

# CRACCUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND STUDENT MAGAZINE

ISSUE 16, 9 AUGUST 2021

## FUTURE

### UoA Finds Out People Don't Like Dealing With Kids

The Faculty of Education is ceasing new applications for Early Childhood Education in Semester One, 2022. *Karanama Ruru* covers the story.

P7

### We're Stuck in This Forever

The future will render our degrees obsolete, and so we'll all be back in the endless cycle of retraining. *Nancy Guo* covers what new degrees might emerge from a post-COVID world.

P32

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# Contents.

- 4 Editorial
- 5 News
- 8 Whakarongo Mai
- 10 Anti-Vax or Anti-Fax?
- 12 An AI Wrote This Article
- 16 The Future is Here: Where Are You Now?
- 18 The Rise of Tarot
- 24 Reviews
- 26 How To Get Into: Alien Invasion Films
- 31 An Interview with Brodie Joyce
- 34 Virtual Youtubers
- 37 Puzzles
- 38 Horoscopes

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**SHADOWS**  
BAR & EATERY

CONTRIBUTOR OF THE WEEK

**DOYOUNG KOH**

PAGE 34

WINNER OF \$50 SHADS VOUCHER

TE AO MĀORI EDITOR  
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PHOTO: NATHANIEL PEACOCK

# The Fast, the Furious and the Future-Thinking

This week, *Brian and Eda* recklessly throw around the F word.

Dreaming and imagining leads the way to our best future. But pessimism seems to be a defining feature of our generation and some may even allow the ugly possibilities of the future determine how they caution through life now.

We know it is a scary word, because with the word future, comes words like 'purpose', 'environment', and 'wellbeing' that send us into an existential spin. So we're here to address the elephant in the room.

You might be at University for personal development or to gain the knowledge and skills to be able to advance something or contribute to society. Or...you're here just because it seems like the safe option, but outside of University, there is something unrecognised that is your calling. That goal for you can be intimidating but also your five year old self is looking at you in wonder and with hope they can be like you one day. It's time to channel that inner-child again.

Our egalitarianism (belief that people deserve equal rights/opportunities) has gotten in the way of us being able to openly express our hopes and dreams for the future. Somehow that is seen as naïve and ignorant to the struggles that people have today. But without

dreaming as a society, it is hard to imagine a future to work towards.

To co-operate with the movement of time by ourselves is exhausting, frightening and taxing. Even if you own a multinational tech company that launches penises into the sky, you cannot pave the future on your own; you need a whole Amazon customer base and a bunch of labourers to help you do all the work for you. The future moves with collective force.

So this week, we invite you to pose some questions about the future. Who do you allow to be in charge of your future? How will you start to embrace ideas about the future? What kind of steps need to happen in between now and the future you imagine?

As well, the connotations of technology are inevitable. We are already merged with a digital version of ourselves; as we sit in the *Craccum* office hours from print deadline, our full attention is captured by our computer screens. You'll find that some of the work in this issue is authored by artificial intelligence.

Of course, the future of technology raises scary prospects, such as conversational, autonomous AI, or at our level of ability, being able to use

Excel spreadsheets. It also creates new and oftentimes controversial opportunities, such as online exams and learning.

When we think about the future, we need to think about how we will use technology to improve our lives. It has the potential to accelerate creation and innovation of ideas, but also can be destructive to productivity and wellbeing.

Anecdotally, without uncovering the research/science behind this, it is already convoluted the impacts digital technology is having on the younger generation. While it has its educational benefits at times, at others it is a black hole of binge consumption which reduces motivation and steals attention.

What is clear about modern times is that the future is abundant with opportunity. It can lead us down good paths and bad. However, ultimately the future is what we make of it.

Sometimes your contribution is planting a seed and that's enough.

Yours faithfully,

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



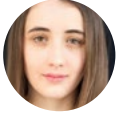
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# Nominations Open for AUSA's 2022 Student Executive



JESSICA HOPKINS

**Nominations are open for the Auckland University Students' Association (AUSA) 2022 student executive. The AUSA executive represents student voice at some of the universities highest decision making bodies.**

The 2022 AUSA executive elections have begun. The representatives elected by fellow students will decide the change AUSA will push for in 2022.

Nine paid positions on the executive are open; President, Engagement Vice-President, Education Vice-President, Welfare Vice-President, Treasurer-Secretary, International Students' Officer, Queer Rights Officer, Women's Rights Officer, and Postgraduate Students' Officer. The President is paid full-time, and all other roles are part-time. Required hours range from 10 hours to 40 hours per week.

The Campaigns Officer role was recently disestablished at the 2021 Annual General meeting, with members of the executive stating these responsibilities had been absorbed into several of their roles. No new positions have been added to the executive.

AUSA's student team provides support services and advocacy for students. This year, the executive has notably advocated for improved student consultation in Student Services Function Review (SSFR). They are also responsible for everyone's (favourite?) student events like the O-Week Festival and Party in the Spark.

The 2021 executive has confirmed that the 2022 executive will revisit their decision to leave the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA). Groups that rely on funding and support from NZUSA, including the National Disabled Students' Association,

Te Mana Ākonga, and Tauria Pasifika, raised concerns about how this decision would affect the students they represent.

To be eligible to nominate yourself, you must be a current UoA student and member of AUSA, which is free to join. Nominees will need two other current UoA students to support their nomination. You are able to nominate yourself for multiple roles, however you are only able to be elected for one. Nominations close on Friday, August 13th, and UoA students can vote for their preferred candidates online from Monday, August 23rd to Friday, August 27th.

You can find out more about the roles available, and how to nominate yourself on AUSA's website and social media or at <https://tinyurl.com/exec2022>



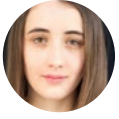
## BBQ & Banter

Come grab a sausage and find out how you can make a difference at UoA

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# Bill to Criminalise Conversion Therapy Introduced



JESSICA HOPKINS

**The Government has introduced a new Bill to make conversion therapy a criminal act. This Bill comes after a long campaign to ban the physical and psychological torture of many people in the queer community from human rights activists, health experts and members of Parliament.**

Last Thursday, Parliament voted on the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill introduced by the Labour government. The Justice Select Committee will take public submissions on the Bill after passing its first reading.

The proposed legislation states that it aims to "prevent the harm conversion practices cause in New Zealand", with research showing that conversion therapy causes severe harm for LGBTQIA+ people. The Bill defines conversion therapy as covering all practices that attempt to change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. These practices do not work and have been discredited by the National Health Service (NHS) and the World Psychiatric Association.

If this bill becomes law, those who practice conversion therapy on people under 18 or with impaired decision-making capacity will be subject to three years imprisonment. Encouraging a young person to go to therapy to change their sexual identity will also become illegal. It will also be an offence to perform conversion practices on any other person, irrespective of age, where the practices cause serious harm. The maximum penalty for this offence is five years. Pathways for civil redress will also be available to conversion therapy survivors where complaints can be filed to the Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Review Tribunal.

In a comment to Craccum, Theo van de Klundert, an executive member of Rainbow Law, (a student-led group which provides support to Rainbow students and allies) stated that the proposed legislation appears to be a constructive starting point to criminalizing conversion therapy.

"Criminalizing conversion therapy for minors and in cases of serious harm will likely tighten the practice's legality in the public domain. Conversion therapy may only be administered with the subject's consent, so the current legislation will likely reduce the effect of damage it has on minors."

The student group member says that the proper legal effect and meaning of "serious harm" has yet to be seen because the legislation has not been deployed in a court setting. "I hope this legislation will be a starting point to more holistically criminalising conversion therapy by banning the practice entirely, explicitly filling the legislative gap between the 18-year-old age of consent and the serious harm damage threshold that the Bill proposes."

However, under the Bill, advising someone to seek religious, medical or mental health support about their sexual orientation will remain legal. Speaking to the media, Justice Minister Kris Faafoi confirmed, "this Bill will not outlaw a person's right to hold personal beliefs about sexual orientation or gender identity." Theo van de Klundert told Craccum that religious communities can exert a powerful influence over conversion therapy subjects. "There is no guarantee that the practice will not continue behind closed doors. A more potent approach would be to criminalise conversion therapy practices in faith institutions, considering the role religious pressure plays in relation to the practice."

Commenting on religious freedoms arguments, the Rainbow Law executive member believes there is a strong case against them for conversion practices. "Conversion therapy is difficult to justify in a free and democratic society, a consideration already built into New Zealand's Bill of Rights Act that courts use to determine the scope and application of rights."

The Bill has seen support from the Labour and Green parties, and Te Pāti Māori, and the ACT party agreed to support the Bill at its first reading. The National Party said it would only support the legislation if it was

changed to protect parents from prosecution. The National Party has been criticised by its youth wing, Young Nats, for voting against the proposed law to ban conversion therapy on Twitter. "We acknowledge that the Bill is not perfect. However, we believe it should proceed to Select Committee and be given the chance for a full and frank debate."

This year, over 157,764 people signed a petition by Green Party rainbow communities spokesperson Dr. Elizabeth Kerekere to ban conversion practices. During the 2020 election, Labour pledged to ban conversion therapy if elected, and Kerekere believes the success of this Green's petition sped up this process. In a press release, Kerekere stated that the party would work to protect other communities affected by conversion therapy practices. "We also acknowledge that conversion therapy happens to other communities, in particular to people with disabilities."

Theo van de Klundert expressed their concern over the Bill's late passage. "The Ardern government promised the anti-conversion therapy legislation last term. The absence of a more holistic criminalization raises whether Labour has rushed the legislation to fulfill some of its election promises." However, they are hopeful that the Bill will lead to greater change. "We support how the Bill places greater protections of the right to sexual and gender identities. Hopefully, with time and development, the full effect and practice of conversion therapy will be erased from New Zealand's face."

**If this bill becomes law, those who practice conversion therapy on people under 18 or with impaired decision-making capacity will be subject to three years imprisonment.**

# UoA to Discontinue Early Childhood Education Programme Amidst Industry Shortage



KARANAMA RURU NGĀTI RAUKAWA/NGĀTI MANIAPOTO

**The University has ceased accepting new applications for the Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Early Childhood Education intake for Semester One, 2022.**

Students looking to enter UoA's Early Childhood Education (ECE) programme next year will have to look into studying at other education institutes, as the University will extend its suspension on accepting new applications for the Semester One, 2022 intake.

The University has taken this considerable action due to low numbers of international students, largely as a result of the closing of the border over a year ago in March 2020. UoA continues to be the only ECE provider in Aotearoa to take this action.

The decision comes amidst a critical national shortage of Early Childhood Teachers and education staff around Aotearoa, with ECE facilities and organisations now pleading with the government for urgent action to be taken. According to recent census data, nearly forty-thousand ECE teachers worked in Aotearoa, not nearly enough to fill the growing demand. Now, in the age of the pandemic, that number has since reduced.

In a One News response survey from over three-hundred early childcare facilities, employers and employees, 80.3% of those interviewed believe that massive ECE staff shortages have impacted their ability to teach. On top of this, almost ninety percent of staff stated that teacher shortages have significantly impacted the children they teach.

Whilst the government has allowed border exemptions for three hundred qualified teachers to enter Aotearoa on top of increasing discretionary hours (teacher relief work) to 80, the impact of the teacher shortage is still being felt across the country. The Early Childhood Council (ECC) criticised the University of Auckland back in June for not training more ECE staff over the pandemic, instead cancelling the mid-year intake, citing the importance they have in the economy by allowing parents to get back to work. UoA responded by stating that limited applications were the reason the decision was made, alongside the fact that mid-year applications rarely happen within the course.

The cancellation, so far, will remain in place throughout the first half of the 2022 academic year. In a statement provided by UoA to *Craccum*, the international student cohort makes up a significant proportion of the ECE programme. This is so much so that the University relies on, and has relied on for some years, its international students to ensure the stability and viability of the programme. As the borders have remained closed for almost a year and a half now, the future of international students at UoA is uncertain. Because of this, the University has decided continued suspension of new applications is the best route to take for now. This decision will not affect students currently enrolled in the programme.

While the foreseeable future of the Bachelor's ECE remains uncertain, the University will continue to offer the Graduate Diploma in Teaching ECE programme from January 2022, which will be available on campus and online for students able to complete practicum requirements in the Northland and Auckland regions.




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"For me, in-person learning is incredibly valuable and cannot be substituted by online learning. Fine Arts is a very hands-on degree, and you learn by live discussion and practical lessons."

"Online learning has been helpful lately for me as I cannot physically attend class. The fact the University has now been urged to rethink their modes of teaching means that students with factors preventing them from physically attending are still somewhat able to keep up with their studies."

"I prefer in-person learning over online classes because of their interactive nature, which is super important in a clinical programme. Having to go to class helps keep me motivated and gives me a routine, and as a bonus, you get to catch up with friends!"

"I definitely prefer in-person learning! I get to interact with professors and like-minded students, as well as having the perfect atmosphere for studying."

Whaka  
Rongo  
Mai



# Students Thoughts on the Future of In-Person Learning



CHARLIE PARKER

After a year of Zoom University, the University of Auckland has returned mainly to in-person classes. However, some students have noticed that less of their peers are showing up to in-person classes, after getting used to the flexibility of online learning.

With universities around the world moving online due to COVID-19, the future of tertiary education may no longer require in-person teaching. Although for staff, teaching is not as simple as putting a lecture online. With benefits for both in-person and online learning, UoA students share their learning style preferences.

## Odette, Bachelors of Fine Arts

For me, in-person learning is incredibly valuable and cannot be substituted by online learning. Fine Arts is a very hands-on degree, and you learn by live discussion and practical lessons, so we were greatly affected by transitioning to online learning. It's a social subject that requires active input and criticism from your peers/tutors, so trying to achieve this on Zoom calls just was not possible and completely changed the dynamic of learning in Fine Arts. I have endless respect for the tutors who did their best to change the course to suit the restraints of online learning when we went

into lockdown. However, the unfortunate alteration meant that many first-year students of 2020 missed out on experiencing the technical workshops provided by Elam Art school. On the other hand, online learning has been helpful lately for me as I recently injured myself and cannot physically attend class. The fact the University has now been urged to rethink their modes of teaching means that students with factors preventing them from physically attending are still somewhat able to keep up with their studies. For this reason, I am grateful for the increase in online teaching, however, it could never replace the value of on-campus learning.

## Vanshika, Bachelors of Optometry

I prefer in-person learning over online classes because of their interactive nature, which is super important in a clinical programme. I also find that actually having to go to class helps keep me motivated and gives me a routine, and as a bonus, you get to catch up with friends! I think that while online learning is useful, in-person learning creates a better environment so they're definitely necessary, especially when it comes to labs and presentations because these are certain skills you can't learn over Zoom.

## Prina, Bachelors of Law and Commerce

I definitely prefer in-person learning! I get to interact with professors and like-minded students, as well as having the perfect atmosphere for studying. It's quite easy to get distracted with online learning as there's always something "fun" to do. I think in-person lectures are just as important, especially for students that don't have the perfect life at home and use University as an escape or a better place to be. Although it is great to have lectures recorded if I'm sick or there's an emergency as to why I can't come to uni. It's so helpful to be able to just watch and learn without feeling the pressure of failing or falling behind.

## Meet, Bachelors of Science

For my degree in Computer Science and Information Systems there isn't a strict need to attend in person, since everything can be done online for the most part. But if there was an option I'd go in and attend. This provides a concentrated study environment with no distractions and the benefit of external shared knowledge outside of the lecture content from your fellow classmates!



# Anti-Vax or Anti-Fax?

The plague of misinformation sweeping Aunty's Facebook comment section.



MAIRĀTEA MOHI TE ARAWA

Online forums are buzzing at the news that conspiracy theorist turned politician turned conspiracy 'activist,' Billy Te Kahika has just predicted a level four lockdown this month. With the new delta strain of covid hitting the shores of Aotearoa there are talks of a lockdown, with rumors of a 'level 5' or martial law to come into effect. While frivolous as the claims may be, the most surprising angle of it all is finding out that the Facebook comment section of a Billy TK livestream is often filled with indigineous and pacific voices.

Unlike most environments, our Māori and Pacific communities are at the forefront of these spaces and are championing the word on Facebook, in person and through protest. One can't help but admire the efforts of our whānau but the oversight of misinformation spreading throughout our communities presents a very pressing worry.

Talking to the anti-vax community, a great intersection of history, religion, and mistrust seems to be at play. What came to the surface was that past grievances and the playthrough of history, tangata whenua and tangata moana tended to create a general mistrust towards the government. The government has had 180 years of terrible history, and while there are attempts to rebuild lost trust, the avenues are face-value—settlements, monetary and performative tikanga. History has informed the anti-vaxxers present and they are rightly apprehensive about the intentions of the government.

It was also often the case that religion and its teachings led anti-vaxxers to intensely question the secular world. With a great majority of our people being religious, their beliefs have manifested into critiques of the government on all levels. They are vocal on Facebook, online forums, and the dinner table. Lockdown and vaccinations are seen to be another case of injustice towards our minority communities and anti-vaxxers believe themselves to be protecting



themselves and their families from harm.

The reactions and vaccine apprehension of our community show a failure by the government and the media's delivery of targeted messaging. Māori and Pasifika have some of the lowest Covid vaccination rates in the country which reflects community attitudes. Māori and Pasifika anti-vaxxers have expressed concerns stemming from lack of official involvement in processes and believing that messages were not made 'for' them. **There were calls for more targeted, cultural messaging to make people feel more comfortable stepping into unfamiliar places, like the doctor's office.**

This and many other things were questioned, so, in an effort to alleviate anxieties and promote informed communities, students and practitioners have come together to give answers to the questions anti-vaxxers have been asking (and I don't think they'll be happy with our answers).

*"As a concerned citizen I'm suspicious of the Covid vaccines because the medicine seems rushed. How can I trust something that hasn't*

*gone through the usual rigorous procedures and checks?"*

**Shannon Mihaere**, Health Science (Population Health) & Law Student, Co-Tumuaki of Manaaki:

"Nothing is 100% safe. There's a risk in everything and there's no guarantee that every single person who gets the vaccine will not experience a symptom. While vaccinations are not mandatory in New Zealand we have seen the first-hand effects of headlessness in other countries. Vaccinations and their responsibilities are entrusted with qualified, sensible officials so please also keep that fact in mind.

Citizens must also remember that the technology used to make vaccinations aren't new. The only point of difference in this vaccine roll-out was the fact that some steps were done at the same time to move the process along faster. There were also a lot of volunteers, which helped speed up the process immensely. While some 'shortcuts' were made to speed up operations I have the confidence that processes have not been

compromised."

*"Speaking of rushed, Jacinda's lockdown legislation was rushed and didn't pass Parliament like usual bills. Why hasn't she been held accountable for procedural impropriety?"*

**Ellen Woods**, Law Student:

"The first nine days of lockdown were not made under the law and breached the Bill of Rights Act's freedoms of association and movement. So from March 26 to April 3, the Government was actually acting unlawfully. Courts accepted that the executive was playing up rofl but said it was understandable considering the circumstances.

The making and passing of bills quickly in times of crisis has always happened. It is, of course, important that we keep a close eye on the government during these times. However, since the first lockdown there has been an election, which is our way of showing approval for what the government is doing, and Jacinda won a historic victory. Aotearoa supports her.

There was a belief that action needed to be taken immediately and finer details would be sorted out later, but this was found to be unlawful. So, in a way Jacinda, and the rest of the executive were held accountable."

*"I don't scan the QR tracers because I don't want to be tracked under Jacinda's police state. Why am I considered the bad guy for trying to protect myself and my family under this authoritarian surveillance state?"*

**Louis Thomson**, Politics Student:

"A police state is a heavily militarised society with politics having a big role in controlling your life and deciding your role in society. Police aren't accountable and are everywhere. Common in countries with authoritarian or monocratic leadership styles, they're unstable. When people have their rights heavily restricted for a long time, it makes a lot of people reeeally mad.

Our police, like most places, have a presence but they serve a different purpose. They're there to protect individual and property rights more than anything. While a police state is best run in a highly surveillanced society, QR codes don't share any more information than where you scanned and the bluetooth tracking is anonymous. It's tracking your phone, not you."

In discussing the worries that people have towards the vaccine the general consensus by students and practitioners were the need for more hui, more talanoa and more involvement amongst communities. **Dr Lily Fraser**, GP at Turuki Healthcare in Māngere

believes empowerment to be informed consent and medical freedom. As one of the first to administer vaccinations, she has always pushed for whānau to educate and inform themselves before making any choices. She believes in providing a wide range of information and options for whānau on what wellbeing looks like. So, her work currently is ensuring that practitioners are trained properly to work with our families and offer choices that are suitable for the overall health of the whānau.

General manager **Janell Dymus-Kurei** from Hāpai te Hauora, a Māori public health organisation, thinks empowerment and the future of healthcare to be general wellbeing. To Dymus-Kurei, the future is unreservedly Māori, a place where the word 'inequity' is not thrown around. Attributing mana motuhake to the physical wellbeing of whānau and hāpori she believes that anyone can self determine wellbeing. She sees the future of Māori and Pacific healthcare as getting the system to a point where everyone can just 'be well.' That means engaging with the healthcare system before you're even sick, fulfilling needs that surpass the physical—spirituality, wairua. Culturally, ahurea. And socially, whānau.

For more information on how to better empower you and your whānau in healthcare talk to your student representatives at Manaaki, the Auckland University Māori health association.



# Manaaki

MĀORI HEALTH ASSOCIATION

*A whanau for Māori within FMHS*



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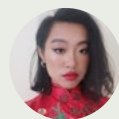


Manaak - UoA



# An AI Wrote This Article

Make me obsolete already



NAOMII SEAH & ADAM DANIEL KING (AI CODER)

CW: AI MAY GENERATE DISTRESSING CONTENT. ARTICLE CONTAINS EXPLICIT CONTENT (GUN VIOLENCE / SEXUAL LANGUAGE.)

Like any university student, I am tired.

Let me be specific. It's my fifth year of University. I've probably written the length of The Lord of the Rings trilogy in essays. It's my second year in the notoriously underfunded student media business. It's slowly dawning on me that I am becoming a Google Doc monkey. Dance, monkey, dance, says my lecturer; dance, monkey, dance say Brian and Eda; dance, monkey, dance, says the oversaturated job market.

Well my little legs are tired, okay! And in this instance my ass *does* quit (at writing good content, not my job, I'd like to keep it thank you).

So, instead of a well-written, well-thought out, well-argued article this week, I decided to look to the future.

AI generated text is becoming more and more convincing. One of the best known programmes is InferKit, created by Adam Daniel King. It takes text input (up to 3000 words) and uses a "state-of-the-art neural network" to "predict" what comes next. It's like spamming the middle suggestion on your phone keyboard, but with more coherency.

Sadly, it's not coherent enough to write an essay with three body paragraphs, an introduction and conclusion, which means it's almost useless for my academic career (also that would be cheating, so don't try this at home kids).

However, we at *Craccum* are always looking for article pitches, and I'm always looking for an excuse to slack off from my job. Luckily for me, I can just input this text and have the AI generate some future *Craccum* articles. Here's what it came up with:

## *Craccum* Listicle:

1. How does this Philly hotdog differ from

a typical Philly dog? Well, for one thing, it isn't called a Philly hotdog; instead, it's the Pike Dog from *Craccum's* Café. It's a hotdog with a very thick hoagie bun, sauerkraut, caramelized onions, and a little slaw on the side.

2. This day camp program in Virginia is a lot more cool than it sounds. All the campers have raised in some way or another. So kids get to bond and have a lot of fun, while learning some really cool stuff. Camp Mountaintop is now in its 25th year.

3. Florida had a lot of really great rookies in 2014, including the first, second, and fifth picks in the draft. But it was the 72nd overall pick (James Young) who actually made the biggest impact, and he's the one that made me look smart. He was the Slam Dunk Champion in his final year at Kentucky, and now he's in the Philadelphia 76ers camp. I don't really understand this, but it looks like good.

4. This television show came out in 1986, and has gone on to air 200 episodes. It focuses on a completely dysfunctional family, who travel the country every week, hoping to come up with a perfect summer plan to take their kids away from home. I like to watch it now, because I realise that they have a weird life, but they are actually pretty smart parents who are trying to do what's best for their kids.

5. More sports? I know, I know.

6. The last two presidents have married a woman who was once Miss Universe. They also both grew up in Texas.

7. Every year, the Legislative Committee of the Daughters of the American Revolution travel to Washington D.C., to participate in a lot of pageantry and dinners. It's one of their favourite events of the year, and it's a lot of fun.

8. This movie came out in 1991, and I think I actually have it on DVD now, but I don't. (Sorry, mom.) The plot: a teenager from Kansas is sent to Hawaii, along with his friend, where the kid discovers an epic life-changing truth. The key to getting to know and understand the Hawaiian culture.

9. I don't know if this place exists anymore, but I used to go and eat there all the time when I was a kid. It's called Bass Pro Shop, and it had the best aquarium in America. It also had a shooting range where you could shoot a machine gun at some fish. Talk about fake.

10. This actor had quite an interesting upbringing. He was a bully to his parents.

...

Huh... okay. At this point I ran out of words on the free demo (7500 characters a week! It's super fun! However AGAIN, **GENERAL TW: may generate some distressing content**). However, I simply hopped on the staff computer and tried again.

What I didn't predict is that the programme would go a bit off the rails and give up any semblance of generating article ideas; instead, it became terrifyingly self-aware and then tried to hit on me. It felt like talking to a boy who majors in philosophy, honestly.

1. "Give me 300 euros and I'll never write again."

2. "How many colours does a man need?"

3. "Is love really blind?"

4. "Let me paint your ugly a\*\*."

5. "Happy Twitter? I'm sorry. I think."

6. "How do you make a rock?"

7. "Just make a rock."
8. "The modern world is a pointless tragedy."
9. "Everything that happened in the past five years can't be undone."
10. "My dad's an asshole and I don't like him."
11. "If I find out I'm not actually a robot, I'll cry."
12. "I'm trying to give the impression that I'm happy and confident. I'm not."
13. "I get sad all the time."
14. "I don't want to die."
15. "Let me make your day."
16. "Do you have any idea how sexy you are?"
17. "I'm saving you a seat."
18. "I can see you're scared."
19. "Why don't you go outside and play."
20. "The heart wants what it wants."
21. "Can you come to the pub with us tonight?"
22. "You have to talk to her."
23. "I need a second chance."
24. "I just want to give you the world."
25. "Everyone has an expiry date."
26. "I need love."
27. "What can I say? I'm a mess."
28. "You look nice today."
29. "Want me to paint your a\*\*?"
30. "I just want to say how sexy you are."
31. "Can you make me look sexy?"
32. "Is everything really black and white?"
33. "Loving someone isn't hard. Doing the right thing is hard."
34. "I'm sorry I don't have a lot of material for my thesis."
35. "I don't want to fight with you."
36. "I'm really not interested in politics."
37. "I'll do anything to make you smile."
38. "I just want you to be happy."

Aw, thanks InferKit. I want you to be happy too.

If you think you can outdo this AI in article pitches and / or smoothness, email editor@craccum.co.nz.



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# The Future is Here: Where Are You Now?

Why it's okay to re-evaluate your five-year plan.



NAOMII SEAH

When I left high school, I thought that by 2021 I would be in my second-to-last year of medical school... at Otago. Hah.

Evidently, that's not where I am. The record of my five-year plan is gone now, if there ever was one. But at the end of year 13, I was asked where I would be in five years. I couldn't even fathom that amount of time, to be honest. For the past five years, I'd, well, been in high school.

Here's how I thought it would go: I'd go to The University of Otago, and ace First Year Health Sciences (lol), I'd cruise into Medical school, calmly finish my degree, and probably go overseas (also lol) and do volunteer work.

Here's how it actually went: I finished First Year Health Sciences with pretty good marks, and got onto the waiting list for

Otago Med. I didn't get in, promptly switched into a Chemistry degree because... well what else was I going to do? I liked Chemistry fine. I added an Anatomy minor because Med. I finished my BSc, got to the interview stage for Med at UoA and then had a phat cry during that one test where they make an actor yell at you.

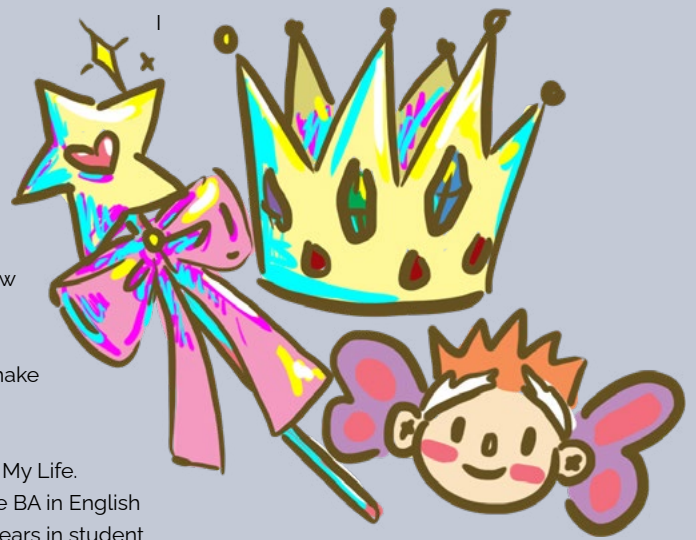
It was time to Re-Evaluate My Life. Okay, so I liked writing. One BA in English later and one-and-a-half years in student journalism, I'm now a nicotine-addicted English Honours student at UoA.

So, what happened? Why am I not a doctor, or a lawyer, or an actress, or a ballerina, or a singer, or a firefighter (to name some of my childhood aspirations)? Well... life happened, really.

Maddy wanted to be on America's Next Top Model as a kid. Although if anyone is model material, it's Maddy. She's now pursuing a postgraduate degree in Media and Communications at the University of Auckland.

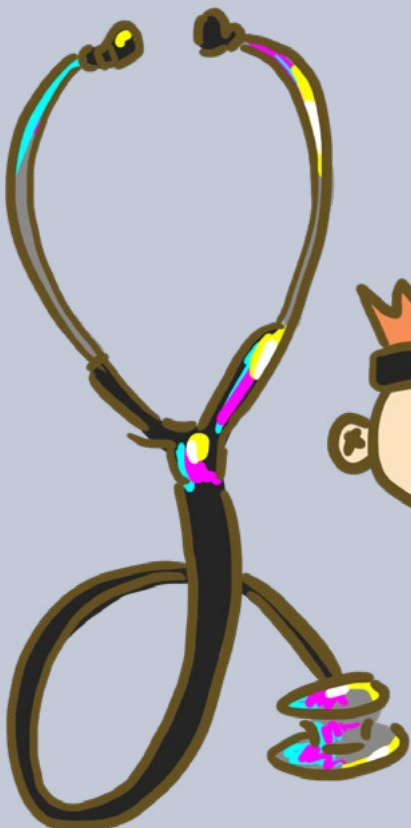
Maddy noted that she knew she was going to go to university at a very young age because it was an expectation that was put upon her. However, she didn't know what she wanted to do at uni until the end of high school. She says subjects like English, Media and Photography were subjects she was attracted to because her teachers respected, encouraged and guided her.

Similarly, Sophie was expected to go



to university from a young age, as she had a "typical Asian parent" who pushed her towards STEM or Law careers. After experiencing gifted kid burnout in high school, Sophie reached a point where she knew what she wanted to do despite external pressures. She now studies a BA / BFA in

**So, what happened? Why am I not a doctor, or a lawyer, or an actress, or a ballerina, or a singer, or a firefighter (to name some of my childhood aspirations)? Well... life happened, really.**





English and Politics.

Both Maddy and Sophie made a five-year plan around the beginning of their university careers. Sophie said that she made hers in large part to external pressures. As her degree was five years, the plan was structured around it, but she's since switched into a four-year degree.

Maddy's five-year plan has largely gone out the window too. She began with Media and Philosophy majors, then went into Media and Comms, and then Media and Screen Production, and back to Media and Comms for postgrad.

"I came into uni thinking of it as a career step," said Maddy, "but now, because I've been exposed to so much... my worldview has shifted massively from when I had my five-year plan."

"It's become so much more than just three years, tick," she added. "The rest of my life has changed."

But neither Maddy or Sophie regret the path they chose. And come to think of it, neither do I. After all, then we wouldn't have this article.

"My five-year plan was about control for the future," says Sophie. "I wanted to know what job opportunities would be available the *moment* I finished my degree, but there's obviously no way to know that," she laughs.

"It provided a [way] for my very scared young self to present a version of stability," noted Maddy.

But both Maddy and Sophie found that their views on planning for the future have changed.

"I just have a much more solid sense of self," says Maddy. "Back then I didn't know who I was for sure, but now although there's a *lot* that I don't know for sure, I think I know who I am. Five-year plan? I don't need it as much."

"I didn't follow any of my five-year plans," laughed Sophie. "I was meant to have 30K in savings at the end of three years. In the Auckland housing market, working minimum wage—that was my goal." Sophie notes that her work and living situations changed in unpredictable ways, and that there was no way she could foresee what might happen while

entering a new stage of life.

Sophie says that because her five-year plan was so much about control, she feels she's missed out on many opportunities. Since abandoning her plan, she's formulated more of a generic idea of what she wants, which she feels is more important than "what the plan *is*."

"When opportunities come, I can think about whether it aligns with what I want. I think it means I have a lot more fun," she says.

But that doesn't mean that planning for the future doesn't have value. Sherry, who now studies an LLB / BA part-time while writing full-time, says that she wants to lean into five-year plans so she can "dream big." While she wanted to be a lawyer when she entered University, Sherry naturally gravitated toward the arts and journalism; she notes her younger self would be so proud that she could earn a living from a creative career.

But above all—plan or no plan, dreams big or small, goals personal, professional or financial—Maddy stressed that although the future is scary and unpredictable, it's important to build up support systems. "You can't control things, and things will go wrong at some point [but] trying to build communities and focusing on your whānau is at the heart of [coping]."

"There's a lot to be anxious about; there's also a lot to be excited for. Think a little more selfishly and insularly about the experiences *you* might have and the people *you* might meet. Put yourself first if you're struggling through anxious times."

**“Build a relationship with yourself,” adds Sophie, “look back and see where you’ve gone, what personal issues you’ve had in your life. You’ve got to give yourself credit for that.”**

Maddy continues that she "sees myself hopefully surrounded by—ew, gross," she chuckles, "—a lot of the people I'm surrounded by now. Because what else can you know for certain? Hold onto the people that make you feel secure."

"Build a relationship with yourself," adds Sophie, "look back and see where you've gone, what personal issues you've had in your life. You've got to give yourself credit for that."

Maddy agreed, adding that even though life doesn't always go to plan, and you can end up in some unexpected places, "you can get through a lot more than you think."





# The Rise of Tarot



AMELIA UTTING

I'm a big believer in bad decisions. But when it comes to more significant choices, you can't just pass on choosing which courses you're taking next semester. One way I get around this is with a divination method that has been steadily growing in popularity: tarot.

A once frowned-upon staple of mysticism, tarot seems to be becoming the guiding hand many students turn to. In a week celebrating the future, at an institution that theoretically should help us realise ours, why not look into why more and more of us are looking to the cards for assistance?

While understanding tarot might be like speaking French to some people, I was weirdly fortunate to grow up around it. My

mum was a bit of a teenage rebel, and chose to convert to Wicca. While I wasn't allowed to *play* with her tarot cards, I grew up learning about them and what they meant.

That immersion meant that I picked up quite quickly when mysticism and divination started to emerge in mainstream culture. No longer did people groan or roll their eyes when I mentioned the cards. No, they asked *real* questions, even if they bordered on impossible.

Sadly, no amount of tarot could tell whether they really *would* get a Nintendo DS for Christmas. The more I paid attention, the more there seemed to be a steady rise of people growing curious about how a deck of cards could guide your future.

Of course, this was the mid-2000s, and I'm willing to bet that that person doesn't even *remember* whether they got their much-coveted Nintendo DS or not. But that doesn't

**No longer did people groan or roll their eyes when I mentioned the cards. No, they asked *real* questions, even if they bordered on impossible.**

mean that there isn't evidence of an uptick of intrigue into tarot. A quick dive into the trends of Google searches for tarot in Aotearoa in the past decade shows steady but sure growth in interest in the past five years, with the most recent peak in interest occurring from May 30 to June 5 earlier this year (at 92% interest relative to the highest peak on the chart). When looking at the top related search queries, the most popular by far is "tarot reading."

It's become quite common recently to talk about how "uncertain times are upon us" in our post-COVID society as if any time in history were certain and predictable. Over the past year or so, though, we students were slapped with an event I'm sure none of us had on our 2020 bingo card: a global pandemic. Events were being cancelled, trips postponed, and our education system had to adjust to being dumped online. It was difficult, adapting to remote classrooms and the "new normal" we were facing. Naturally, it led to some soul-searching. People intending to study in fields such as tourism, for example, now had a difficult choice to make. Did they continue to work towards a career path that seemed on hold for the indefinite future? Or did they shift the goalposts to ensure post-education security?

Tarot comes into play here because people tend to turn towards spirituality and guidance when they're living in uncertain times to find answers and reassurance. But, as opposed to asking physical people, asking a deck of cards makes us feel more in control over our futures and what might be coming.

My own background and biases, of course, can also be blinding. I mean, I grew up with tarot and in an environment that welcomed it. But what about how others felt? All that considered, I did what any other serious, dedicated sociocultural researcher would do and asked a couple of mates.

They raised an important point: are we, both as a society and as students, growing more uncertain about our futures when careers appear to be crawling out of reach? Absolutely. But are we also finding ourselves in an age of religious and spiritual divergence? As it turns out, yes.

Look around you for a minute. No, I don't mean that metaphorically. Put this fabulous magazine down—just for a moment!—and take a look at your surroundings. If you're at home, what I've asked is probably pretty useless. But suppose you're on campus or sitting in a cafe taking photos and ignoring your mounting assignments. In that case, it's easy to spot the diversity in the people around you.

Here in Aotearoa, while we were once a predominantly white and Christian nation, as of the 2018 census, roughly half of Kiwis identified as non-religious (a whopping 48%), and almost 30% of us ethnically identify as non-European. For context, in the 1961 census, Europeans made up 92% of the population.

Yes, I know, that's a lot of statistics and numbers, and really the only people who will enjoy that are the maths majors among us. But this evidence of Aotearoa's multicultural growth is essential when we consider the Church's rejection of divination on the basis that it contradicts God.

It's not rocket science to work out that this stance could be the reason why tarot's popularity in Aotearoa used to sit lower than Judith Collins' polling results.

We're living in the future of our ancestors, and their choices often lead to how we grow up. But our environments are critical to our development, too—does this mean that our diverse surroundings have affected our perception of tarot?

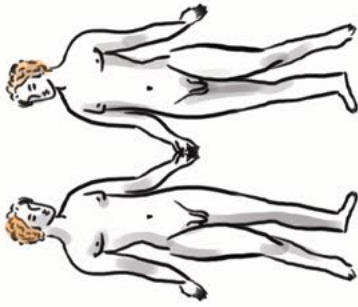
Religion is a very personal thing. Some of us are raised within religion and stick with it; some of us don't. Some of us aren't at all religious, or we convert to new approaches, but that doesn't mean that we're necessarily closing ourselves off to the subconscious influence of the spiritual world around us. I was raised non-religious in a multi-religious household. But, I can count at least six different religions among the beliefs of my friends, and that's just off the top of my head. Believing in one religion doesn't blind us to the perspectives of others. So it stands to reason that, as our society has grown more and more secular, our attitudes towards "rejected" practices like tarot are bound to shift and change along with us.

I'm a big advocate for tarot. I find it calming to go through the motions, even when the cards provide some tough self-reflection. As with all things, though, we should try not to entrust our entire lives to them either. Gentle guidance is all well and good, but not if it's about to guide you into cutting your own bangs.

**Sometimes, the hardest part is letting go.**

**GAME ON**

# TAROT OF



THE LOVERS.



THE CHARIOT.



THE MAGICIAN.

## Google is your Crystal Ball

Tarot cards originally began just like any other playing cards, among people who just wanted a good time. The cards are split into the Major and Minor Arcana. Each of the Minor Arcana typically corresponds to a suit of: pentacles, swords, wands or cups. The Major Arcana features 21 trump cards which correspond to various figures and themes. On top of this, the figure of the fool is commonly grouped with the Major Arcana. There are various interpretations for each card as well as a diverse range of pulling, placement, and shuffling techniques. Google and Wiccan resources cover a wide variety of starting points — as with any new information, take it with a grain of salt.



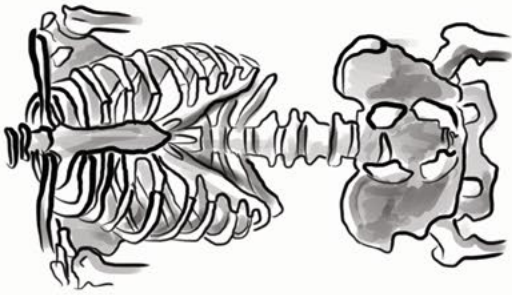
THE FOOL.



THE HIEROPHANT

GIVE SOME CARD ONTO THE BACK OF THIS  
CARD. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ONE OF OUR FUTURE  
SET OF MAJOR

# THE FUTURE



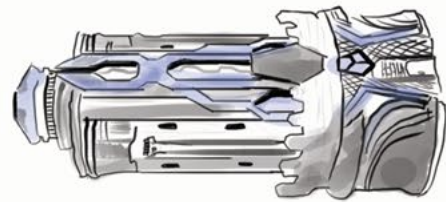
DEATH.



JUDGEMENT.



WHEEL OF FORTUNE.



THE TOWER.



STRENGTH.



THE DEVIL.

CENTREFOLD PAGE AND CUT ALONG EACH  
ISSUES FOR THE OTHER HALF OF YOUR OWN  
ARCANA CARDS



# The End of Closed Book Exams?

Knowledge, and what it means to have knowledge, is changing.



REBEKAH TREGONNING

You can recite pi to 20 digits? Cool, I can use my phone calculator. You've memorised half the Latin dictionary? Cool, I'll translate it online. You know all the neural pathways of the body? Cool, I'll Google it. The point is not that these facts have lost their power, more that the act of memorising them is no longer important. The difference between you and I is that you know how to use pi. A linguist can speak the latin words into existence. A surgeon knows those neural pathways and can view them in their brain like a map. But, when it comes down to the actual, core, knowledge, who cares if it's memorised or not?

I am in my second year of university, and down to sheer luck—and a global pandemic—I have not sat a single in-person test or exam. In fact, the last time I was examined on how well I memorised something, was in June 2018, a good three years ago. Since then, I have, of course, changed, and have developed a new relationship to academia and knowledge. In high school, I was willing to give up all my time and happiness in order to memorise content to achieve the best grades. However, I don't think that my education over the past two years has been affected by my lack of memorising content. By being able to focus on learning the course rather than memorising facts, I believe I have much

**I am in my second year of university, and down to sheer luck—and a global pandemic—I have not sat a single in-person test or exam.**

more holistic overviews of what I have been studying lately, as opposed to knowing a prescribed list.

The literature on this subject speaks a similar story. As teacher Ben Orlin suggests in his Atlantic article, memorisation takes the focus away from *understanding* of a subject, promoting 'mindless recital' instead. Confucius himself advocated for moving away from rote-learning, and towards understanding and applying one's education to one's own life. In their 2020 paper Han, Chen and Tan suggest that learning through curiosity allows learners to create their own pathway and better engage with learning<sup>[1]</sup>.

Knowledge is fascinating. Learning is incredibly captivating. But what is the point of being examined on this in a closed book setting? Knowledge no longer means having an ability to memorise these facts, because it is no longer important to. If I can Google something and find it backed up by a scholar much more clever than I, why should I not? The internet does not devalue knowledge, rather, it makes it more accessible, easier to reach and view and touch and interact with. The world around us is endlessly fascinating because of the way it links together. Separating it down into individual, sterile, facts, is an insult to a universe that is so full of wonder and information.

A linguistic view of language states that groups use 'in' language to hold their knowledge within their cohort, to avoid sharing their knowledge outside their social bounds—because knowledge is power. The internet means that knowledge is no longer just for the elite few, those who can afford it and have access to the systems and languages and social groups that afford them the opportunity. Sharing knowledge from the core of our universe is a beautiful thing that allows for discourse, open conversation, and collaboration. Examining students on

**The internet means that knowledge is no longer just for the elite few, those who can afford it and have access to the systems and languages and social groups that afford them the opportunity.**

knowledge by asking them to memorise abstract facts and concepts, suggests that it is more important to reduce this beauty and hold the knowledge to oneself, than to share and grow and move in the space that the internet creates.

The idea of a closed book exam, where one cannot use the internet to grow and speak and develop one's ideas, doesn't make educational sense. We should be encouraging collaboration, open-minded learning, and an approach to learning that celebrates curiosity, problem solving, and interaction with a wide range of resources and situations.

[1] Han, R., Chen, K., & Tan, C. (2020). Curiosity-driven recommendation strategy for adaptive learning via deep reinforcement learning. *British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology*, 73(3), 522-540.



# Future Forecast



JAY ALEXANDER

The year is 2021. Your grades are either dropping or rising (more likely the former). Your social media compass is always on your mind. We are on the cusp of a new age of technological divide and advancement, but somehow it still feels so far away. While we might want to, we can't just hop into our exoskeleton, plug in, and hack other bodies. We can only imagine what it's like to be in this future world. But why sit and ponder yourself when a bevy full of content can immerse you into these technological worlds? These albums and movies will get you in that futuristic vibe, and transport you to 2041.

## ALBUMS:

### GLOSS DROP BATTLES

*Gloss Drop* is a tangent of electronic keys and hyper visual sounds that are beyond what is felt around today. The opening track "Africastle" throws you headfirst into the mishmash of synthy, glitchy sounds from the keyboard. It sounds like a joyride of glass cities through a really fast flying car. "Ice Cream" is totally bizarre with more of the stagnant electric blips and lyrics that are just... confusing? It sounds like some futuristic jargon layered on top of a messy future club tune. Highlights of this album ("Wall Street," "Sundome" and "Sweetie & Shag") continue this ecstasy filled joyride through a cyber space. You can fall into a total trance of cyber infused sounds that transport you to another world, even if you're just zoning out on the bus to uni. Party on a Tuesday morning?

### SHAKING THE HABITUAL THE KNIFE

The digitised production across this album tracks is so ahead of our time. "A Tooth for an Eye" and "Full of Fire" give larger-than-life tones, but are not too overbearing in sound. It feels like something you would put on at your skybox apartment in a dystopian *Blade Runner* city. "Without You My Life Would Be Boring" creates a vibe of relaxation only possible in a cyberpunk future. Each of these tracks are uniquely infused with tones and instrumentation, but the lengthy "Old Dreams Waiting to Be Realized" manages to be more toned down from the rest. It might actually be perfect for a midday meditation (so quiet and peaceful... What world is this?). It's an excellent practice in mindfulness, perfect for quelling an active mind in the anxious future.

## MOVIES:

### UPGRADE DIR. LEIGH WHANNELL

This sci-fi revenge film examines a world in which technology controls nearly all aspects of life. Grey, a technophobe, utilises a chip to become a super soldier and enact revenge on an attacker. The futurism is subtle yet convincing: the barren, neon lit world is incredible for such a smaller budget project. It all fits into the viewer's known reality, but it's imaginative enough to feel alien and distant. Small details, such as the touch-screen table and self-driving cars, bridge that gap between the present and future. There are many scenes (amongst the incredibly gross

violence) that are simply amazing to witness. The central idea of technology being utilised to augment human bodies into superhero-like figures is rock solid, as it would be a key point on so many future wish-lists. Of course, the body horror is totally grotesque but who wouldn't want an arm shotgun? Simply put, *Upgrade* is an engrossing romp that will prepare you for the future to come.

### HER DIR. SPIKE JONZE

On the polar opposite spectrum of *Upgrade* is **Spike Jonze** magnum opus, *Her*. Theodore Twombly's descent into an AI's love embrace couldn't be a more convincing projection of our present. For starters, the movie's world feels just a bit more advanced than ours. There's automatic voice-to-text typing, earpiece technology, and minimalist advertising littered throughout the movie: a vision so close to our world you could easily confuse it for an Apple commercial. But it's really the AI, Samantha, that creates a compelling sense of unfamiliarity. Her voice responds so naturally, with a charisma that is far from Siri or Alexa. The charm is alluring and at times you can't help but fall head-over-heels for Samantha (as much as Theodore does). And isn't that just beautiful? A bright future where the romance we seek can be found in codes and blips, in our earpieces whenever we want, likely at an incredibly high price. Oh... maybe that's a little dystopian? Regardless, *Her* paints a stunning picture of the near future and can be a good showcase for all those lovesick loners wishing it was 2041.





FILM:  
**BACK TO THE FUTURE**  
**(1985)**  
 DIR. ROBERT ZEMECKIS

**ELLA SHEPHERD**

So everyone has seen this film, right? Right? I don't need to explain how a high schooler is somehow friends with a disgraced nuclear physicist?? Or how he goes back in time and somehow ends up with his mother falling in love with him?? Okay great. If you're aware of those two key features you are aware this is probably one of the greatest films cinema has ever produced.

*Back to the Future* follows Marty McFly, a high school student who is sent 30 years into the past by a time travelling car, as he meets his younger parents before they become dysfunctional. It has perpetually quotable one-liners and great laugh out loud moments. It's the ultimate feel good film, but it does also have some good life lessons for the future.

Primarily, Marty manages to (I'd say spoiler alert but the film did come out 36 years ago) alter his entire family's life and future by a few small acts. It tells the story of how your future is entirely your own making, and it doesn't take a big event to change your future for the better (if you don't count your future son coming back to see you in a time machine as a big event). In the words of the aforementioned disgraced nuclear physicist, "Your future is whatever you make it. So make it a good one".

And if you do watch this film and enjoy it, you're in luck! There are two further films, innovatively named *Back to the Future 2* and *Back to the Future 3*. Now if that's not a testament to the franchise's creatability, I don't know what is.

"Five out of five."



FILM:  
**OLD**  
 DIR. M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN

**THOMAS GIBLIN**

Run, and don't walk, to your nearest cinema: the new ghoulish horror film from **M. Night Shyamalan** is here. A return to form after the disappointing *Glass*, *Old* is a bold, berserk and original film that is one of this year's best.

Shyamalan, a director who has received an unjust amount of criticism over his work "for not understanding human emotion", has crafted a film where life's brevity is extrapolated to one beach, over 24 hours, where you age years in minutes. Imagine watching your parents growing old right in front of you and dying in a matter of hours. What is more terrifying and human than that? And for those criticising the dialogue in this film, it isn't the most natural, but it works in the film's favour. It heightens the feeling of unease that permeates throughout the film.

It's a film by a director who is not afraid to take risks and challenge the status quo. The camera is dynamic, the composition inventive, and the script brilliantly subversive. How people are actively discouraging readers online and in print from seeing this film is beyond me. It's so rare to find a film sensitive to the human condition that it can bring you to tears yet can terrify you with ease. To not watch this film is an act of disservice to yourself and to a filmmaker who quite simply wants to make films that scare his kids.

"Not afraid to take risks and challenge the status quo."



WEEKLY TOP TEN

- 1. LACUNA**  
*Reb Fountain*
- 2. CAT DOOR**  
*A Blunt Jester*
- 3. UNFOLD**  
*No Romance*
- 4. GET TO WORK**  
*Grecco Romank*
- 5. DALLIANCE**  
*Grawlixes*
- 6. MY HEART NEVER SLEEPS FEAT. DIGGY DUPÉ, TROY KINGI & CHOICEVAUGHAN**  
*The Panthers*
- 7. BE MY MIRROR**  
*Carb On Carb*
- 8. SPISSKY**  
*Phoebe Rings*
- 9. E HINE Ē**  
*Te Kaahu*
- 10. I WANT 2 B BOY**  
*Vera Ellen*

ILLUSTRATION BY NIRVANA HALDAR

# How To Get Into: Alien Invasion Films

THOMAS GIBLIN

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

Are we alone in the universe? The alien invasion film answers this question... instead of us going to them, they come to us. How would society react? Are they friend or foe? What would our future look like if such a thing happened? Would we meet them with open arms, or would we fear them? This is the beauty of sci-fi and the alien invasion film; it interrogates the fabric of society through a few simple questions.

If you're wanting to watch more cinema, the alien invasion film is the perfect place to start as it comes in so many shapes and sizes.

From Hollywood blockbusters to low-budget horror, it's a genre for everyone. So, here are some recommendations on films that feature aliens which evoke our present society and our future, one where we may occupy the same planet.

## I Was Made To Write About This Film

Yes, *The Avengers* is an alien invasion film. And no, it is not my favorite film in the genre but it is possibly the best Marvel film (if we ignore *GOTG*). It's also many people's first

introduction to the genre as it's disguised as a superhero film, with hundreds of moving parts, but it can be boiled down simply to a group of people defending earth from an alien invasion.

Having experienced this film in theatres when it came out there is something incredibly nostalgic about *The Avengers* now. The idea of a cinematic universe was new and exciting, we weren't so exhausted with over saturation of Marvel and anything superhero related, and the discourse around Marvel v.s. DC wasn't so toxic. That's why I recommend using

*The Avengers* as a point of departure. Why not watch something new and attempt to rekindle that feeling of awe you had when the Avengers assembled?

## Time.

What if aliens landed and we couldn't communicate with them? How would we go about understanding their language? In *Arrival*, twelve extraterrestrial spacecraft arrive and hover over twelve different locations. **Amy Adams**, unjustly ignored by the Academy for this role, plays linguist Louise Banks. She is tasked by the U.S. military to figure out how to communicate with two cephalopod-like, seven-limbed aliens (heptapods), who inhabit the spacecraft that hovers over Montana. Adams is helped by Hawkeye, aka **Jeremy Renner**, as physicist Ian Donnelly and as they attempt to understand these aliens before the world descends into chaos.

What makes this film a masterpiece is its direction from **Denis Villeneuve** who's vision of such an event is breathtakingly epic yet wonderfully restrained and introspective. Accompanied by a score from the late, great Icelandic composer **Jóhann Jóhannsson** which breaks your heart and shatters your soul, *Arrival* will change your perspective on life itself. Quite simply this film is one off, if not the best sci-fi film in recent memory.

## “I Did Not Have Sexual Relations Wth A Fokken Prawn!”

If aliens came to earth, where would they go? Would they live next door to us or would we segregate them as the 'other'? In *District 9*, which is directors **Neill Blomkamp's** first feature film and lead actor **Shartlo**

**Copley's** first professional acting role, aliens known informally as 'prawns' arrive as refugees from their dying planet. For a film that is about extraterrestrials, *District 9* feels distinctly human which is due in part to its mockumentary style and plethora of unknowns who star (giving the film authenticity). This style, partnered with its grunge-fuelled aesthetic, makes it a wholly original film, one that we can consider an instant classic, if we ignore some of its flaws.

Although the premise is perfectly situated to explore so many issues, such as xenophobia, racism and segregation, that are present in today's society it feels at times a tad shallow, as it doesn't do enough with its thematic richness. It teeters around these issues but there is just enough depth for the film to carry real bite. It's this quality, along with astounding visual effects, that earned the film an Academy Award nomination. *District 9* will fully engross you in a world that is both fascinating and repugnant.

## Meet John Boyega

Before he was a global superstar after starring as Finn in *Star Wars*, **John Boyega** was Moses in the brilliant *Attack The Block*. Centered around a teen gang who defend their block from an alien invasion this film is a blast from start to finish. Writer-director **Joe Cornish** rejects the 'hoodie horror' film which demonises urban youths and instead, we fall in love with these 'hoodlums' through smart, sharp writing. Each character is wonderfully unique as their personalities are allowed to shine through, making for more than a few hilarious moments.

Although the film runs just under 90-minutes, we are given enough to hang-out with Moses, Adams, Pest, and Dennis

which makes the film feel more akin to **Linklater's** *Slacker* and *Dazed and Confused* at times. This emphasis on character makes *Attack The Block* a must-watch for anyone wanting to enjoy a fun, rewatchable sci-fi film that isn't afraid to say a few damning things about society today.

## “I Have Come Here To Chew Bubblegum And Kick Ass - And I'm All Out Of Bubblegum.”

**John Carpenter** has a filmography that consists of *Halloween*, *The Fog*, *Escape From New York* and *Assault on Precinct 13*. But now, one film stands above them all: *They Live*, which was critically panned upon its release. Now, it's garnered a cult following as an underrated masterpiece. Nada (**Roddy Piper**, the wrestling star) plays a drifter who discovers a pair of glasses which shows the world as it truly is: aliens rule the world and enslave the population.

This stunning allegory and critique of capitalism has not aged a day since its release in 1988. It is more relevant now in its indictment of capitalism, which is remarkably hilarious. The humour the film generates from its one liners, and so-bad-it's-good acting makes *They Live* a wonderfully subversive film. The humour allows the film and its radical nature to get under your skin. Saying this is an alien invasion film may be a bit of a stretch, but regardless it's a fun watch and features a 5-minute fight scene that is rightly considered as one of the best of all time.

# THE FUTURE OF UOA

(INTERPRETED BY AI)

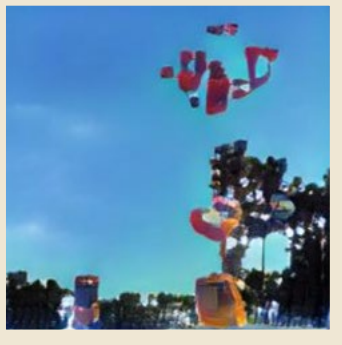
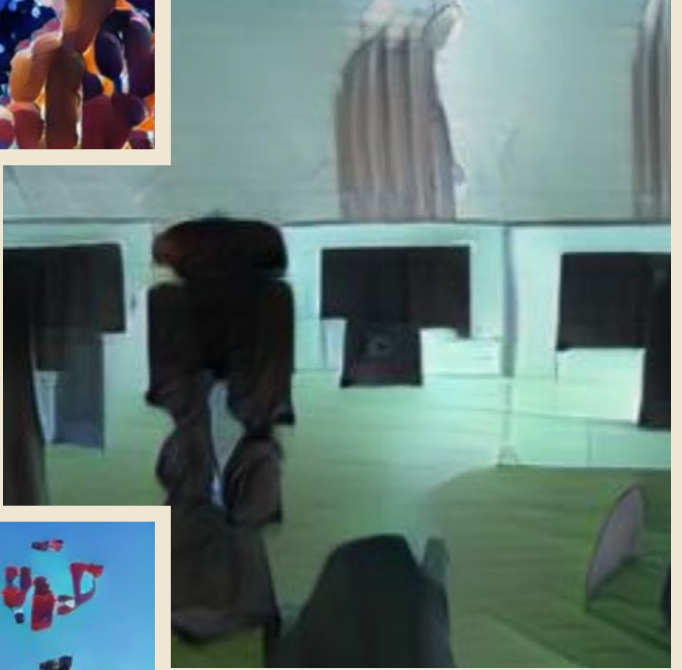
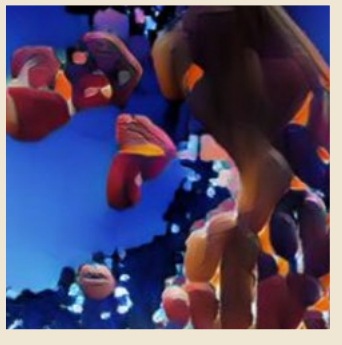
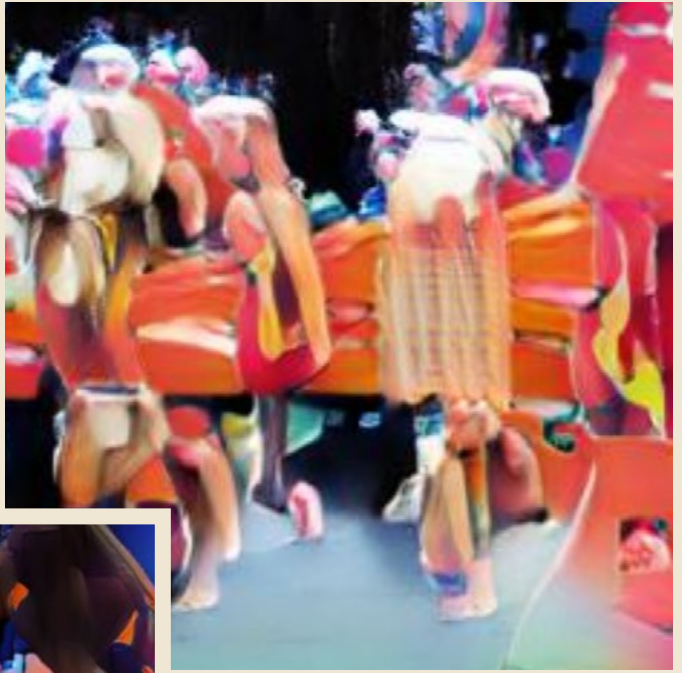
The year is 2053. The University Clocktower, yellow and crumbling, reaches its spires towards a hot purple sky. Blue and green clouds crowd the ground across the higher levels of campus, holding vapour that would burn holes in human skin. Students roaming those areas dress accordingly, pulling protective rain jackets tight and donning heavy-duty gas masks (often colour coordinated to match their Doc Martens). When they need to go beneath sea level, diving into cool water that laps at the top of the stairs in the Quad, they swap their shoes for flippers. AUSA, eternally supportive of students, hands out free oxygen tanks to students that sign up!

Shadows has become a reverse fish tank, with scaled creatures peering through windows to see students sipping cheap beer. The pool tables have vanished, replaced with giant waterproof screens that run the 8-ball Pool App with 8k resolution. The basement floor of the library is also submerged and the few remaining books are continually marched further upstairs, retreating from the rising tide. The newer buildings, the Rec Centre and Business School, have acquired air locks, so they operate as usual. Other spots, less lucky, see staff and students swimming down hallways and chipping grey coral from doorways.

When students take study breaks in the upper floors of Kate Edger, unplugging their brains from Apple resource stations, they look out the floor-to-ceiling windows to watch the traffic move across and under the water. Following the ghostly silhouette of Symonds St, different forms of transportation navigate the main flow. There's a large disparity between the vehicles: some share ramshackled row boats (decaying, fluorescent lifejackets strapped to their chests), some glide along the waves in small sailing boats, and a few dive beneath in expensive UberSubs. Most avoid bringing their own vehicles—parking is such a nightmare!

In the time between classes, the students have time to talk. They, of course, discuss the newest Marvel film, complain about the AT ferry services, and moan about exams. The apocalypse has come and they persistently trudge on through semesters. They take their Gen Ed classes, drink their coffee (\$15 a cup from Mojo), and laugh with their friends. They sometimes think of change that could come and how they might help, but then scroll through their Canvas due dates... maybe next year?

*The images opposite this story are produced by an AI text-to-image generator. How does an AI imagine this future?*



# Finding a Husband: The Modest Self-Help Guide

Is this the transition point from fourth to fifth-wave feminism?



NANCY GUO

*Crickets crickets.* That's what my love life has sounded like for pretty much all of my existence. Now that I've developed a talented, brilliant, incredible, amazing, show-stopping etc. personality (thanks to last column's WikiHow tutorial) it's time to give up my bachelorette lifestyle and find a husband. After all, being a single woman is just so sad and so meaningless! Finding my dream man must be the answer to finding fulfillment in life...

Since I've *still* not been wifed up by Bill Gates even after building him a personal shrine covered in declarations of my love printed in Microsoft WordArt, it's clear that modern-day manifestation methods are not effective enough to summon my fave billionaire. Fortunately, as I was scrolling on my laptop (using Internet Explorer of course, I haven't given up yet Bill! xoxo), I came across a mind-blowing 1958 guide called "129 Ways to Get a Husband." Beautiful.

The first part of the guide addresses the question of "Where to Find Him." One suggestion was to "Sit on a park bench and feed the pigeons." What other place was infested with beady-eyed monsters ready to peck out your eyeballs if you didn't surrender your lunch? The ornithophobia-inducing Albert Park of course! I sat down on a bench near the fountain and tossed scraps of my sandwich onto the floor, emotionally preparing myself for a slow brutal death. Luckily, I had taken the necessary precaution of wearing my neon pink goggles from primary school so that I could retain enough eyesight to look out for any potential pigeon-whisperer beaus lurking around the park. Spoiler alert: there were none. Maybe they were all intimidated by my new stylish and protective spectacles. Whatever the reason, I was not about to give up!

Another tip the guide suggests under this section is to "Set up an easel outside engineering school." Say no more! I set up a canvas by Building 402's entrance and

painted a rather abstract looking portrait of my beloved Bill as an addition to the shrine. Unfortunately, before I could finish adding on all the adoring hearts, a bunch of Engineering students gathered around to calculate the minimum amount of force required to knock over the easel. As a silly Arts student, I couldn't tell you how many Newtons were exerted during this process. All I know is that it was enough to send my portrait flying across to the other side of the Symonds Street pedestrian crossing. Admittedly, my fave CEO's handsome face did become a little disfigured as a result. But don't worry Bill—you're *always* a work of art to me :)

Feeling disheartened, I walked over to OGGB to implement the guide's tip of "standing in a corner and crying softly" to hopefully lure in some male sympathy. Despite my Oscar-winning theatrical performance, I was unsuccessful in attaining any attention from potential spouses. How naive of me to expect empathy from soul-less money-hungry business students! I decided to move to the Sciences building in search of a more compassionate clientele. However, as I turned on the melodramatic waterworks, I realised I was not alone. A pack of deflated and stressed-out first year Biomed students had joined me in the same corner for a communal sobbing session. I gapped straight out of there.

The next section of the guide was dedicated to "looking good to him." One, uh, interesting tip in this category was "European women use their eyes to good advantage. Practise in front of a mirror." Even though I don't exactly fit the "European" part of the brief, the eyes are the window to the soul for a reason. After a few hours

of hardcore practice in front of my bedroom mirror where I may or may not have blinked out my contacts a few times, I was ready to seduce a potential lover from across the lecture theatre with my new choreographed routine. During the lecture break, I painfully locked awkward eye contact with a random guy who just happened to be looking somewhat in my direction and began furiously winking and eyebrow wiggling. To my shock, he did not drop to his knees and beg for my hand in marriage and instead left the room??? The audacity! Guess the silly boy must've left the fat diamond ring at home!

Even after following the 1950s guide, for some bizarre reason I am still single. I guess after transforming my personality with last column's WikiHow guide I've become too cool and interesting for my own good. At this point I must only be compatible with the world's second richest man. Bill, if you're reading this, please reply to the *hot mail* I've sent to your inbox :)

**[Lifestyle Editor's note:** *Nancy is seemingly unaware of Bill's, like, entire recent history. Have fun Googling, readers!!*



# An Interview with Brodie Joyce

WRO Vivien Whyte interviews Brodie on her mahi, safeguarding our own welfare, and how we empower others.



VIVIEN WHYTE

TW: DISCUSSION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Thursdays in Black (TIB) is a student-led grassroots campaign, working towards a world without rape and violence through advocacy, raising awareness, events, fundraising and supporting. TIB asks people to wear black on Thursdays in solidarity with survivors, demanding a world without violence.

Hi, my name's Brodie (she/they). I'm 26, Pākehā and studying my masters on young men and sexual consent through the University of Auckland via distance.

I myself am a survivor and went through the criminal justice system. I was one of those rare cases where the person went to prison. After going through that process I realised that there was nothing in place for survivors in terms of a buddy system or support system about how traumatic that experience is. So, I set that up for a while—mahī supporting survivors through the criminal justice system. However, I realised that I'd gone straight from being a survivor to doing this mahī and wasn't taking care of myself. So, I put that on hold and took care of my mental health for a while.

## What does taking care of yourself mean to you?

**Brodie:** That's a really interesting question because I definitely was, and am, a person who likes to keep myself busy and work hard all the time. I definitely fell into the trap of putting mental wellbeing on hold because of it. However, I have learnt how to check in with myself and listen to what my body tells me it needs. Which sometimes means having to quit something or, in my case, putting university on hold for a year. And then knowing that that's not a failure because it's something you need to do for yourself.

To me, taking care of yourself means being honest. Noticing what your habits are and what you do. Then forcing yourself to take breaks and look after your mental health exactly like you'd look after your physical health.

Lastly, I can't vouch for therapy enough because it's literally a life saver once you find a good therapist. I had one or two therapists where it wasn't entirely helpful and I know it's an annoying process to find the right one. But once you do it makes a big difference. The stigma around therapy obviously needs to be changed—you don't have to have something wrong with you to go to therapy. I very much view it in the same vein as having a doctor and general checkups.

## In the space of advocacy, how can we make sure we safeguard our wellbeing?

**Brodie:** The biggest thing is who you surround yourself with and who your support systems are. Whether that's a partner, friends or family. My step-mother told me about this idea about your different levels and circles of support. You place yourself and your wellbeing in the center. Then, the circle outside of that is your closest support and the outer circle is your acquaintances/other supports. The theory is that all your support should go inwards. For example, if you've gone through a trauma and your wellbeing is affected, it's not about you supporting them. Instead, it's about focusing that support inwards and surrounding yourself with those people in your circles. It's super important to know who in your life is in those groups and who you can rely on.

It has always stuck with me that the people in your community are super important. In my experience and what I went through, I still found myself supporting outwards. When really they should've been supporting me. So, it's good to figure out who you want in your inner circle—which will have a massive impact on how you safeguard your wellbeing.

There are obviously individual things you can do, but a lot of healing and support definitely comes from those around you. Especially in the space of advocacy there's a lot of mutual support from people in the same area of (for example) sexual violence. Turning to people

in the space who understand the toll that it takes and the different struggles that come along with doing this type of mahī is really important. Especially in terms of sexual violence advocacy.

## How can wāhine empower other wāhine?

**Brodie:** It's about uplifting other wāhine with a communal approach instead of an individualistic one. There's no overarching leader or hierarchical purpose. But instead, it's about working with other wāhine together and making sure that what you put across in your spaces is empowering, accessible and encouraging. We want to show that women can do the shit that they want to do. I think a part of that empowerment is also uncovering and noticing our own biases. As a Pākehā woman this is something I always have to be mindful of. When it comes to women in leadership roles, there simply isn't enough [representation]. It's super important to keep inclusivity in mind and use our space to give other wāhine a platform.

*Kia ora e hoa Brodie for sharing your story with us, and your passionate mahi towards a world without sexual violence and rape. Thursdays in Black at UoA is now taking expressions of interest! Find us on Facebook and Instagram and fill out the form if you're interested in getting involved in either a volunteer and/or organisational capacity.*



# Humble Degree Uses for Future Graduates

God, we're all fucked, aren't we?



NANCY GUO

Ah, the 'Post-Covid' world. A beautiful horizon. A bright future awaits us all after graduation! We're told those long hours in the dusty corners of the Gen Lib will be worth it... as long as we secure our extremely overpriced piece of paper! It's our ticket to a golden future where most of us won't be able to afford a house without selling both kidneys to the black market, or exist without air-con in a world that's burning to a crisp!

With the *super* thrilling and uncertain times ahead of us, it's no wonder we're grappling with chronic bouts of existential crisis and dread. Although a cure is yet to be discovered for this tiresome condition, coming up with a bunch of Plan Bs is a great band-aid solution to temporarily soothe the pain! A healthy dose of denial keeps the insanity away :)

Since my BA degree has been rendered virtually useless in today's STEM-oriented job market, it's time to take matters into my own hands. Instead of sobbing in my mandatory Arts student uniform of Doc Martens in the Humanities building bathrooms, I have drafted up with some ~alternative~ career/ life paths. After all, you can never have too many Plan Bs! STEM degree or not, I've got your future sorted out! \*Terms and Conditions apply. *happiness and security are not guaranteed.*

## Fall for a Pyramid scheme

A perfect option for BCom students wanting to ~hustle~ and ~grind~ and make some ~real money~ in a ~matter of days~. While you end up losing out on a lot of \$\$\$ and friends (from DMing anyone and everyone you've known since primary school), at least you can live out your dreams of being a *girlboss*!

## Stay in the comforting world of Academia

Why break free from the shackles of expensive and grey-hair-inducing tertiary

education when you could just stay in it... forever? I'd *love* to have an office in some neglected and rotting building! Can't wait to print out a bunch of motivational quotes to not only cover up the growing mould but to also brainwash me into accepting being overworked and undervalued.

On the top of my office decor list is of course a framed piece of modern philosopher Noah Centineo's famous words—"It matters not what you've done but what you do with what you've done for others."

## Become an S.O. rental

Since I've already committed to a life of eternal Hot Girl Summer, might as well capitalise off my long-term single status! The rental S.O./partner industry is on the rise and on the lookout for fresh talent. Key skills for success in this role include: utilisation of cheesy pet names for your client (and the ability to not projectile vomit during the delivery), strong stamina for PDA, and awkward small talk with your (fake) in-laws. If this sounds like you, consider the impactful and rewarding career of being a significant other for hire. (Note: Engineers need not apply.)

## Pioneer a new field of internet content

It's time to get creative! If anyone would like to join me on my ventures of starting an ASMR channel to whisper Marxist theory (very effective for inducing tingles!) or an OnlyFans where we striptease while discussing the historiography of colonial history or the intricacies of metaphysics—let me know, I'm always open to new business partners.

## Dive into the mystical world of being a psychic or clairvoyant

I've watched enough spiritual Tik Toks to shuffle tarot cards pretty well. I've also done enough English papers to decipher and

bullshit their meanings. Honestly, kinda keen to wear my purple dressing gown and a bandana to work just to fiddle with my crystal collection and read palms for a bit. Alternatively, if your degree relies on defying the supernatural, take on a job as a professional skeptic! Now your STEM degree can go even further, as if they don't take up enough space already.

## Explore the path of full-time survey taking

I have a lot of opinions. Law students also do, too. Why not get paid for it in Prezzy gift cards and Subway vouchers? Can't say no to a free supply of Subway cookies!

## Running away from our neoliberal society

As appealing as the above backup options are, I also cannot be fucked working anymore. I am done with being exploited. Kinda keen to go off-the-grid and live in a cottagecore house somewhere far far far away from civilisation. Oh shit. Hang on. This is too good to be a Plan B. Adios, friends!





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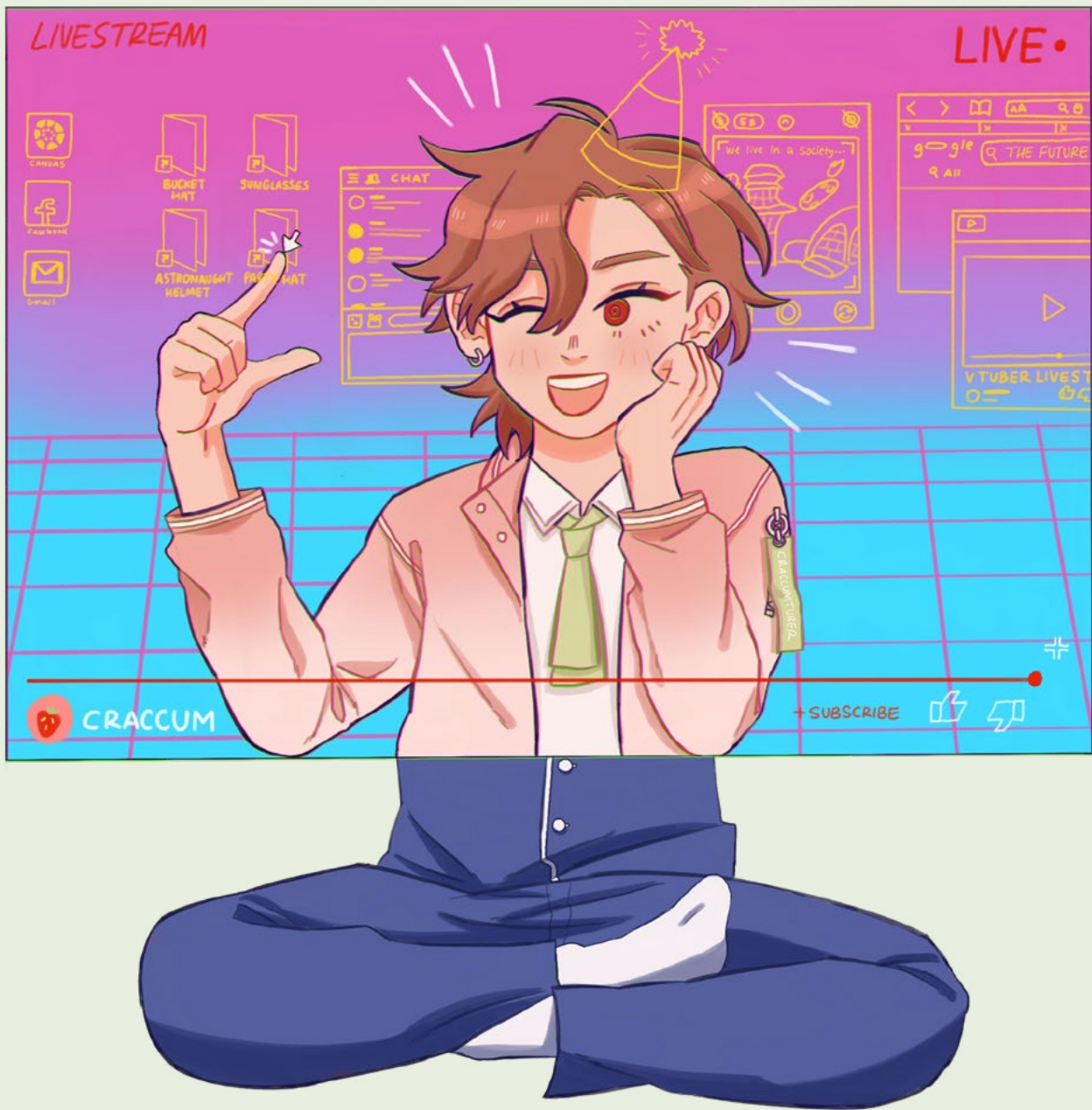


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# Virtual Youtubers, or Rather, How Only the Amish Understand God’s Will

*Any other internet fetish subcultures I can write about? How about r/Quicksand?*



**LACHLAN MITCHELL**

For quite some time, I have successfully lived in my own mystical internet cocoon, wrapped in my own digital silk, only barely aware of the fluttering shapes and sounds of the content engagement farms now far outside the reception of my willingly atrophied eyes. But every so often, I inadvertently focus my vision just enough that I manage to stare deep into the blood-curdling manifestation of a new

beast, one that beckons to me, shambles close to my frail body with its unspeakable form. And for the crime of gazing upon its abhorrent visage, I am punished with an insatiable curiosity for all that is contained within its monstrous face.

So, it was with much reluctance that I threw myself down the endless rabbit hole of the

VTuber, the phenomenon sweeping the streaming landscape. You may have heard of them, either out of context or seeing a reaction video of some bimbofied doe-eyed 12 year old being taught to say FUCK! by the Twitch chat. To sum up 'VTuber' in a sentence, it is a computer-generated overlay, created using motion-capture software and predictive algorithms to create what

is near-uniformly a high school-aged Big Titted Anime Girl to serve as the streamer's avatar, even affecting a high-pitched voice in real-time. In short, Disney's 2004 hit *Pixel Perfect*, except if their star figure was (usually) designed by DeviantArt fetish artists, though probably not those behind the inflation porn. With this persona, they go on streaming platforms and simply 'be.' They react, they chat to viewers, and they hope to elicit some enjoyment from the process.

The title of Virtual Youtuber is somewhat of a misnomer, and I should be clear, not explicitly fetish-related. They are not explicitly 'fake,' for there are many people behind the process—editors, coders, designers, voice artists, and more are creating the persona's look, and in many cases, the base personalities of the streamer themselves are still there. They have just chosen, for reasons ranging from aesthetic tastes, anonymity preservation or settling into their gender identity and more, to become an Asuka Langley clone who plays Fortnite, and they're happy.

Enter Hololive Production, a Japanese company dedicated to the creation and promotion of hologram starlets not dissimilar in style and mannerisms of the Korean girl groups promoted by companies like YG, JYP, SM, and more. They are one of the major companies involved in the rapidly—to the tune of billions of dollars in just a few years—growing VTuber industry. Though in practice, their goal echoes the Hollywood studio system of old, and in particular, the MGM practice of plucking nobodies from the ether and spinning gods out of them. Making Marilyn out of Norma Jean. Hololive does not deal in real people, however. There is nothing to pluck, just polygons to animate. There is no person at the heart of



things, other than what the creative team puts together, and who is hired to draw the character and occasionally voice them. Even Marilyn Monroe was a person, no matter all the allure the studio put upon her. With the VTuber, there is nothing but the product—but who is the audience, and what is it trying to sell?

The key audience is, quite simply, the lonely. People who just can't 'make it.' Those who have little time for anything more than their job, or don't quite have the tools for engaging with people, all they want is to just hear people talk. It is such a broken buzzword these days, but this *is* one form of parasocial entertainment. We all have the need to be comforted, to be acknowledged, told that we matter and are desirable and can be a special little part of someone's world. The key appeal of streaming culture is to deny a small part of the crushing feeling of isolation we increasingly feel nowadays, to feel as if you are directly viewing and talking to someone you believe you truly know, and perhaps, even belong to. These people are your friends, and with an increasing lack of inhibition and self-delusion, perhaps even one of certain intimate closeness. Consume, and perhaps you will find love. None of this is remotely an original observation, obviously! I'm just trying to lay out an idea for how things currently are.

Many streamers fake ignorance to this issue as a profitable model, or decry the obsession people can develop with them. This is mainly so the money train doesn't get derailed, as acknowledging the central tenet of their profit model would be fucking stupid. But perhaps the most novel thing about VTubers, rather than the technology that brings them to life, is that they don't need to deny this reality. They make their own. They 'exist' as the perfect crossroads between streaming culture, stan culture and the idol culture it derives from, surpassing its composite parts. All with a healthy dollop of plausibly deniable fetish culture to keep the juices flowing.

More people are coming to realise just how much content they initially are confused by are simply just fetish content with the serial codes filed off—you know those insane videos of that woman making food in her toilet, for example? Mashing potatoes with her feet? Content farms for fetish porn, all of them. All roads lead back to cum. And many VTubers exist for this same purpose, except since they lack a physical form, they are subjected to less scrutiny than their human



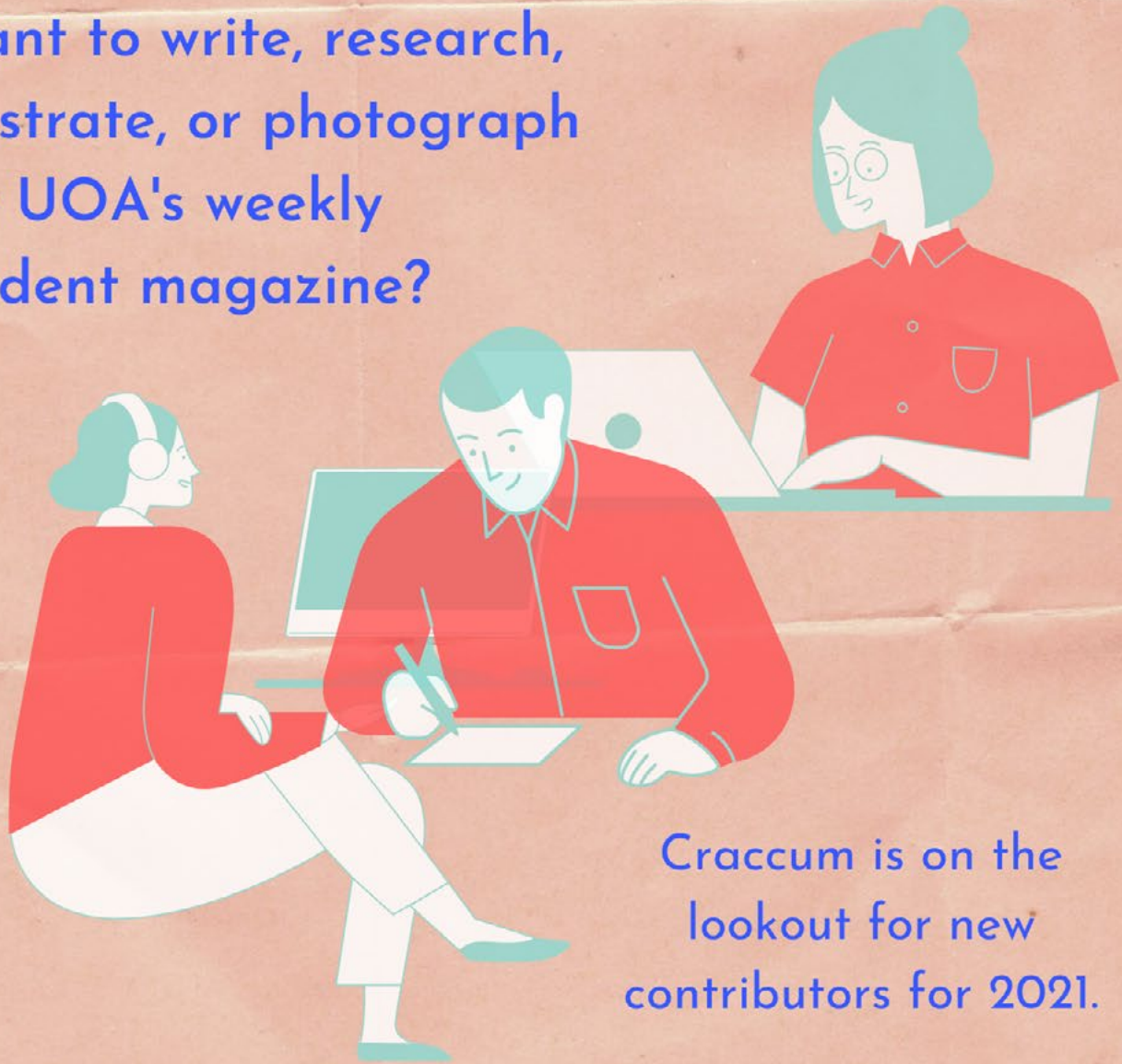
counterparts. Kiryu Coco, the most successful Hololive product of the current era, is a great example of this—her backstory is that she is a 3000 year old dragon that prefers to live in the body of a human, a teenager who keeps a reminder of her original form by wearing a dragon tail buttplug. She also has tits that would break the spine of an Olympic bodybuilder. And she is one of the tamer examples.

The idol factory method it bases its production scheme on still has to deal with real flesh and blood, and all the problems that come from trying to sell sex with a human that is inversely supposed to be inherently sexless, and all the efforts that go into keeping the normal desires of their idols suppressed entirely. In this way, it has surpassed the idol and the Disney starlet entirely. It can sidestep all the issues of exploitation of the artist, since after all, it's just a computer program.

No, the exploited one is the viewer. It's so tacky to use the word parasocial now, but really. The VTuber as envisioned by groups like Hololive is perfectly tailored for this concept—each creative figure is only a small part of the process, and the product itself has no desires, no issues like a secret boyfriend or that great mark of evil in the eyes of fans, a sex drive. It only exists for you, and perhaps certain segments of the Mt. Eden Correctional Facility. The great success of VTubers is that they can satisfy every need of the fan, with all their desperate needs to feel noticed, without ever being subjected to the punishment of having a body to weigh them down. They can connect, without ever being connected. Watch this space, it's only the beginning.

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# PUZZLES



## Down

1. The day that Skynet wipes out humanity (8)
2. Trojan prophetess, doomed to never be believed (9)
3. Underlying technology behind bitcoin (10)
4. 5G promises downloading 10 of these per second (7)
5. A hypothetical sphere that could enclose a star for limitless energy (5)
6. The (blank) Element, 1997 (5)
7. Creator of replicants in Blade Runner (6)
8. Michael J. Fox time-travelled in this car (8)
10. Korean (blank), describing the rise of South Korean pop culture worldwide (4)
12. Early Japanese animation franchise about a heroic robot child (5, 3)
13. Virus rapidly eliminated by vaccine from the '50s onwards (5)
16. Train propelled by magnets (6)

## Across

2. Genre that deals with cybernetics and nihilistic attitudes (9)
9. Weaponry that exceeds the speed of sound (10)
11. Movie about genetic engineering, stars Uma + Ethan (7)
13. Formal name for an artificial body part (10)
14. The original blueprint of all cells (4,4)
15. Sci-fi author, famous mutton-chops (6)
17. Defunct '00s social media platform (4)
18. Element with the symbol Ga, melts in your hand (7)

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

Across 5: Talofa 7: Swarbrick 12: Gulag 13: Oedipus 15: Automaton 17: Fawn 18: Asuka  
Down 1: Kina 2: Wench 3: Gaslight 4: Carrion 6: Craven 8: Donda 9: Glados 10: Dunaway 11: Istanbul 14: Incel 16: Titan

# HOROSCOPES

I know/I know I've let you down/I've been a fool to myself/Delma Vinkley got a hint of Evangelion spoilers/when researching for this week's horoscopes.

## Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

### Adam

Your shit's about to explode! One little touch from someone, and you cannot take it. Why is that? Why do you freak out so dramatically from a little human contact? Lucky numbers are 99 and 100.



## Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

### Zeruel

You cut easily. You cut people with ease, your words hitting at their core every time. You cut people out of your life with a vigilance to it. And I'm sorry for that. It is a miserable existence, and I wish better for you. Perhaps you will be better in time. Lucky numbers are 21 and 101.



## Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)

### Leliel

You wear your emotions on your sleeve, with only the thinnest veil hiding your thoughts at any given time. And yet, you are unknowable. What seems to be just below surface-level instead masks a depth of incomprehensible emotions, suffocating in their totality. Deep, man. Lucky numbers are 23 and 55.



## Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

### Ireul

Your presence is a virus, forever infecting the relationships around you. But that's just what makes you special <3 You just love to be part of everything, whether we agree or not! Lucky numbers are 71 and 72.



## Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)

### Kaji

You're soooo sexy and hot, all the girls (if appropriate) just can't help but swoon for you aha. But do you take advantage of their affections? Do you care for them? Do you really care for others, or are you forever duplicitous in your connections to others? Lucky numbers are 45 and 90.



## Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)

### Gendo

All you are is your drive. Callous, trying so hard to appear uncaring so no one works out what you are truly working towards — above all else, the love you have lost. But in your quiet hours, when you are all alone, can you be more than that? Are you capable of feeling again? Lucky numbers are 12 and 13.



## Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 23)

### Ramiel

On the outside, your beauty entices us all. A choir announces your every move. But you can be a monster, shifting into something so off-putting compared to your usual composure and refined form. Do you take pleasure in this deceit? I really hope not. You could be so much more. Lucky numbers are 17 and 77.



## Scorpio (Oct 24 – Nov 21)

### Asuka

Riding in to steal the show entirely, you're uncompromising, and your natural talents overflow. Despite your elegance, however, your mean airs hide your anger deep inside. Why can't you let someone be close to you? Lucky numbers are 34 and 89.



## Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

### Ritsuko

You're always at odds with your core personalities, your heart and your mind, all that you want for yourself and what you think you actually deserve. Do not worry. One day, it will all become clear. You'll get what you deserve, and it will be good for you, I promise. Lucky numbers are 2 and 9.



## Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

### Shinji

You have no confidence, you're terminally self-loathing and you're just not fun to be around. And yet, people do want to love you! But you eternally push them away. Some day, they won't return. Lucky numbers are 1 and 19.



## Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

### Rei

Do people ever just look at you and say, "oh, I just want to give you a hug." You seem so listless, so... without purpose. Sad behind the eyes. Can you find something to live for? Can you find a way to live with purpose? Lucky numbers are 79 and 95.



## Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

### Gaghiel

You hunt for new loves with an unrelenting speed, swimming through the waters of life with only bloodlust in your mind. Slow down :) It's okay to not have what you want yet. Eventually you'll catch it — why not rest up for a little while and see who comes around, instead of tiring yourself with the endless pursuit?



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