a breakdown of how the course will be structured.*

**Claudia:** Some topics from the breakdown:

Biblical characters and their cultural after-lives – the way biblical figures are portrayed in film, video games etc.

How Jesus is portrayed on screen and how this can cause controversy – his race, his ethnicity etc.

The 'american monomyth' – a template for so many figures in pop culture.

**Daphne:** I imagine that after this course you'll start seeing prophets and messiahs EVERYWHERE.

**Brian:** If over 12 weeks, the lecturer doesn't mention any South Park joke about religion, I'd be asking for my money back from this course.

**30 Mins to go:**

*The lecturer mentions an essay that can be written on how anyone (literally anyone) is portrayed in the media as a messiah. To top it all off, it's only 500 words.*

**Daphne:** 'Harry Styles is the New Messiah!' is an essay example and I would read that voluntarily.

**Brian:** A 500 word essay is a joke. I've written news reports longer.

**Claudia:** Apparently the most popular essay topic is 'choose a contemporary figure and discuss why they are a modern messiah.'

**Daphne:** You can literally write an essay on anything as long as its general/main theme is just the bible. God, I wish I was in first year again.

**Claudia:** I miss stage one courses where the lecturer goes through the essay topics instead of just mentioning in passing that there is an essay.

**Claudia:** Another question is on apocalyptic themes in popular culture – I feel like there are going to be a lot of Avengers: Endgame essays this semester.

**15 Mins to go:**

*It's the highly anticipated moment where the*

*lecturer is about to wrap up, but instead of letting everyone go, she eagerly insists we stay to watch a trailer she made herself of the upcoming weeks. She opens up a powerpoint – already, the signs are not promising.*

**Daphne:** First person leaves 15 mins early. Dude, you're almost at the end.

**Daphne:** We get a preview for what's coming up and she begs us not to pack up yet.

**Claudia:** Omg. A PowerPoint slideshow with music, I wonder how many hours this took.

**Brian:** I recognize this music. Apparently our lecture was sponsored by Mobile Clans.

**Daphne:** There's just a huge emphasis on sexy Jesus.

**Verdict:** *The lecturer is a lovely lady, the course seems well interesting and the students look like they'd rather be anywhere but here. It's like every GenEd anyone's ever taken! Ever!*

*Thursday: STATS 10X*

**Roll Call:** Cameron. Yep, only Cameron.

*In typical fashion for me, I ended up missing this lecture. It turns out that when your motivation to attend your own lectures is already low, when you're supposed to attend another random one just for interest you feel even less motivated? Who would've thought. Regardless, I realised about 7.45am I wouldn't be making this one, and so I got on the bus at 9am. I got to the lecture theatre at 9.40 and found the lecture I was missing was a Stats 10x stream, which to be honest I've done anyway. Although judging from my grade I could honestly use with brushing up on.*

*Thursday: COMPSCI 320 - Applied Algorithmics*

**Roll Call:** Poor Cameron.

*I browsed the lecture theatres on the ground floor of the Maths and Physics building. I had*



four options: PROPERTY 311, COMPSCI 320, JAPANESE 150 or GEOG 140. Considering I am an Arts student and that COMPSCI is far out of my depth, I decided to dive headfirst into the deep end and sit in on COMPSCI 320.

I chose a row towards the back of the lecture theatre, I sit alone. There's a student coughing behind me loudly, I look forwards to falling ill sometime shortly.

One student chooses to sit on the fold out table seats right by the door - it's a bold power move. I decide not to google up what this class is on, simply I'm going to surprise myself. I notice a lot of students sitting alone. Whilst I would say that this might be an indication of what COMPSCI students are like, in reality I too am sitting alone so I can't say shit.

The lecturer arrives - he's a tall man with a big moustache. He's rolling through slides that say 'Algorithm Analysis' - this is apparently part two of a two stage course - fuck.

#### 50 Minutes to go:

I am reading the slide points and I cannot understand any of the points. He is releasing his first programming assignment and honestly I don't envy this class. They're talking about Turing machines which I know only because of Alan Turing. I am the only one typing in the lecture theatre. Toto, I don't think I'm in Kansas anymore.

#### 45 Minutes to go:

I knew long before this class I didn't want to do COMPSCI but now I feel this decision is solidified. The idea of sitting here for a further 45 minutes is excruciating.

#### 30 Minutes to go:

Okay so its halfway and I zoned the fuck out. He's talking about polynomials, logarithms and then both polynomials and logarithms together! I dropped maths as soon as I had university entrance level and truly I have no need for it. I feel like I've missed a lot of the

inbetween but yeah.

I can't understand shit.

**Verdict: Should've gone to property, or Japanese. That would've been easier to read than these maths equations.**

### Friday: A Classics Class? Leadership in Greece and Rome

#### Roll Call: Brian and Cameron

**Cameron:** Due to me chronically running late and the fact the lime I wanted to take had died an unfortunate death, I was late meeting Brian. We had planned to go to a library basement lecture but the options were Stats 10x or Maths and I decided after my unfortunate Compsci experience I needed to swap. We made our way to the Clocktower where we sauntered into a lecture late, and quietly settled into the back row. For starters, I think this is a classics lecture.

#### 50 Minutes to go:

**Cameron:** This is also a lectorial, so if we get called upon we are right royally fucked. They're talking about something called Xenophon's Agesilaus. The lecturer seems lovely, shoutout to her, she seems to know what she's talking about.

**Cameron:** Brian, do you like classics?

**Brian:** I'm not sure I can engineer a solution to these problems. I've never taken a classics class in my life, I don't know anything about Greek history except that they went bankrupt after the 2004 olympics.

**Cameron:** That information is probably in this course tbh. If I wrote an essay on greek mismanagement of money surely an A?

*\*at this point we googled what class we were in\**

#### 40 Minutes to go:

**The lecturer wants us to split into groups,**

**introduce ourselves and then elect a leader to report back to the class about the group.**

**Cameron:** I'm going to play along. This is my new life now. I'm a classics major. I can't break my journalistic cover.

*Whilst Cameron spoke a big game, he did not have the balls to follow through. Whilst Brian was game to fake who he was and join a group, Cameron was not and so he panicked and skirted out of that room as fast as he could, Brian in tow.*

**Brian:** In a scene I can only describe as mirroring Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol, Cameron decided to execute his own Ghost Protocol and sneak out of the lecture. Meanwhile, I just walked out like a normal person, to find him crouching outside by the doorway.

In our immense shame, we just resorted to sitting outside the Clock Tower buildings thinking about how we're going to improve Craccum for the next semester. Running out of random lectorials when you're confronted with talking about leadership isn't a good looking when you're running a magazine for a start. Rest assured though because we're working on that.

**Verdict: It turns out we went to a tutorial - that wasn't great planning. To the CLAS-SICS 214 lecturer, I hope you remembered seeing us at the back of the room and then seeing that we were no longer there seconds later. We hope it will make you change your policy on group work.**

feature.

# UoA Team Cement Themselves Within a League of Legends

By BRIAN GU

**Author's Note:** To the dismay of six other editors, I have made an extraneous effort to satisfy the avid gaming fans in our audience through this article, who I actively realise are not all incels hugging their waifu pillows and living in their mother's basement. That being said, I had no control over the illustration.

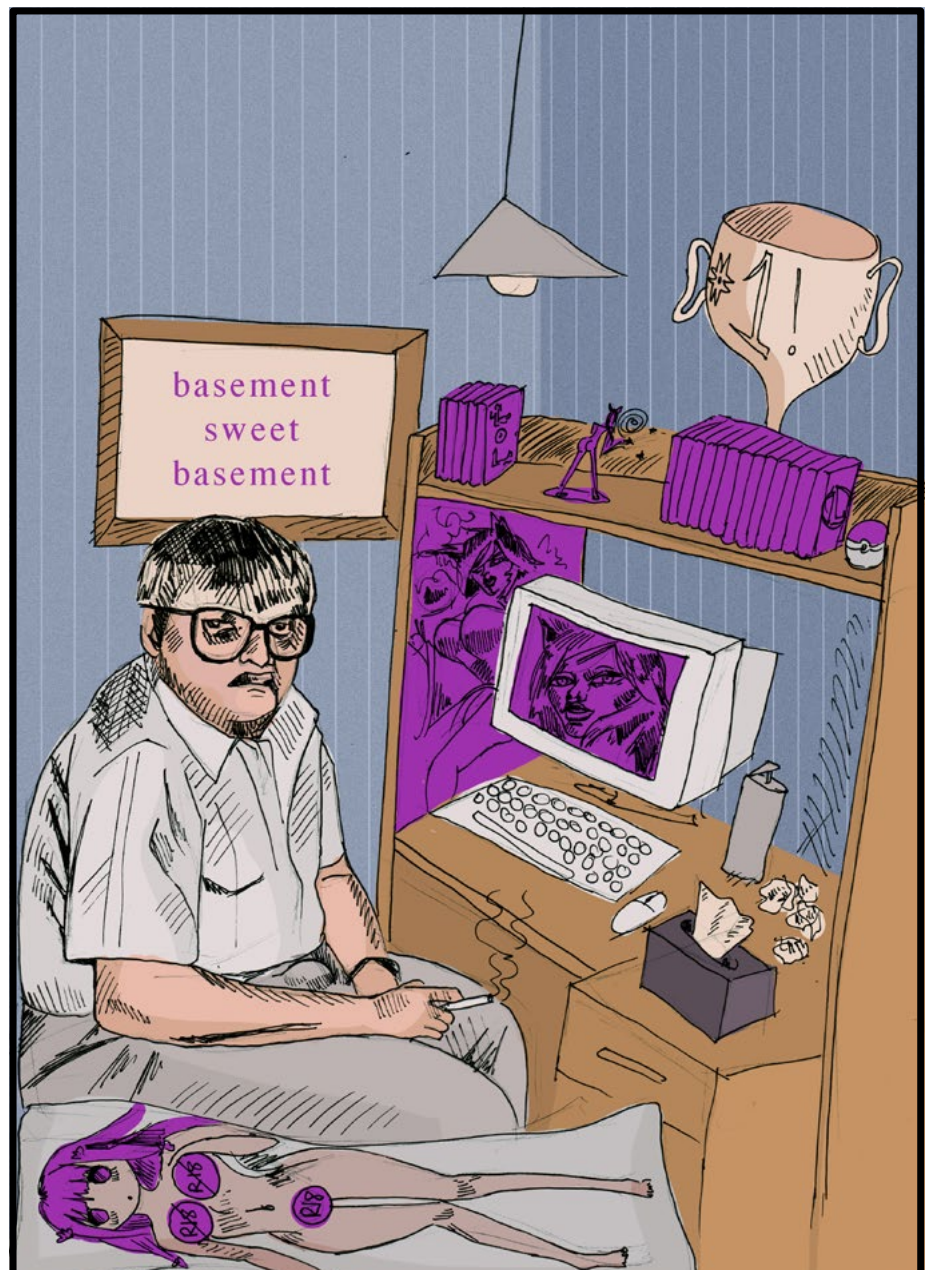
*eSports. For some of you, only the mention of the term is enough to make you shudder. You might adamantly insist that it should in no way be labelled a "real sport". You might stereotype the notion of "professional" gamers beyond recovery in public image.*

As someone who has had a keen interest in computer (and console) gaming for a few years - though I have ultimately quit the arena due to lack of time - I still find myself able to appreciate major achievements and developments from the world of eSports. Among my particular interests includes one of the most idolized and diverse free-to-play gaming experiences in the world - *League of Legends*.

Perhaps no other game captures the competitive nature of eSports as well as *League of Legends* does. *League of Legends* is a massively multiplayer online battle arena game where two teams of five players are pitted against each other on the battle arena *Summoner's Rift*. With a wide range of champions and unique play styles to consider, *League of Legends* provides plenty of diverse ways to play, and therefore throws down a gauntlet to challenge some of the best professional gamers in the world.

When either team is pitted against each other on the *rift*, it becomes apparent how imperative sporting characteristics are towards gameplay. For starters, teamwork is inherent from the nature of the game. Each player is responsible for their own role, and on top of that the performance of your teammates is critical to the success of your own character. In the same vein, if your teammates underperform, you can easily find the numbers stacked against you, as your enemies become more powerful through no fault of your own.

Communication is also a key part of gameplay, as teams continually adapt and



AFTER DRAWING THIS THE ILLUSTRATOR NO LONGER WANTED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH IT OR CRACUM

change their

strategies while the game progresses. Each team will have a coach (or player-coach) who will target flaws in their gameplays, and meticulously plan out strategies for different situations. And then of course there is no questioning the importance of individual skill towards gameplay,

But as I am by no means an expert gamer myself, I had to talk to someone who was an active part of this competitive community. Enter the UoA League of Legends team - recent winners of the Oceania College Tournament, going on to represent the region and our university on a global stage at the International College tournament.

I had the opportunity to speak with UoA League of Legends team member Vinson Feng about what it was like competing on a global stage, and why he chose to enter the world of competitive eSports.

### *How did you get into League of Legends and competitive eSports?*

A childhood friend of mine 8 years ago recommended me the game and ever since, I have been playing it. I got into competitive eSports 2 years ago as soon as I turned of age (17). I played in the Oceanic Pro League for a short time under Team Regicide and had learnt a lot from playing against the best from the region. After 2017, I took time off League [of Legends] to finish high school and to start a new page in life at university.

### *Can you describe how technically demanding the game is in a competitive setting?*

I would say that the game is quite technically demanding at the competitive level but teamwork is also important to succeed.

### *How intense was the preparation process for your team leading up to this international tournament?*

To be honest, the preparation process was very relaxed and not very intensive at all,

we wanted everyone as a team to have the correct mindset going forward into the tournament so we reduced the intensity of preparation to reduce stress and anxiety. We didn't find enough teams to scrim (Author's note: definition: practice games) and there were very few information on our opponents so our situation was not optimal. Nonetheless, our team worked very hard to get to where we were and we tried our best.

### *What were the most challenging moments for your team in the ICC?*

The most challenging moments were definitely the different styles coming from Jimei University (China) and Chunnam Techno University (Korea) where the Chinese University played a very aggressive style compared to a more methodical style from the Korean University. As scrims records were going quite well for us, it was definitely hard playing from behind and the mechanical (Author's note: Definition: skill) difference between Oceania compared to China and Korean showed in our games against both Korea and China. Looking back at the tournament, it also hurt us not having a coach as it would have been easier spotting our mistakes and fixing them, and also our drafts weren't in our favour.

### *Describe the feeling of winning the Oceania College tournament.*

Winning the Oceania College tournament was not really a surprise; our team knew we were better than the rest of Oceania's universities although it got quite close in the finals. We felt like we were not playing at our best and also had a few nerves from the team as it was their first time playing at LAN, there were some mistakes we made that would not happen 9/10 games in draft (Author's note: Definition: non-tournament ranked games) and in game.

### *What is your preferred role within the team and which champions do you like to play?*

I play the ADC role so I like playing champions like Lucian, Ezreal or Kai'Sa which have the ability to carry games single-handedly (Author's note: Definition: being able to win games for your team on solitary contribution).

### *What are you pursuing when you're not on the Summoner's Rift?*

I study commerce and law at university, so when I'm not playing League [of Legends], I'm studying. I also enjoy other outdoor activities like running, but most of the time I'm either watching Youtube or streams in my spare time.

### *Do you think you'd be able to carry me out of Silver?*

Most definitely!

### *To sum up, what is most enjoyable to you about League of Legends.*

Definitely winning. I'm the type of guy who hates losing and winning is everything to me. I love being competitive in everything I do, that's just who I am.

“  
League of Legends provides plenty of diverse ways to play, and therefore throws down a gauntlet to challenge some of the best professional gamers in the world.

”







# A student's guide to American Express Restaurant Month

By CAMERON LEAKEY

Cameron Leakey breaks down the best deals for American Express Restaurant Month so that you too can dine out fancy on the cheap this month before the Studylink money runs dry.

August every year marks the annual iteration of American Express Restaurant Month in Auckland. Besides some pretty suave events which are usually pretty pricey, it also means that restaurants put on a whole lot of special menus and deals which are great for dining out. I highly recommend that you treat your boyfriend/girlfriend/friend-with-benefits/life partner/whoever-you-want-we-don't-judge to a date night this August so that it doesn't cost you a fucking fortune. Without further ado, here are my picks:

*Note: All menus are set menus so Craccum picks are purely from these options.*

## The Culpeper

Situated on Princes Wharf between the Hilton and the Maritime Museum. Culpeper's BBQ style is widely raved about and with a \$25 lunch or dinner deal, you're in for a treat. It's a nice place to go if you're feeling like a classy but also casual dinner.

**Craccum Picks:** Lamb Merguez corn dog and the rotisserie jerk spice chicken.

## Low Brow:

A low key American style eatery, Low Brow is opening its second location in St Kevin's Arcade this month. Super chic and very cool, Low Brow is a great place to take your date before a movie or show in town.

**Craccum Picks:** The \$25 set menu involves no options so we're keen on what they're laying down: Big Nugg Sando chicken Burger and a sundae. Yoza.

## XuXu Dumpling Bar:

XuXu is open not only for dinner but also lunch, situated on Commerce St, XuXu is the best place to take your dumpling game a step up from Barilla. The \$25 menu includes two baskets of dumplings and also includes a glass of wine (or a soda if you're doing a sober drive) and with the option of either white or red on the set menu, you can act like you know what you're talking about without having to make any big wine choices (or to search for the cheapest on the menu)

**Craccum Picks:** Prawn and Ginger har gao and the tofu, shiitake and chinese chive dumplings. A bit more adventurous than pork and cabbage. Wine-wise Pinot Gris is a white wine that's sweet and easy to drink. Go forth.

## Gusto at the Grand:

Gusto at the Grand is grand. Located as part of the skycity complex - it's a great place to have a delicious carb loaded dinner for only \$25.

**Craccum Picks:** Again we don't have options because it's a completely set menu. The bruschetta sounds good and a pappardelle ragù sounds fucking bomb. The drink match isn't familiar but a quick google search reveals it's a red wine, it's included so just run with it, maybe you'll like it or maybe you'll tolerate it.

## Ostro

Ostro is flash, like really flash. So the fact that they're doing a \$40 lunch menu is pretty solid. If you've got a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary than definitely do this, it will 100% get you laid. Ostro sits in

Britomart with this pretty phenomenal view out to the harbour. It's beautiful.

**Craccum Picks:** Pork Croquettes sound yuuuuuummm. Also the beef pappardelle. I know the last review was pasta and so I am probably stuck on that but seriously delicious.

## Culprit

Culprit is delicious. Located off Queen St on Wyndham St. Culprit is up a flight of stairs in the loft of an old style building. It's uber cool. Usually, they do a yum-cha style of service with a trolley bringing around food selections. For restaurant month however, they forgo the trolley for a set menu. Whilst I prefer the set menu I rate Culprit so much that I've included them (please send me a gift voucher, Culprit, I'm a fan!).

**Craccum Picks:** \$40 for a starter, entrée, main and dessert. The entrée is called a 'TV Dinner' and contains four bite sized dishes followed by your main = we recommend the monkfish, the other option is a 'pressed roast pig face' - I'm not sure I can endorse it without trying it first. The dessert is a peanut slab mousse and is delicious.

## The Grill by Sean Connolly

The Grill is delicious and a great place to get a delicious steak. The \$55 set menu is pricey, though reasonable for how much *The Grill* normally costs. Craccum recommends you invite your parents out for dinner and then let them foot the bill, it's the right thing to do.

**Craccum Picks:** The savannah eye fillet steak. Delicious. Don't get the non-steak option. You didn't come to The Grill for risotto don't be ridiculous.



## SEOUL TOWN ROAD | MAX LIM

6/10: *Mariah didn't need 40 remixes!*

Collaboration nobody asked for but it's here anyway. Lil Nas X, the Hot 100 record-breaker, made a collaboration with RM from BTS... I didn't have much I was anticipating here. We've all heard the song, it's been on Number 1 on Billboard's Hot 100 for 17 weeks. RM doesn't really bring anything new but he does his job. He didn't sound annoying or unfitting, but rather, sounded very natural in this track. His verse fits well while managing to use a wordplay on two different languages which I gotta give credit to. Then again, he used the carbon copy of the flow used in the original track, so I think everyone knew what to expect.

I did have some things to say about this unpredicted collab but after finding out Lil Nas X has produced other two previous remixes with other internet meme personalities, my questions were answered. It is a well-known fact that RM changed his name from Rap Monster to let Playboi Carti have the title as he was the rightful owner who has invented music. However, with the numbers Lil Nas X is doing might have changed this Korean rapper's mind and probably wanted to ride on that bandwagon... ride it 'til he can't no more.

It'll be a shame if OTR ends up harming Lil Nas X's career by overshadowing his future projects before he can build stability as an artist. It will be entirely up to Lil Nas X to prove that he has more to offer.



## HIGH LIFE | CLAUDIA RUSSELL

8/10: *Solaris but with more cum*

*High Life* is the first English language film by acclaimed French director Claire Denis. In it, a spaceship carrying death row inmates hurtles towards the outer reaches of the solar system in search of a black hole. Monte (played by Robert Pattinson) and his baby daughter are the last survivors, and must keep each other alive on their seemingly hopeless journey.

*High Life* bears almost no resemblance to the slew of space-themed movies released over the past few years (*Gravity*, *Interstellar*, *Life*, *the Cloverfield Paradox*, the list goes on). In fact, despite the constant presence of space suits, it has very little to do with space at all. Instead this is a beautifully shot, atmospheric film about humans and their most primal instincts. The film is non-linear, and told largely through flashbacks. The dialogue is minimal - instead the story is told through visual storytelling. However I would have appreciated a touch more dialogue, especially between Monte and his daughter. His relationship with her as a baby and later in the film as a young teen was one of the most interesting aspects of the film, and I wish it had been given more screen time.

A trigger warning may be necessary, as *High Life* features several scenes of rape and sexual assault. I had mixed feelings leaving the theatre, as I felt quite repulsed by a lot of the film. However, *High Life* made an impression on me, and I am still thinking about it days later.



## THE ART OF SELF-DEFENSE | CLAUDIA RUSSELL

8/10: *Zuckerberg gonna fuck your shit up*

Jesse Eisenberg at his most Jesse Eisenberg-y. In this film he plays Casey; a timid and socially awkward accountant. When Casey is attacked at random, he enlists in a local dojo led by the mysterious Sensei in an effort to learn how to defend himself.

Imogen Poots plays Anna, an expert in Karate who is yet to earn her black belt. As Sensei says, 'She's too much of a woman to ever become a man.'

Casey's journey into the dark underbelly of Karate satirises toxic masculinity, poking fun at the lengths some men will go to be the 'Alpha.'

Although violent and surprisingly dark, *The Art of Self-Defense* is hilarious from start to finish. Its dry humour and casual absurdism may not appeal to every audience, but I personally was a big fan.

I went into this completely blind expecting a low-stakes indie movie, and was surprised by how good this was. Definitely one to add to the NZIFF watch list.





## VERONICA MARS – SEASON 4 | BAILLEY VERRY

6.5/10: *Fine but not out of this world*

15 years after the original series and 5 years after the Kickstarter movie Veronica Mars is back on Hulu to pick up where it left off. Unlike other rebooted series it does a good job moving the plotlines of life forward, however being what is essentially fan service, not only were the main characters back. Small roles from previous minor characters are there to wink to you the audience, knowing that a mega-fan like would know these obscure characters from the protagonist's past.

Kristen Bell was on point as ever sassing her way around town and pissing everyone off in the process. Continuing on from the film she is now a P.I with her father in her home town of Neptune, which now has serial bombings. Bell and her on-screen dad Enrico Colantoni are still the heart of the show with their dynamic and chemistry not ageing a day. While the witty and cutting dialogue was still there, it couldn't help but feel slightly sanitized, not having that bite that it once had. That being said it is still enjoyable in large part to Bell's and Colantoni's performance.

If you are an OG Veronica Mars fan looking for your next hit this is pretty substantial 8-hour binge-watching material. Just be aware that it's like the original series turned down to a 6, but with still with all the characters you love.



## RETRO REVIEW: HARRY POTTER BLAH BLAH STONE WHATEVER | LACHLAN MITCHELL

8/10: *Dumbledore was a bottom*

A few nights ago, I watched the first Harry Potter movie for the first time in quite a while – The Philosopher's Stone. It's one of those movies that is so intertwined with my youth that each sound unlocks a little chamber in my heart that only that particular audio clip could unlock. It's so cute. I remember being a stupid little shit and having to be explained that no, that was not *actually* Harry Potter being interviewed, you dumbass. I just loved that movie so much! And I mean, for a 2001 relic which has been so utterly changed by the media storm it became and the increasing dementia of its world creator ('Wizards used to magic away their poop before they learned how toilets work, dear readers!'), it still holds up pretty well. Even if you didn't know it was going to become one of the largest franchises on the planet, the 2001-era cheesiness works just right; it has that leftover '90s feel while having just enough of the new millennium's optimism in it that it doesn't feel like a holdover from the decade gone by. It'll always be a fun watch, and the scene where Quirrell gets his face burned off by The Power of Love is always exciting. But god, I just could not be one of those people that is still hung up on Harry Potter all these years later. I don't understand it. Stay vigilant: remind people to read another book.



## WELLINGTON | CAMERON LEAKEY

9/10: *Shoutout to Ivy + Scotty & Mal's!*

I promised our Arts Editor a review this week and unfortunately I hadn't had time to watch more Netflix or listen to any new music. Although there is a new Ed Sheeran album out it was a strong no from the team. Lost for ideas, I did however spend the weekend in Wellington so alas, here is a review of Wellington.

Wellington is a pretty cool city. For starters, it has a CBD that really easy to walk around. The city itself is flat (although the suburbs around it are extremely hilly) and the city planners did the right thing by not blocking the city with motorways. Wellington, besides it's official government feel – has this pretty alternative feel to it. The citizens are like 2010 hipsters who still haven't progressed. Lambton Quay has plenty of good shopping – particularly the David Jones which is a Remuera Mum's wet dream. Cuba St is also pretty cool, at times like a more gentrified K Rd and at times like a less gentrified K Rd. A special shout out always to the bucket fountain which splashes water fucking everywhere but seems to be a Wellington sight-to-see.

Wellington is a pretty cool place; besides the earthquakes, crazy expensive rents and the wind, it's pretty neat. I was pretty happy to be there for the two days of the year that there wasn't blustering winds.

*Fares start to Wellington from pretty fucking cheap honestly. If you're paying more than about \$60 one way then you're doing something wrong.*



# Seoul Town Road: Country Rap, Billboard charts and Remix Culture - the curious case of Old Town Road

CAMERON LEAKEY

*As of the time of writing, Old Town Road by Lil Nas X (Featuring Billy Ray Cyrus) – alongside its numerous remixes – has broken the record for longest running consecutive number one song on the U.S. Billboard charts with seventeen weeks at the top spot. This record was previously held by Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men with 'One Sweet Day' and also by 'Despacito' by Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee. The song's popularity, boosted by its' country/hip hop/rap crossover, Lil Nas X's phenomenal social media presence and continual renewal of the song with remixes.*

Old Town Road began life as an independent release in December 2018. Having found traction on the social media app, TikTok, the song grew in popularity, leading to Columbia Records signing Lil Nas X and taking charge of distribution of the song. The song, based around a Nine Inch Nails sample (notably the second song of 2019 to sample a Nine Inch Nails Song, looking at you 'On a Roll' by Ashley O/Miley Cyrus) is pretty simplistic, with Lil Nas X taking his horses down to the old town road, riding till he simply can't no more. Lil Nas X has

said that the song has a deeper meaning for him – that the ‘old town road’ is a symbol of success, something he chased following his decision to drop out of college to pursue a music career. Lil Nas X bought the beat for “Old Town Road” from Dutch record producer YoungKioo from an online store selling beats. He paid \$30 for this beat.

The song entered the charts in March 2019, simultaneously charting on the Hot 100, Hot Country Songs and the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs charts. However, Billboard removed Old Town Road following a review and decision that the song did not embrace ‘enough elements of today’s country music’. This decision was widely controversial – the song was about to reach the number one position and the removal of a modern country song by a young African-American artist did not seem to be a fair decision. This removal mirrored previous decisions that appeared racially biased – in 2016, Daddy Lessons, a country influenced song by Beyoncé failed to be considered as a country song by the Recording Academy. Rolling stone writer Elias Light further compared these decisions to the influence that Rock music had on the rapper Juice Wrld, who’s 2019 album *Death Race for Love* did not chart on any rock music charts. Lil Nas X’s influence however on challenging the classification and traditions of country music has already had an effect. The Git Up by Blanco Brown – an African American artist – is now number one on the Hot Country Songs chart.

Whilst Lil Nas X’s success is born out of meme and social media culture, Old Town Road arguably traverses these spaces. In December 2018, Lil Nas X tweeted at Billy Ray Cyrus that he wanted Billy Ray on a remix of the song. Billy Ray tweeted his support when the song came to his attention and in response to the decision to remove Old Town Road from the country charts, Billy Ray and Lil Nas X recorded a remix of Old Town Road which has now become the version that has shot to and remained at the number one spot on the Billboard Hot 100. This success arguably emerging from the nostalgia that older listeners feel for Achy Breaky Heart and the nostalgia that younger listeners feel having grown up with Billy Ray in “Hannah Montana” and the continual success and attention on his daughter – Miley Cyrus – as a celebrity since *Hannah Montana* aired in 2006.

Billboard for its’ official counts does include remixes into its consideration of the top song spot. Other remixes of Old Town Road include a Diplo remix, a Young Thug and Mason Ramsey (Walmart Yodel Kid) remix and now a remix featuring RM of the K-pop boyband BTS. These remixes continue the growth of Old Town Road whilst renewing the song for a different audience and continuing the social media buzz and airplay that has fueled the success of the song. Remix culture is contentious. Madeleine Crutchley in her columns in Craccum this semester has suggested that remix culture does not fuel original creative endeavours and leads to a commercial profit being placed over artistic integrity – see *Cats*, *The Lion King*, *Aladdin* and any other live action Disney remake that is happening currently –. Remix culture however does allow for a new interaction and angle for the work to be considered. As such, Old Town Road’s structure is so easily accessible that the addition and removal of sections does not make the song feel incomplete as other remixed songs feel – for

evidence of this search around Spotify, many rap artists have featured on pop song remixes and felt completely out of place.

Old Town Road, love it or hate it, has moved the barriers of remix culture and pop music, Old Town Road’s feat at the top of the Billboard Charts may continue for several weeks, although Lil Nas X has said the latest remix may be the last, rumours swirl of further collaborations that pose potential to add value to the song, something that Lil Nas X would definitely consider capitalizing on. I leave you now with several remixes I anticipate will emerge as Lil Nas X continues his stay at the top

## Old Hero Road Feat. Mariah Carey

Lil Nas X teams up with Mariah Carey to dominate the billboard charts. Mariah sneaks into the beginning with her signature whistle tone vocals before Billy Ray steps in for the verse and takes it away. Mariah continues to hit the high notes at various intervals during the song, when played over headphones it’s piercingly high. Dogs bark in the distance, disturbed by the noise.

## Old Town Road Megamix

Every remix is combined so the song begins with a verse from each remix, the credits for the song go on. The song lasts 8 minutes. it’s still a number one.

## Sweet Old Town Caroline

An Ode to Neil Diamond’s Caroline, the remix appears at the end of the hype surrounding Old Town Road. Baby boomers go mad, they shuffle to the song at every 21<sup>st</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> across town. They reach out, touching you, touching me, touching the old town road.

## Soul Town Road

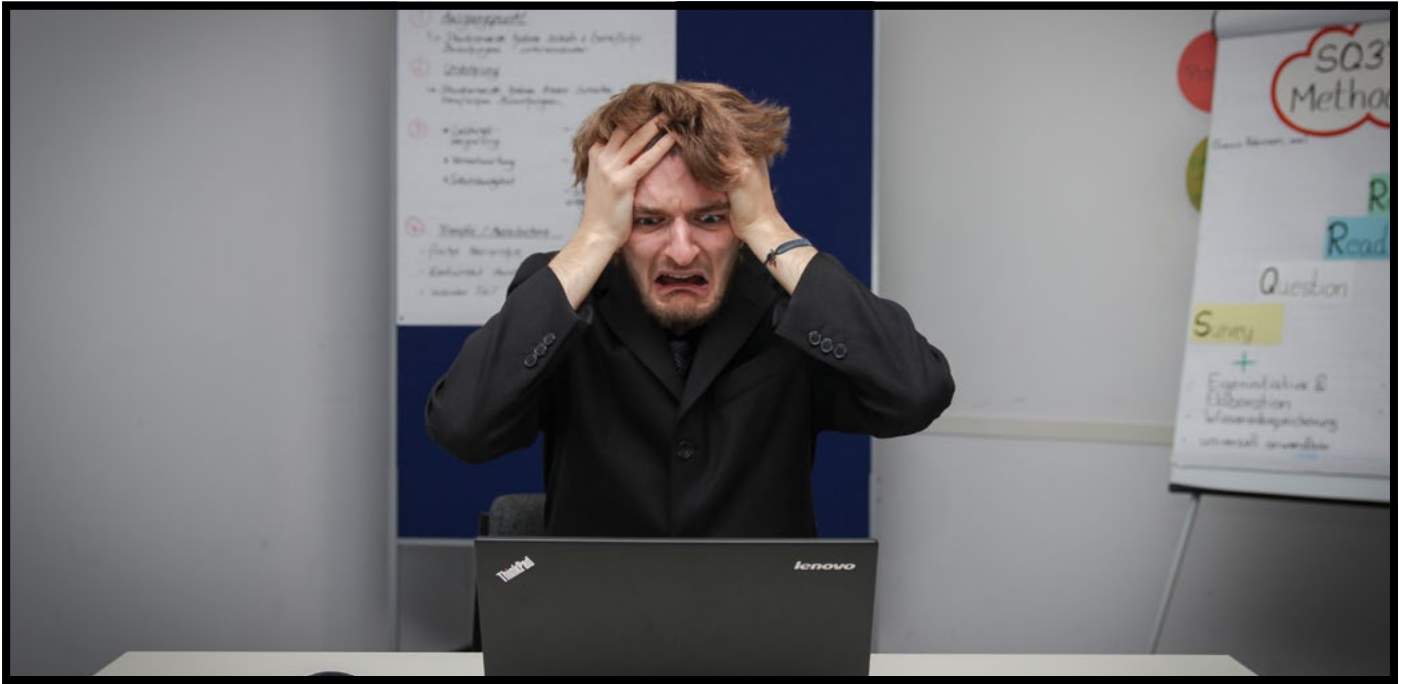
Featuring the dulcet tones of Stevie Wonder, this remix features the beginning of ‘Superstition’ before Billy Ray takes it away in a soulful rendition. The trap beats replaced by a soulful saxophone.

## Old Town Road (SOPHIE Remix):

The song is put through the SOPHIE treatment; the six sound effects that PC Music has access to are flooded on and the beats are changed to a harpsichord, it sounds angelic and fucking ridiculous.

## Old Town Road Megamix Playback

Every remix plays over the top of each other, an echo of Lil Nas X’s scream at you for the chorus, the harmony is lacking, it turns the world into chaos, cars crash and buildings are on fire. This is Lil Nas X’s world now.



# What If CGI but Too Much

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

*To my intense delight and disgust, the Cats trailer dropped last week and caused quite the stir online. Based on the long-running stage show and starring big names like Taylor Swift, Idris Elba (save him) and Ian McKellen, you could almost guarantee the film's commercial success.*

Except, the filmmakers have decided to touch the actors with CGI and make them look like actual cats. It's clear the animators were not given much time to render animation for the trailer, creating quite an... unsettling effect. This aesthetic truly leaves you stumbling through the uncanny valley, screaming upwards for help, only to hear echoes of your voice bounce off the cavern walls. Twitter was very upset and amused by this trailer. There were spooky re-edits, the music replaced with Jordan Peele's *Us* soundtrack, comparisons to the iconic *Cat in the Hat* film, and some troublingly lusty love confessions for the sexy T-Swiz kitty. I haven't checked up on any furry forums, but I wouldn't be surprised if this made quite an impact. Meow. **(Editor's note:** I have

researched Twitter, and the furries want the designers hung for crimes against furmanity)

The use of CGI (computer generated images) can be traced back to 1961, where the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology used a BESK computer to create a 49 second animation of a car travelling down the highway. In 1967, CGI animation of a Hummingbird was submitted to an experimental film competition. Since these baby steps, CGI animation has become commonplace in Hollywood film, usage of the technology exploding in the 90s. Many blockbusters remain heavily reliant on CGI to generate magical, fantastical and completely impossible scenes. This sometimes produces undeniable artistry, giving audiences the opportu-



nity to immerse themselves in the spectacle before them. It also has the capability of ripping the soul out of a script and reducing talented actors to a state of delirium against a green screen. Sometimes the spectacle is enough to distract, but audiences seem to be demanding more from lacklustre CGI flicks. Earlier this year the 'live-action' *Sonic the Hedgehog* trailer dropped, drawing similar criticisms to those of *Cats*. The much-loved cartoon seemed to resemble a more humanoid figure than the original iteration, which was met with widespread disapproval. The studio have since announced a re-design of the character.

Hollywood elites such as Christopher Nolan and Steven Spielberg have also expressed distaste at the overuse of CGI, championing an increase in the use of practical effects in Blockbuster films. Though these old filmmakers are getting particularly dusty, they may have a point about upping the use of practical effects. Notoriously, during the filming of *Dunkirk*, Nolan utilised

real explosions and thousands of extras to create harrowing scenes of realism. Actors from the film have expressed their intense feelings of immersion upon seeing the sets for the first time, which is quite apparent in their performances in the final cut. Similarly, Spielberg has backed his reasoning through his filmography. During the original *Jurassic Park* film, Spielberg utilised both CGI and puppetry to effectively bring dinosaurs to life. Compared to the remakes, *The Lost World* and *Fallen Kingdom*, the original films are much scarier and more technically interesting. In some cases, when a director is not relying on great advancements to be made in post-production, the aesthetics and story of a film are improved in quality. Perhaps if *Cats* had been based on costuming or an appropriately stylised animation, we wouldn't be so emotionally disturbed.

However, other special effects, like puppetry, have produced emotionally unsettling anthropomorphic images too. In 1986, the film *Howard the Duck*

was released. Based on a Marvel comic of the same name, the film tells the story of a duck alien who is transported across dimensions and romances Lea Thompson. The film brands itself as light-hearted sci fi, but has given me more nightmares than any horror film I have ever seen. Howard is brought to life by animatronic suits, costumes and puppetry, which exaggerate his large, soulless eyes and shift his face in such an eerie matter. This film needs to be submitted for generic reconsideration, there's no way it's PG enough for children. Despite this terrifying example, I would tend to agree that practical effects can be a great asset in filmmaking, which CGI seems to be dominating. But I would also ask that everyone stop demanding redesigns. I want to see movies like *Cats* and *Sonic* and *Howard the Duck*, and become submerged in bizarre, surrealist worlds created by producers with such misguided intentions. Honestly, someone needs to check on the furies. They're not doing well.

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# Traveling Hippie

ELOISE YOUNG

*Are eco-friendly products met with a not-so-friendly reception when travelling through customs?*

During the inter-semester break I travelled to Colorado, the land of 14 thousand feet mountains, aspen trees and buffalos that daredevil tourists like to take selfies with.

I've visited Colorado quite a few times before and never experienced high levels of stress and anxiety at customs, apart from when the guy behind the counter starts asking all those generic questions at rapid fire. It just becomes way too much, I start to question whether I did just get off a plane from NZ and if I really do have two siblings and a dog. All those times before however, never involved mass amounts of products containing a bunch of natural ingredients

that are almost always frowned upon when entering a country.

Before leaving New Zealand I debated whether or not I should just leave my environmentally friendly products behind, such as my cardboard deodorant containing beeswax, my tattoo balm containing manuka honey and all the bars from shampoo to shaving that contain copious amounts of natural oils and bits of plants and seeds. Life seems to get a bit dicey when you tick yes to all the questions you should really tick no to. So I considered it, I considered going out and buying a new, shitty plastic deodorant and shampoo to avoid the possible unpleas-

ant troubles at US customs. But then I had that moment, like in the Emperor's New Groove when Kronk's evil self and good self stand on his shoulders, It went something like this:

**Evil me:** "Just buy some normal plastic toiletries then you don't have to worry"

**Good me:** "No Ellie, think about how that plastic is going to stay on the planet for hundreds of years!"

**Evil me:** "It's just for this trip, it's not going to happen again"

**Good me:** "What about when you you're done with those bottles? You put them in the recycling bin thinking they are going to be made into something new but the reality is they won't be. So what if those bottles and plastic deodorants find their way into the ocean and a whale swallows them and then dies because you were too selfish and only thought about your own convenience. What then?"

The Good me definitely won this one.

So there I was, on the plane to the LAX airport with all my hippie toiletries waiting to be judged. But by the time the arrival form was handed out and I had skimmed through the questions, none of them mentioned honey or seeds in products, only fresh vegetables, meats, firearms, bullets, weapons, insects, goods to sell or used camping gear (all those usual family items...). Turns out I didn't need to worry about bringing in all my funky bathroom products because America really doesn't care. So if you ever end up in my position, don't panic.

Shortly after I arrived in Denver and was picking up some eggs and milk with my friend at one of the general supermarkets, King Soopers, I decided to do some environmental detective work and see if American supermarkets provided products that care about the environment. I started scouring the aisles for anything and everything, pacing up and down, reaching high and low. But my search didn't last long. If there was an eco option, there was only one, and all of the

cleaning products with less chemicals that claimed to be environmentally conscious were still in thick plastic bottles. The cherry on top was when we got to the checkout. Waiting for every customer, for his or her convenience, was an endless supply of free plastic bags. I think I might have left the store with that crazy person eye twitch.

The next day when the sun was shining at 5:52am and the 35-degree heat was blazing, my eye was still twitching with tree hugger rage. I stepped outside and breathed in the dry, scorching air and noticed that everyone's bins were out. I decided to take a little look, see if their bins were any different from our classic Auckland Council yellow and red lid bad boys. What I found was worse than lack of colour; both bins said 'landfill' on the side. In my moment of horror I ran into the garage to see if maybe the recycling bin was just waiting for its turn, but nothing. NO RECYCLING. I was lost for words at this point. I didn't understand how such a massive country with so much responsibility didn't do weekly, or even fortnightly recycling. I started thinking about every single item that is thrown away every week, how two massive bins full of 'rubbish' were just being taken to landfills- just from this one house. Looking around at all the houses both on the street and the ones we passed while driving to lunch made me utterly sad and disappointed.

Cafes and restaurants were not that conscious of our climate crisis either. With every drink accompanied by a straw, with every meal too big for the consumer came another plastic box to take home with them. It was clear that bringing your own containers and making the customer ask for a straw rather than just giving them one is something that hadn't caught on in the States.

When I left America with sore eyes from twitching too much and dry, flakey (ew) hands from the lack of humidity, I started contemplating how New Zealand is really showing the US what's what (not that they are listening). Sure, New Zealand has a lot of things to work on. But when you stop and think about it we are doing a hell of a lot more than other countries. We banned plastic bags, we have put in place the Zero

Carbon Bill, we have so many people who are passionate about change and about helping others take on a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. Even our airlines are ditching plastic and thinking more sustainably. It's safe to say a lot of New Zealanders are people who care, who want to make change, and are willing to put in the effort to get it.

So when the arrival card for New Zealand was handed out I was reminded again how much New Zealanders care; the checklist was *loooong*. I had to tick yes to a lot of those questions since I'm basically rubbing bird food in my hair and honey on my armpits. It was scary having to explain all my items containing the frowned-upon ingredients, but once I mentioned they are commercially made everything was totally ok and the inspection guy was even impressed with the great cleaning job I did on my hiking boots. Whatever you do though, always tick yes if you have the items listed on the form. Failing to declare can get you a fine ranging from \$400 to \$3000!

Whether you're a traveling hippie like me with your seeds, oils and honey or just the usual peep, be proud of NZ's progress and don't forget to throw a little shade at our neighbors... maybe our judgement will be their motivation.

“  
... when the  
arrival card for  
New Zealand was  
handed out I was  
reminded again  
how much New  
Zealanders care

”



ILLUSTRATION BY DAPHNE ZHENG (IG: @BREAKFAST.EXPRESS)

# Instagram removes likes: the end of the world as we know it?

LILLY HARPER

*In a recent update, Instagram has begun trialing the removal of its most pivotal feature; likes. Likes can now only be viewed by the admin, not by followers or anyone else. A representative from Instagram stated that the change was being trialed in smaller countries to gauge the impacts on users' wellbeing. Removing likes is being implemented under the guise of a cushioned online space where everyone is comfortable sharing whatever they want, whenever they want.*

Along with many others, I found myself questioning the actual motives behind this change, given the seemingly non-existent-up-until-this-point morals and ethics Facebook and other social media giants boast. Surprisingly enough, reactions to the change have been mostly positive, given there haven't been any international protests or petitions circulating, it generally seems likes have faded out smoothly.

However, there are some concerns within the influencer community, as Instagram's quantifiable popularity scheme has provided personal revenue from collaborations, promo codes and ads up until now. 'Shook' are the small-medium insta-influencers of Australia and New Zealand, as they face the demise of their kind under a new social media agenda. As engagement with socials diminishes, and gauges of popularity are phased out, influencers will increasingly rely on the exchange of metrics and data analysis, handing power over to



Insta. With likes gone, collaborators and small businesses will rely on follower count, which is increasingly unreliable as the escalation of 'follower purchasing' advances. It is impossible to ignore the pleading and complaining from insta-influencers, however, it does result in more personalized posts, with less sponsored content, which is welcomed in my opinion. I have grown tired of Slim-tea and Sugarbear Hair posts, and although these companies provide a revenue stream for influencers, I think I speak for everyone when I say; YOU'RE CANCELLED, WAIST TRAINERS.

The influencers taking a hit are those with ten thousand or fewer followers, as they claim their influence is difficult to sell once likes are removed. Many Australian influencers took to the Gram to rage and rant on the struggles of having 'Instagram as a job', and the 'blood, sweat and tears' that goes into gaining a loyal following on the platform. As cynical as I sound, I fully acknowledge that some do make their living on Instagram. However, it is not the end of the influencer as followers and account metrics remain and are still available and comprehensive enough to show business partners or sponsors. However, I think the REAL issues that are underlying for these influencers is that they've missed the like-train, they can't build up their brand based on those figures any longer: they're forced to post quality content: can you imagine? Maybe the influencers are just lost in a world without the instant-insta gratification, throwing their toys out of the cot, demanding their online hype-team come back into view. Issues will surely arise when this trial reaches the United States... then we'll have an uprising on our hands.

Considering theories, it has been suggested that Insta may be deceiving its users with its insistence on 'mental health and wellbeing' buzzwords. Instagram has been consistently focusing on ways to monetize the platform, with the implementation of ads in 2013, followed by the 'swipe up' feature in stories in 2018, to integrate in-app purchases. With an increasingly advertorial-based agenda, businesses will likely replace the modern influencer, as they provide more ad revenue. Businesses thrive under the new regime, as users can't judge the popularity of a product based on likes, therefore the user assumes trust of a brand or business. Of course, this is entirely a conspiracy theory, but it is rooted in truth, as Instagram has not shown any regard for the mental health of its users up until this point. Instagram also seeks to remove power from the 'like buying' businesses, which have gained traction in recent years as the pressure to appear as 'liked' by peers increases. Conspiracy theories aside, I guess the next time I post a scandalous mirror selfie or a cute sunset snap, I won't be insecure about the mere 6 likes I wrangled in, and I will no longer compare myself to contestants of the Bachelor from 3+ years ago. The most upsetting loss in a like-free world is the impassioned efforts of the World Record Egg successfully outranking Kylie Jenner's pregnancy post with millions of likes. I digress...

When I was 16, like many others I'm sure, I first got my own Instagram account, at the insistence of a friend. It was a foreign ground for me to conquer, and naturally, I started my journey with a sepia tone collage of pictures of me from Photobooth. From there, I progressed to rainbow filter cam-wow selfies and quotes I found on

Tumblr. Unsure if I am totally showing my age here, but essentially, I continued on this path like many other Gen Z'ers, my relationship with likes waning and waxing as I shifted between friends and age groups at high school.

I came to understand the insta-youth when the kids I once babysat started following me on Instagram. Their feeds were filled with selfies (both mirror and regular) captioned 'Insta thotties' or 'It's Everyday Bro' wearing the latest Tana Mongeau or Jake Paul merch. This is the very image I never wanted to imagine, but it is the manifestation of the social media revolution, as young users circulate popular trends portrayed by their favorite influencers. This suggests that the outrage felt by influencers at a like free world will be reproduced by the loyal following that they have.

To not be aware of how ingrained social media has become in the lives of people my age and younger would be foolish. Children have grown-up associating their self-worth with how they're perceived online. Likes, followers and personal profiles allow young users to perform a version of themselves online, a version that they see fit to reveal to their peers, who are all doing the same thing. This online space, therefore, is a stage where young people create an alter-ego that they pride themselves on and strive to truly be. These behaviors are centered around likes and Instagram culture that creates ranks and popularity contests within communities like schools or age groups. Ongoing issues with the mental health of today's youth have been aligned with pressures faced in a world that's increasingly lived online. Literature and many studies have suggested that peers are important in shaping teenagers' standards of beauty, femininity, and masculinity and their internalization of media ideals of these ideologies. For young people creating an account today, they will never know the stress of posting at the perfect time to ensure the most likes and they will never know the heartache of being swallowed up by Instagram's deeply flawed algorithm. Instagram is, intentionally or not, shaking up the way people think about themselves and their own lives. Insta without likes is more of a blog with comments enabled, where users are essentially let loose from social chains they never knew existed. Invisible likes have the power to create well-curated and personal content that comes with inhibition and freedom from popularity contests.

However, Instagram cannot stop the most damaging thing from happening. Forget validation - a heavily photoshopped picture of Channing Tatum or a lavish 21st birthday party (that you weren't invited to) is going to cause jealousy and ultimately sinking despair when you realize that'll never be you, as it's often what's in the photo, not the thousands of likes it may have received, that drives people to feelings of inadequacy and insecurity. Removing likes won't alter the fact that everyday users are comparing themselves to influencers, insta-models and heavily edited/curated pictures of people presenting their very best selves. The comparison that Instagram conjures from this consistent competition has led many businesses such as Sugar Bear Hair or Waist trainer to success, as users strive to become what they see on their feeds. So, sorry Instagram, but your supposed attempt at coddling our feelings may not have completely worked... if that was ever really the true intention.



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*But this time, your in-house oracle Average Kevin has studied the stars and planets to bring you insight into your future careers and prospects.*

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21 march - 20 april



Centre stage. Single spotlight. It's you. You're the voice everyone knows, the centre of the pop industry, getting back at all those kids who told you you couldn't sing. Endless Singstar really does pay off, just watch out for your stint in the realm of drug addictions.

## TAURUS

21 april - 21 may



Oh, good for you! You will end up doing something incredibly fulfilling and worthwhile, maybe charity work on a global scale. You will also be convicted for embezzlement.

## GEMINI

22 may - 21 june



You will be so captured by what you are reading right now, that you will immediately take up the art of astrology, learn the ways of the stars and the planets, and spend the rest of your life lying about people's futures.

## CANCER

22 june - 22 july



Your true story is in acrobatics. You belong in the circus! I mean look at how gracefully you fall down stairs, you're gonna make quite the trapeze artist.

## LEO

23 july - 22 august



The stars see much success ahead. You will rise rapidly to the pinnacle of your field, where you will be revered, respected and well paid. You will achieve everything you set out to, and it will never be enough.

## VIRGO

23 august - 23 september



Ever considered being a teacher? No? No one ever does, at first.

## LIBRA

24 september - 23 october



You will change the world. For the worse. People will remember you - they will say your name, under their breath, as a curse word. You will be feared, but not respected; your story will be burned into the history books, drenched in infamy, stained by the horrors you have unleashed upon an unsuspecting and undeserving planet.

## SCORPIO

24 october - 22 november



See that guy standing at the front of your first lecture today? That'll be you in 5 years.

## SAGITTARIUS

23 november - 21 december



You will end up working at Burger King for the rest of your life. Really regretting your Sociology degree now, aren't you?

## CAPRICORN

22 december - 20 january



You're gonna love university so much, you're just gonna stay here forever. Postgraduate, degree after degree, research project, a brief lecturing stint until finally the crushing student debt gets to you and you starve to death.

## AQUARIUS

21 january - 19 february



A cardboard box. Maybe the empty cruiser box from friday night, maybe the empty KFC big bucket from last night's dinner. If you don't change your path and change it now one of these containers of corrugated fiberwood that didn't make it to the recycling could well become what you call home.

## PISCES

20 february - 20 march



You don't think maybe you should've chosen law? You're always right and you always make sure everyone knows it. Don't take it the wrong way, it's not the worst trait to have. But it's fair to say your future lies in the courtroom; just be sure to stay on the right side of the law.

# the people to blame.

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