

CRACCUM



Shifting Stones

Catriona Britton examines the harm being done to an historical site

Ruckus over Ruggers

Mark Fullerton talks SKY TV's very bad manners

Centre Stage

A chat with New Zealand theatre company Indian Ink

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MONDAY 21ST OF AUGUST
THE QUAD

ECOFEST MOVIE NIGHT



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with free popcorn and
fair trade chocolate
provided by the Fair Trade Club

5PM
TUESDAY 22ND OF AUGUST
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ECOFEST GRAFTON LUNCH

Come along for a yummy FREE spread
and discuss why keeping
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clean and green is important to you!

1PM WEDNESDAY 23RD OF AUGUST
GRAFTON CAMPUS

ECOFEST ECOTALK



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and how your actions
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5-7PM WEDNESDAY 23RD OF AUGUST
PLT 2/303-G02

ECOFEST GREEN STUDENTS BRUCH

Bring a can donation for
the AUSA Foodbank and
get a free brunch!
Featuring music and eco-activities.

10AM
FRIDAY 25TH OF AUGUST
OUTSIDE AUSA HOUSE

ISSUE SEVENTEEN

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NOTICE OF POLLING TIMES FOR THE 2018 AUSA EXECUTIVE & 2017 ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICER ELECTIONS

ONLINE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD FROM 9AM ON TUESDAY 22ND
TO 4PM ON THURSDAY 24TH OF AUGUST 2017

TO VOTE GO TO: WWW.AUSA.ORG.NZ/VOTE

ONLY AUSA MEMBERS CAN VOTE, HOWEVER YOU CAN SIGN UP
ONLINE WHEN YOU VOTE. A POLLING BOOTH WILL BE AVAILABLE
AT AUSA RECEPTION IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ONLINE
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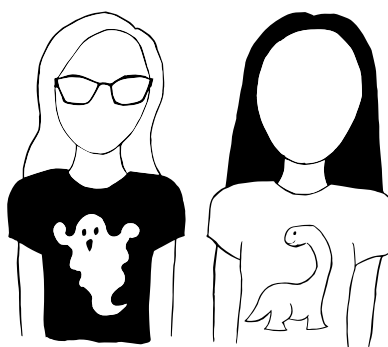


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AUSA RETURNING OFFICER



Catriona Britton



Samantha Gianotti

Giving a Shit

Last Monday morning, one *Craccum* Editor was rugged up in a fluffy dressing gown, eating a lil yoghurt, ready for a day of doing sweet fucking nothing. On the cusp of said Editor's driveway stands a Puriri tree, a swaying giant that resides right in your blindspot as you reverse out, which has resulted in the callous totalling of at least six cars over the last twenty years. The roots of said Puriri tree reach far and wide below the surface, like a series of tunnels built by the Viet Cong, spanning far beyond the eye's reach. These pesky roots routinely result in blocked pipes, first noticeable to household members by water draining out of the sink/shower/toilet at the speed of an elderly relative drinking Ribena through a silly straw. At least once every six months, such a blockage occurs, resulting in an apocalyptic level of literal shit cascading out across our back garden like the moment when the elevator doors open in *The Shining*.

Last Monday morning was one such occasion.

As the dirty dish water (filled with mince floaties from washing up the previous night's spag bol dishes) trickled out slower than the runtime of an episode of *Country Calendar*, it became clear that something wicked was this way a-comin'. A hesitant peek out the back window confirmed our worst fears: we had once again fallen victim to a faecal outburst that was (for once) not related to the consumption of a Thai green curry; to a plague so bad that it didn't even

make it into the top ten that God cast down on Egypt in the Old Testament.¹

Auckland Council was called, the drains were unblocked, the poop was siphoned off with an industrial-sized vacuum, our stomachs settled after a ginger beer and an episode of *Tipping Point*. The real shittiness of the situation (geddit) is the fact that we find ourselves in this shit-uation (geddit?!) over and over—a horrific version of *Groundhog Day* where instead of Bill Murray getting up to delightful shenanigans we wake up to disgusting shit-nanigans, the result of perpetual plumbing incontinence. The problem, you see, is that the Puriri tree at the root of this fuckery is a protected tree. No matter how many times we have to see our garden turn into the setting of the climactic escape scene from *The Shawshank Redemption*, we can find no recourse in ripping that tree apart like Chris Evans in *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (noice).

The point of all this? Someone at some point decided to make the Puriri a protected species of tree. This decision has had a long-reaching and tangible impact. Decisions don't exist in a vacuum, and those who make them should be chosen

¹ The other *Craccum* Editor commiserated. Her mother, eyes streaming and nose pegged, once waded through a veritable flood. With rubber-gloved hands, she had to scoop up a visually offensive and olfactory-destroying combination of shit and sweet-corn, bubbling out from a drain like lava from Mount Doom, on the pathway behind their house because of pesky trees plunging their roots into pipes.

with deliberation and confidence. All of this is to say: we really want you to give a shit about the upcoming AUSA elections.

The Auckland University Students' Association is the body that advocates for you when it comes to important decisions about the tertiary institution you pay (a fucking lot) to attend. The various portfolios take a certain focus that ensures your ideas and thoughts are represented, and that your time at this university is not just about taking (pricey) public transport, lugging about (expensive) textbooks to sit in a dim lecture theatre for a few hours a day. AUSA is responsible for organising events that engage you, and offer some sense of community that it can be all too hard to find in a student body of over 30,000. They are responsible for instituting strategies that cater to your welfare, like food parcels and textbook grants; they are the ones who ensure that our international students are represented, that threads reach out to our University's satellite campuses, that the money we pay in fees is being put towards our best interests.

Voting for the 2018 AUSA Executive opens on Tuesday 22 August and closes on Thursday 24 August. This is the first year that voting will be done online. Read up on what the respective portfolios do, and what the various candidates hope to achieve during their time. Make an informed decision (we will recycle these platitudes in a month's time) about those you want representing you against the university monolith.

Give a shit. Even just a little bit of one. ♦



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NZUSA LAUNCHES NEW YOUTH VOTE CAMPAIGN

BY ELOISE SIMS

The New Zealand Union of Students' Association has launched a new campaign to get out the youth vote in the September election, encouraging over fifteen tertiary campuses to come together to motivate student voters.

The campaign's goal is to get every student to vote in this upcoming election, claiming that if 4/5 of those under 30 vote in this election, young voters will become the strongest voting bloc in New Zealand.

"Young people are getting more and more fed up with politics as usual," NZUSA President Jonathan Gee said when contacted by *Craccum*.

"Traditional politics is failing to address the issues we need it to like climate change, housing and mental health. Around the world we've seen a real appetite by young people for a change in the way we do politics, in particular the surge in youth voting in the recent UK election."

"I believe a lot of young people are inspired by that and it's given us hope that we can make a difference here in New Zealand if

we turn out and vote."

Gee hopes to raise the youth voter turnout dramatically from 2014, where only 62.73% of 18–24 year olds enrolled to vote actually did so.

A total of 126,065 18–24 year olds did not vote in the 2014 election. The Electoral Commission estimated in July that only 64% of 18–24 year olds are actually enrolled to vote in this election in September.

Gee says the campaign is focused on using social connections on different mediums to have political conversations, with complementing events being held by different student associations across the country.

"We're keen to partner with them and other groups like RockEnrol to get the message out."

In response, AUSA Education Vice-President Jessica Palairt has said the association is "really excited" to be a part of We Have Power.

"As part of the campaign, AUSA is organising early voting booths on campus, [is] going to ensure all students know about them and

know how to vote, and run informative and engaging political events leading up to the campaign," she said in speaking with *Craccum*.

So far, Gee says, the response of students to the idea has been nothing short of "phenomenal".

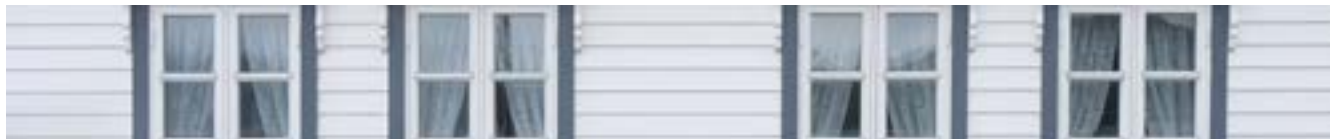
"We have fifteen tertiary institutions on board so far, and that's before we've even launched. Students from across the political spectrum and different walks of life have expressed interest in the campaign."

"While there are many voices, we are all brought together by the belief that students and young people will be a powerful political force when we turn out and vote."

He encourages students who are passionate about politics to encourage their friends to vote, or get involved with a We Have Power campus team.

"Getting involved can be as big or small as you want it to be!" ♦

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT WE HAVE POWER, HEAD TO WWW.WEHAVEPOWER.ORG.NZ.



WILL PHILANTHROPY SAVE AUCKLAND FROM ITS HOUSING CRISIS?

BY ULYSSE BELLIER

Is philanthropy going to save Auckland from its housing crisis? Mansons TCLM, a major Auckland developer, has unveiled its plan to build 500 social rental units in Auckland suburbs in the coming years.

"My parents lived in a very small one-bedroom apartment before the state house," Managing Director Ted Manson told *Radio New Zealand*, "[and] so I'm doing this for philanthropic reasons because I've done very well in my life and been quite successful and realise that life's not fair."

Social Housing Minister Amy Adams has welcomed Manson's proposal.

"The Government has been working with the private and charitable sectors for years in getting more social housing built," a Ministry spokesperson wrote when contacted by *Craccum*.

"The Ted Manson Foundation has a contract with the Government and the project has gone ahead because of our involvement, rather than in spite of it."

Graham Bodman, General Manager of

Arts, Community and Events at Auckland Council, has agreed with the Ministry.

"It's best to view philanthropic developments such as this as complementing the role of the public sector rather than supplanting it," he wrote to *Craccum*.

Manson says he has decided to finance the operation, as it was "impossible" to envisage any individual being able to build homes on such a large scale, "unless they've got a lot of money and their own construction company."

Auckland has been facing a housing crisis for many years that has raised the average price of real estate to \$968,570 in April, making it impossible for many first-home buyers to get onto the property ladder.

According to Westpac Economist Satish Rancchod, as Auckland's population is expected to rise by 17%, 100,000 new homes will be needed, meaning the crisis has no foreseeable end in sight.

Adams' spokesperson claimed the National Party is "focused" on providing more social housing for those who need it.

"We're happy to work with the private sector to make that happen... the Government is building 34,000 houses in Auckland over the next ten years, including 13,500 social housing units."

However, former Labour leader Andrew Little has previously criticised this plan as "smoke and mirrors... designed to generate headlines."

Citing the urgency of the Auckland situation, Little said that "National's plan to build just one affordable house a day is a joke."

Labour's housing platform, nicknamed "Kiwibuild", promises to build 100,000 "high quality, affordable homes" in the next decade—with 50,000 situated in Auckland.

To do so, Labour has agreed to "partner with the private sector", such as organisations like Mansons TCLM.

The construction of social apartment buildings by Mansons TCLM has already begun in central Auckland. Compass, an Australian non-governmental housing provider, will manage 163 of these apartments. ♦

MEDICAL STUDENTS FIGHTING TO FINISH DEGREES

BY NATALIE ALLEN

Medical students around New Zealand are demanding the Government get rid of the current cap installed on student loans, after some have been left unable to complete their necessary postgraduate qualifications.

As the student loan system currently stands, students who complete an initial undergraduate degree before entering the medical programme cannot apply for a student loan to cover their final years of study, forcing them to fund it privately, or leave university without their MBChB.

The New Zealand Medical Students' Association (NZMSA), alongside Te Oranga, have been campaigning for the removal of this cap to enable these students to finish.

The MBChB is one of the most expensive degrees, with fees of around \$16,000 per year, not including additional equipment or the cost of living.

Around 140 students per year are affected by the cap, and without access to a student loan, there is an expectation that students rely on parental support. It has been suggested by

Te Oranga that in not removing the cap on the student loan, the Government is deliberately discriminating against those students who do not come from an affluent background.

As the New Zealand Government subsidises each student's fees for the MBChB, any student who fails to graduate is an economic loss, as well as a professional one. Due to New Zealand's current deficit in available doctors, the NZMSA have said "it is in the country's best interests" for every medical student to make it to graduation.

In 2015, the Government extended loan durations from seven to eight years for medical students, accounting for the increasing number of students entering medical school after completing undergraduate degrees.

However, Tertiary Education Minister Paul Goldsmith says the maximum remains eight years to encourage students to make "wise decisions" about their study.

In contrast, NZMSA has argued that any stu-

dent who is accepted into medical school as a post-graduate knowingly sacrifices a salary for additional study and debt—a choice which would unlikely be undertaken without due consideration.

Goldsmith has also said the loan cap should be maintained to ensure students finish their degrees as quickly as possible—an assumption that many are calling unfounded.

"I did a physiotherapy degree first which took four years," said one third-year medical student when contacted by *Craccum*. "After that, I went straight into medicine as fast as possible. But I'm still not covered for my last year of study."

Goldsmith has also suggested that students take "time off" from their medical studies to work and fund their final years of study.

The movement (#letusfinish) has gained significant traction, with an online petition to Goldsmith recently gaining over 3500 signatures. It remains to be seen whether the Government will take action. ♦

THE LIFELINE DEBACLE

GINNY WOO—FOR ONCE—DEFENDS THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S LATEST STANCE ON MENTAL HEALTH

We're drawing ever closer to this year's election and the public outrage train is showing no signs of stopping. The latest thing that New Zealanders have decided to be absolutely furious about is the fact that our current National Government has dropped Lifeline as its suicide-prevention training provider for those working in our mental health industry.

When the news first came out, despite punters spitting chips in *NZ Herald* comments, many seemed resigned to the fact. Lifeline's financial woes were brought into the public eye last year when the Government flat out refused to help them out with funding, so it was really only a matter of time until things went totally belly up. However, mental health workers and those who rely on vital services that are facilitated by Lifeline have absolutely every right to be devastated, especially considering that our local setup has been running the show and providing much-needed training for over fifteen years.

However, in the midst of being rightfully furious about the way that the Government has chucked aside an organiser that has done nothing but good for our struggling communities, we've overlooked a few crucial things: Lifeline is

being replaced by a new provider, and this new provider is actually going to get more funding.

The new provider that we're talking about here is Le Va, and the increase in funding is to the tune of an extra \$250,000. This means that Le Va's contract with the Government to provide training to crisis workers on the frontlines of mental health is worth (according to the latest figures) about *half a million dollars*.

In addition to providing similar training to the programme put in place by Lifeline over the last decade, Le Va is special because it has specific experience in focusing on mental health and its impact on the country's Pasifika population. It looks like this new organisation is poised to deliver even more comprehensive training to those in our mental health industry, and their background with Pasifika initiatives should help with the Government's problem of chronically ignoring issues that plague minority groups in the country.

Unfortunately, because this is New Zealand, few are happy with Le Va's appointment—and it's been the calling card of the service's detractors that the organisation was only picked because Bill "Water is Too Spicy"

English's wife, Mary English, is on its board.

"Nepotism," everyone yells as they ignore the fact that Le Va is potentially poised to do better work than Lifeline has, thanks to a doubled budget.

"Of course they got the contract! It's his wife on the board," you froth, ignorant of the fact that Bill English's wife is a doctor whose day job means that she professionally exists outside of the hellscape that is NZ politics.

"This was all an inside job," they're saying, conveniently ignoring the fact that National's gravy train has been so successful with geriatric farts because it's run roughshod over Māori and Pasifika communities for the longest time. Why would it stop now over services that it's proven to historically not care about?

While the National Government may have made some poor decisions in the past when it comes to funding any sort of health initiative, maybe now is the time for us to stop looking a gift horse in the mouth and accept that for every horrifically out-of-touch campaign video, there also exists a reasonably smart policy just waiting to be implemented. The only difference this time is that the Government actually got off their butts and did it. ♦



HAVE YOUR SAY... AUSA ONLINE REFERENDUM

BY LAURA KVIGSTAD

Voting commences this week in AUSA's first ever online referendum, which features some key issues for students at the University of Auckland.

After AUSA called for referendum questions on July 24th, the final referendum questions were released on August 14th.

The key questions are:

- Should AUSA lobby for extra seating in Kate Edger Information Commons Level 0 (IC0)?
- Should AUSA establish a weekly honoraria for its portfolio holders of a sum equivalent to 10 hours at net adult minimum wage adult after tax, and that this payment be backdated to apply from the beginning of Semester Two 2017?
- Should AUSA disaffiliate the Pro Life Club and ban any clubs with similar ideology from affiliating in the future?

Leading up to this referendum, Pro Life Auckland has been trying to raise student support facing their potential disaffiliation.

One flyer with the title "Free Speech Alert" has been spread around campus, explaining that "a potentially binding referendum will be held next week which may block clubs with certain views from affiliating on campus".

The flyer was even reportedly projected in classes such as Politics 214/314 last Tuesday.

During the AUSA Executive meeting on

Monday August 14th, a motion was passed to allow AUSA President Will Matthews to seek legal advice regarding the matter. This was prompted by Pro Life Auckland finding issue with the referendum in regards to two areas.

Firstly, Pro Life Auckland claims AUSA is a public entity and thereby the disaffiliation of Pro Life Auckland would be a breach of New Zealand law.

The group has also called the question "biased", which violates the AUSA Constitution.

However a recent statement released by AUSA claimed no culpability for the question being proposed. "This question has not been put forward or endorsed by AUSA. Any student who is a registered member of AUSA is entitled to submit a question for referendum."

In 2012, the Club was also up for potential disaffiliation due to multiple complaints of the club harassing vulnerable students. However, a vote of 225 to 117 AUSA members allowed the Club to stay within the Association.

In regards to the portfolio issue, portfolio managers currently work on a bonus system, in which twice a year bonuses are awarded based on the portfolio manager's performance.

AUSA Queer Rights Officer Isabella Francis explained she spends 10 hours or more a week looking after Queerspace, holding office hours, organising events such as Pride Week, setting up for the events, training Resident

Assistants, as well as performing other duties pertaining to governance.

Administrative Vice-President Jessica Jones explained, "Even if they earned 100% of their bonuses, they'd still be making less than minimum wage."

Francis further commented that, "Many portfolio managers work part-time jobs, study full-time and manage the duties of their portfolio."

The implementation of a 10-hour-a-week honorarium would "allow for a wider range of people to be able to manage portfolios" and that it would be "fair to recompense" portfolio managers.

On the final matter of AUSA lobbying for more seating in Kate Edger Information Commons Level 0, Jones said, "It's not rocket science."

Voting for these issues will commence online at 9am on Monday August 21st and close at 4pm on Friday August 25th.

All referenda questions concerning finance, administrative, human resources or governance matters will be non-binding on AUSA and indicative only. For other matters, a quorum of 3% of all AUSA members must participate in the referendum for the result to be binding on the Association. ♦

TO VOTE THIS WEEK, GO TO
[HTTP://WWW.AUSA.ORG.NZ/REFERENDA/](http://www.ausa.org.nz/referenda/)



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STUDIES FIRST—FOOTBALL FREESTYLING LATER

MARK CASSON CATCHES UP WITH CHAMPION FOOTBALL FREESTYLER, DAMIAN THOMSON

Who knew flicking, tricking and kicking a ball could earn you a career? Well, that's the life local freestyler Damian Thomson is living.

Despite already being placed in the Top 50 in the World Champs for freestyling, Thomson is putting his degree in Economics and Operations Management at the University of Auckland ahead of his promising football career.

Thomson started football freestyling in 2010 after watching a YouTube clip showcasing talented tricks with a football.

Fascinated by the idea, he dropped top-level football to pursue a passion for freestyle.

"It was about 2010, I was quite seriously involved with the school football team... we were going on a footballing trip to Argentina and then I got really bored of the structure of football and the coaches and the way you're sort of told what to do and the way you have to be in a certain position and you only get a limited amount of time on the ball."

"I guess I am more into individual sports, as I like the psychological element of just being by yourself. You have to push yourself. Then I found a video of freestyle on the internet, and it pretty much just started from YouTube."

"I just saw a video and I tried to replicate what I saw and I really enjoyed it. About a

month later, I told the football team that I didn't want to play anymore and since then I just did freestyle."

He also spoke about meeting New Zealand and Oceania Champion Olly Bowman through freestyling, who persuaded him to follow his dreams in football.

However, one thing Thomson learnt quickly is that the sport takes years to master.

"Freestyling takes months to take up, so consistency is the only way for a young and upcoming freestyler to take part in major competitions. There were tricks back in 2011 which I wanted to do—and I've only just started doing them in the past two years or so."

Thomson told *Craccum* that his consistent training and passion have helped him get to where he is today.

"If I was to tell someone what they needed to do to become an amazing freestyler... the first thing I would tell them is to enjoy it. I wouldn't want someone to get into it just because they think they can make a living out of the shows or just doing well on the competitions. You have to enjoy the sport itself, but you also need to practice consistently."

"Training can be difficult too, at times you're just training and training and training

and you don't know [whether] what you're doing is even what your audience wants to see... because the way the competition is organised, it's like a breakdancing battle where the judges decide who performed better."

Despite all the training and hard work, Thomson has made a name for himself, travelling the world to enter in competitions year-round.

"I have done some really cool shows. One or two that stick out was when I was in Melbourne at the opening of the 2015 Asian Cup, where I got to perform in a stadium in front of 30 or 40,000 people."

"One show, I just performed in a hotel and got paid \$1000 for it—that was really unbelievable to me because I was only 17 at the time. I've been at the World Championships three times representing NZ."

Taking part in competitions such as these has meant that Thomson was previously ranked in a global freestyle Top 20, and finished second in the Oceania Championship.

However, the sky's the limit for the young footballer, who dreams of winning the Oceania Championship and finishing in the Top 32 of the World Championships, but only after finishing his commerce studies at UoA. ♦



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Big Brother

Daniel Gambitsis looks at censorship in New Zealand and the limits of freedom of expression

Ted Dawe set out to write a book for difficult pupils who lacked books with which they could relate. In 2013, the novel *Into The River* was the first book to be given an “R14” restriction, and it later became the first book in more than 20 years to be banned, following a complaint from Christian conservative lobby group, Family First.

Previously a notably successful and highly-borrowed Young Adult novel, following the ruling it was pulled from library shelves, schools and bookshops and hidden from view. Complaints centred on the book’s sexually explicit content (including underage sex), illegal drug use, child sex exploitation, violent assault and “the use of a slang term for female genitalia”. Fines for individuals distributing or exhibiting the book amounted to \$3000. The book had won the New Zealand Post Children’s Book award and concerns “issues such as race, sexual orientation, body issues, class discrimination and bullying and harassment.” Confusingly, it was apparently legal to have a copy for personal use, but not to share it. The ban was later lifted, because although aspects of the book might offend, it was thought that no age restriction was justified.

The banning was widely criticised at the time. Fears were expressed that it set a dangerous precedent and that the ban ignored the fact that the book dealt with issues young people face today, however uncomfortable that reality is. Earlier this year, the Office of Film and Literature Classification created a new censorship category for *13 Reasons Why* to be accompanied by a warning, which forewarns that the content depicts suicide and rape.

New Zealand has a long, and continuous history of censorship. More than 1300 books are banned in New Zealand, following the recommendation of the Chief Censor of the Office of Film and Literature Classification and the Censorship Compliance Unit (as Orwellian as these titles sound). Some memorably titled banned books include *Confessions of a Pimp*, *Horney (correct) Housewife* and *A Lesbian Happening*. *Lolita* was previously banned. Seditious material was banned as an imprisonable offence during the Waterfront Strike of 1951. A newsreel about British troops left behind at Dunkirk was ordered to remove references to the 30,000 soldiers left dead or captured. *Human Centipede 2* is banned. The Office rarely reviews decisions, unless a request is made, so previously illegal content (such as gay and lesbian materials) could still be illegal simply because no one has requested a review.

The scope of censorship in New Zealand is thus much wider than merely books. The Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 allows the censorship of “publications”, which includes films, books, videos and magazines, among other media.

The goal of censorship is, according to the Department of Internal Affairs, to reduce potential harm to the public. This is achieved through:

- Voluntary film and video ratings for consumer information, e.g. M: Suitable for mature audiences 16 years and over;
- Legally-enforceable publication classifications restricting availability to certain persons or groups, e.g. the R18 rating; and
- The banning of objectionable material, as judged by the Office of Film and Literature Classification.

The Act defines “objectionable” as material which “describes, depicts, expresses, or otherwise deals with matters such as sex, horror, crime, cruelty, or violence in such a manner that the availability of the publication is likely to be *injurious to the public good* [emphasis added].” Six categories are automatically objectionable if they “promote” and “support” certain content, including the sexual exploitation of children, necrophilia and bestiality. Moreover, the Classification Office will give “particular weight” when considering certain content, such as torture and sadism. In the context of the currently heightened scrutiny of New Zealand’s suicide rates and the response to *13 Reasons Why*, it is worth recalling that the publication of self-harming content may be restricted, but not banned.

There are notable issues with the censorship and classification system. While the system was far more effective before the internet age, when imported materials could be stopped at customs, it is now much less effective. People can easily access materials online, bypassing the classification system. Video games are much more difficult to censor because they cannot, like a book or video, simply be checked in a linear fashion. The Classification Office has had to hire a part-time gamer for this very reason. Moreover, there is the much weightier issue of freedom of expression.

Section 14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 enshrines our right to freedom of expression, as does Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The European Court of Human Rights has stated that freedom of expression in a pluralistic democracy includes not only expression that is favourably or indifferently received by society, but also expression that offends, shocks and disturbs. The importance of freedom of expression can never be underestimated. As argued by philosopher Thomas Emerson, those who seek the truth must be able to hear all sides of the argument, properly argued, in order to make the best judgment as to the strength of the respective positions. Suppression is conducive to intellectual stultification. Freedom of

expression is as important for self-development as it is for holding governments accountable.

The “slippery slope argument”, a mainstay of judicial opinions, appeals to bona fide democratic concerns rather than conservative social mores. Infamous for its online censorship, China has recently launched investigations into its pliant home-grown social media giants and tightened regulations on VPNs (which allow access to banned websites like Facebook). This is part of a wider, pervasive system of disrespect for Chinese people’s rights and freedoms. More worrying is when censorship is practised in democracies, as in India, which just a couple of weeks ago blocked access to the Wayback Machine. Freedom of expression is an easy target for governments that want to stifle dissent and control opinions.

On the other hand, it is generally accepted that there must be some acceptable limits to freedom of expression. New Zealand’s classification concerning child sex exploitation, for example, is clearly necessary. However, where to draw the metaphorical line is always difficult, especially when using such ambiguous phrases like “injurious to the public good”. A focus on a work’s artistic, political or scientific merits invites subjective judgments about a content’s merits, which may vary widely depending on the person accessing the content.

With New Zealand’s climbing suicide rates, the logic of our rules on the reporting of suicide has been increasingly questioned. The aforementioned examples from around the World War II period and the recent banning of *Into The River* attest to the threat that, even in a democratic society like New Zealand, the temptation to censor expression for dubious motives poses a significant threat to freedom of expression. This is concerning for minority opinions in particular, whether we like them or not. Minority groups both benefit from, and are threatened by, freedom of expression. The hugely controversial issue of hate speech, of especial concern in the age of anonymous commenting, presents an argument in favour of limitations on freedom of expression. New Zealand attempts to respect freedom of responsibility by censoring only content which encourages a certain objectionable activity, rather than simply portraying it. This is a fine line for the Classification Office to navigate.

Censorship presents a conflict of two competing values—those of freedom of expression and social responsibility. There are cases where censorship, as menacing a word as it is, has its merits. Yet the practice of censorship must be exercised with the utmost restraint, and our own experience with censorship demonstrates how easy it is for the amorphous concept of social responsibility to cannibalise freedom of expression. ♦

Farewell Metiria

After a media witch hunt, well-loved co-leader of the Green Party, Metiria Turei, has stepped down from her top dog position. But who will be her replacement? Much like when John Key left the top position in the National Party, there are numerous candidates who could be considered. Rebecca Hallas gives you the skinny on some of her potential replacements.



Julie Anne Genter

Genter is currently tipped to be Metiria's replacement, and it's apparent why. At just 37 years of age, she's been the third ever female MP to hold a finance portfolio, as well as the Transport and Youth portfolios. Genter is considered to be an expert in the transportation industry and has given presentations at press conferences, such as the New Zealand Society for Sustainability Engineering and Science Conference. By bringing a green perspective to the issue of public transport, Genter could certainly pave the way for greener solutions to Auckland traffic.



Golriz Ghahraman

Ghahraman has a similar star potential to that of La-

bour's superstar, Jacinda Ardern. 35-year-old Ghahraman is experienced in politics, but still exudes that youthful enthusiasm that can be so appealing, especially to younger voters. Ghahraman's CV is certainly impressive. Overcoming challenges faced as an Iranian refugee, she went on to study at the University of Oxford and has worked as a lawyer for the United Nations. Should she enter New Zealand Parliament as a Green Party MP, she will be the first ever refugee to do so!



Marama Davidson

Davidson has worked for the Human Rights Commission and served as a Think Tank Member for the Owen Glenn Inquiry on child abuse and domestic violence. She's also a founding member of the Te Wharepora Hou Māori Women's Collective, an organisation which strives to be a "pro-active wahine voice on relevant issues". As a result of her own experiences, Davidson has also called for less restrictive abortion laws and better sex education. A well-loved member of the Green Party, could Davidson's popularity put her in the top position? ♦



CHARITY/ORGANISATION OF THE WEEK

This week we're thanking those who do work that often goes unnoticed in our society, and promoting Caring for Carers. CFC was established to provide an understanding, non-judgemental, caring and confidential environment in which carers can share their concerns, acknowledgments, challenges and frustrations—experiences and feelings which may

be inappropriate to express to the person being cared for and often family members or friends. The charity provides outings for carers, resources on how to care for the elderly and unwell, and support group meetings. To learn more about Caring for Carers, and to support them, check out their website at: www.caringforcarers.org.nz. ♦

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Check out

Democracy and the Internet

to discuss the opportunities and challenges the internet brings to democracy!

When: Tuesday 22 August, 5:30pm–7:00pm

Where: AUT City Campus, Room WA224, 55 Wellesley Street East

Price: Free!

Age restrictions: All ages

Event info: "It's an election year and I'm sure you would agree things are certainly ramping up! The Internet's potential as a tool for citizen-led democracy, campaigning, activism and potentially even voting is more important than ever."

You can RSVP to the event at internet-nz.nz. Drinks and nibbles are available from 5.30pm, with the panel discussion beginning at 6pm. If you can't make it IRL, the event will be livestreamed at internetnz.nz!

Help tackle child poverty with the

Child Poverty Action Group!

When: Wednesday 23 August, 6:30pm

Where: Owen G Glenn Building, 260-051

Price: Free!

Age restrictions: All ages

Event info: "Child poverty is one of the most important issues this election. Join Child Poverty Action Group in having a kōrero about how to create a better New Zealand for all children. There will be free pizza! Guest speakers include Alan Johnson—CPAG's housing expert and social policy analyst for The Salvation Army. CPAG is non-partisan and welcomes students of all political backgrounds and levels of engagement to come along and join the conversation!" ♦

What's On

The Princess Bride BASEMENT THEATRE

Live Reel is a monthly live script-reading event, featuring new actors and new movie scripts each month. Head along on Wednesday 23 August at 8.30pm to see *The Princess Bride*.

The Hunting Ground ARTS 1 BUILDING

Thursdays in Black are hosting an SGM/Movie Night on Wednesday 23 August at 6pm in Arts 1, Room 206-201. They'll be screening *The Hunting Ground*, a documentary about sexual assault on college campuses. Snacks will be provided and a gold coin donation is appreciated, which will go towards the Shakti Women's Refuge.

A Streetcar Named Desire Q THEATRE

The Law School's Wellbeing group are heading to Q Theatre on Thursday 24 August to watch *A Streetcar Named Desire*. The production runs until Saturday 16 September, but head along to opening night with Law Wellbeing to bag your \$25 ticket! Check out the Facebook event to sign up.

National Poetry Day NATIONWIDE

Friday 25 August is National Poetry Day! There are amazing events all over Auckland, so check out the NZ Book Awards website for events near you. Hear C.K. Stead, Selina Tusitala-Marsh, Michele Leggott, Ian Wedde and some students read at the UoA General Library at 1pm on the day!

Taste of Terror Tour SPOOKERS

This Saturday, Spookers is opening its gates for a Taste of Terror Tour. Visitors will be taken on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Haunted House and Disturbia attractions with an in-character guide. Tickets are \$22 for students from Eventfinda. ♦

Sprucing Up Your Student Room

As much as some of us are complete hoarders whose rooms reflect the state of our minds (messy), there are others who seem to find a way to make their bedrooms look like a minimalist marvel. Perhaps, when you're flatting and the state of the communal areas is often questionable, a clean and fashionable room is a way of exerting control over your situation. We envy those rooms when we see them on Instagram, looking like they've stepped right off a Pinterest board. If you're looking to do a bit of home-deco, here are some great places to start.

Plants: These green little guys (not aliens) are in almost every enviable bedroom. Whether it be a small vase on your desk that you fill with flowers or a bonsai tree you treat with care, plants are perfect additions to a slightly stale room. You don't even need a vase—you can simply recycle a glass bottle! If you're looking for ease, buy some succulents for a pop of colour—and if you're looking to be a bit dynamic, why not try a hanging planter? Whilst I'm always in favour of keeping your plants alive, dried flowers are apparently in at the moment—so they can die, and still look cute. (What a dream.)

Art it up! When you might be away from home, there is nothing better than creating a little photo mural to remind you of your family and friends. Or, you can go the alternate method, and stick up your favourite copies of paintings, illustrations, cut-outs from magazines and postcards. Go crazy and do whatever speaks to you.

However, a perfect tip for anyone looking to poster it up is the ever-magical washi tape. Sometimes known as decorative tape, you can use washi tape to create amazing geometrical decorations and frames for your picture. Cheap and temporary, these are great additions to your shopping list.

Fairy lights: Maybe you have them left over from a party, or merely because you saw your sister had them and realised how much you wanted them. Either way, these are the ultimate way to dress up a room. You can hang them above your bed, your desk, or a corner of your room to create a soft ambient lighting, which might help you calm down after a stressful day.

Rugs/throws: Helpful for the winter months, patterned quilts or sheepskin throws are great adornments for your desk chair or bed as well. They look nice and can be ridiculously comforting.

Clipboards: This brilliant handy tool eliminates the need for blutack, tape or constant changing of Command strips. You can hang a collection of clipboards on the wall (preferably wood) and use them to create rotating displays of art. If you're like me, and can't stand the same poster after too long, this is perfect for you. Once they're up, you can just change out what you like when you feel like it, without the hassle or worry of whether or not what you stuck up will fall down. ♦



CAFÉ REVIEW: Little & Friday, Belmont + Newmarket

Anyone that's been to Little & Friday knows that every trip there is 10/10. If you haven't been, you're going to want to by the end of this review.

While both cafes offer a tasty and refined daytime menu, that's not why you go to Little & Friday. You go for the cabinet food, because it is the most exceptional cabinet food you will experience in your life. Specifically, you go for the donuts. Lord, them donuts. With a range of flavours, including the classic Cinnamon donut—which is delicious—you'll be spoilt for choice. However, there's one true star of the show you simply can't overlook. The iconic Cream and Raspberry donut is the motherload, and this humble wee café has developed quite the reputation for it. Enormous and filled with a huge amount of the most incredible cream and tart raspberry coulis, eating one of these is like dying and going to heaven. You will return again and again just to savour this perfect creation.

Little & Friday's other sweet treats are worthy competitors, especially the rhubarb custard tart. On the savoury side of things, there's a heap of fresh goodies to choose from. I recommend the Caramelised Onion tart if buttery soft pastry is what you're craving.

If it's just a coffee you're after, you won't be disappointed either. Both cafes serve Coffee Supreme, meaning any coffee ordered here is guaranteed to be delicious.

Pricewise, Little & Friday leans a bit toward the expensive side (for poor students, that is), but you do get what you pay for—and by that I mean, the food is worth the price. The only negative I can think of, having been to both cafes multiple times, is the wait time during the weekend. It can get a tad lengthy, especially at the Belmont store. As long as you don't mind reading the paper or having a yarn for a while, you'll have the ultimate café experience. ♦



GUIDE TO... Spring Gardening

It's finally beginning to feel warmer and soon your garden will be a-blooming. If you've got a green thumb or just want to see some beautiful bloody nature, here are some different plants you should be potting/sowing STAT.

First—Compost: Before you begin your planting journey, make sure you add organic matter, a.k.a compost, to your soil. Unless you want your plants dying a swift death, you'll need to get the soil prepped and ready to go. Compost adds rich nutrients to the soil, which help your wee seeds flourish. Ensure your garden will look fly by remembering this vital step!

Sow—Marigolds: Add a splash of vibrant colour with these beautiful buds. Marigolds are round, firm flowers in bright orange and yellow. They generally stay in bloom through both Spring and Summer. Sow the seeds one inch apart. When it comes to planting, move them to an area that gets full sun exposure and make sure you space them out—these guys like to grow outwards.

Sow—Hollyhocks: Hollyhocks come in a range of colours and are delicate, tall flowers. Unfortunately this breed only lives for a few years, but they're pretty easy to take care of once in the ground. Place them in an area that's

completely exposed to the sun, and make sure the soil is rich and moist. Now watch your babies grow!

Plant—Nemesia: For a low, almost shrub-like scenario, Nemesia should be your number one. This bedding plant has ample blooms, making it great for hanging baskets (it'll spill beautifully over the sides) and ground covers. Nemesia grows quickly and comes in a mix of colours, from mauve and red to orange and yellow. To avoid stem rot, make sure the soil is moist, but well-drained.

Plant—Azaleas: To achieve the ultimate colour burst, look no further than Azalea. These stunners flower in electric purples, pinks and reds and can be kept in pots or allowed to grow huge in the garden. Azaleas thrive on animal manure, so stop at that stall on the side of the road and buy a bag to scatter on your soil. Unlike our Marigold and Hollyhock friends, Azaleas require a mixture of sun and shade. Opt for a patch of lawn that gets sun for about half the day and you're good to go. ♦

A Waffle Iron-Free Waffle Recipe

Can't make it to Orleans? No problem. Don't have a waffle maker? We've got you! Waffles are honestly one of the most delicious treats you could ever have, and now you can make them yourself—no machine required. With this simple recipe, your late-night cravings will finally be fulfilled with this slightly creative take on the traditional waffle.

What you need:

1 ¾ cups of flour 1 tbsp sugar
2 tsp baking powder ½ tsp salt
1 ¾ cups of milk 1 tsp vanilla essence
Vegetable oil (½ cup for cooking, rest for pan)
3 eggs

What you do:

- Grease your grill pan using vegetable oil or cooking spray. If you want you can play around with using butter/margarine as well.
- Separate the egg yolks from the egg whites. Keep both in two different bowls.
- Beat egg yolks together till ribboned. Beat egg whites till stiff and fluffy.
- Mix all dry ingredients together. For best results, use sieve.
- Combine egg yolks, milk and vanilla essence.
- Pour yolk/milk mixture into dry ingredients. Stir together.
- Pour in ½ cup vegetable oil and mix.
- Fold in beaten egg whites and mix together gently. Be careful not to overdo it.
- Place greased grill pan on high heat. Pour in waffle batter and spread around until it fills pan. You can make it smaller if you'd prefer smaller waffles.
- Cook waffles on medium-low for 6 mins, or till lightly golden on bottom.
- Flip over and cook for another 6 mins until golden. It doesn't matter if it breaks, as flipping does take time. (Use a spatula!)
- Leave to cool for a few minutes.
- Go crazy with toppings—sugar, berries, cream, chocolate... Whatever you want! ♦

Top 5... Cocktails

Mojito

Fresh and fruity, the Mojito is the ultimate alcoholic bevvie for summer. Blending rum, soda, sugar, lime and mint, this is a drink you can turn to again and again. Plus, it's super easy to make yourself at home.

Old Fashioned

This drink is as badass as it sounds. It's actually the OG cocktail, originating in the early 1800s. Simple and to the point, this pearler contains Bourbon, Bitters, soda and sugar—and is served in an old fashioned glass, of course.

Espresso Martini

Caffeine friends, sing praise. There's a cocktail that makes drinking alcohol and coffee at the same time possible. 1 part coffee liqueur, 1 part espresso (yes, you need an espresso maker), and 2 parts vodka is all that's in this drink. It's sophisticated, scrumptious and very, very strong.

Margarita

What would a cocktail list be without this Mexican classic? Tequila, orange liqueur, lime and salt (or sugar if you can't handle the tang) makes one heady concoction that'll knock ya socks off. If you're a Margarita virgin (god forbid), get down to Mexico Britomart and order one pronto.

Negroni

Created in Italy in the early 1900s, the Negroni is a bitter delight often served before a meal (as opposed to multiple-vessels-throughout-the-night kind of drink). This tasty treat consists of 1 part gin, 1 part vermouth rosso and 1 part Campari. Garnished with orange peel, it's guaranteed to give you a kick. ♦



FINDING FEMINISM WITH JOSIE & T

Saia Halatanu learns about the fundamentals of feminism from vloggers Josie & T

From the moment I stumbled across her Instagram profile, even before I had spoken to her for the first time, I knew that 20-year-old Josie Oloito'a was set to be someone influential. Even before I had started writing this, I could feel her taking control of what I said about her. She is one half of Josie & T—a duo who have shot to success through social media, championing social justice causes related to feminism, sex, LGBTQ+ issues and minority rights. Their style is comedic, unapologetic and could be described by the easily offended as *risqué*. Whatever you decide to call it, their content can't be ignored easily and that's an indication of why their social stock is on a skyward trajectory. The duo's influence is evident in their social media following—Josie's Instagram has almost 15,000 followers.

Although they have become one of New Zealand's larger online "influencers" (a term they

don't particularly favour), they wield the influence so gracefully, it is virtually unnoticeable. It's an influence that, while difficult to pinpoint, feels far more concrete than that of other online "somebodies". It's backed by a confidence that is, itself, backed by intelligence. Their "Asshole Diaries" YouTube video is a carefully measured, yet wide-ranging diatribe aimed at another social media phenomenon, Jimi Jackson, for what they see as his casual use of homophobia, sexism and racism. "You've said and done some shitty shit, Jimi, and we're here to help educate you and use you as an example," they explain in the video, before symbolically dressing him in a dunce cap and disemboweling him.

Sure, Jackson is a half-wit comedian and is somewhat unaware, but criticising someone with a fanbase that dwarfs your own is generally only something that's done if your influence is very

significant or you are very, very, very confident. Josie & T are both.

I'll be the first to say that I harbour no sympathy for Jackson, but truth be told, I am somewhat sceptical about modern-day feminism and social justice causes so when Josie initially agreed to the interview, my journalistic dreams of putting hard questions to big personalities flashed before my eyes. I was absolutely set on challenging their ideas. In the end, I decided not to (I'm still unsure if that was entirely my own decision or if I was somehow spellbound).

"Would you describe yourself as a feminist?"

I prodded gingerly.

"Yeah." No hesitation.

Shit, she's tough.

"Why is that?" I reply with a little more courage.

"Because I believe in equal rights."

Hard to disagree with that.

Josie believes that those who subscribe to and promote the kind of feminism that only takes middle-class white women into account is what deters people from wanting to take on the label. "The feminism I believe in is intersectional and it's inclusive." She educates me on the term "womanism" and the relationship between feminism and women of colour, but admits she is still learning some of the nuances. I couldn't tell. I find myself nodding in agreement and make a conscious effort to stop. Is this hypnosis?

"It's just equality," T adds with conviction. 21-year-old Te Awariki Lardelli made headlines in late 2016 after a body transformation which saw him lose 41kg in the space of five months. The catalyst for this transformation was a difficult battle with depression and a desire to rebuild his self-esteem. Mindful of the cliché, T told *Te Kāea* that the experience had taught him how to love himself. Self-love appears to be a theme that runs through all that Josie & T do.

When asked who they do it all for and whether they have a particular target audience in mind, T describes what their social media analytics tells them: "Our audience is usually 18–24-year-old females. Mainly Pacific Islander."

"But it's for anyone who will listen!" they say in unison.

Josie & T's respective experiences are what propelled them to take on social issues in the first place. Each of their personal stories is tried and tested—the feeling of not living up to expectations and not fitting into their immediate surroundings, and then breaking the mould and discovering the exhilaration of emancipation. Their aim now is to encourage others who feel they are bound by their own particular situations in much the same way they were inspired by their own heroes.

"So, who are your heroes? Who do you look up to?" Maybe asking them about their role models will help me understand what it is that they want to do going forward.

T attributes his introduction to feminism to Emma Watson and her "HeForShe" initiative. "I've always known about [feminism], but never really paid attention until I saw her. Men need to get involved, we need their help in order to achieve full equality."

Their heroes include prominent feminist figures such as Oprah Winfrey and Emma Watson, but Josie also mentions some lesser known inspirations such as blogger @theslumflower and writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Out of interest I google Adichie and discover her TED talk. I immediately recognise her voice: "Feminist—a person who believes in the social, political and economic equality of the sexes." Shit. I love that song.

I feel my scepticism giving way.

"Passionate" would be a fitting word to describe the duo. Josie, in particular, attributes her online rants to this passion, which is often the result of anger from seeing or experiencing some injustice or piece of ignorance. "It's those posts that come from anger that attract the most attention."

Josie, who moved up to Auckland from Wellington to study Communications at the University of Auckland, explained the difficulties of coming from a conservative Samoan family and trying to square her upbringing with her liberal views on Leilani Momoisea's podcast, *Snacks & Chats*.

"My family wanted me to stay in Wellington and pursue a different career with study. Every fibre of my being was saying 'No, I don't want to do that.' I hate being told what to do." She describes a time when she flew up to Auckland for Beyoncé's concert against the wishes of her parents—the consequences involved her iPhone and a hammer. "I saw Beyoncé and I touched her and it was worth it."

Her rebellion, she points out, is inherent and an act of defiance. Josie decided against the female convention of shaving her armpit hair. She gives her reasons on Instagram:

i could write another feminist rant to try n justify these shits growing out my armpit but then i'd have to explain why we shit, why we fuck and why we convert oxygen into carbon dioxide cos apparently ppl still don't understand the basic biology of being human. if ur still pressed bout body hair yo ass got left in 2015 bye.

It's this rebellion and brand of pugilistic social awareness that makes the duo a standout. So much so that they were approached by TVNZ to create online content aimed at youth through their socially-driven alternative news brand, "Re:."

"I met a producer at a party," T explains. "She looked up our YouTube channel the next day and emailed me like 'Yeah, we want you guys.' They think that we're the right look for the audience that they want." They relay this story to me with much more modesty than they should. I insist that they absolutely deserve it and should not be toning down their success. "Your platform is huge now! What you say has influence whether you intend it or not. It must all be very exciting!" My enthusiasm is probably palpable.

I attempt to channel my inner Edward Murrow and collect myself, "With such a large audience now, do you feel any pressure?"

"It definitely has grown quite rapidly in a short amount of time," Josie says. "I first started gaining a following in April 2016, but I don't really feel any pressure. I just know now that when I do things, I'm very conscious that people

are watching. [Instagram is] kind of like a diary, I speak about my own experiences and my own feelings in case it resonates with or helps someone else. I do it for myself as a release, but if it helps someone else then that's just a plus."

Despite their success, the pair still possesses a fluid ambition. "We've got goals!" T exclaims. "Like, at the moment, I still feel like we're at the bottom compared to where we want to be. So that keeps us fairly grounded. Maybe a TV show? But online because television is dying."

Josie admits that although she does want to do well, her wants and needs change daily. "Career-wise, I want to do everything! I want to write a book one day, I want to tour, I want a fuckin' TED talk!" I feel a tingle in my spine as I realise that I'd gladly buy a ticket to watch these two on a TED stage. I also have a weird premonition about how this article is going to start... *Even before I had started writing this, I could feel her taking control of what I said about her...*

I decide to move on, "Naturally, there's some negativity surrounding what you guys do. What are some of the things people say about you and how do you deal with it?"

"Umm..." Josie starts, "I get 'slut' a lot because I was posting a lot of skin and people were sexualising it. Now that I've grown out my armpit hair I get 'Harambe' and 'dirty'." She laughs as she's telling me this, almost welcoming the negativity, if only to change it. "You rank bitch," she carries on, "prostitute, 'slut' again." T explains that they can handle negativity pretty well and that, for them, it's as easy as blocking or deleting someone, and if the case gets too extreme, they aren't afraid to call people out and use them as an example.

An image of my fingers typing on a keyboard appears in my head... *they wield the influence so gracefully that it is virtually unnoticeable...* The article almost begins to write itself.

"Finally," I say "do you guys have any general life advice for people?" I feel I'm asking this for myself as much as I'm asking for *Craccum* readers. "I don't have any that's not cheesy and overdone," Josie says.

"That's okay, I find that the most fundamental truths are often hidden in the most boring and obvious platitudes," I hear myself say. What am I doing?!

"It's so corny, but like..." she carries on, "it is so important to be true to yourself. Live your truth. Because I used to struggle trying to conform to appease other people. So be yourself and live your truth." Beautifully expressed, I decide to end our interview here before I say anything to ruin the moment.

"So actually," T begins. "Tell us about yourself," Josie continues...

Shit. ♦



GETTING INKED

Olivia Stanley is hoping to change minds about the stigma around tattoos

Life happens. We are plonked into our bodies, grow from tiny pinkish-things into hormonal humans, and we are confronted with the reality that some things just cannot be changed (millions of dollars being the only prerequisite for change, apparently). I've come to understand that my face just happened.

Once, in a shopping centre—where all the best stories start—a busybody lady strode past me. She paused, blatantly staring in an awkward silence (minus the plastic rustle of her bags). Finally, she cocked her head and said, “You’re on TV aren’t you?”

“No,” (cue uncomfortable laugh), “I must just look like someone you know.”

“You really don’t have one of those faces.”

Right. What the hell does that mean? Is it mother nature reiterating again that my face, more specifically my cheeks, are unforgettably chipmunk (an epithet I was granted in high school). My chipmunk cheeks have earned me the badge my nana calls character. “Olivia has real character,” she would coo. We all know now that being a character means someone stands out from the perceived social norm. Others try to make me feel better about being chipmunk by saying it’s cute. I’ve been degraded to the status of a freaky forest

animal, which is somehow still cute.

At sixteen, I got a fringe to soften the large expanse that is my face (chubby cheeks don’t need more softening, by the way) but the hairdresser snipped it too short. The result: I looked like a priest for a few months. (After that I started to draw faces on oranges, because they were the only thing I could identify with. Fruit are great friends, Miranda would agree with me.)

Moral of the story is: your body just happens sometimes. I can’t pluck my cheeks into submission like I do my eyebrows, and getting Botox would only increase the plumpness. I’ll have to own my “character”—I suppose we all have to in some way.

There is one thing that I can get on my body because I want to, and that is a tattoo (and no, I’m not getting it on my face). Life happens, but tattoos are planned. I should get that stamped across my ass. #sloganforlife

Getting a tattoo as a woman is like being bitch-slapped twice over. Our grandparents’ generation viewed tattooed women as being “loose” (loose in terms of their morals, guys!). It’s “unladylike”—one of the many things that old people deem worse for a woman to do than a man.

Older people often pick up the patriarchal

stick and try to beat women back into the traditional mould, but why this pressing emphasis on the taboo of tattoos? Is it a resurgence of skin envy because their own is tattooed with liver spots rather than decorated with ink? Sadly I’m a realist. It’s not about envy, nor is it just about female promiscuity (although that can be a hefty part of it)—it is about elitism. If you have a tattoo, you’re somehow a drug-affiliated chick who would jump on the back of a leather-clad man’s motorbike without looking behind you. You’re not the classy, clean and pristine woman. Tattoos are an outward sign of an inner wildness. Women have always been ruthlessly judged by their appearances, both by men and even themselves sometimes. It’s simply natural selection that we would receive harsher criticism than men, right? (HA!)

Pregnancy is a real downer too. That elegant dolphin you got tattooed on your tummy has been morphed and stretched into a whale. Not only does ink look funny on saggy skin when we are ancient, but it looks bad when we are young and pregnant. Now that really is a cause for regrets.

Can’t you just hear your grandparents’ voices echoing that tattoos are forever (forever, forever)? Forever is only until we die, as we don’t live in the *Twilight* series (sigh). If our body is the vessel that

our souls float around in (forever), why not decorate it here and there?

I'm not talking about getting my ex's name tattooed on my ass (cliché, anyone?), but getting a tasteful tatt. And when those annoying peeps come pestering with the question, "Oh cool, what does it mean?", we can reply, "It means that I wanted it, so I did it."

We shouldn't live life regretting our memories; they are a part of the messy bundle of experiences that is us. I do acknowledge that stupid decisions can be regretful. So, I might just sit on the idea for a few years (everyone knows spontaneous tats are the worst).

Buzzfeed (the source of all wisdom) states that I'll never get a job with a tattoo. We all know this is a superstitious lie to keep us in line, so let's just ponder the placement for a moment. The boobage area and tummy is off limits (due to reasons discussed earlier), but the side of the ribcage, the back and the upper thigh is still available and discrete. Corporate killjoys aren't going to know about those places.

Most uni students wonder about navigating the jobsphere after inking up. Will it limit my options? Will I have to invest in cats instead of a future? Some workplaces allow people to parade their inked-up arms—places like barber shops and cafes manned by indie baristas. Now inking has bled into the corporate world too. Yet somehow, one can't have a visible tattoo and a visibly "normal" life. One must be cloak-and-dagger about tattoos, one must hide them from co-workers (and especially the boss) in the shadowy recesses of one's clothes. Heaven forbid that a colleague would roll up the sleeves of their white-collared blouse and reveal... their character.

Remember our classy, clean and pristine woman archetype? She would be hired in a heartbeat. She is the blank canvas corporations want to

project their image onto. And the corporate god made man in his image. Diversity in the workplace is a problem. Maybe tattoos are just another part of this discrimination. I had hoped we'd live in a world where our brains and our hearts meant more than our skin colour, our gender, or even something as trivial as our tattoos. I had hoped we could look further than skin deep.

I guess to some high-up-in-the-world people, tattoos are markers of pubescent whims. Let's just put to rest the idea that tattoos are about poor choices and immaturity once and for all. Tattoos illustrate commitment. I mean, they're there forever (forever, forever).

Never fear, the upside is back. People don't last forever, and neither does authority. One in three New Zealanders under 30 are inked (according to the *NZ Herald*, 2k15). That's a third of the workforce. Look out corporate world, the millennials are coming.

Yes, our bodies are already beautiful and interesting (chipmunk cheeks and all), but tattoos don't hide natural beauty. They can accentuate it, they can draw someone in, they can be what you want them to (from tramp stamps to tasteful).

You know what's not beautiful? Tattoos scabbing over, bleeding and all that fun stuff in the healing process. Pain's not attractive (unless you like the tormented and brooding archetype), but to quote the genius that is Oscar Wilde, "Behind every exquisite thing that existed there was something tragic." A tad melodramatic perhaps, yet it rings true. And listen up, ladies! Apparently small tattoos are less painful than menstrual cramps. Our bodies have been training us for this.

A tattoo is another way to assert that our bodies belong to us. We can express ourselves, not the societal norm (although some would argue, tats are becoming the norm now, but let's not open that box). A tattoo is something we can control;

we research the crap out of it. What do we want? What artist do we want to represent that? What are we representing?

I haven't even scraped the surface yet (so to speak), about representation and cultural appropriation. It may seem like a fine line between cultural appreciation and cultural appropriation, and you may think you've got a "cultured" aesthetic because of your ethnically diverse tattoos. However, there is a difference. We love to romanticise foreign cultures. We are contented little voyeurs as we watch subtitled films, we happily slurp and burp our way through traditional cuisines, and we adore cultural symbols that we can get as tattoos. Cultural "borrowing", then stamping onto a body, can be interpreted as ignorance. It's flaunting oppression as fashion. It's stripping a symbol of its cultural significance so others can wear it mainstreamed.

If you don't want to be blissfully ignorant, be active. Educate yourself before you celebrate something else. If you get a tattoo with a foreign symbol, know the history and significance of it and know that you are taking a stand against appropriation. Do your research so that when that nosy parker asks you, "What does that mean?", you won't bow your head in passive shame because you chose that Chinese character, religious symbol, dreamcatcher, tatau, or moko just because it was "cool".

I'm not getting a chipmunk inked on me anytime soon, and I'm not getting a picture of a little girl in a pineapple suit (a rather scarring costume from my middle-school production—I was already a little chubby without the pillows stuffed up my yellow shirt), but I might get a blue hydrangea (a salute to the one and only Lana), or I might get a Frances Cannon body-positivity tatt and own those love handles around my edges. Who knows? In the meantime, there ain't no way I'm affording a tattoo; that shit's pricey. ♦

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THE FIGHT FOR IHUMĀTAO

Catriona Britton investigates the potential destruction of a cultural heritage site in Auckland's backyard

Driving down Ihumatao Quarry Road, you're greeted with a welcome from the Kaitiaki Village and a silent protest. There are no people camping on the side of the road anymore, but their presence lingers. The power poles are painted with the colours of Tino Rangaitiranga, there are white peace flags lining the road and signs dotted on the farmland and roadside. One small one stands out, echoing the slogan of Dame Whina Cooper's 1975 hikoi, "Not One More Acre". History is repeating itself, yet again.

Near the hustle and bustle of Auckland International Airport, a small group of protesters peacefully occupied a site for months in 2016/2017. Since they've left, they've continued to be persistently vocal, fiercely determined and resilient—so much so it has grabbed the attention of the United Nations. A place of such immense cultural, historical and archaeological significance is under threat from an issue that plagues our news headlines daily—housing. So are we going to turn over earth once again and let a site of cultural value be destroyed?

Our story begins at Ihumātao in Māngere—a Māori settlement of roughly 120 people. It's Auckland's oldest and continuously occupied papakainga (village), sitting alongside Ōtuatua Stonefields Historic Reserve. Recent carbon dating of shell midden from an archaeological site on nearby Puketutu Island dates back to the twelfth century, one of the earliest dates for human occupation in Aotearoa New Zealand. According to traditions and history, Ngā Oho were the earliest inhabitants of this area. Te Ākitai Waiohūa are their descendants and con-

trolled the Tāmaki isthmus during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, although were briefly displaced by Ngāpuhi during the musket wars in the early 1800s. Early Māori occupation is also evident from the stonework and earthwork structures built across the landscape. Manmade terraces held whare (houses) and rua (food pits) where kumara were covered and stored. There are also lava caves that were used for ceremonial purposes in the burial of Māori ancestors.

Europeans first settled in Ihumātao in the mid-1840s, establishing the Wesleyan (Methodist) Mission on the shores of the Manukau Harbour. Farmers followed, introducing Scottish and English land management practices with sheep and cattle. They cleared scoria rock and built dry stone boundary walls to contain their stock.

In July 1863, Governor George Grey issued a proclamation that Māori both take an oath of allegiance to Queen Victoria and give up their arms, or retreat to the Waikato. Having close ties to Waikato-Tainui, many tangata whenua left their homes, forced off their land to make way for General Duncan Cameron and his troops to invade the Waikato. Following the mass land confiscations in the New Zealand Settlements Act 1863, the Oruarangi Block was confiscated in 1865 because local Māori had supported the Kīngitanga (Māori King) movement.

In the 1960s, the land was treated poorly with the construction of the Māngere Wastewater Treatment plant, which blocked the Oruarangi estuary from the sea. Watercare Services Ltd has only recently decommissioned the treatment

ponds, in 2005, which stopped pollution to the air, water and seabed at the Ihumātao foreshore. Between 1960 and 2013, historic volcanoes were quarried for airport construction and Auckland's roading network, Auckland Airport's second runway bulldozed through a 600-year-old urupā (grave site) on the Manukau foreshore unearthing 89 graves, Te Motu a Hiaroa/Puketutu Island was designated a biosolids dumping ground, and an industrial dye spill completely devastated Waitomokia stream and Oruarangi awa (river).

The latest ill treatment of this land continues with the Auckland Council. A Special Housing Area (SHA) was proposed in November 2013. Under the emergency conditions of the Housing Accords and Special Housing Areas Act 2013, the Oruarangi SHA 62 will be one of Auckland's newest housing estates. In 2015, transnational corporation Fletcher Residential Ltd sought approval to build 480 high-density houses on the last remnant of rural land in Māngere on the Oruarangi Block.

While this site is listed as a heritage site, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga has received a review application from Fletcher Residential regarding its status as a listed site and to gain archaeological authority to modify and destroy critical archaeological sites on the land designated SHA 62. A decision on this application is due in late September this year. Even though this is confiscated land, it had been under ownership of a farming family, the Wallaces, for 150 years. There have been several zone changes in recent years regarding land in and around this area. In 2012, the Environment Court ordered the ex-

FEATURE

tension of the Metropolitan Urban Limit to the Ōtuataua Stonefields Historic Reserve boundary and the coastline. As such, this decision ended thousands of years of agricultural activity and removes any possibility of Te Ākitai Waiohūa regaining their land lost to confiscation. It also put a stop to Manukau District Council's planned Māngere Gateway Heritage project, which would have seen Ihumātao protected.

In response to these plans, whānau residents in Ihumātao, community members and interested parties launched the Save Our Unique Landscapes (SOUL) campaign in 2015. On their website, the group says they "believe that having a Special Housing Area (SHA) in Ihumātao will not contribute to making Auckland a liveable city, but destroy one of the few significant and unique historical, cultural, spiritual, social and environmental spaces we have left." From its formation, the group have petitioned to the Auckland Council, handed out flyers outside SkyCity Convention Centre, protested outside the Manukau City District Council chambers, created human chains, and conducted a hikoī (march) for three days from Ihumātao, along Great South Road to Pokeno and Mangatāwhiri—a 50-kilometre journey—to mark the invasion of the Waikato in 1863 and remember their tūpuna (ancestors).

However, the group's most media-grabbing protest was when they established a tent embassy and started occupying the proposed development site in November 2016. Pania Newton, a mana whenua co-leader of SOUL, sacrificed her recently acquired graduate law job to help coordinate the occupation and protests. The importance of ahi kā, continuing to burn the fires of occupation, was essential for the group in affirming their relationship to the land. However,

a recent trespass notice forced them off the land earlier this year.

In December 2016, Fletcher Residential completed the purchase of the site from the Wallaces for a rumoured \$19,000,000. Fletcher Residential General Manager Ken Lotu-I'iga told stuff.co.nz that the development would ease housing pressure, that a 25% buffer zone would be maintained between the Reserve and the development, and that the company had been working with mandated iwi representatives. However, Newton responded that Fletcher had not consulted with the people of Ihumātao, whānau or the local community. "Those individuals who met with the developers, as I understand it, were there solely for mitigation. This does not amount to consent or approval of the development," she told stuff.co.nz.

SOUL's arguments go further than not being consulted properly. The site is considered wāhi tapu (sacred place) due to its historical and cultural significance, and as such, any development close to the location will desecrate the sanctity of the area. By bringing in approximately 2500 more people to the area, the development would be catastrophic to a community that doesn't have the resources, amenities or services to cope with the influx of people and traffic. There is no infrastructure in place and the risk of further pollution, as if the area hadn't suffered enough already, is great.

The archaeological significance of the site is overwhelming. Speaking to noted.co.nz, Archaeologist Dave Veart said the Neolithic organisation of Ōtuataua Stonefields suggests a civilisation that will have spilled over into the softer soils of the Oruarangi Block. The nature of the Oruarangi Block now as farming land preserves the natural run-out slopes of the two volcanoes,

similar to the surrounding land area of Maungakiekie and Cornwall Park.

"The Māori story in this area is so interesting," Veart said to noted.co.nz, "and this'd be money in the bank in terms of the intellectual property of the planet really. [However], once you put houses on this land, that chance goes. There's no going back. It's like building houses on the fields alongside Stonehenge."

At present, even though the group's calls for protection have fallen on deaf ears at the Council, and it would seem the Government, their efforts have not gone unnoticed internationally. In April this year, Newton and fellow SOUL member Delwyne Roberts travelled to New York City to address the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues about their plight. In addressing the Forum, Newton said the site was a "key source of identity for mana whenua, cultural and spiritual grounding and attachment." She added, "The further application of development-orientated provisions of contemporary legislation have undermined the relationship of mana whenua at Puketāpapa in favour of the current plans for the commercial development of land."

In stating SOUL's argument, she maintained that the Special Housing Act is a breach of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It contravenes Articles 10, 25 and 26, and significantly, Articles 27 and 28. These respective articles state:

- that indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories without their free, prior and informed consent;
- that indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas;



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- that indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources that they have traditionally owned or occupied, the right to use, control or develop the lands they possess, and that States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands;
- that States shall establish and implement a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, in light of the indigenous peoples' customs, to recognise and adjudicate indigenous peoples' rights pertaining to their lands, territories and resources; and
- that indigenous peoples have the right to redress or compensation for their lands, territories and resources which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.

Concluding her address, Newton said: "We exercise our right to resist and oppose this development. We call on the Permanent Forum to reaffirm our rights to self-determination and status as tangata whenua to our lands, including the requirement of our free, prior and informed consent. We ask that the Forum requests that the New Zealand Government withdraw the SHA legislation and the Auckland Council revokes its support for SHA 62." Aotearoa New Zealand adopted UNDRIP in April 2010. Although the document is not legally binding, it has significant moral sway.

The Forum's report recognised that collective rights to lands, territories and resources, and the right to self-determination are among the most important provisions in UNDRIP and the most challenging to implement. It recommended that "legal recognition of indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources must be complemented by effective implementation through enabling legislation, executive action and judicial protection." Further, this legislation should not be undermined or contravened by other laws and regulations. The Forum also expressed concern about the "continued refusal of some States to recognise the existence of indigenous peoples, and that free, prior and informed consent is rarely, if ever, obtained from communities for projects and legislation that affect them."

Following her success at raising SOUL's issue to an international body, Newton was then invited to present SOUL's case to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Geneva last week, as part of the Committee's review of Aotearoa New Zealand's performance in meeting the Convention's objectives. Speaking on "Paakiwaha" for Waatea News before she left, Newton said that the challenges Māori continue to face with regards to their own land "screams ignorance. I am just highly disappointed at the

way our Government continues to pass racially discriminate legislation in Aotearoa. After all these years of injustices and the impacts as a result of them, they've continued to ignore the pleas of Māori and proceeded with these racist policies. We're now in 2017. When I look back at 1924 when our tūpuna went to the [League of Nations] in Geneva, they took the same take (issue) and we're doing it again in 2017."

Newton also expressed her disappointment with having to take SOUL's issues to an international body in the first place because the Government would not listen to them: "We're talking about a Government that prides itself on being leaders in terms of indigenous rights, but they've consistently refused to front up to the issues at Ihumātao."

In Geneva, she told the Committee that the rights set out in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and the companion document UNDRIP make it clear that the original confiscation at Ihumātao lands was in breach of international anti-discrimination rights. She also stressed the impact of the contemporary Housing Accords and Special Housing Areas Act, which has facilitated resource consent for commercial housing development of the land, preventing its return to the customary landowners as required by ICERD and UNDRIP.

Although her presentation was respectfully received by the Committee, with the Chair commenting on the gravity of the case, there was a disappointing no-show from any of the eight New Zealand Government officials that were invited to attend. Newton said, "The message that the NZ Government does not care about such issues is evident by their absence; this is just unacceptable." At the time of publication, the Committee was due to hear from the NZ Government and ask a range of questions based on the NGO reports after New Zealand presented its official government report on progress towards eliminating racism and discrimination in Aotearoa New Zealand.

For now, this is a cruel waiting game. Construction has been halted for the time being, but the future of the Oruarangi Block remains uncertain. SOUL continue to protest every day for their sacred lands, whilst now awaiting a decision from the Māori Land Court after Fletcher Residential and Auckland Council lodged a joint claim, arguing they had a legitimate title to the confiscated land. The fight for what is right will only stop when the Government intervenes or there is a shift in our mindset that prioritises protecting, and not destroying, our heritage. Ihumātao is a tragic example of what happens when a people suffer at the hands of corporate greed. ♦

Timeline of historic disputes over the land at Ihumātao:

1865: Oruarangi Block confiscated from Māori for supporting the Kingitanga.

1884: King Tāwhiao and a group of Waikato-Tainui rangatira travelled to England to petition Queen Victoria regarding the Crown's breach of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. They were refused an audience.

1911: NZ Government accepted pleas for help from the destitute people of Ihumātao who were living in extreme deprivation in the King Country since their eviction from Ihumātao. The Government chose fourteen families and allocated them half an acre each on a "Rebels Reservation" at what is now the papakainga surrounding Makarau Marae at Ihumātao. The land had individual title, but a small area containing the marae (0.617 hectares) is the only Māori land remaining.

1924: TW Ratana travelled to Geneva to petition the League of Nations regarding the raupatu (confiscation) as a breach of Te Tiriti.

1928: The Sim Commission confirmed the raupatu was a breach of Te Tiriti.

1985: The Manukau Claim, one of the first Treaty of Waitangi settlement hearings, held at Makarau Marae highlighted the gross injustice of the raupatu and consequences for Te Ākitai Waiohū. Treaty claims legislation at that time prevented issues prior to 1975 being addressed, but the history was presented as a background to the modern-day situation. 1985 legislation was passed to backdate Treaty claims to 1840. The Manukau Claim has not yet been reheard.

1995: The Waikato Treaty Settlement agreed to. As there was no Crown land remaining at Ihumātao, there was nothing available for transfer as compensation.

1999: Approximately 100 hectares of private land at Ihumātao purchased by DOC and the Manukau City Council for the establishment of the Ōtuataua Historic Stonefields Reserve.

2017: Auckland Council now claims title to this land. This is currently in dispute in the Māori Land Court with a decision due shortly. ♦

2018 AUSA ELECTION BLURBS

PRESIDENT



CUSACK, Anna

*Nominator: Will Matthews
Seconders: Jessica Palaiet, Ella Stolverk*

Hi my name's Anna Cusack and I want to be AUSA's next President.

This year I have been on the AUSA Executive as Political Engagement Officer, and I have absolutely loved it! Anyone who knows me knows I am really passionate about AUSA. As part of my role I organised the biggest Politics Week yet – with 11 events including a free Broke Students Brunch (a new tradition) and a huge carnival. What really excites me is that I know AUSA does great things and is running better and better events, but there is also so much potential to do more!

I am running with Luke (for WVP) and Jess (for EVP) to bring strong representation, an active community and to support students. We will have a focus on students' mental health and put more money into student welfare. We will engage with more students, through connecting with halls and supporting faculties. We will communicate more regularly with Craccum to increase our transparency. I want Auckland Uni to be a rad experience for students, not just somewhere people attend classes, then leave. And I would also love to hear what you want from your student association!

Vote Anna, Jess and Luke!

ADMINISTRATIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

KINGI, John

*Nominator: Wilber Tupua
Seconders: Solita Turner, Robert Weston*

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Experience. Leadership. Passion.

My name is John Kingi and I am running to be your AUSA Administrative Vice President for 2018.

I bring experience. I have been a Student President, Vice President



and Welfare Officer and a student representative on University Council. I have been Chair of a community organisation and currently am Co-chair of an Auckland Council Advisory Panel. Governance is second nature to me as is my understanding of University processes and procedures. At 27, I offer to bring these life experiences to help ensure AUSA delivers for you, our members and students.

I bring leadership. I believe in leadership through service. AUSA is about providing a clear voice for students to ensure that the University of Auckland is the best University in New Zealand for you. If elected, I will work tirelessly to serve your needs by being accessible to all students and building collaborative relationships.

I bring passion. Our voices need to be heard. AUSA has worked for over 100 years advocating for students. I have contributed to this through my various roles and I would be honoured to serve students once again as your AUSA Administrative Vice President in 2018.

Vote Kingi.



MISSELBROOK, Alana

*Nominator: Will Matthews
Seconders: Jessica Palaiet, Isabella Francis*

Hey! I'm Alana, and I want to be your Administrative Vice-President for 2018.

As Media Officer for 2017 I have developed strong working relationships with AUSA staff and executive, especially Advertising and Events Managers. I know how AUSA staff work, and what style of management they perform the best with. I believe

in a management style that encourages consensus, but not at the expense of AUSA's productivity going to waste. I want to make sure that the staff and the Executive are supported to achieve their goals to the best of their ability.

Another big role of the AVP is co-ordinating the planning and rollout of AUSA's events. As Media Officer I have been part of the event process, assisting Executive members in advertising and publicising their events. I believe that I have a strong grasp of how AUSA's events processes work, and that I can make the leap from being part of the process, to co-ordinating the process.

AUSA has a huge amount of internal policy that governs the day-to-day important functions that keep the Association going. As AVP, I will ensure that the AUSA Policy Committee runs regularly, ensuring that really important stuff like AUSA's financial authorisations are running smoothly.

So, if you want a super admin badass to make sure that AUSA is tidy and running effectively, vote Alana for AVP!



RAMA, Anand

*Nominator: Platon Loukoianov
Seconders: Alexia Grindle, Dakota Day*

Hi, I'm Anand. I'm a third year student studying Psychology and Physiology. I'm also a Resident Advisor in University Hall (basically I keep a floor of first-years alive).

I think the culture at UoA is dead and I'm running for Administrative Vice-President because I want to change that. I've always believed that you can't complain about something if you haven't at least made an effort to improve it, so here's me attempting to do that. I believe AVP is the role in which I can contribute to AUSA and UoA in general; if I can't think up the ways to make change happen then at the very least I can help facilitate it.

You won't see me bugging you before your lectures start (because it's not like you need any less motivation to be there in the first place) or wasting paper handing out flyers in

the quad (save the trees and all that). I've hated when candidates do that so I promise to not put you through the same.

So please,

Vote Anand for Administrative Vice-President 2018

EDUCATION VICE-PRESIDENT



PALAIET, Jessica

*Nominator: Will Matthews
Seconders: Anna Cusack, Jessica Jones*

It's getting harder and harder to be a student in Auckland. Fees are rising every year, and the costs of living aren't matched by our student loans.

I have been AUSA's Education Vice President for 2017 and have loved it so much I want to come back for another year! This year, I have reformed our class reps system, represented the views of students in the media, and been a strong advocate for students - in University Committees covering issues from discipline to education, and representing all New Zealand students on NZQA and Ako Aotearoa committees.

If elected for 2018, I will:

- Continue improving student representation structures at Auckland Uni. I will improve the management and coordination of our class reps, as well as creating new support structures for faculty representatives.
- Focus on research to bring pragmatic, well-targeted and data-driven ideas to improve the Uni and AUSA.
- Reform and modernise our now outdated and little-known Student Charter.

I'm passionate about making the University experience more fun and more fair for every student. AUSA is growing, but could be so much better. I want to work hard to make that happen.

Vote Anna, Jess and Luke for the AUSA Executive in 2018!

WELFARE VICE-PRESIDENT



HOLM, Isabel

*Nominator: Jennifer Muhl
Seconders: Yustyna-Sofiya Takasivna
Kush, Triston Owain Chi-Chun Pang*

I'm Isabel Holm (vote #holmsweetholm) and I'm running for Welfare Vice-President this year! I'm really passionate about student welfare and I'm currently the interim president and founder of SciSA, the science students' association, which has meant I've seen first hand the struggles that students face. I've also personally experienced some of the issues that I know a lot of students face, and I'm a huge advocate for first year students making the transition in to university - particularly, improving the way Health and Counseling works for students. I'm not afraid to work hard to make a real difference, but when I'm not working you can find me drinking endless cappuccinos and making t-shirts on my bedroom floor.



KIBBLEWHITE, Luke

*Nominator: Anna Cusack
Seconders: Will Matthews, Caitlin Watters*

I am very excited to be running for the role of Welfare Vice-President with the support of Anna Cusack (President) and Jessica Paliaret (Education Vice-President). I am passionate about improving the support AUSA provides students.

I decided to run for the role when I was feeling particularly frustrated with the mental-health support provided to students. We are at a much higher risk of mental-health issues than the rest of the population but do not have adequate support. Students are allowed to drift aimlessly and when they do seek help they are faced with unacceptable wait-times from an

under pressure counselling service.

Anna, Jess and I will increase the budget for welfare support schemes. AUSA will be able to be more generous in the support it provides, and will be able to give that support more regularly. AUSA's economic support role is increasingly vital. We will ensure that it steps up to the plate.

The WVP has an incredibly important advocacy role within the university. It sits on the highest committees for equity. I will be a fierce champion for increased consultation with the student body so that decisions are made that better reflect the inclusive values of our student community.



WU, Fiona

*Nominator: Yi Xin Heng
Seconders: Alana Misselbrook,
Conor O'Hanlon*

Hello, I'm Fiona Wu, AUSA's Clubs and Societies Officer 2017. For as long as I remember, I have wanted to have a go at Welfare VP, and seeing our amazing WVP in action this year has only made me more sure.

I believe the core of AUSA should be service to students and no position embodies this better than WVP. This year, sitting through hardship grants, textbook grants, dental grants and other welfare committee meetings, I have learnt much about the different needs students have. I look forward to continuing effective administration of grants, food parcels and overseeing the provision of welfare at the university.

I have always wanted to be closely involved with equity and discipline issues at the university and these are the boards the WVP sits on. Advocacy for students is my passion and I welcome the opportunity to work at a grassroots level, hearing those who need to be heard.

I have had years of experience in running events, including many fundraisers. I am confident in my ability to hold a well-organised, themed week that will benefit students.

AUSA should be here for you. I will always be passionate about improving the quality with which we serve.



YANG, John

*Nominator: Hamish Sandilands
Seconders: Jacob Reese-Jones,
Cameron McGregor*

My name is John Yang and I am running for the Welfare Vice-President position in AUSA for 2018. I believe that I am skilled and experienced enough to take on this role, as well as having a passion for people. I want to help any struggling student by working out practical problems through being the Welfare Vice-President. I am a second year commerce student, so I have a good understanding about financial costs and how to find connections through networking with people to help aid these costs. I am a supportive, open, non-judgemental person who will be fully committed to alleviating the posing stressors that inflict on students during their time at university. Vote for me as your Welfare Vice-President for 2018, so I can show you what I can do to help. Your votes will make change and I will make you smile all the time.

(Please follow my campaign page)
Vote John Yang for the welfare vice president 2018.

Cheers

TREASURER



LOUKOIANOV, Platon

*Nominator: Will Matthews
Seconders: Daniel Bradley, Jessica Jones*

Hey!

My name is Platon. I am in my 3rd year at University, studying a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in finance & accounting and I will be running to be your Treasurer at AUSA.

I am currently the treasurer for the Dilworth Old Boy's Association, so I have some great first-hand experience working in this area, something which

I believe is important to succeed in this role. AUSA is vital to the culture of the University and as the Treasurer, I want to help push new ideas and new ways to engage students fully embrace their University experience.

Vote for a better future.

CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



WATTERS, Caitlin

*Nominator: Isabella Francis
Seconders: Will Matthews, Anna Cusack*

I am Caitlin! I am a 3rd year soon to be honours year Fine arts student. I am running for AUSA for the second time holding the position of Culture and Arts officer this year. I wish to be re elected to continue the work that I have been doing over the past year to bring creative arts and industry students closer to the university community and advocate for the arts and cultural groups on campus. I have laid the groundwork this year and would love the opportunity to see some of these projects come to fruition and to expand on new ideas.

An example of the gains made this year in this role has been greater communication with CAI students and advocating for their welfare, the soon to be implemented CAI grants which I created alongside the WVP are a great example of this work.

I am really looking forward to working alongside craccum and tackling this new side of the role.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICER (2018)

DE GUZMAN, Alexandra

*Nominator: Yilong Wang
Seconders: Paht (Pat) Satjipanon,
Natasha Mudaliar*

Hi, I'm Alex!! For me, getting involved with AUSA means engaging with the 40000+ students across our UoA campuses to ensure that we all enjoy our time here! Building green communities is on top of my to-do list, and since uni has been home for the past 3 years, I would love to make it a sustainable backyard for everyone.

ELECTION BLURBS



Through my involvement with Engineers Without Borders, and Rotary, I recognise both the challenges and successes in fundraising and promoting sustainable living. It is admirable that organisations such as these have begun to implement change, and it is important for us to join this movement by playing an active role towards a sustainable future. Let's build our home not only for ourselves, but for the generations to come



SHERE, Regan

Nominator: Hanna Ettles
Seconders: Alexander Johnston,
Cameron Ryan

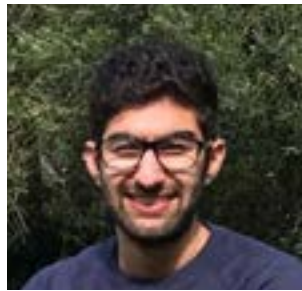
We cannot plunder the future in order to pay for the present." This is an excerpt from the university's strategy plan. It's meaning resonates with me, as I'm sure it does for the many students living with overdraft as their bank balance. For me what this quote means is that we cannot dip into the future of our planet in order to make a profit now.

As an active member of our own university's fossil free club and as an environmental activist, I have the drive to see a better and healthier future for us and our planet. Obtaining this role, for me, would mean enhancing my ability to enact the change that I want to see in our world for us all. As young, bright eyed students, we have the world ahead of us and it is imperative that we secure it for ourselves and future generations. Help me make a change for all our futures.

GRAFTON REPRESENTATIVE

BINDRA, Vanshay

Nominator: Vanamali Joseph
Seconders: Johnathan Reynecke,
Rachel Yuen



My name is Vanshay Bindra and I am currently a 2nd year Medical Student at Grafton Campus. I believe that this campus is a microcosm of the University of Auckland and has a unique environment and vibe that should be treasured and preserved. Along with this it is imperative to ensure that the views and beliefs of the students at Grafton be heard by the parent organisation AUSA. I stand for unity between all professional and non-professional programmes and envision a campus where we all stand as equals but most importantly as friends who support each other on the issues that matter most to us all. A vote for Vanshay is a vote for a more connected and unified Grafton.



JONES, Jessica

Nominator: Alana Misselbrook
Seconders: Will Matthews, Yilong Wang

Kia Ora! I'm Jessica Jones, a second year biomed student and I wanna be the grafton rep in 2018. I wanna run some sick events. I'm currently the AVP of AUSA so I'm already in the know regarding awareness of what support + events + general stuff AUSA does so I could cheekily put that knowledge to good use on behalf of students at grafton. I enjoy balmy days, a cheeky beer and putting butter on my food (-I'm sorry Rod Jackson). Last year I backpacked around a fair hunk of south and central america so hmu if you wanna know about that. I'm sure you're aware anyone that has travelled loves to mention it so I have to stick to the stereotype soz guys. I think there are a few things that could be done to up student engagement in grafton as well as the overall uni experience - if you are in agreement then splendid, vote for me and we can work together and do cool sh*t.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' OFFICER



AZIZI, Anis

Nominator: Yi Xin Heng
Seconders: Ha-eun Kim, Sreetama Ghosh

I had lots of ups and downs in New Zealand. I was insecure of my English, felt intimidated with foreigners, overwhelmed with responsibilities and even fractured my foot for the first time. However, after almost 2 years of being here, I've certainly grown and matured through these experiences. New Zealand is slowly becoming my second home because I have made lifelong friends and fond memories here. Feeling a sense of belongingness and connectedness to the locals are amazing especially as an international student! I want more people to feel the same way in the future and when I am an international student officer. For several months, I've been working closely with AUSA's International Student team. The experience equipped me with the knowledge, skills and networks that will be useful for the position.

I am a Psychology student and I am passionate about people and their wellbeing. In May, I personally created a Facebook confession page for students to share their stories, attracting almost 2,000 likes. I am hoping that this position will allow me to make a bigger impact by creating a sense of belongingness and connectedness for international students.

I hope you will give me a chance!
Thank you!

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

BARTON, George

Nominator: Jessica Palairat
Seconders: Anna Cusack, Will Matthews

We are the largest – and best – University in New Zealand. At no other point in time are so many great thinkers and scholars of all manner of disciplines going to be so tightly connected than here, at the University of Auckland. That's why I'm running to be your next AUSA Political Engagement Officer! Because we students are



smart, engaged and concerned; and because our voices deserve to be heard by those whose decisions will impact us heavily in the future.

My name is George Barton and I'm a second year BA/LLB student majoring in Law and – you guessed it! – Politics and Economics. I've been in several student organizations in the past through High School and I know how to run events with a limited budget and lofty ambitions. But most importantly I think is that I want to give students the platform to address the issues that we – as students, and as young people – care about. I want to give your frustrations at the 'system' a voice; and your ambitions for our beautiful country a way to express themselves so that Politicians finally recognize us for the important demographic we are. So if you liked what you've read, vote Barton!



RICHARDS, Sean

Nominator: Hunter Keay-Linton
Seconders: Ryan Stickland, Pierce Quresi

Kia Ora, Talofa Lava, hello! My name is Sean Richards and I'm studying towards a BSc (Computer Science & Physics). As your PEO, I'd keep your interests at heart and at the forefront, and fight for your rights at every meeting. Now, you may think – with my background, what qualifies me to be PEO? I've been involved in debating at (almost) every level at Secondary School, and have always had a keen interest in politics. In 2011, over 40% of people who didn't vote were in the 18-24 age bracket. These statistics lead people to think that the young are not interested in voting. I would make sure that my primary duty as PEO would be to get people interested and involved with politics, as well as change the stigma that we don't care. As Mandela said, "the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow".

QUEER RIGHTS OFFICER



FRANCIS, Isabella

*Nominator: Will Matthews
Seconders: Caitlin Watters, Lara Romsdel*

Kia ora!

My name is Isabella (I use she/her pronouns!) and I'm running to be the Queer Rights Officer in 2018. I currently live in Queerspace, AUSA's space for queer (and other) students, and from there I work on advocating for the queer community and running cool events for us. My catchphrases include "relatable!" and "gender isn't real", and my pet peeves are: dealing with StudyLink, losing my headphones, and the inability of the university to create a centralized system so that students can change their names without having to talk to fifteen different people. If I get re-elected, I plan to spend next year advocating for unisex toilets in new (and existing) buildings, scaffolding the role of QRO to be a really useful connection between queer students and the university, and hopefully moving Queerspace to a bigger, easier to find place. I've already been QRO for a year, and I am super passionate about both my community and student engagement. In 2017, I ran the biggest Pride Week yet, and I can't wait to make it even bigger and better in 2018. I am currently working on a project to improve outreach to queer students in Halls of Residence, and I have recently started up a series of meetings for queer students to get together and talk about issues that affect them.



JOHNSON, Ruby Eve

*Nominator: Joel Graham
Seconders: Ngaire Smith, Kyle Habershon*

I'm incredibly proud to be running in this year's AUSA election for the

position of Queer Rights Officer. The University of Auckland was the place where I came to grips with my queer identity and I'd be honoured to earn your vote and get the chance to give back to the community which has given me so much already. My focus if elected would be on empowering trans people and queer people of colour- two groups who are often pushed to the background in queer communities.

Our University has an amazingly supportive queer culture already, but there's still work to do and I'd love to be the one to do it.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT OFFICER



MCDONALD, Emily

*Nominator: Alana Misselbrook
Seconders: Alex Nelson, Jessica Jones*

Hi, my name is Emily McDonald and I am running for the AUSA Student Engagement Officer for 2018. I would love to get this role as I feel like it's very fitted for my personality and what I enjoy doing. I'm a very people oriented person so I enjoy working and interacting with loads of different people. I'm also an organised person and like knowing what's going on around me. I feel that my involvement in co-curricular activities at school such as; being on the Schools Arts Council as well as running my houses Arts and Cultural committee has aided me to give me the skills for this position which includes giving me an understanding as to what it is like to not only be in association but also run one. I have been in charge of running events such as; my colleges 2015 Senior School Ball, as well as being a leader of Stage Challenge, which have not only helped with my leadership skills, but also my overall organisation, budgeting for events and taking on board students suggestions to ensure they're happy with the outcome. I would love to get more involved with the University and organisations such as AUSA. This position would not only allow me to get more involved at University but I believe that it is very well suited to me as a person.



NELSON, Alex

*Nominator: Ryan Cashey
Seconders: Caitlin Bourke, Emily McDonald*

Student Associations at other universities have a lot more "hype" than we do around AUSA. Why is this? Why aren't students engaged with our own student union that represents us and our needs? Why don't more people fully support something that ultimately benefits them?

My name is Alex and I am running to be AUSA's Student Engagement Officer in 2017! I'm a Commerce and Science student looking to major in Management, Marketing and Psychology and have been involved in AUSA as a volunteer for the past two years. I've also participated in many clubs around the university including UN Youth, Velocity, TEDx and more as I love getting to know new students and finding out more about them.

If elected, I want to answer the questions above as a top priority. Furthermore, I want to continue implementing the changes of hearing fellow students suggestions and concerns through online referendums. But I also want to find even more ways to allow students to be recognised, such as through integrating communication between the many university clubs.

Thank-you for reading (I know as uni students we do far too much of that already!) - good luck to all fellow candidates :)



WANG, Yilong

*Nominator: Alana Misselbrook
Seconders: Will Matthews, Jessica Jones*

Have you ever felt disconnected with the university? Have you ever felt that your expectation of the provision from the University of Auckland was not matched with realities? Have you ever felt that your voice was not being heard? We have all felt the same

as you do. As a member of minority in the University of Auckland, I am committed to engage with students across different race, culture, and gender in a more inclusive way. I am committed to organise events to engage with other students' club and communities' representative to build a strong voice for us. I also am committed to create a program to collect students' voice and present our voice to the University of Auckland. I am also committed to create event for all regardless if you were an international student or a domestic student. I am committed to bring voice across departments, organisations and clubs together. I treat all student communities as my communities. I am a fighter for students' right, a 100dB speaker for students' voice and an enthusiastic students' idea presenter. Vote Yilong. Vote better! Much Luv, peace!



YANG, John

*Nominator: James Krauts
Seconders: Jacob Reese-Jones, Cameron McGregor*

My name is John Yang and I want to be your Student Engagement Officer for 2018. I am a people person and want to build strong communities within the University. Encouraging others to participate in events is a task I pride myself in being successful with and enjoy. I believe that it is important for student's wellbeing and vitality to stay active within groups, events and clubs. I want to be your Student Engagement officer because I can make people smile, and enjoy that is what AUSA and the students of UoA need. If you vote for me, I will make more social events connecting students. (Please follow my campaign page)

Vote John Yang for better engagement with the students.

Cheers

WOMEN'S RIGHTS OFFICER

MUHL, Jennifer & SMITH, Ngaire

*Nominator: Anna Cusack
Seconders: Isabel Holm, Isabella Francis*

Hi, we're Jen and Ngaire and together we want to be your women's rights-of-

ELECTION BLURBS



ficers for 2018!

We come from diverse backgrounds giving us real insight into some of the most vulnerable communities in our university. We also know what women want: we will improve womenspace! We want to make it more accommodating to women of all backgrounds and just generally a cool place to chill on campus.

That's not all we want to do though, we aim to promote intersectional feminism throughout the university! We'll also continue to advocate for change on pressing equity issues at the university as well as supporting equity and diversity among the wider community.

Vote for us, let's smash the patriarchy together.

CRACCUM EDITOR



KAUR BANWAIT MINDERJIT SINGH, Jasmin & YEUNG, Helen

*Nominator: Rohan Patel
Seconders: Ravnit Kaur Banwait
Minderjit Singh, Chance Wilson*

Helen and Jasmin met through Shakti Youth and bonded over their love for miso ramen, growing plants and unlikely animal friendships. With our love for planting lemongrass, bok choy and lavenders, we hope to help Craccum thrive and continue to grow in 2018.

This year, we're both pursuing postgraduate studies, drinking lots of coffee and trying to survive academia. Due to our individual experiences, we believe we have what is required to become co-editors of Craccum in 2018.

While Helen has been a contributing writer for Craccum and online site, The Speakeasy; Jasmin has been actively writing for Shakti and UOA's Academic Journal. Along with this, we both manage the social media for Shakti Youth, and envision Craccum to have a stronger online presence next year.

We aspire to continue publishing critical perspectives on social and community based issues relevant to students at the University of Auckland. With both our commitment to activism and us being women of colour, we look forward to amplifying the voices of more minority groups on campus. We hope to develop a platform that's accessible to all, forge a community and develop a safe space where everyone can express their ideas.



excerpt from the university's strategy plan. It's meaning resonates with me, as I'm sure it does for the many students living with overdraft as their bank balance. For me what this quote means is that we cannot dip into the future of our planet in order to make a profit now.

As an active member of our own university's fossil free club and as an environmental activist, I have the drive to see a better and healthier future for us and our planet. Obtaining this role, for me, would mean enhancing my ability to enact the change that I want to see in our world for us all. As young, bright eyed students, we have the world ahead of us and it is imperative that we secure it for ourselves and future generations. Help me make a change for all our futures. ♦

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICER (2017)

SHERE, Regan

*Nominator: Hanna Ettles
Seconders: Alexander Johnston,
Cameron Ryan*

We cannot plunder the future in order to pay for the present." This is an

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VOTING COMMENCES FROM MONDAY 21 AUGUST 9AM AND CLOSES ON FRIDAY 25 AUGUST 4PM



Self-care routine: drink water, eat three meals a day, punch Nazis with your friends

With Anoushka Maharaj

Music is unequivocally one of the most magical and comforting forces and possibly humanity's greatest accomplishment (apart from domesticating cats, who are our natural rulers). Throughout many stages of my life, music has been a solace and a friend, and growing older (and more fragile) has given me a more intimate relationship with the music industry. Some of the most important people in my life have been musicians, and a lot of them have had to overcome significant personal difficulties—an interesting observation when considering that, according to Help Musicians UK, musicians are three times more likely to suffer from mental illness than the general public. Additionally, while certain albums have helped carry me through periods of darkness, many of the ones that hold my undying love, that have had the most important and significant effect on my life, are the hardest to listen to (see: Jeff Buckley, Bon Iver, The Smiths).

One of the most tangible links between mental illness and humanity are the creative conduits that reflect some of the best and worst parts of the human experience. Many incredible artists throughout history have used their internal demons to create legendary works of art that have lived on long after they have left the earth—but it is a mistake to see mental illness in conjunction with creativity. A powerful example of this is The Beach Boys—particularly, their troubled yet genius frontman, Brian Wilson. After a panic attack on an aeroplane, he was led to create *Pet Sounds*, one of the most remarkable albums ever made. However, the album was created in the midst of manipulation by their band manager, Eugene Landy, who used Wilson's vulnerability (and the relatively unexplored subject of mental illness) to control almost every aspect of his life. Now, Wilson has found happiness and unconditional love with his wife Melinda—who has been described as what saved him—and is still treating

people to very brilliant and touching live performances. Although after watching the incredibly moving and heart-wrenching biopic *Love & Mercy*, they both noted that the shocking experiences portrayed were even worse in real life, and it is, in essence, a miracle that he survived the tumultuous life he was subjected to throughout the 60s.

Additionally, having to cope with declining mental health on such a public scale is unimaginably terrifying. Sinead O'Connor has been well-documented in her struggles, at the risk of falling victim to judgmental and hurtful comments, as she has unravelled on various social media platforms. Just recently, O'Connor posted a heartbreakingly honest video on Facebook in which she shared the extent of her situation—noting that she felt invisible and that she “*doesn't matter a shred to anyone*.” (She is currently receiving treatment, but this is a reminder that a person shouldn't have to get to this stage in their life before they are helped.)

While celebrity culture is damaging in many ways, how we react to their very public outbursts and upsetting situations says more about us than it does about the person experiencing it. For instance, public commentary surrounding the news that Kanye West was hospitalised following a breakdown was primarily met with gleeful and mocking exchanges, which is easily one of worst traits about our society—capitalising on the demise of someone successful, seemingly in order to even the scales. At the very least, if you are a human being, your first instinct at the sight of suffering should be discomfort.

In short, depression doesn't give two shits about who you are or what you want. Mental illness is a major hindrance, not an inspiration, and it's important to remember that creative outlets are exactly that—outlets. They are utilised in order to gain some kind of relief, and immersing

yourself in your passion doesn't always give you the comfort you need (example: it's 3:10am and I've only just finished this editorial). Mental illness isn't a poetic side effect and shouldn't be perceived as a precursor to something magnificent. To create something beautiful, or meaningful—or at the very least, *coherent* in the midst of crippling pain—is an unexpected triumph. Aldous Huxley put it aptly when he said that, “*the neurotic who succeeds as an artist has had to overcome a tremendous handicap. He creates in spite of his neurosis, not because of it.*”

Depression, man. It blows. It stands stubbornly in your way, like an incorrigible, annoying kid at family events who keeps asking you if you have any games on your phone. It's like a giant bear that's always behind you, threatening to bowl you over at any second—but mostly it's content to just walk behind you, blocking out the sun, so you're never quite relaxed, never quite warm. Get the hell away from me, Dennis. I just want to drink by myself and watch *The Office* in peace. (Yes—Dennis is both the name of the annoying kid, and the name of my depression bear.) Sometimes, there's seemingly no reason for it to inhibit the simplest of actions. Or other times, it's because something truly shitty has happened and you can point at it and scream, à la *Bodysnatchers* (1978), “*You are the reason that I am falling into an abyss.*” Sometimes it's just a heaviness that you can't quite shake. Either way, how you feel is valid, and a lot of the time it's terrible, and unfair, and I sincerely hope that you are not feeling that way right now.

Let's do our best to love each other, to take care of each other, to make educated decisions together. Mental illness is a significant hurdle that we must overcome together—so do your very best to get out of bed to hydrate and have a snack, if only so that you may have the energy



Good For You Aminé

ALBUM REVIEW BY HETAL RANCHHOD

Portland rapper Aminé recently released his debut album *Good For You* and it's nothing short of cheerful. With the profound success of his first single "Caroline", now certified three times platinum, it goes to show how Aminé went from being called a "one-hit-wonder" to becoming one of the most exciting voices in rap music today.

Good For You is a collection of 15 tracks, which are mostly about love, sex and what's happening in pop culture right now. Most of the love songs, like "Wedding Crashers," "Spice Girl," "Heebiejeebies" and the popular "Caroline" are not your general type of love songs about the one that got away, or unrequited love. Most of them are about girls Aminé was into, but then decided that he wasn't into anymore.

Although this album gives off that laid-back vibe, there are also hidden messages. Tracks like "STFU," "Money" and "Sundays" allow fans to delve deeper into Aminé's mind and see how he's making the transition into the adult world and into the world of fame. The ambivalence of this album can be seen in the opening song "Veggies," where Aminé spits the line "young lil n***a with a 40-year-old soul." This opening track sets up how the album will battle against the concepts of being on the journey towards adulthood, whilst still trying to hold on to that adolescent feeling. Balancing the memories of one's past whilst striving towards the future is an everyday struggle, and *Good For You* seems to acknowledge that. Lyrically this album evokes optimism, whilst stylistically it focuses on the melody, as Aminé blends rapping with singing. Although he isn't the best singer, the relaxing vibe remains constant.

Incorporating songs that deal not only with love and sex, but also loss and the need for money, portrays *Good For You* in an eccentrically colourful light. However, it's still subtly morally engaging. In my opinion, it's a perfect debut album for a rapper out of Portland. ♦



"OMG" & "Havana" Camila Cabello

MUSIC REVIEW BY AIMÉE MATTHEWS

2017 has been a busy year for Camila Cabello, releasing "Crying in the Club", and featuring on Major Lazor's "Know You Better" and "Bad Things" with Machine Gun Kelly. Cabello's current releases move her towards featuring hip-hop artists Quavo and Young Thug, and hit producer Pharrell for a sneak peek into her upcoming album.

In "OMG" Cabello gives us vocals that sound tired, as if she recorded this at 4am. Luckily, she provides enough effort in the chorus to give us solid vocals. Though the song is rather stagnant, with the conventional rolling drum licks and Quavo's appearance has this song push itself out of the Top 50 and into the songs you skip on your playlist. You know the rap was poorly written when you must mention your hit song, just to remind people what got you famous in the first place. Quavo does this when he raps "...Bad and Boujee, thick and pretty". The only thing that got me interested in this song was that it included some Casio keyboard choir settings on it, which gives an unusual feel to the beat-driven song.

In her second single "Havana", Pharrell sneaks himself into the song with some "heys", "uh huhs" and "woos". I hope one day I can feature on a song at Pharrell's level, and just cough in the song or scream random words and people still would be able to recognise my voice. Though this gives off some island vibes, with sinister trumpet and piano playing, its structure is somewhat too similar to the previous song, with the rap coming right after the second chorus. So even though it features a different production team and different rappers, the songs between themselves do not differ as much as I would have liked it.

Will the rest of the album just be ten more songs like "OMG" and "Havana"? I hope not, or I'll be crying in the club too. ♦



Midnight Sun

TELEVISION REVIEW BY GINNY W

Everyone's probably heard of hygge by now—it's about living by the apparently Swedish creed of being incredibly cosy and comfortable at all times. As a non-Swede, my only barometer for whether this is a real thing is to see if it shows up in Swedish television. After extensive investigation in the form of binge-watching, I can safely say that *Midnight Sun* is probably the most anti-hygge Swedish production to have ever been delivered to Aotearoa's shores.

Midnight Sun is a crime drama jointly produced by France and Sweden. A little bit like other cross-continental classic *The Bridge*, it's about a displaced citizen found brutally murdered in a way that gives both places jurisdiction. Cultural tensions between the two unlucky souls forced to cooperate from either side bubble and simmer, but luckily for this drama, they're not the star of the show.

Midnight Sun instead focuses on cultural tensions that exist within Sweden—between the Swedes and the land's indigenous people, the Sami. Although highly dramatised, it is a stark and honest portrayal of the oppressed and the oppressor. The real star of the show is grief and the way that it twists people. Star performances from Lelia Bekhti and Gustaf Hammarsten as warring police investigators resonate through their portrayals of a despondent resilience you so often see in survivors of trauma—a web of pain and smalltown intrigue creating a great backdrop for some truly explosive acting.

The way the series is cinematographically composed lends even more weight onto the shoulders of its viewers. You will lose track of time again and again, whether it's due to the lighting or the show's non-linear storytelling, blurring reality and fantasy in its depiction of Sami myths and traditions at every turn. Reminiscent of Bryan Fuller's *Hannibal*—it is equal parts inhumanly beautiful and supernaturally tragic. It's never going to be considered hygge, but with a show this good, surely being in your comfort zone is overrated. ♦



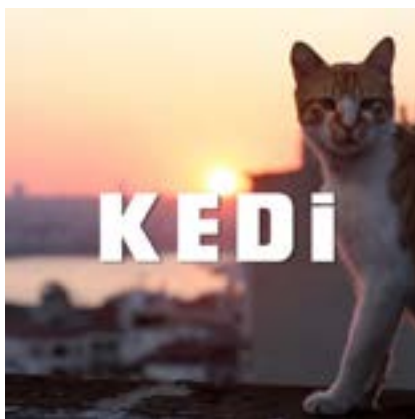
Valerian and the City of A Thousand Planets

FILM REVIEW BY CONRAD GRIMSHAW

Valerian (Dane DeHaan) and Laureline (Cara Delevingne) are sent to track down a magical rodent that belonged to some extra-terrestrial aborigines called “Pearls”, whose nice pastel-coloured planet was destroyed in a death-ray crossfire. Now the Pearls want their guinea pig back. The intergalactic bureaucracy that employs Valerian and Laureline (featuring one of those alien “councils”: ambassadorial Jellyfish and trade delegations from another dimension) has a more sinister agenda. There is something fishy about the Commander (Clive Owen). What skeletons are in his closet? Will Valerian and Laureline follow his orders, or their hearts? Subtle.

The plot is confusing. Fortunately, there is a sequence complete with flashbacks where the characters explain the whole thing to each other: “*and then after that you killed...*” (flashback). Etcetera. A helpful sequence. Here Valerian and Laureline sexily take a moral stand against mass murder. They are supposed to be attracted to each other. They have “hot” banter while ray-gunning hostile aliens and dodging obstacles on their podracers. Valerian says things like “*you are my world*”. This made me quite upset. There is a cameo from Rihanna (playing a shapeshifting prostitute called Bubble, for fuck’s sake), who grimly delivers lines like “*what good is freedom if you’re an illegal immigrant a long way from home?*”

The budget was enormous, which means the special effects are very special. You can tell that this is the kind of movie that people will say is “visually stunning”. However, it is mainly a big waste of money. And it’s in 3D too, which makes the whole thing even more stressful, especially when you’re in the front row and the insipidly villainous Clive Owen is right up there in your face. In fact, when you’re that close, it feels like Clive Owen is behind you as well, and that you have to flapjack over the back of the seat to see what he’s up to (no good, obviously). Boring movie. Steer clear. ♦



Kedi

FILM REVIEW BY ISAAC CHEN

Kedi, Turkish for cat, is as simple as the title suggests, but it packs character and depth into the day-to-day stories of the film’s subjects. Directed by Ceyda Torun and part of the New Zealand International Film Festival 2017, the documentary paints a picture of life in Istanbul and it’s many feline residents.

Having studied anthropology, Torun utilises this method of storytelling to follow the day-to-day lives of stray cats and to also give a unique and realistic perspective on a city steeped in tradition and history. The film centers on a “cast” of seven cats, which are given nicknames such as the hustler, the gentleman, and the psychopath. These cats have found their way (sometimes forcefully) into the lives of various people, all who exclaim that the cats are indispensable and are part of their lives for the better—hence their choice to care for them.

One of the most memorable accounts is by a baker who explains that all the business owners in the neighbourhood have a running tab at the vet for the cats that hang around. Each person speaks very frankly about being broken or experiencing a sense of loss, but in turn finding comfort, redemption, and rehabilitation by caring for the homeless cats. They acknowledge that they don’t “own” the cats at all—rather the cats live in a state of being neither wild nor tame. This sentiment is portrayed alongside the candid interviews through the skillful mimic of a “cat’s eye view” using remote-controlled camera rigs, which follow the cats around as they forage for food, care for their kittens, and get into turf wars. These mini-narratives stand out, and paint a rich expression of living a free, wild and spontaneous life—a sentiment that is yearned for as a massive city like Istanbul rapidly modernises.

Beautifully shot and very “awww”-worthy! ♦



Annabelle: Creation

FILM REVIEW BY SMASHMOUTH MAHARAJ

SPOILERS

Being obsessed with horror films means that you don’t have to pretend to be emotionally stable—and this was my only comfort when going to see the next film in *The Conjuring* series, *Annabelle: Creation*. Also, the mood for fear was set as the ushers literally yelled out into the audience to shame people for using their phones—and then probably took them out and shot them—so, heads up, people. A new regime is upon us.

Consistent with its sister films, *Annabelle: Creation* is extraordinarily well-made, utilising all the best parts of the eerie, isolated setting and packing in as many moody, suspenseful shots as possible. I’m also a big fan of the sneaky, somehow apolitical use of religion as a plotline.

While I have the utmost respect for *The Conjuring* series—and James Wan as an impeccable horror director—I must admit that *Annabelle: Creation* as a prequel was a little less impressive than its predecessor (successor?), if only because they gave away way, way too much. In addition to terrifying and gross elements like the sound of bodies cracking and children shapeshifting into demonic figures, *Annabelle: Creation* was soon guilty of overkill by showing us the demon in its actual form—like, with the glowing eyes, claws and everything. Seemingly falling into the trap of expected horror tropes, it departed from the creative quirks and teasing creepiness that we’ve come to expect from the profitable film series.

All things considered, though, it had a pretty solid narrative, and managed to close all the loopholes in the series, but did a fine job of teasing the next film(s) to come—for instance, the origin of the demon nun, who made a couple of cameos and no doubt excited the “true fans”.

What I missed most in *Annabelle: Creation*, when comparing it to Wan’s other filmic efforts, was the lack of an excellent soundtrack. However, we were treated to the Jimmy Davis classic, “You Are My Sunshine”, which was utilised effectively enough that now I can never listen to it ever again. ♦



Getting to Know Indian Ink

Anoushka Maharaj has a chat with Bhavisha Patel, the marketing executive for renowned theatre company Indian Ink, about upcoming shows, diversity in the arts, and the merits of live theatre

SO, INDIAN INK'S CURRENT SHOW IS CALLED *THE PICKLE KING*—TELL US A BIT MORE ABOUT THAT.

Jacob [Rajan] decided to bring it back after 15 years, because it's our most awarded show. We've got this goal of bringing up upcoming Indian artists, so the key change we've made in this is that it's a love story between two women. So, it's really contemporary and fits within all the stuff that's happening in society today, and the key elements of immigration and globalisation are still relevant. It's been an important story to tell people.

INDIAN INK HAS BEEN PRETTY BUSY THIS YEAR. HOW MANY SHOWS DO YOU DO?

We do one national tour a year. It's a combination of different regions, and Auckland is always on that list, but this year was our biggest with ten centres. And then we do some international stuff, so now that Jacob isn't in the bigger tours, he's able to do his solo shows in different countries or regions. So, this year, he did *Guru of Chai* in Sydney, and in a few weeks he'll be doing it in Melbourne. So, it's two shows and two seasons at the same time, which is really cool.

INDIAN INK DEALS WITH SOME HEAVIER TOPICS. HAS IT BEEN HARD TO GET PEOPLE ON BOARD WITH SOME OF THE IDEAS?

Yeah, it is tough. The general awareness is out there, but it's a risky thing to attend, I think. It's not like the movies where you can see a trailer

and know what you're about to see. Whereas if you don't know the company and you've never seen the shows, then it's a huge risk for you. The costs associated—obviously it's a lot more expensive than a movie—so it's about trying to get people to see the benefits of a live performance compared to popcorn entertainment. Getting new audiences is a really hard battle. And especially Indian audiences, they're not as liberal or open-minded, and I don't think they would understand the concept of live theatre.

Vanessa plays a porter in a hotel, who is also qualified as a heart surgeon, but she has to re-sit her exam because her skills here mean nothing. It's a thing that happens every day to immigrants, and it's something that needs to be told. People need to realise that immigrants don't just come here and disappear. It's a lot of money, a lot of effort, a lot of energy and time that goes into it. And the way that it can mentally affect you is quite strong. People are trying to set up their lives in a foreign country. If you were to put yourself in their shoes, it's pretty scary.

IT CAN BE PRETTY TOUGH TO FIT INTO SPACES AS POC AND HAVE THE CHANCE TO TELL YOUR STORY THE WAY THAT YOU WANT TO. WITH SUCH A LARGE AUDIENCE BASE, HOW DO MOST PEOPLE INTERACT WITH THIS?

Although we don't get a lot of Indian audiences, we get a large chunk of European audiences, who are around 45 years and up—and it breaks

the stereotypes of what being an immigrant is, or what being an Indian is, or of ethnic diversity... and it makes them think twice about certain situations or things that are said in the media. It's a bit more real. All of Indian Ink's shows are based around true events and true stories.

YOU ALSO INCORPORATE HUMOUR INTO YOUR SHOWS TO PORTRAY THESE IDEAS. HOW HAS THE RESPONSE BEEN SO FAR?

Really good. Really positive responses. A lot of people have said that it's so great, they felt so moved and that it's so relevant. Someone said that there were a few times that she teared up, but one of the things we focus on is the serious laughter. Through humour, we try and portray really strong and powerful themes, like immigration and same-sex love, and having the courage to love regardless of gender or caste—and it's all done through humour, so you can laugh about it, but it's actually quite touching. I think if it was just bang on, dead serious, it's more dramatic, and you don't really digest the important emotions and feelings that you should get.

Everyday we laugh about serious topics, or life scenarios, and you understand it more if you laugh about it than if you're just sitting there crying and your mind is sort of fogged up with all these different emotions. So, I think that humour is just a great way to tell these stories. •



I Think I'm Quite Ready For Another Adventure

Mark Fullerton and Samantha Gianotti want to talk about Lord of the Rings for no reason other than they really fucking love it

Samantha Gianotti (2:54am): hey u up
Mark Fullerton (2:55am): yeah
Samantha Gianotti (2:55am): u know how we have a collective raging hard-on 4 lotr
Mark Fullerton (2:56am): yeah
Samantha Gianotti (2:57am): and we think the hobbit movies were on the whole a fat load of shite
Mark Fullerton (2:58am): yeah
Samantha Gianotti (2:59am): want 2 write a piece for craccum where we rank them all so people can know about our massive wettie for middle earth
Mark Fullerton (3:00am): fuck yeah
Samantha Gianotti (3:01am): fuck i love lotr
Mark Fullerton (3:02am): fuck
Mark Fullerton (3:02am): same
Samantha Gianotti (3:03am): fuck

6. The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies

M: When I worked at Paper Plus at the end of 2012, we sold a new edition of *The Hobbit* that was split into two parts, because the film was to be split into two parts, because Peter Jackson thought it would be a good idea. It wasn't. But neither was releasing *The Hobbit* book in two parts, because in July PJ announced that he was going to make three movies, a decision which not only rendered the re-released half-Hobbits redundant, but also meant that the final film was a staggering 144 minutes of sweet fuck-all. I mean, it delivers what it promises—there is a battle, and there are five armies, and there is Billy Connolly. But it was SO SHIT. The battle in the book is approx. three pages long. I hated it. It was the only *Hobbit* movie I didn't watch three times.

5. The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug

S: "By rights we shouldn't even be here," said Sam to Frodo as they lay among the ruins of Osgiliath at the end of *The Two Towers*, a statement that felt all too prescient as I settled into a crusty Event Cinemas seat for the midnight premiere of *The Desolation of Smaug*. *The Hobbit* is a crisp 304 pages long. It could translate into a tight ninety-minute runtime. But old mate PJ apparently wanted to stuff this franchise fuller than a spicy bratwurst, so there we sat for a second time, to watch Gandalf fuck off to bumfuck nowhere to do fuck knows what, and observe Thorin

being a big ol' moody bint (again). Luke Evans (a.k.a. the poor man's Orlando Bloom) appeared in his best Will Turner get-up circa *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*. Orlando Bloom also appeared for no logical reason, but to shoehorn in a love triangle for the newly-created Evangeline Lilly character. The dragon was cool. The time dedicated to sad man boners for one of only two main female characters in the whole trilogy was not.

4. The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers

M: The Battle of Helm's Deep was mean. Did you know that they didn't plan on shooting it in the rain? But then it did anyway, so they kept it. And the Battle of Isengard rustles my jimmies every single time. The problem is, these two sequences represent a small part of the film, and an even smaller part of the overall plot. Too much time is dedicated to Frodo being a whiny ass beeyutch, complaining to Sam and siding with a lithe, athletic suitor from under the Misty Mountains. The Entmoot is an extended metaphor, and we are all Pippin. GET ON WITH IT.

3. The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

M: Big call. Big fucking call, putting a film from the much-derided *Hobbit* series at third, above a film from the cum-inducing *Lord of the Rings* series, but for sheer anus-clenching anticipation the title *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* made the decade-long wait worthwhile. While the anus-clenching may have been due to the Gold Class pizza I had just ingested, a mixture of the stagnant cheese and being a massive fucking *Lord of the Rings* fan meant that my bowels came dangerously close to evacuation out of pure excitement. Though more importantly, *An Unexpected Journey* was the first time a feature film with a wide release was shot at 48 frames per second, which built upon the creation of Gollum from the first trilogy and meant that every single hair on his lithe, athletic body was brought into tight relief.

2. The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring

S: *The Fellowship of the Ring*. Where it all began in 2001. (Except, I guess, that it really began in 1937 with the publication of *The Lord of the Rings*, but shut the fuck up.) "Oh, take me back to the start" is

a line from Coldplay song "The Scientist". This very sad song only makes me cry a quarter of the amount that I do while watching *Fellowship*. It is unlikely I will manage to cry as much at the birth of my first child as I do seeing Frodo pull a sodden Samwise into his boat after attempting to make off for Mordor alone. It is unlikely I will ever be as aroused by anything ever than I am when Aragorn commandingly declares, "Let's hunt some orc." (I don't want to psychoanalyse this too deeply.)

1. The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

S: Anyone who complains about the multiple endings of *Return of the King* can take a hot steaming shit. To the face. After spending over eleven hours with these characters (assuming you're not a pleb and you were peepin' that sweet, sweet extended edish), Peter J did us all a solid by wrapping up each of their arcs with some serious TLC. Our king is crowned, our hobbits arrive home, only to leave again on one last adventure. *Return of the King* perfects all the elements we have come to love in the films prior: sweeping battle sequences, evocative speeches, and tender moments between friends set against a backdrop where all hope is almost lost. The end of this film, of this trilogy, is like a warm blanket, or a hot choccie, or a hug from your best mate at the end of a shit day. And if your eyes don't get full and your nips don't get hard when all of Gondor bows to four little hobbits who changed the course of the world, I really don't know what to tell ya.

Samantha Gianotti (1:24am): hey u up
Mark Fullerton (1:25am): yeah
Samantha Gianotti (1:25am): frodo and sam were definitely in love right
Mark Fullerton (1:26am): yeah
Samantha Gianotti (1:27am): and when sam had to say bye to frodo at the grey havens he was like actually saying goodbye to the love of his life right
Mark Fullerton (1:28am): yeah
Samantha Gianotti (1:29am): r u crying right now
Mark Fullerton (1:30am): fuck yeah
Samantha Gianotti (1:31am): fuck i love lotr
Mark Fullerton (1:32am): fuck
Mark Fullerton (1:32am): same
Samantha Gianotti (1:33am): fuck •

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given of an **AUSA WINTER GENERAL MEETING** to be held **WEDNESDAY, 30 AUGUST 2017** or (if the meeting was inquorate) **THURSDAY, 31 AUGUST 2017** at 1.00 pm Student Union Quad. Deadline for constitutional changes: Noon, Tuesday, 15 August 2017. Deadline for other agenda items: Noon, Tuesday, 22 August 2017.
- Association Secretary (24 July 2017)

Notice is hereby given of the motions for **Constitutional Changes** received by 12 noon on 15 August 2017 to go to the Winter General Meeting to be held on 30 August 2017.

Constitutional Changes

Creation of co-Queer Rights Officer

THAT Rule 27(iv)(f) be amended to read: "Queer Rights Officer (who shall be a member or group of members),"

AND THAT Rule 28(i) be amended to read: "The position of Maori Students' Officer, Pacific Island Students' Officer, Queer Rights Officer and Women's Rights Officer may be held by an individual member of the Association, or a group of up to two members of the Association, such a group will be known as a collective."

Deletion of AUSA-ETTSA partnership, and Epsom Representative

Note: The Epsom Tai Tokerau Students' Association no longer exists

THAT the following clauses be deleted and renumbered accordingly: Clause 27 (iv)(j), Clause 43 (x), Clause 44 (vi)

AND THAT the Eleventh Schedule – Epsom to the Constitution be deleted and the Schedules to the Constitution be renumbered accordingly.

AND THAT Clause 44 (i) of the Constitution be amended to read: "The members of the Executive other than the Secretary, Maori Students' Officer, Women's Rights Officer, Pacific Island Students' Officer, Grafton Representative, shall be elected annually by means of a general and secret ballot of the members conducted according to the Rules contained in the Second Schedule hereto, which shall be deemed to be part of these Rules."

- Association Secretary (15 August 2017)

ECOFEST

Come one, come all to the amazing Ecofest Planned for the 21st to the 25th of August! We have a few awesome events throughout the week that you should definitely come along to! Here's a small summary of the week!

Monday: Monday starts off with the EcoExpo! From 12pm to 2:30pm in the Quad there will be sustainability groups on campus talking to students about what they do for the environment, and how everyone can be sustainable in their everyday lives. Auckland University's Animal Rights Group are doing a sausage sizzle for \$2, so make sure you bring some spare change to grab one of those and some free Fruit from AUSA!

Tuesday: Tuesday night AUSA is partnering with Fossil Free UoA and the Fair Trade club to provide the EcoFest Movie Night! The movie we are showing is Before the Flood, so come along to Shadows Green Room at 5pm on Tuesday to watch Leo DiCaprio at his finest. Free popcorn and fair trade chocolate provided!

Wednesday: Wednesday is a full day for us! From 12pm-2pm in the Quad AUSA's Student Engagement Officer is holding an event called 'Blender Bike'. Power a blender and make your own smoothie by riding the standstill bike to power it. It's not only environmentally friendly but fun too! So come along!

Next on Wednesday is the Grafton Lunch!

From 2pm to 3pm grab some free food from the Grafton campus, along with some ecofest activities!

Wednesday night from 5pm to 7pm in 303-G02/PLT2 there is the Ecofest Eco Talk. AUSA is partnering with Effective Altruism Auckland, Fossil Free UoA and Sustainability Future Collective in providing a panel discussing the current situation of climate change, and how YOU can help attack climate change. Often people don't believe their actions actually help, the panel is there to say why every little thing you do to be more sustainable does help the environment. After the Panel, we are heading up to shadows for extra discussion and a little after party. So come along and listen to why sustainability matters.

Thursday: Thursday AUSA are holding a clothes swap from 9am to 4pm in the Quad. AUSA are holding a clothes swap stall, where you can bring in those items of clothes that you swore you were going to wear, but never did, and swap them for some other items that you cannot resist! Or if you don't want to swap, you can just donate! It really is as simple as that!

Friday: Friday concludes Ecofest with the biggest event! Green Students Brunch! Bring a can of food for AUSA's Foodbank and grab some free food from AUSA! There will be music and activities to calm the hunger whilst you wait! Just outside the AUSA house from 10am to 12pm. ♦



ASEAN Night Summary

The ASEAN Night 2017 Organizing Team would like to thank all who came on 4th August. The food, performances and games were meaningful because you came. The OT would like to thank our sponsors Gong Cha, Hokkaido Baked Cheesetarts and Look Sharp for their generosity. We would like to acknowledge the clubs involved - Bruneian Students Association Auckland, Filipino Students' Association, Indonesian Student Association Singapore Students' Association,

Thai Student Association and Vietnamese Auckland University Students' Association. Lastly, AUSA's International Students Officer would like to acknowledge the Organizing Team members whose hard work made this event possible - Alyssa Medel, Andy Nguyen, Anggit Pangastuti, Anh Tang, Arti Sukasem, Elisha Chye, Harold Aquino, Jacynnda Darmawan, Kevin Chris, Nikko Pham, Ryan Lee Kok Jin, Tissanin Nipattasat, Umi Sazali, Victor Ng and Yi Zen Shim ♦

Amateur
Hour

*With
Jordan Margetts*

I'm Never Quite Sure

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

Politics in New Zealand is a pretty dire affair. And I don't mean that in the sort of jaundiced terms Bryce Edwards did when he declared from his podium at the *NZ Herald* that "NZ (and Australia) needs better political scandals". The poor quality headline aside, it isn't clear what Bryce really means, aside from (correctly) asserting that the "trans-Tasman citizenship saga" is a totally overblown affair. However, what exactly he wants isn't clear; he wraps up by saying, "voters have not gained any great insight into principles or policies—probably only confirming that politicians love a good political fight to posture over." But surely "better" scandals are not the solution here?

You know who has the *best*, I mean *really terrific*, scandals? The US. And I'm pretty sure that none of these (be it the President's predilection for sexual assault, the Mooch's late-night phone calls to the *New Yorker*, or the Trump Jr trying to collude with the Russians in what looks like a bad rip off of a John Le Carré novel) have given voters much "insight into principles or policies". In fact, they seem, at least from the outside, to be a bread-and-circus approach to keeping the masses entertained. When reality TV, fast food, gun crime, and systemic racism can't keep the public entertained, they turn to politics. And fuck are the scandals good.

Now Bryce's point was clearly about the way politicians skew events to make themselves look good. Politicians, manipulative, before an election, you don't say? Somehow I suspect sexier scandals won't help. Nor would obviously partisan scandals. I suspect that better scandals would be found just as manipulable as the shit-boring ones.

What we actually need is good media, of course, and it's odd that Bryce Edwards, Politics Lecturer, didn't write an article called "NZ needs better political coverage from the magazine that pays me". However, given the *NZ Herald's* stead-

fast ideological opposition to good journalism (or full paragraphs, or firing Mike Fucking Hosking), we're pretty much out of luck on that one. The next best thing, assuming we all agree that a good scandal won't help, would be some useful primary sources. Well I've been trying. Every election I declare myself a good citizen and read endless webpages of policy. It sort of feels like a duty, to actually know what the parties are proposing. Unfortunately, this approach is incredibly time consuming and, for the most part, a basically frustrating and obnoxious and actually really uninformative way of figuring out politics.

For example, the two major parties each have an Education tab on their policy pages. This made sense to me, I like education, it seems basically good and stuff. Though you open the tabs and pretty much what you get is "we like education".

National: "We are committed to every New Zealand child getting the best possible education so they can be successful here at home and around the world."

Labour: "Labour believes education gives our young people the freedom and opportunities to be the best they can be and contribute to making New Zealand an even better place to live."

So they pretty much agree. Labour, it turns out, think National are a bit cheap. National insists they aren't cheap (like that friend who never brings beer to share, then insists they did it last week). And things don't get much better from here. Labour at least appears to break things down a little—which interests me; I think of the Nats as pretty good at making themselves look competent—they basically list the different sectors of the education system and declare that each needs more money (correct). The Nats give us a couple of numbers too. They don't really break things down, but they include information like:

"In the first year of the four year roll-out of our new initiative:

- 793 schools have formed themselves into 96 communities of learning.
- Together these schools have more than 250,000 students.
- That means about a third of New Zealand students are in line to benefit from their schools working together and sharing expertise."

I have no clue what this means. It sounds like the cost-saving schemes Labour keeps accusing them of. But honestly, this is the sum total of the information they've chosen to give me. And I tell you what, it sounds like they gave me some information.

Now this isn't to rag on the Nats. Labour aren't very useful either (check out their Immigration policy page for some real hand-wringing weirdness). The point is that the two largest parties pretty much fail to give me any real details about their policy positions on what is surely in everyone's top, say, five policy areas. They both like it. Beyond that the only information I could glean is that both are keen to spend money, but Labour reckons National are lying and actually don't want to spend money.

National doesn't even address tertiary education (I think Joyce plans to abolish it by 2020) and Labour mention their whole free three years at uni thing, after which their bullet points are just about getting people who don't have degrees jobs (maybe they got confused about which heading they were supposed to use).

This is the point. We shouldn't vote on gut instinct. We can't trust the media (bar *Craccum*, of course—I hear the news section is fucking stellar). We definitely don't trust politicians (manipulative, grasping, often balding). So we need to figure out the policies on our own. If only I knew how... ♦

Quarter-Life Crisis



*With
Caitlin Abley*

I Walk Through the Valley of the Shadows of Death

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

This week, my challenge comes from website GenTwenty. Number 29 on their list of 30 Things to Do Before You Turn 30 is:

Become a connoisseur in something.

According to the old mates at GenTwenty, “whether it’s cheese, wine, tea or coffee, your garnered knowledge will always help you make small talk, but also enrich your life in ways you haven’t even imagined.” That sounds pretty appealing, but these things cost some serious coin. There’s no way I could afford to become an expert in wine—and even if I could, I wouldn’t want to; scraping a friend’s red-wine-stained chunks of vomit from between the crevasses of irregularly-shaped mosaic bathroom tiles has really destroyed any interest I may have had in the beverage. Being a little bitch, I don’t drink coffee. I could get around being a Tea Connoisseur but, alas, the \$2.50 an hour AUSA pays me can hardly sustain such an expensive hobby.

I really only had one option. This week, I was to become a connoisseur in the culinary output of world-renowned restaurant, Shadows Bar. I set myself the task of eating every item on the menu in a week. Because I am an actual sack of shit, I avoided this task most of the week, leaving me with a mere three days to get through the entire menu.

Day One: “Yeast Infection”

I called Mark, of sports column fame, and asked him to join me on his lunch break. I have done some pathetic things in my life (including: going to every *Harry Potter* midnight screening dressed as Draco Malfoy, arranging my entire wardrobe into ROYGBIV rainbow order, writing this column), but sitting alone at Shadows for two meals a day, three days straight is a stretch, even for me. Mark ~~sits on the toilet taking photos of pigeons roosting outside the bathroom window~~ works in Parnell, so he had to sprint. By the time

he heaved his bony ass out to the garden bar, the chicken nuggets and fries had arrived. These were perfectly edible; little morsels of salty fried goodness washed down pleasantly with Ye Olde Shad-owes Lagere. Then the pepperoni pizza came out, and Christ on a Cracker, things took a turn for the worse. Shads pizza is usually tasty enough (or am I usually just more drunk?), but this one, I’m sorry to say, let the side down. Approximately 1.5kg of congealed cheese covered an undercooked base. I wedged two fingers into the greasy mound to scrape most of it off, plopping the pepperoni back on to give the bare dough a bit of flavour. Day one had not gone well. Looking at the pus-coloured cheesy wads left oozing on the plate, I asked Mark whether he would rather eat the whole pizza again or have a yeast infection for a week. The answer was obvious.

Day Two: “Don’t Fart in the Elevator”

I woke up in the morning, stomach lurching. The masticated nugs and undigested cheese waged war against one another inside my bloated belly. I made my way into uni, dreading the meal ahead. Heading to the library for some pre-lunch study, I waddled into the lift alongside one other student. I could feel the grease from yesterday’s food leaking out of my pores; I was emitting vague wafts of old mozzarella with each movement. My intestines gurgled rudely. I noticed my fellow passenger held a tin of mints in her hand. That could do the trick, I thought. Freshen me up a bit. I stared at them, willing her to offer me one. She looked up, alarmed at the sight of the sweaty, slobbering woman in front of her. The door opened, and she escaped. They were cinnamon-flavoured mints anyway, so who was *really* the gross one in that scenario?

I went home after an hour in the library, unable to face another round of bar food. I’d make up the shortfall the following day.

Day Three: “Revenge of the Riblets”

Because of my poor effort the day before, on the final day of this challenge I had to eat the following: one cheeseburger, one chicken burger, one pork riblet burger, wedges, samosas, spring rolls, and a toasted sandwich. This veritable cornucopia of food, along with the customary Shadows jug, cost a mere \$40 all up—and for that price, I wasn’t going to complain about anything. I nervously assured the barwoman that it certainly was not all for me and I most definitely, er, had many friends coming to join me. Luckily Mark managed to tear himself away from ~~sitting on the toilet taking photos of pigeons roosting outside the bathroom window~~ work long enough to come and help me smash the toastie and the riblet burger, both of which, to our utter surprise, were tasty as all hell. The toastie was buttery and golden and crispy and *cost two fucking dollars*. I still don’t know what a pork riblet is, but it was smothered in BBQ sauce and wedged in between some brioche-esque bun and went down a treat. Then Mark left. I waited for my other mates, the ones who had assured me they would help me finish my barroom banquet. I shovelled wedges down my gullet, alone in the garden bar, kept company only by the sounds of people fighting over abortion down in the Quad. I had one serious food baby, and I personally couldn’t wait to get rid of it. The chicken and cheese burgers didn’t quite have the same X-Factor as the mysterious riblets, but the wedges, samosas, and spring rolls came through for the boyz. I remained a lone figure in the bar for another half an hour, squeezing as much fried matter into my 5’4” frame as was humanly possible, until my friends arrived to rescue me. They poured me into the 249 bus, and I sloshed my way home, content.

That is, until the riblets had their revenge. ♦



How to Talk About Sport



*With
Mark Fullerton*

Why Does SKY TV Insist On Being Such A Digital Douchebag?

Each week Mark, disgraced former-editor-in-chief, tries desperately to contain his insatiable lust for Shadows cheese toasties, but at the cheap cheap price of \$2 who can blame him?

If you're a bit of a munter and insist on getting your sports coverage from stuff.co.nz, or if you're a bit of a munter and still read the *Dominion Post* or *The Press* in paper form despite living in Auckland, you probably wouldn't have been immediately aware when the All Blacks squad was named for the Rugby Championship, nor would you have been aware that Jordie Barrett had suffered a most-likely-season-ending shoulder injury. In fact, you might have noticed that the whole sports section on stuff.co.nz has been pretty rugby-lite in recent weeks, and the reason for this is simple—Fairfax boycotted the All Blacks.

And it all comes back to SKY.

Last year, SKY were less than happy that Fairfax and NZME (the *NZ Herald*) were running highlights reels from the Olympics, so they took them to court to get them to stop.

"Fuck off!" SKY cried. "No free footage!"

"You can't do that," screamed Fairfax and NZME, tears streaming down their cheeks. "Section 42 of the Copyright Act means that we can use footage under a 'fair dealing' provision!"

"DAAAAAAAD," yelled SKY, running off to the High Court.

In this case, SKY lost, and had to share with the other kids. However, now they've had a little word to New Zealand Rugby, and NZR is flexing its muscles and coming down hard. When they distributed the terms and conditions of accreditation¹ a few weeks ago, they were fairly innocuous, apart from one clause. This clause

meant that NZR was able to revoke accreditation for any media outlet should NZR feel that they breached copyright by running video highlight packages of any of the upcoming Rugby Championship tests—standard fucking fare for any self-respecting media outlet, right?² Losing accreditation makes it virtually impossible to cover the All Blacks, as you'd then be denied access to training sessions, after-match conferences and virtually every other public All Blacks event.

This hasn't been a problem until now. SKY is most likely smarting from the fact that they lost their Olympics gamble, coupled with having to deal with negative backlash over raising their subscription costs³ and the fact that the Northern White Rhino is slightly more common than a person watching a SKY GO account that's actually registered to them.⁴ Until the Olympics, they'd been mainly chill, but now apparently feel that other outlets are going too far and infringing on the rights it pays a fucktonne for—a sum which goes a long way to making NZR profit-

able.

The boycott is now, it seems, over. Following 11th hour discussion between NZR, SKY and the Media Freedom Committee, Fairfax is Back on the Bus.⁵ However, what this little display of petulance showed was the stranglehold SKY has over sports coverage in New Zealand, and raised significant questions over the right they have to hold the rights to the images of the athletes that our taxpayer dollars pay for.

In a way, SKY's protectiveness over the All Blacks is somewhat understandable. The broadcasting rights for test matches are costly, and the staging of test matches gets little on the way of government funding due to the immense popularity of rugby, and the fact that NZR is very, very well off. Although this most recent stoush reminded us that SKY TV took two companies to COURT because they tried to share with the people of New Zealand the results of their investment. Funding for rowing alone averages \$5 million a year, a fair chunk of the \$33 million given out by High Performance New Zealand—all taxpayer dollars. Though if any one of us actually wants to watch the end result of this hot cash injection, we have to pay an extra \$40 or so a month extra. Is it right that a private company uses the appeal of taxpayer-funded ventures in order to profit further?

This columnist says no, and will continue to use his girlfriend's ex-flatmate-who-he's-never-met's de facto step-mum's SKY GO account as long as he remembers the email/password combination. ♦

1 I once tried to gain media accreditation from New Zealand Rugby. It didn't go well, which may have something to do with my almost weekly joking-but-not-really suggestions to have the entire Crusaders squad executed on sight. Needless to say, I remain unaccredited.

2 Apart from *Craccum*, who can only provide sports coverage a week and a half after the fact.

3 I wasn't in the SKY boardroom that day, but I can only imagine the conversation went something like this:

"Okay, guys, we're haemorrhaging money and viewers are leaving us in droves. What do we do?"

"Lower the price and make it more accessible?"

"You're fired."

"Stop being massive cunts and not lose our shit over 90 seconds of highlight footage?"

"Fired."

"Fly in the face of logic and common sense and raise the cost of subscription?"

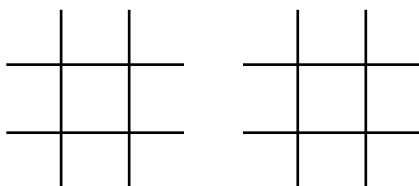
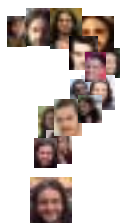
"Sold!"

4 Personally I flick between my sister's boyfriend's mum's account and the one belonging to the lover's ex-flatmate-who-I've-never-met's de facto step-mum, who just so happens to be a high-ranking player in a consumer rights organisation. What's your SKY GO piracy story? Send your submissions to craccumsucks@gmail.com.

5 Minus Julian "the Bus" Savea tho amirite lol

BABY'S BOTTOM SUDOKU

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



KISSES AND QUIZZES

EASY (ONE POINT)

1. A vixen is a female of what species?
2. In what television show would you occasionally encounter Kang and Kodos?
3. What word can be put before Plains, Tales and Bulldogs?

MEDIUM (TWO POINTS)

4. Which former alliterative All Black fullback was known as the Paekari Express?
5. What is the most common blood type?
6. Which local celebrity was on the run from Police last week, following a failure to appear in court?
7. Australian Deputy PM Barnaby Joyce was revealed to be a New Zealand citizen, throwing his eligibility as an MP into question. Which Hollywood stars felt his wrath in 2015 over a pair of illicitly imported dogs?

HARD (THREE POINTS)

8. What major sporting event are Australia and New Zealand co-hosting later this year?
9. *Annabelle: Creation* is part of which film series?
10. How many of the top 10 most populous towns or cities in New Zealand are in the South Island?

HERALD'S HEROES

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

ROCK SOLID SUDOKU

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



Les Fitzgerald

I had taylor swifts poos in my truck bout 2years ago it was a proud moment of my life
Yesterday at 6:58 PM · Like · Reply · 🤔 1



Gemma Stevenson

Wtf are u talking about
Yesterday at 6:58 PM · Like · Reply



Les Fitzgerald

I had taylor swifts poos in my poo truck 2 years ago when she was filming just out of queenstown at a place called paradise. had to sing paper saying I didnt talk about who was there filming. not even lol I told every one
Yesterday at 7:01 PM · Like · Reply · 🤔 1



Les Fitzgerald

Taylor swift that's what I'm talking about.
Yesterday at 7:02 PM · Like · Reply



Gemma Stevenson

Omg hahaha that's so funny
Yesterday at 7:03 PM · Like · Reply



Les Fitzgerald

I kept 3 jars of it lol don't tell any 1 . I have swift poos

Taylor Swift took the stand, represented every woman standing up in the face of sexual harassment, was humiliated and brought to tears all in the pursuit of a symbolic one dollar.

Les kept a jar of her poo. •

Answers: 1. A Fox 2. The Simpsons 3. Canterbury 4. Christian Cullen 5. O Positive 6. Scribb 7. Johnny Depp and Amber Heard 8. The Rugby League World Cup 9. The Conjurings 10. 3—Christchurch (3), Dunedin (7) and Nelson (9)

the people to blame.

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SHADOWS "CONTRIBUTOR OF THE WEEK"

Eloise Sims

SHADOWS


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


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**your student
experience**

CRACCUM

Creative

WRITING

COMPETITION

Are you a budding creative writer and want to show off your talent to the student population? Then enter Craccum's inaugural creative writing competition!

SHORT PROSE (800-1000 words) – Judge: Paula Morris

POETRY (No more than 50 lines) – Judge: Selina Tusitala-Marsh

PRIZES PER CATEGORY: First place = \$75 Prezzy Card, Second place = \$50 Prezzy Card, Third place = \$30 Prezzy card

Terms of entry: Please submit your entry to editor@craccum.co.nz. One entry allowed per category. Do not put your full name on your entry, but please include it in your email to us, along with your age, student ID number and degree(s). Entries open Monday 28 August and close Friday 15 September. Entries are only open to enrolled University of Auckland students. All place-holders will be announced via our Facebook page on Friday 29 September and will have their entry (name, age, and degree(s)) published in Issue 21 of Craccum, which will come out on Monday 2 October.

Our friends HarperCollins are turning 200!

To celebrate purchase any two books with the gold sticker and receive a free tote bag



* While stocks last



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