

# CRACCUM

ISSUE 17, 2019



## *Bye Bye American Pie*

Welcome to the era of teen media with emotional depth

## *Dancing on the ashes*

Of the bill that made women's autonomy over their bodies a crime for 50 years

## *CRACCUM Exclusive*

Rejected issue themes of Salient that weren't up to the high editorial standard of 'glass'

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# Why are the buildings so goddamn ugly?

BY BAILLEY VERRY



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

Usually I take the opportunity to use my editorial as a platform to offer sage life advice, but this week, I just have to get this off my chest. In the past few years, the University of Auckland has been updating its buildings from the concrete tombs that were built in the 1960's. While I welcome the addition of working air conditioning and removal of asbestos ceilings, there is still one thing that bothers me. Why are the new buildings so fucking ugly?

The Owen G. Glenn Building managed to look actually quite nice upon its completion over a decade ago, and hasn't aged too badly. To be fair, it did have a lot of outside money to help cover costs, primarily by its namesake Owen Glenn. But surely the amount of money shouldn't impact taste that badly.

The new science building tacked onto the Maths and Physics Building is definitely an interesting architectural choice. Points for the study space inside, but the outside is a distinct look. The diagonal slats give it a textured look, but they seemed to give up halfway through and opt for somehow already dated windows for the top. Somehow, already dated is appar-

ently UOA's new aesthetic.

If you have tilted your head up towards the new Engineering Building (yes, the one to replace the current poorly engineered Engineering Building), you will see a myriad of ugly choices. Each window has been kitted out with its own personal sun visor, that I imagine in years to come will be properly caked in bird shit, reducing the glare that makes its way to the Craccum office's windows. My personal favourite is the coloured window sills that make each window look like the entryway to a year 2 classroom.

And the future is looking just as ugly with the new Health Science Building currently under construction in Grafton. While Grafton campus may be grey, it does look pretty sleek, showing you that yes, the med school has money. I think the Health Science Building has used its design to say "yes, we are now in Grafton, but this is what you get when you study population health".

I don't know who is in charge of the buildings at UOA, but please stop making everything look like it is from the 90's.



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# Lincoln University and Canterbury University Merger is Denied

DANIEL MEECH

**A potential partnership between Lincoln University (LU) and Canterbury University (CU) has been shut-down by Education Minister and Moses-parting-the-red-sea impersonator Chris Hipkins.**

The partnership was first proposed in August of 2018, after LU announced it had failed to meet its strategic goals for the year. This failure followed a decade-long trend of financial decline, lay-offs, and governmental pressure to increase performance. The partnership would have seen LU brought under the same governing board as CU, splitting the administrative overheads, whilst still allowing LU to keep its name, staff, and structures separate from CU. Students from both universities would have had the opportunity to attend classes at either campus, and their marks would have been cross-credited and standardised to ensure parity.

However, Hipkins says the partnership is not necessary. Since the proposal was first made, LU's financial position has improved: earlier this year, the university sold half a farm and three houses, and received a \$45 million insurance pay-out for damage sustained

during the Christchurch earthquakes. In addition, LU's plans to build \$206 million research facility in Canterbury have since fallen through. Hipkins says the insurance claim, sales, and decision not to proceed with the research facility all indicate LU will be financially stable in the foreseeable future. A partnership would be an unnecessary fetter on LU's autonomy, and take time and money which could better be spent elsewhere.

Both Lincoln University and Canterbury University say they welcome the decision. LU Vice-Chancellor Bruce McKenzie says he agrees the university is now "financially very viable", and that the partnership is no longer necessary. And, although they are not allowed to formally partner, both universities say the process of working towards a merger has caused the universities to form close relationships with each other. Both parties hope this new-found closeness will lead to informal joint-ventures further down the road. "We can produce most of the benefits outlined in our proposal without a formal partnership," McKenzie says, "[LU and CU will] continue achieving the benefits proposed through collaboration and cooperation" rather than through a formal agreement.

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## Guess Who's Back? (It's Measles)

IZZY MONEY

**The University of Auckland has confirmed more students have contracted measles.**

Students in BIOSCI 101, BIOSCI 106, CHEM 110, COMPSCI 110, MEDSCI 142, MEDSCI 206 and PHYSICS 160 have been diagnosed with the potentially life-threatening illness. Students and staff enrolled in these classes are encouraged to be extra-vigilant for signs they have contracted the disease. According to Medical Officer of Health Dr William Rainger, these include having "a fever, runny nose or cough, or sore red eyes, or a rash that appears on the face and then moves down the body".

This isn't the first time a University of Auckland student has been diagnosed with the disease. Earlier this year, a similar warning was issued when a student enrolled in COMLAW 101, ECON 151 and BUSINESS 101 was found to have contracted measles. His case was only the fourth case to have been diagnosed in the Auckland area.

Since then, the number of patients affected by the disease has increased drastically. There have been more than 500 confirmed cases since March, with around 410 of these being diagnosed in

Auckland. Last week alone, 70 Auckland patients were found to have contracted the disease, with 27 of those patients having been diagnosed on the same day. Roughly 38% of all diagnosed with measles have required hospital treatment.

This year's outbreak has disproportionately affected those aged 20 to 29. It is believed this is because this is the group less likely to be immunised - an "immunity gap" (the result of having no national immunisation register until 2006) is believed to have left around half a million Kiwis in this age range without any form of vaccination.

Medical Officer of Health Dr William Rainger and the University of Auckland encourage anyone who hasn't already been vaccinated against measles to do so. The vaccine drastically lowers the chances of contracting measles. However, it is important to note that vaccination is not guaranteed to prevent you from contracting the disease - around 200 of the 500 patients diagnosed this year had been vaccinated at least once. For this reason, anyone - whether vaccinated or unvaccinated - should seek medical advice if they believe they are showing symptoms of the disease.

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# Riches to Riches, Rags to Rags: The University of Auckland's Broken Scholarships Programme

DANIEL MEECH

*School-leaver scholarship season is almost over, with most applications closing this Wednesday. For many high-school students this means a last minute push to find references, wind up extra-curricular activities, and fill out forms. But it's also an opportunity to reflect on the university's scholarship policies - specifically, whether they unfairly disadvantage the very people they are supposed to help.*

Analysis of the University of Auckland's scholarship programmes reveals students living in the top 10% of wealthy neighbourhoods received around \$1,250,000 in university-based funding in 2018. In the same year, those living in the poorest 10% received around \$250,000. The analysis - based on information *Craccum* obtained under the Official Information Act - highlights an often overlooked issue: scholarships disproportionately benefit the rich.

The disparity between awards given to students from low-income and high-income backgrounds is startling: last year, students in the tenth decile (the wealthiest possible decile) received more scholarships than the students in the first, second, and third combined. Not only did they receive more scholarships than the lowest three deciles, but they received more money from them too. And, even in scholarship categories designed to help poor students attend university, students from the richest 10% of communities cleaned up, netting the lion's share of accommodation grants.

Last year, Rangitoto College - a decile ten college situated near Takapuna, one of Auckland's wealthiest suburbs - was awarded \$315,000 in scholarships, spread across nineteen students. \$300,000 of this money was granted with the aim of helping Rangitoto College students pay for rent and accommodation in Auckland.

At the same time, Porirua College - a decile one college, situated in a town where

the unemployment rate is 1.7% higher than the national average - was granted only one scholarship. Worth \$20,000, it was also intended to cover the cost of accommodation in Auckland.

This makes no sense. Rangitoto College students who live right in the heart of one of Auckland's most accessible and affluent neighbourhoods, only a twenty minute car-ride away from the university's city campus, received \$280,000 more in accommodation grants than Porirua College students, who live in one of New Zealand's poorest neighbourhoods, 630 kilometres from Auckland's city centre. Equated for the number of students enrolled in each college, that means Rangitoto received just over \$93 in accommodation grants for each of its pupils, while Porirua College received just \$36.

It seems clear scholarships favour the rich. But why?

Research conducted in America (where students living in high-income households are 1.85 times more likely to receive a scholarship than students living in low-income households who receive the same grades) suggests there are two main reasons for the disparity.

The first is the 'extra-curricular culture' surrounding a student.

It is far more difficult for poor students living in impoverished communities to engage in extra-curricular activities than it is for rich students. For one thing, poorer students often have to work while study-

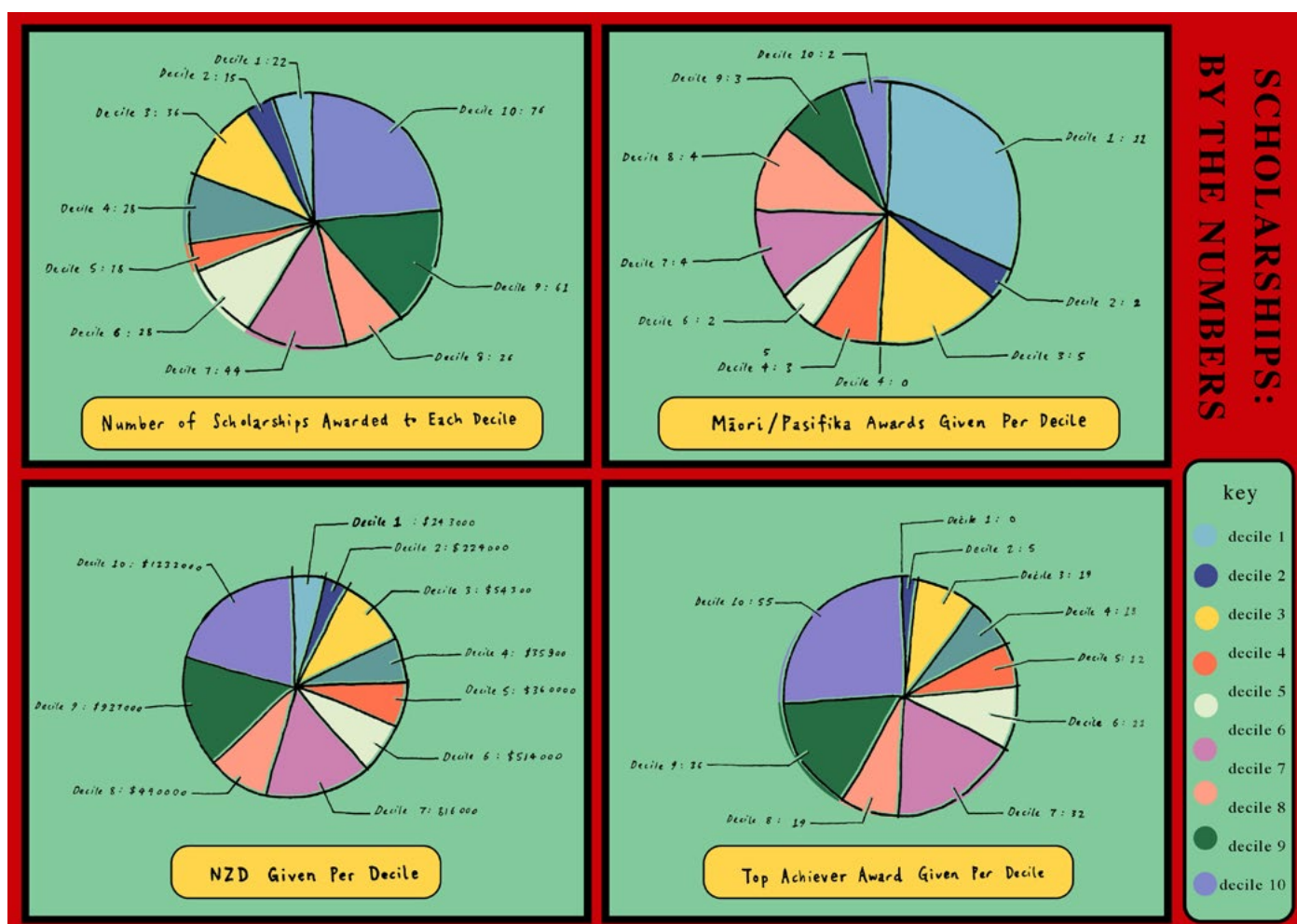
ing, which severely limits their capacity to engage in activities outside of work and school. For another, most students growing up in poorer families have limited access to transport, and the kinds of communities in which these students are growing up often don't have the structures in place to facilitate extra-curricular work. Finally - and most importantly - students are less likely to be pushed by family and friends to work towards obtaining a scholarship.

Compare this to students living in richer, more urban communities: often, their family's financial status means students can afford not to work, or to work as little as 5-10 hours a week; the students and their families generally have access to cars and public transport; and these students are often placed in communities which have existing volunteer and support structures in place, where parents, teachers and community members can guide students on how to boost their extra-curricular CV and obtain scholarships.

The second factor is arguably even more important.

This, put simply, is the access a student has to information about scholarships. Although information on scholarships is often posted online, many children living in low-income households - whose parents might not have gone to college, and who may be attending a school where university is not prioritised - might not even think to check for this information.





A study conducted in America asked parents to name potential scholarships their children could apply for. Two-thirds of parents with a salary of \$75,000 a year could do this; only one-quarter of parents earning less than \$25,000 could.

Students growing up in high-income houses have an inherent advantage, in that they are more likely to be pushed by parents, relatives, and teachers to apply for scholarships that they otherwise might not have been aware of.

But I'm not convinced these are the only reasons students from wealthier backgrounds receive more university funding to help cover the costs of tuition than poor students from poor backgrounds. It is likely another, larger reason for this disparity is our understanding of the purpose of a scholarship.

Traditionally, we see scholarships as

a reward for academic excellence. They're supposed to be compensation for being the best at something. But should that always be the case?

In my mind, university scholarships should be a way of helping those who otherwise wouldn't have been able to attend college afford tuition and accommodation fees. It shouldn't just be a reward for doing well in high school - for that, we already have NCEA and IB scholarships. Instead, the much larger university scholarships should focus on creating equitable outcomes for those with less resources.

Unfortunately, it's not clear that my view is shared by the university. In an interview given to *Newshub*, Aorere College Head of Careers Mary Kerrigan says when she asked Stuart McCutcheon why the university shunned students from lower deciles, she was told scholarships were about helping

the university boost its international profile. While equity factored into the university's decision-making process, the core aim of scholarships was ultimately to attract students which would make the university appear better to outsiders.

In my view, this is the wrong approach. As long as we continue to believe scholarships are solely a payment for academic results - rather than a tool to help gifted but impoverished students get a step up in life - then they will continue to serve no purpose other than to help students living in the wealthiest 10% of households avoid paying tuition costs.

Some might argue that scholarships should straddle the line between awarding academic excellence, and helping those in need. I agree. Scholarships *should* be awarded to those bright students who are smart enough to get good grades, but who

don't have the finances to move into a city like Auckland. Unfortunately, that just isn't happening. Take the university's Top Achiever award, for example. In theory, the award is set-up to strike the balance between helping the impoverished, and rewarding the academically excellent.

According to the university's website, the University of Auckland Top Achiever Scholarship is an award given to exceptional students who demonstrate academic excellence and leadership skills. Candidates are selected according to their NCEA or IB scores, their work within the community, the work they have done to mentor other students, and 'personal factors'. These personal factors are supposed to take into account a person's socio-economic background - whether they are disabled, come from poor families, or are the first to attend university.

On paper then, it seems this award is dictated as much by financial need as academic excellence. It should - in theory - reward students based on academic merit and whether or not they have the financial

means to attend university. But the statistics show this isn't how the award is applied. In 2018, the richest 10% of students received 55 Top Achiever awards, while the poorest 10% received none.

This meant that schools situated in the richest 50% of communities in New Zealand received \$3,260,000 of the \$4,240,000 worth of scholarships handed out in 2018. Schools situated in the poorest 50% received just \$980,000.

It seems clear the university needs to do more to target under-developed and poorly funded neighbourhoods. Scholarships need to take into account a person's financial background - or, at least, *truly* take it into account. Theoretically, scholarships like the Top Achiever award (with its emphasis on a student's 'personal factors') are supposed to help financially-hindered students enter the academic sphere - but analysis shows these scholarships aren't working.

Reform needs to be made to the way in which the university approaches these scholarships. It doesn't make sense to

award students living in wealthy Auckland suburbs thousands of dollars to cover the cost of rent; it doesn't make sense to grant scholarships to students who were already living in Auckland, and therefore likely to attend university; it doesn't make sense to be putting \$1,250,000 in poverty-based funding towards private and semi-private schools, while poorer, lower decile schools receive only one fifth of that.

Perhaps the university could introduce scholarships which are *truly* aimed at helping students from low-income families attend university. This could be funded by reducing the amount given in accommodation grants to students already attending schools in central Auckland. Alternatively, the university could revamp the existing Top Achiever scholarship to place more of an emphasis on a student's financial situation.

Whatever the decision, something needs to be done to fix this broken system. Until that happens, the rich will continue to get richer, and the poor, poorer.

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# Hearsay! Rejected Salient Issue Themes

THE CRACCUM EDITORIAL TEAM

Last week, the University of Otago's student magazine Critic Te Arohi leaked screenshots revealing the themes for Salient's (Victoria University's student magazine) next few editions. This week, the Craccum team goes one level deeper - revealing the totally, definitely, very real themes that Salient rejected.

## *The Plastic issue:*

- Salient says: you might remember when we did our glass issue. Now, Salient tackles another material that is viewed controversially by society's standards. Each issue comes plastic wrapped, as Salient challenges how society conforms to standards of "protecting the environment".
- Excerpt: "The vegetable bag crisis is the 9/11 of the 21st Century."

## *The MEAXLES issue:*

- Salient says: Here at Salient, we pride ourselves on our ability to confront the issues that truly affect our generation - like measles. Join us as we examine what those red dots truly mean to our culture and to our future generations.
- Excerpt: "Is that really your diarrhea? Or is that the diarrhea of society?"

## *The Comic Sans issue:*

- Salient says: 'Nuff said.
- Excerpt: "Midway upon the journey of our life I found myself within a forest dark, for the straightforward pathway had been lost. Ah me! how hard a thing it is to say what was this forest savage, rough, and

stern, which in the very thought renews the fear. So bitter is it, death is little more; but of the good to treat, which there I found, speak will I of the other things I saw there."

## *The SÁNS Comic issue:*

- Salient says: who wants to see an issue written entirely in French, where illustrations of any kind are banned? Us!
- Excerpt: "Oui oui baguette oh shit the Germans are coming retreat."

## *The Jockeys issue:*

- Salient says: From the moment we get up in the morning, to the moment we climb back into bed, there is a social contract that governs the way we live our lives. In this issue, we delve into the essence of the foundation of human existence and recognize that socks are more than something physical - they are a symbol of freedom, liberty and the human condition.
- Excerpt: "We either exist with Jockeys or we live with bonds."

## *The Megalomania issue:*

- Salient says: What is the self? Self-rep-

resentation and self perception re-fracted in societal constructs to be who you truly are and how great I personally am as a person. Me.

- Excerpt: "I am probably the most humble person I know."

## *The ACTUALLY Taboo issue:*

- Salient says: Our taboo issue was edgy, but this issue really pushes the limits. Our editor has sex with someone (!) with the lights on! After this, they prank call a Dominoes and smoke some weed! It's a wild R rated ride.
- Excerpt: "Doggy-style is the 9/11 of the 21st Century."





# A Week in Sport

BRIAN GU

*This week, our sports investigator Joshua Jayde has been forced off with an ankle injury, so the manager has called in Brian Gu to step up and take his place.*

## *The story of João Félix*

For 126-million Euros, 19-year old footballer **João Félix Sequeira** signed a seven-year contract this summer with Spanish club Atlético Madrid.

Now, I'm going to skip the hassle of any long prelude and just go straight to the point of saying that's certifiably crazy. That's an amount where defenders will be afraid to tackle this kid because he'd be worth more than they ever will across their entire careers.

But the truth is João Félix is not even the most expensive teenage transfer in footballing history. Kylian Mbappé made a permanent move to PSG last summer for a staggering 150-million Euros. But what was different about that move was that Mbappé had already spent three years playing top-flight football with Monaco, and his move came with an initial one-year loan period with the option for PSG to buy at the end of it. In other words, PSG bought him with the knowledge he would perform at the standard they valued him at.

What was different about João Félix's move was that he had only spent one year in top-flight football. In other words, Atlético Madrid were going all-in on a 126 million gamble.

It was one that fans would soon come to initially regret when João Félix limped off the field after sustaining an injury in his debut, which was only a preseason friendly. Surely that must have given upper management a heart attack or two.

Soon after though, João Félix made a speedy recovery, even in time to impress in his next preseason game, looking creative and intelligent on the ball, as well as creating a strong link-up with veteran front-man Diego Costa. All of this is great news for Atlético Madrid, who now only have 125.5-million Euros left of value to claim back from the young lad.

## *Red Bull, it Gives Verstappen Wings!*

Max Verstappen is on fire. After driving his car to victory at the Ger-



man Grand Prix (GP), and claiming the first pole position of his career in Hungary, it is evident the 21-year old Formula 1 driver has an illustrious career ahead of him. But perhaps most exciting of all, what the Hungarian GP showed us was that Verstappen was a true contender we've been waiting for to challenge the unstoppable Lewis Hamilton.

### *Serena's Revenge*

At 37 years old, it's been nearly 20 years since Serena Williams first topped the female world tennis rankings in 2002, and all these years later, she's refusing to slow down for anyone on her court.

You probably remember the controversial women's final of the 2018 US Open, where she lost to Naomi Osaka in two straight sets. Two straight sets were all it took to shoot Naomi Osaka from obscurity to internet fame. The infamous altercations between Williams and the umpire vilified the veteran in people's eyes. At a fresh age of 21, Osaka was the perfect person to take the mantle which Williams was preparing to leave behind.

Now fast forward to the recent Canadian Rogers Cup quarterfinals. Osaka meets Williams for the first time since that infamous defeat. And this time around, it was Williams that handed her opponent the defeat of two consecutive sets she received only a year prior. It seems that at 37 years of age, it's still not time for the old guard to move aside just yet.

### *Introducing: the Paradigm Shift*

Jon Moxley, aka Dean Ambrose, recently signed for infant company All Elite Wrestling in May, shortly after his contract with professional wrestling giant WWE expired. A huge fan-favourite from Vince McMahon's sports-entertainment empire, moving to AEW was a shock that no-one could have truthfully foreseen – with Moxley himself labelling it a 'Paradigm Shift'.

'Shift' seems like an understatement; it's a revelation that's taken the paradigm of professional wrestling, and dropped it on its already concussed head. When have you ever heard as sportsman as globally marketable as Dean Ambrose gamble it all at the pinnacle of their career to join a new, unestablished company in his prime? It's a statement all right – one threatening to restore wrestling to its old glory days of mayhem, rebellion and unparalleled fun.

Since then, Moxley has lit the world on fire, winning the US Heavyweight title in Japanese promotion NJPW, becoming a bankable short-term star for them during this transitional period.

### *Conclusion*

See, the thing is, the four stories I've told today are more interconnected than even I initially imagined. And it unlocks the key to understanding the everlasting appeal of sports. Because whether the adversity is financial pressure, age (young or old) or working security, everybody loves a good underdog tale. Even Atlético Madrid for that matter, who've gone to the liberty of valuing it at 126 million Euros.

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# Abortion Law Reform

By CAMERON LEAKEY

*Earlier this month, Justice Minister Andrew Little announced the long awaited overhaul of our abortion laws in New Zealand. Craccum gives you the rundown of the abortion law reform debates including which MPs voted against giving women fundamental reproductive rights.*

## *The Bill:*

The Abortion Legislation Bill has passed its first reading in the house 94-23 with widespread support for the Bill to go to a newly formed Select Committee. It is expected that the second and third readings may attract more votes against as the Bill reaches its final form.

This Bill updates the current 1961 Crimes Act and the 1977 Contraception, Sterilisation, and Abortion Act 1977 which currently makes Abortion illegal except in circumstances deemed applicable. The new legislation makes abortion legal and allows women to make the choice by themselves with assistance from a health practitioner.

## *What MPs said:*

Paula Bennett (For, National): "I do believe in a woman's right to choose. I do believe that we as parliamentarians have a responsibility to make that as safe as it possible can be for those that are in a situation where they are making some of the most traumatic and extreme decisions that they will have to make in their lifetime. We should be supporting them with legislation that does support them"

Maureen Pugh (Against, National): "I'm fucking useless" (she didn't say this but like she might as well have said this)

Gerry Brownlee (Against, National): "I hope the select committee do a good job in getting it into a position that makes it more reasonable law - does not criminalise people who have to make that dreadful decision"

Aupito William Sio (For, Labour): I ask all of our communities to take the opportunity to engage with the select committee in a respectful manner. Tell the committee how we can help and support our women who have not been supported by their partners or families in their time of need with a pregnancy. Tell the committee how to improve this bill. Do you agree that we remove abortion being treated under the Crimes Act, as we've always done before, or do we want to treat the women who seek an abortion with love, care, and support?

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (For, Labour): I've been in this Parliament for 10 years and even I have memory, as a brand-new MP, of sitting in a room with other female members of Parliament from the Labour Party discussing whether or not we thought the time was finally right for this debate. I reflect on how many other women from all over this Parliament will, at various times, have questioned whether or not the time was finally right. Well, to those women who may not be in this House this day to see this debate finally arrive, or, indeed, to those advocates who have been outside of this House studiously working and seeking support for there just to be the chance to have this vote, I want to commit this debate today to your work and your advocacy.

Louisa Wall (For, Labour): Tēnā koe e Te Māngai o Te Whare. Tēnā koutou katoa. Firstly, can I acknowledge Dame Margaret Sparrow. I'm not sure if she's here today, but she has been a pioneer in this field, and I want to acknowledge the book that she wrote, *Abortion Then and Now: New Zealand Abortion Stories from 1940 to 1980*. I also want to acknowledge the leadership of our Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, and congratulate Ministers Little and Martin and the New Zealand Green Party for bringing this kaupapa to the House. It is a long time coming.

## *Who voted against the bill:*

23 MPs voted against the Bill and a further 3 failed to vote.

### **Labour:**

Jenny Salesa – Manukau East  
Anahila Kanongata'a-Suisuiki – List  
Adrian Rurawhe – Te Tai Hauāuru  
Rino Tirikatene – Te Tai Tonga

### **National:**

Maureen Pugh – List  
Gerry Brownlee – Iām  
Michael Woodhouse – List  
Nick Smith – Nelson  
Louise Upston – Taupo  
Jacqui Dean – Waitaki  
Tim Macindoe – Hamilton West  
Melissa Lee – List  
Kanawaljit Bakshi Singh – List  
Parmjeet Parmar – List  
Jonathan Young – New Plymouth

Jo Hayes – List  
Simon O'Connor – Tamaki  
Shane Reti – Whangarei  
Simeon Brown – Pakuranga  
Harete Hipango – Whanganui  
Chris Penk – Helensville  
Agnes Loheni – List  
Paulo Garcia – List

### **Absent:**

National  
Hamish Walker – Clutha Southland  
Alfred Ngaro – List  
Jian Yang – List  
What you can do:

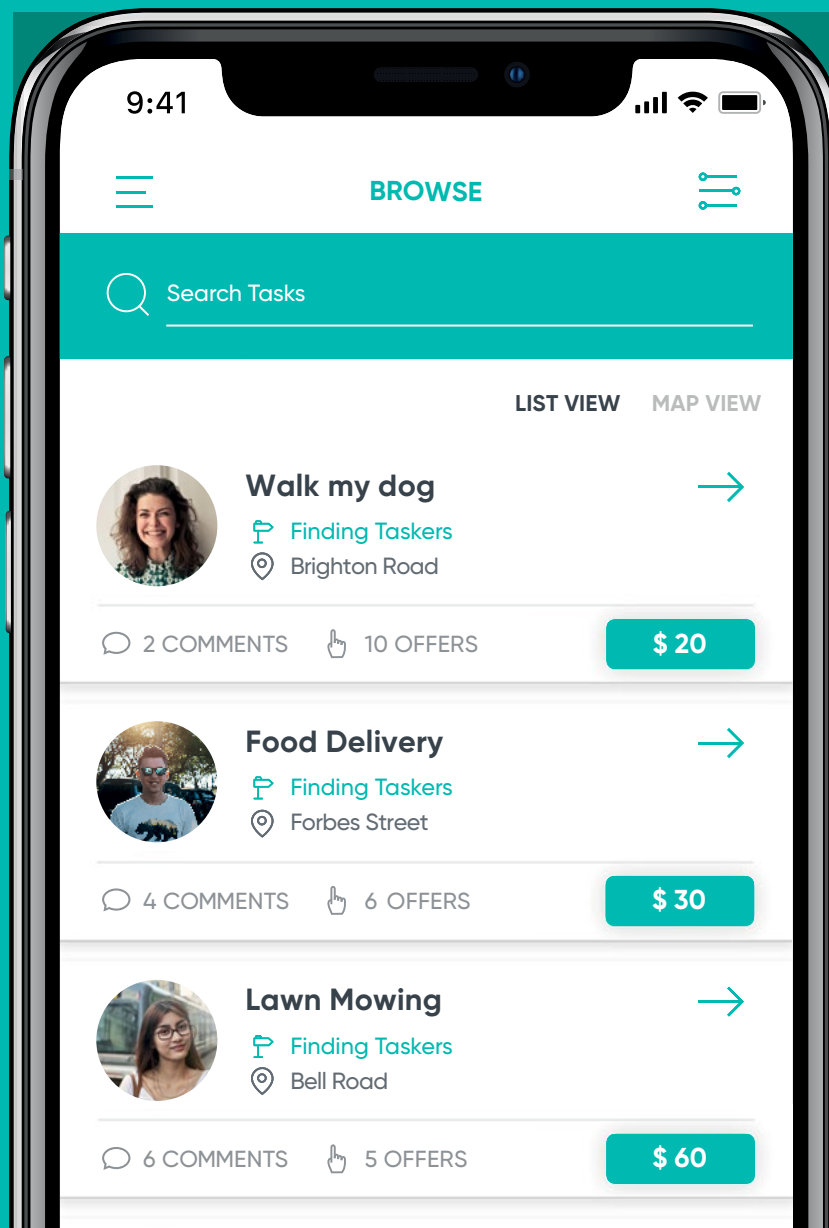
The Abortion Legislation Bill is now at Select Committee stage. Submissions to this committee close on 19th September. Go to [parliament.nz](https://parliament.nz) to make a submission.

Following the select committee stage, the bill will be considered, debated, changed and made more functional. It will then head to a second vote in the house. If your local electorate MP voted against the bill and you feel strongly on this, you can write them a letter or email them – be respectful, explain why this is important and hope that you are able to convince them to reconsider. If they don't, remember this for the 2020 election. A vote against this bill is a vote against women having the right to make their own reproductive choices and that itself is a fundamental human right.



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20/09/2019



# How to Avoid Getting Measles in your FYHS course

BAILLEY VERRY

*The University of Auckland recently divulged that students in First Year Health Science had been exposed to measles, with several confirmed cases from students that had attended core classes. Craccum is here to help you get your education free from preventable disease.*

## 1. Get Vaccinated

What the fuck are you doing taking pre-med classes while being unvaccinated. Clearly you believe in medicine, so why don't you actually use it?

## 2. Skip Class

Just to be on the safe side, just stop going to lectures altogether. Lecture theatres are a hotbed for disease, and who knows what the engineers left behind in OGGB - 098 for you. Everything is recorded now anyway.

## 3. Skip Tests

Like above, tests can be just as dangerous with the added danger of the cool night time wind increasing the spreadability of the virus that air borne.

## 4. Don't Go Anywhere or Do Anything

I know it will be tough to imagine, being to social butterfly you are, but maybe it is time to settle into your studies. Don't be another relaxed, easy going FYHS student, you need to be focused. Keep your eyes on the prize. Knuckle down in your room, studying until 1am, and keep up other healthy habits.

## 5. Become Best Friends With Lecturers

They're professionals, and if they aren't doctors they are researchers - potentially brewing up the next supercure. Just bug them after every class and ask a million questions on Piazza so they notice you.

## 6. Brag About Your GPA More

Staying away from people is one thing, but it is another to get people to stay away from you. By constantly talking about your amazing GPA friends and classmates will immediately want to be around you less. Make sure to ask what they got on assignments and tests, and then one-up them with your own score to secure a 3 foot perimeter around you at all times.

## 7. Full Body Sterilization

Sometimes you've got to fight fire with fire - literally! Sterilize yourself in a baptism of fire to ensure no germs survive in or on your body. For extra-strength results, shower beforehand in 70% ethanol.

## 8. Intimidate the enemy

Assert your dominance as the alpha of your class by drawing red dots on yourself to give the appearance of measles. This will make everyone steer clear of you, and it will trick the measles virus into thinking you have already succumb to its will, so it will choose another target.

## 9. Switch Degrees

Let's be honest, you really only want to be a doctor to make your parents happy. FYHS is stressful, and takes a lot of energy. You might as well switch to something worthless - like an Arts degree. Your parents will probably still be proud of you if you choose a cop-out subject. We hear UOA offers Communications now.

## 10. Go to Otago

UOA is lost to disease. There is no escaping it and it is only a matter of time before it comes for you. Get out while you still can before the measles-fuelled apocalypse takes you.

-



94

SINCE 1994

# NEW GUM SARN

# 新金山

SUPERMARKET AND FOOD COURT

ANT SANG

ROSS LIEW



Working together with  
Auckland Council

TIM LAMBOURNE

RUBY WHITE

LINDSAY YEE

JIA LUO

PON HUEY MIN

RUTH WOODBURY

NORMAN WEI

MONA MUCHAO CUI

FRANKIE CHU

LISA LI

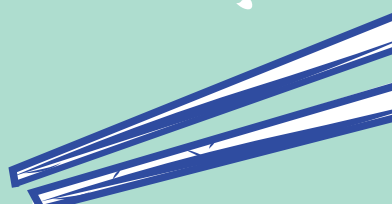
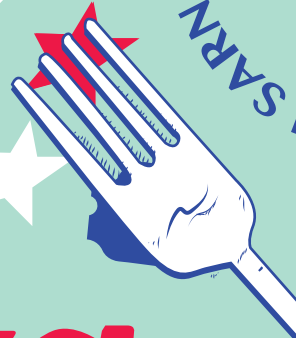
QIAN-YE LIN

DIANA HU



# mo

SARN SUPERMARKET



PHANTOM  
BILLSTICKERS



# Mercury Plaza

## ORIGINS +

## NEW BEGINNINGS

CLOSING PARTY  
14 SEP 5-9PM

# 14 AUG

# —14 SEP

@ Mercury Plaza



96



# Mercury Plaza: Origins + New Beginnings

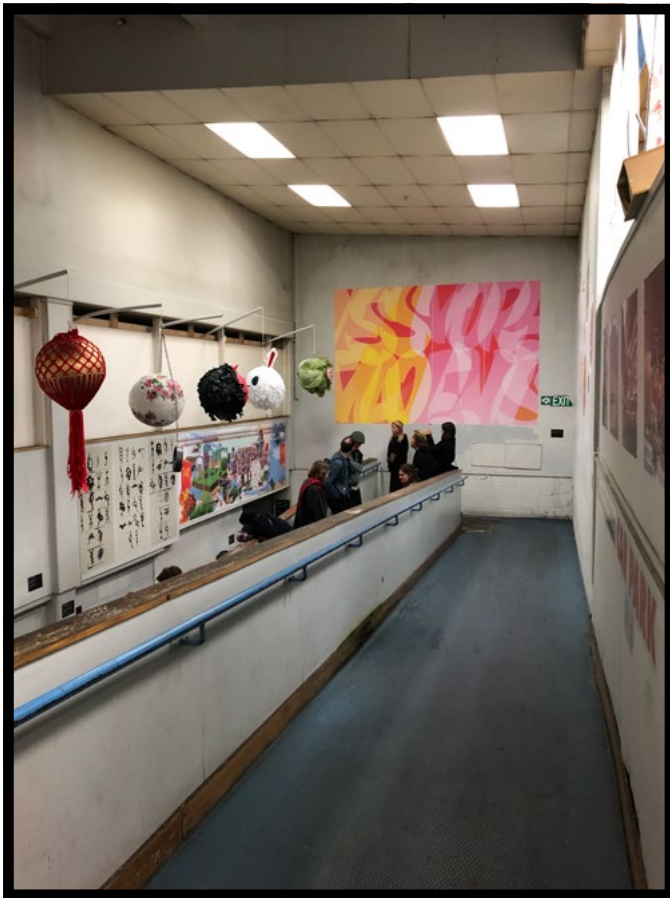
*Last Wednesday night, our Visual Arts Editor, Daphne, and Features Editor, Cameron, ventured to Mercury Plaza to check out the new art exhibition “Mercury Plaza: Origins + New Beginnings”. Mercury Plaza has been Auckland’s most prominent asian food hall since its opening in the 90s. This year, it will close its doors come October 31st to make way for the new City Rail Link Karangahape Road Station. “Mercury Plaza: Origins + New Beginnings” is an exhibition to “promote local chinese artists in an iconic and temporary space”.*

Artist Qian-Ye Lin is a Fine Arts undergraduate at Elam. Other artists are varied from the Auckland arts scene. Exhibition Producers, artists Joni Lee and Jia Luo wanted to create a unique opportunity to creatively utilise areas of Mercury Plaza. The ramp area by New Gum Sam Supermarket and the large wall by the carpark entrance. The exhibition is a mix of contemporary graphic art, illustration, animation and paper mache; it’s a unique and modern exhibition. We recommend hitting it up in the evening and grabbing a bite from the food hall for dinner, savouring the time we have left with Mercury Plaza.

Craccum spoke to Jia Luo, producer artist for “Mercury Plaza: Origins + New Beginnings”

## *Tell me how the exhibition came about...*

Our co-producer Joni Lee is a part-time piñata maker. He approached me with the idea of having artists decorate and fill some large scale paper mâché balls that he had made. We decided on Mercury Plaza as the exhibition venue because it was an accessible public space and has historic and cultural significance, especially for the Chinese migrant community in the area. To make the best use of the space, we expanded the scope of the exhibition to include wall art and video projections.



that's unexpected, catches people off guard in their day-to-day, and invites engagement without the obligation of having prior art knowledge or the money to pay for it. You can be switched on to view the art but you don't have to be.

### *How did you get Mercury Plaza on board?*

Joni had worked at New Gum Sarn supermarket while he was studying at the University of Auckland. When we pitched the idea to the owner, he was very enthusiastic about hosting our show at Mercury Plaza.

### *Is there anything else you'd like Craccum readers to know about the exhibition?*

Common subject matter include food culture, identity, displacement, alienation and also celebration of our roots and wild imaginings of an alternative reality.

Some artists have chosen to create reflectively, making their message about Mercury Plaza and the evolution of Chinese food in New Zealand while others have opted to focus on identity, cultural norms and displacement - in other words, the experience of the migrant 'other'. There are also a number of artists who have taken a playful approach, aiming to delight and confuse as they convey their speculative imaginings through one of three available mediums - vinyl wall art, paper maché and video projection.

### *Is there a common background between artists?*

We are exhibiting a diverse range of artists from different Chinese / mixed cultural backgrounds and creative professions. They have created very different artworks on a variety of subject matter based on their interpretation of the theme 'origins and new beginnings'. All 14 of our artists identify as Chinese. Some are 1st generation migrants, others are 3rd or 5th generation. We have different Chinese ethnicities represented - including Han, Zhuang and Hakka. There are artists of mixed heritage too, e.g. Chinese, Maori, and Pakeha. Even though we are all Chinese, we are all very different people and have unique creative voices and interests.

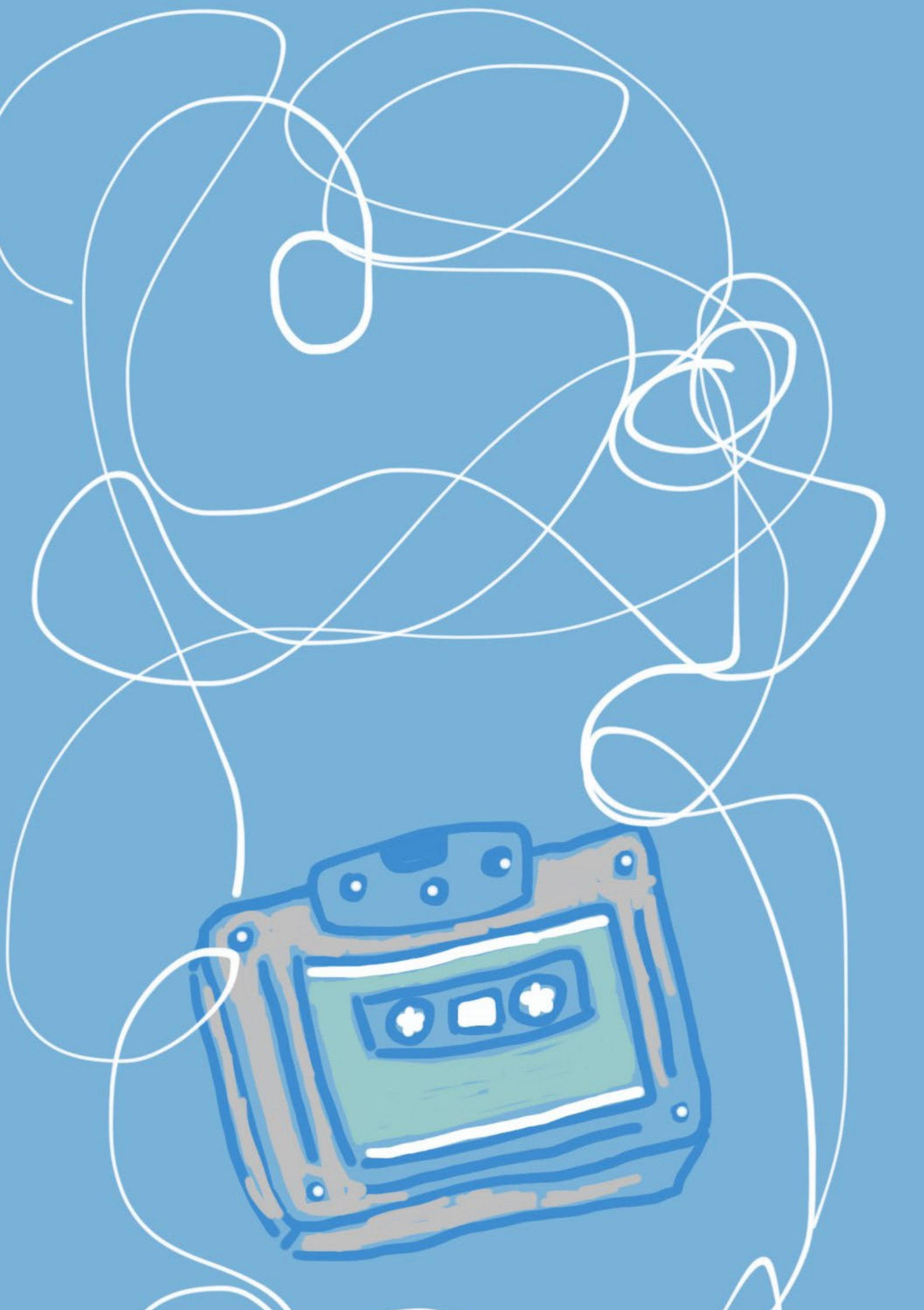
### *In your own words, what is the main message of the exhibition?*

1. Celebrating the decades-old cultural institution that is Mercury Plaza, and its importance to the wider community. Highlighting the involvement of Chinese in the local community and the friendships formed within the space through the decades. There is a wonderful bond between the people who work at Mercury Plaza and their customers too.
2. Fair and diverse representation of our individual selves, debunking the myth of the monolithic Chinese identity.
3. Public art - provide an alternative way to enjoy creativity, one

“  
*They have created very different artworks on a variety of subject matter based on their interpretation of the theme 'origins and new beginnings'.*  
”









# Now That's What I Call Sadness

By GLORIA HOLE

*It's week five and we're out of ideas: assignments are due, the semester workload is piling up and we're just so exhausted. Damn, give us a break. Semesters are intriguing twelve week periods, many highs, many lows: alas, here is the playlist of your semester for you, songs of our time, "slightly improved" to represent how this semester will make you feel.*

## Week One: Crazy - Gnarl's Barkley

I bet you remember when, you remember, you remember when you lost your mind at the end of last year. Was there something so pleasant about this place? Even your emotions have to let go when you see your GPA.

## Week Two: Living on a payout (from Studylink) - Bon Jo...kes I'm not paying you this week.

Oohhhh, our criteria isn't fair,  
Woahhhh, living on a Studylink payout.  
Take my hand, I'll pay you I swear,  
Noooo-ohhhh, jokes I ain't paying you shit.

## Week Three: I Know I'm Not the Only One (who's done no work for this group project) - Sam Smith

You say I'm lazy, 'cause you haven't seen all the work that I've done. But when you call me lazy, I know I'm not the only one. Bitch.

## Week Four: Uptown Fucked Up this Semester - Bruno Mars

Don't believe me just watch.  
Don't believe me just watch.  
Don't believe me just watch.  
Hey. Hey. Fuck. Yay.

## Week Five: Shotgun - George Ezra

Time flies by watching your Facebook screen, scrolling down looking at every meme. There's a Munchy snack that you're dreaming of, the question is would you spend your money?

## Week Six: Leaked Phone Tapes - duet by Simon Bridges & Jamie-Lee Ross

Is your semester workload weighing you down? Maybe you're like Maureen Pugh and feel a little fucking useless? Your semester might be going terrible, but always remember, it's impossible to fuck it up as much as Simon Bridges.

## Week Seven: Mambo No. 5 - remix by Bob the Builder

You're happy and re-energized to restart this semester off strong. You see outside the lecture Scoop, Muck and Dizzy, and Roley too. You later find out Wendy and Lofty join the crew. You and your gang have so much fun. Working together to get this semester done. Can we fix your Semester 1 GPA? Yes we fucking can boys let's go.

## Week Eight: Let It Go - James Bay

From throwing books across the floor, and watching lectures sped up by x2. If this is all we're living for, then why am I doing it, doing pre-med anymore?

## Week Nine: Havana - Camilla Cabello

Got me feeling like \*cough\* \*sneeze\* \*splutter\*  
I knew it when I met him  
He missed his flu injections.  
Got me feeling like \*cough\* \*sneeze\* \*splutter\*  
I know the germs will get him  
I have to go. Oh na- na- nasty.

## Week Ten: (fuck I forgot my) Umbrella - Rihanna

Now that it's raining more than ever, I'm so glad that I brought some cover. Wait, where the fuck is my umbrella. Ella. Ella. Ella. Ey. Ey. Ey.

## Week Eleven: Old Town Road - Lil Nas X

I'm gonna take my test script to the office hour,  
I'm gonna complain till I get kicked out.  
I'm gonna camp outside my lecturer's office hour,  
I'm gonna cry until they kick me out.

## Week Twelve: Fix You - Coldplay.

Lights will guide you home  
And ignite your bones  
And the University's health and counselling service, offering six complimentary sessions without charge, but you have to fill out a form before you get your complimentary seat, and get approved that you need to see a counsellor, will (subject to other conditions and provided it's not exam season where services may get busier and you have to face a 2 to 3 week wait) **try** to fix you.

## Exam Period: Fucked Yourself - Justin Bieber

So when you, show up, and can't find your id, then you should realise you've just fucked yourself.  
And if you think, the invigilator, will just hold on, well then you've just gone and fucked yourself. It's already three, hours, past the deadline, otherwise this piece would have long been shelved.  
Still if you think, this article, is hot garbage, well then you can go and fuck yourself.



### SMALL TALK – KATY PERRY | CAMERON LEAKEY

8/10: *Katy Perry returns to form?*

Katy Perry has been in a bit of a rough patch recently. My YouTube search history when I typed in Katy Perry revealed 'Katy Perry Sims' (Last Friday Night in Simlish is a wild time) and 'Katy Perry performance house falls off' (This is essential viewing please get amongst it immediately). Since the PRISM album in 2013 and its' subsequent tour, Perry hasn't quite returned to her ever successful confectionary brand of pop music, 2017's *Witness* was pretty much a flop and her most recent shows in Auckland in August last year sold so poorly they went for 30% off on GrabOne. But are we seeing a possible KP comeback. Her first single, *Never Really Over*, was a clever move, not a fantastic song but better than anything from *Witness* as to suggest Katy was upwardly mobile. Her most recent single *Small Talk* was released on August 9<sup>th</sup>. On first listen, it's pretty catchy. Perry's singing the awkward small talk between lovers, signifying how odd it is to be strangers, then lovers and then strangers again. I actually quite like the song; it weirdly seems to be uncharted territory – though if someone knows of a song about awkward post break up small talk please let me know -. Katy has potential with *Small Talk* but in a market dominated with Hip Hop and Rap, it might be hard to break through. Time will tell.



### ARCHER: 1999 | MALARIA OLIVIER

6/10: *Pam, as always, best character*

I was really, really hoping this was going to be the last season. After three seasons of dream content, as Archer had fallen into a coma in 2016, *Archer: Danger Island* represented a low for the franchise – one that not only seemed unwilling to do anything but rehash the running jokes in new time periods (LANAAAAAAAAA, phrasing, you're not my supervisor, etc), but what jokes it did try to put out, got an entirely stone faced response from the viewer.

Archer can have one more season. 1999 certainly wasn't a throwback to the good old days, and nor should it be, but it was a far better offering than what had been presented in the last three years. While it was undoubtedly the third meal of reheated two dollar ramen, there were new flavour packets that made it worth sticking with, or at least, made compulsive fans decide that binging it was acceptable.

But the finale, evidently written as a series finale, made the wait... mostly worth it? A season too late, but it managed to show the first bit of warmth in the franchise since 2015 – and from Malory, no less. A summary of Archer's infinite personas and the growth he has very, very, very slowly made, and a nice montage to boot. Definitely gave off finale vibes. Now all that's left to see is how next year's likely final season manages to tie things up – after that, put a bullet in it. Just like Brett.



### HOT GIRL SUMMER - MEGAN THEE STALLION FT. NICKI MINAJ AND TY DOLLA \$IGN | EMMY ZEALS

8/10: *NZ will enjoy this in five months*

I really enjoy Megan Thee Stallion – I don't listen to that much rap, but Ms Megan has been such a fun influence around Twitter, alongside City Girls, that I've been checking out a few of her songs. One doesn't have to be Carly Rae Jepsen to be wholesome – Megan's Twitter presence syncing up with her debut album has been well-planned sexy wholesomeness. I've been liking her songs from *Fever*, from *Big Drank* to *Cash Shit*. Really fun and well-produced stuff. This is no different! *Hot Girl Summer* plays off the viral phrase of the same name that Megan originated, and while it's a rather safe and simple track, is definitely a song that deserves its status as being played on loop at the last week of pool parties currently happening in the States right now. Not even a feature from Nicki "Never met a sex offender I didn't like" Minaj is enough to detract, as Nicki does her job as Nicki always does. To her credit, she didn't have enough lines to rhyme the same word with itself four times, so that classic Nicki-ism did not have time to happen. I have a feeling that Ms Minaj took the song to dispel the rumours that she can't get along with literally any competitor in the female rap game – especially ones that present a challenge to her status as stan twitter's meme queen – but if it means Megan gets that career boost, so be it! Ty Dolla \$ign also provides a respectable hook to round things out. It's a hot girl summer, babe!



## SICKO | FLORA XIE

9/10: *Mode*

To be sick is to be mentally or physically unwell. It can also be a feeling of nausea, or longing for someone or something. Alex MacDonald's play *Sicko* covers all aspects of the definition of the word, in a less-than-conventional manner. While I very much expected a surrealist play that was light-hearted and comedic, I was not expecting it to also be laced with such sinister undertones.

The opening scene drags you right to the central theme of the play – the sickness and fear of the mundane – through bringing Francis' (Zak Enayat) nightmare to life. The music and the lighting, combined with the use of physical theatre here creates something that is horror-esque, and leaves you with a feeling of uneasiness. From there on out, it only gets more foreboding and ominous. Usually, I'm not a fan of anything that even vaguely represents horror, but this I thoroughly enjoyed, simply because of how visually stimulating and captivating the scenes were.

The frequency of the dreams that Francis is having, along with being haunted by a man (Ben Van Lier), who appears to be a physical manifestation of the 'sickness,' both in real life and in his dreams, is an indication that he is growing older, and becoming a mindless office drone. His belief that his teeth are falling out is an indicator to his fear of growing up and being an adult, something that we can all relate to, or have probably related to in the past. The satirical take on a typical 9-5 office job, where everyone sits in containers for "eight hours a day, with a half hour lunch," doing absolutely nothing, or repeating the same skull-numbing task, seems to have come straight out of *Myth of Sisyphus*. This absurdist portrayal left my friend who works in an office feeling rather attacked, and steered me well away from any potential skull-numbing office work.

In essence, MacDonald is trying to get us to hold on to our creativity and hobbies for as long as we can, because without them life gets a whole lot less exciting and meaningful. We'll start getting weird nightmarish dreams, and our teeth will start falling out, just like Francis. This play is truly inspiring and turned out to be much more uplifting than I expected it to be from the opening. It definitely exceeded any expectations I had going in, I highly recommend it.



## @TOXICTIKTOKS | JUDITH TAPEWORMS

10/10: *Beyond good and evil*

The internet is a tool for education, literacy, health, media, gaming and so much more. It has changed the world in immeasurable ways, and our global society cannot function without its warm embrace. This Twitter account is what happens when its warm embrace goes on too long, and what was a mutually consensual expression of affection becomes a demon's inhumane clinging to my fragile body.

The stars of this account are not aware of themselves. That goes without saying – they're mostly Americans, after all. In the pursuit of fame afforded to Viners back in the day, these Tik Tok users try to emulate what the average internet denizen might have found funny in 2013. The results are... varied. Trying to give any morality to these videos defeats the purpose; these people exist on a plane we were never meant to understand, from the weeaboos proudly displaying their various fetishes in a six second span; the genuinely sweet grandparents that don't know how media works; to the 50 year old users that emulate children crying and throwing tantrums in public, to the genuinely terrifying Tik Tok Guys that, through their lip biting and whites-only eyeballs, seek to call dominion over all the quivering pussies ripe for conquest in our great world. I wish that last sentence was just me pulling words out of a hat. It was a line from one of the Tik Toks.

And I can't stop watching. You won't be able to stop either.







# A Love Letter to *Fallout*... Or at least *New Vegas*

LACHLAN MITCHELL

*Fallout, as a franchise, has come under thermonuclear heat in the last few years. It's a discussion that draws ire from across all the gaming spheres - if you're a self-described gamer (or gaymer), you likely have some.. strong views on the topic.*

It's a franchise that has existed for over two decades - it has gone from a pixelated RPG with endearing glitches to, well, a pixelated FPS with not-so endearing glitches. And with that change, much has been gained, but so much has been lost. However, it's easy to forget why the games get people so mad to begin with, in amongst all the furore. It's easy to forget that the franchise was once not *solely* a byword for Bethesda's laziness. I want to talk about the love at the heart of it all.

*Fallout 76* was disappointing for a few reasons, chief amongst the Fonterra-farms-in-our-rivers levels of shit was that it was nigh unplayable. That's not a mocking criticism of Bethesda's coding team consisting of three chimpanzees wiping their leafy fecal matter on the keyboards, I mean that it was literally unplayable. In this case, the game had elevated Bethesda's high art of glitchery to its logical conclusion: the game would encounter a bug that would uninstall the entire thing in seconds. All 97 gigabytes of it. While gamers - avatars of Beelzebub - aren't known for their patience, you could hardly blame them for their fury. In chasing the battle royale fad, a fad I personally have no problem with if done right, Bethesda had gone too far, it was argued. The hallmarks of the franchise were non-existent - "there weren't even NPCs, bro!" This sparked a discussion about what depths of the abyss *Fallout* was plunging into, like Frodo clinging to the living gargyle - should Todd Howard be hanged, could the franchise be saved from itself, was it worth saving, etc. And thankfully, I do have an answer to that last one. The answer? *New Vegas*, baby.

I hold no pretences that I am an unashamed evangelical force for this game. Like the Jehovah's Witnesses outside Albert Park, I will always be there. Waiting without slumber for you to find the gospel I have neatly prepared. For those who might not have played it, *Fallout: New Vegas* represents the storytelling pinnacle of the franchise. Set in the Mojave Desert, you are the Courier. You're making a very important delivery, but suddenly, Matthew Perry ambushes you and shoots you down. The

dialogue in this scene is as famous as the game itself. Naturally, however, the bullet to the skull doesn't take. When you wake from your slumber, you are thrust into a world that does not echo the *Fallout* of old; contrary to the radioactive sheen of bleakness that *Fallout 3*'s palette consisted of, the colours of the Mojave are decidedly more optimistic. Life has actually progressed, and something resembling a sprawling civilisation has climbed out of the ruins of Nevada and Arizona. Also, Easy Pete the prospector is there. After all these years, the world of *Fallout* has come to understand that just because the world after the bombs fell is miserable, it doesn't mean everyone else has to be. It's *New Vegas*, baby, and you're about to roll the dice.

Two things should be mentioned: the game is notoriously buggy, even after a near-decade of modding going into it since its 2010 release. So while it was made by Obsidian, the studio key to the success of *Fallout 1 & 2* in the late '90s, they were still hamstrung by a 12 month development cycle - Bethesda did not want it to coincide with the release of *Skyrim* in 2011. In that sense, it is still a child of Bethesda, for it shares the quality of limitless glitchery shared by all its other properties. But while it is Bethesda's baby-in-a-basket, dropped on the orphanage steps, the heart and soul of game belong to Obsidian. And indeed, the heart and soul of the franchise belongs to Obsidian - for what makes *New Vegas* so beloved, and has been at the root of the endless grumbling about the franchise since *Fallout 4* came out in 2015, is that it knows its universe.

There's a level of care to the passage of time and the narrative that has sprung out of the radiated earth that is simply not present in the Bethesda-directed games. Instead of 'good guy good bad guy bad kill stab save Earth get pussy', you have a nuanced morality scheme for the Courier to choose from. Side with an imperialist remnant of old America, or shoot to the stars with Legally-distinct-Howard Hughes/Walt Disney? Or will you choose an independent path for Vegas? Instead of 'gun gun shoot kill murder kill gun explosion boom' as the only

options, it is possible to not take a life in *New Vegas*. One can argue the point of pacifism when a violently misogynistic reincarnation of one man's perception of the Roman army is bearing down on the Hoover Dam, but that's the beauty of the game; the ability to justify one's mindset with reflexive gameplay, something completely missing in 4. That's not to say that I don't go full katana-swinging meth-addled murderer without provocation in most of my playthroughs, but the choice is still there. Due to the near-impossible development time, the game unfortunately has a lot of missing content that would have given you much more incentive to choose between 'the good guys' and 'the bad guys', with the Romans not getting much in the way of content to support their overwhelming dialogue presence in the game. The companions, however, are not lacking in variety. You could choose to fight the Deathclaws with Lily, the schizophrenic mutant grandmother with just the sweetest disposition out there. Or you could kill Caesar with Arcade, the endearing Gay Twink Doctor. Or kill Caesar with Boone, the Stoic Bald Army Guy (who I adore). Most of all, I would die for ED-E, the floating Eyebot. They would kill Caesar without a second thought, all because I wanted it. And there are like eight more you could choose from.

Ultimately, *New Vegas* represents a time in the franchise where it had aspirations. While Bethesda and Todd Howard aren't the devil incarnate, their laziness in chasing the lowest common denominator is apparent. *New Vegas* represents an era where *Fallout* was not just a logo, but a sincere belief in what humanity could rise to - or sink to. We just had to play and make the choice for ourselves. While Bethesda has to be given credit for revitalising the franchise, it has become a drunken step-mother that has all the money, no love for you, and your dead daddy can't help you any more. We have a game that is so unstable in its identity that it would rather delete itself than allow the player to be sullied by its uselessness.

Almost makes you wish for a nuclear winter.



# The Kids are Alright

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

*We've always been obsessed with the stories of teenagers. Hollywood film and TV, in particular, have thrived with their depictions of youth. For years, coming-of-age stories on-screen have painted teen lives as exciting and X-rated. From John Hughes' Sixteen Candles through to Sam Levinson's Euphoria, we have watched 20-somethings play 16 year-olds and engage in all sorts of morally dubious behaviour.*

With the proliferation and popularisation of online streaming sites, like Netflix, more and more coming-of-age stories have been produced, with many different focus areas. Their target audience is getting younger and younger, capitalising on the hordes of teens who will advertise the show for free online. With this increasing exposure, there seems to be a panic surrounding the representation of teen lives in mass media and the impact it might be having on younger kids. Is there a reason to be worried?

Controversy surrounded *13 Reasons Why* when it aired on Netflix in 2017. The show addressed serious subject matter, such as suicide and sexual assault, which left audiences in turbulent discussion about the appropriate manner (if any) to address these issues in entertainment. The first season's narrative followed Hannah's revenge

fantasy and Netflix suggested in public statements that the show was a 'conversation starter'. You know what's supposed to come after a conversation starter? A conversation. In season two it seemed like Netflix was well aware of the controversy, and spun the show into more of a straight drama, with a similar tone to that of *Pretty Little Liars* (just with more graphic scenes of sexual assault). With the release of the season three trailer, which hints that the upcoming season will be a mystery whodunnit, Netflix simultaneously announced the removal of Hannah's suicide scene. This retrospective edit comes after so much outcry about the triggering nature of the show. *13 Reasons Why* exploits serious issues to amplify drama, giving no real barriers to access for people shouldn't be watching it. Rather than starting much-needed conversations, *13 Reasons Why* opens doors to cliff faces for those who don't have the ability to self-regulate. This is an incredibly counterproductive move for a show that claims to be a positive force in these sensitive conversations.

*Love, Simon* fulfils a more innocent and helpful space in the collection coming-of-age films. It joins the likes of *She's All That* and *10 Things I Hate About You*, full of cheese and innocent romance. At the time of release, the film received many comparisons to John Hughes' filmography. The film warmly fills the script with cute tropes, in the most Hollywood manner possible. Which is rad! This was the first time that a major Hollywood studio produced a gay coming-of-age movie. It was made with the teenage target audience in mind, and acknowledged that gay men could lead a film, rather than presenting them as the catty comedic relief. So that's, like, 1 cheesy teen rom-com out of hundreds. Indie \*cinema\* and prestige films have touched on queer stories before, but this film in particular sets a good precedent, hopefully spurring more Hollywood movies about queer stories. Some scenes in this film surprised me with their warm and loving tone, with the heart of the movie so clearly in the right place. Some critics have suggested that the film looks to primarily serve heterosexual audiences, and doesn't look to challenge troubling forces of homonormativity. The director, Greg Berlanti, is gay, and has spoken about the intentions he held while making *Love, Simon*. In his interviews he constantly acknowledges the potential and precedent of his film, stating that it was important that he create opportunity for other members of the LGBTQ+ community. He seems well aware that his representation in this film establishes a stepping stone for future Hollywood stories.

*Booksmart*, a much more recent release, joins the company of other rambunctious and raunchy coming-of-age films. Olivia Wilde's directorial debut has garnered positive reviews and many flattering comparisons *Superbad* (Bernie Feldstein happens to be Jonah Hill's sister). The indie flick follows two best friends on a quest to party hard the night before graduation. They attempt to reclaim their high school experience, after discovering all the popular kids who had partied, while they studied, were accepted into Ivy League schools too. *Booksmart* is sweet, fresh and fun, with an authentic take on teen friendship and encouraging representation of the high school experience. The girls also feel completely safe throughout the entire

movie. You're never concerned about sexual assault, or instances of bullying and homophobia, which were so prevalent in coming-of-age films from the noughties. There is really diverse representation of sexuality, race and gender performance. The characters who make up their classmates feel so familiar, you feel as though you're staring your high school yearbook. Unfortunately, despite critical acclaim, this jewel of a film was crushed by Disney's *Aladdin* upon release. The film made just over half of its projection of \$12 million during opening weekend.

The future of coming-of-age media shows real promise, in regards to indie and mainstream film. Uplifting stories and diverse representation seem to be encouraged by audiences and new directors, hopefully not to be squashed by major studios and their cursed remakes. By the nature of the medium, TV shows accessible through streaming are more likely to be avidly consumed. Shows like *13 Reasons Why* and *Euphoria*, which walk the line between authenticity and exploitation, may need to be monitored a little closer. But I grew up without *American Pie* seriously tainting my worldview. I think the kids will be alright.

“  
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”



# UoA's Very Own Problematic Colonial Monuments

CLAUDIA RUSSELL

*Like many UoA students, I have walked towards the main campus down Symonds Street too many times to count. You most likely have noticed the statue on the corner of Wakefield and Symonds Street – a bare-breasted woman laying a fern frond across the stone monument. However, if you're as unobservant as I am, you may have failed to read its somewhat uncomfortable inscription.*

It reads:

*"In memory of the brave men belonging to the imperial and colonial forces and the friendly Maoris who gave their lives during the New Zealand Wars 1845 – 1872. Through war they won the peace we know."*

'Imperial and colonial forces?' 'Friendly Maoris?' These awkward words hint at the monument's uncomfortable history. I decided to do a little further research, mainly because I was embarrassed it had taken me so long to read a sign I had been walking past for five years straight.

It turns out the memorial, known simply as the New Zealand Wars Memorial, was commissioned by the Victoria League with the aim of preserving the memory of Queen Victoria and the deeds of





British soldiers in early New Zealand. The inscription commemorates the British colonial soldiers, along with the government-allied Maori, who fought in the NZ land wars against Maori and Maori-allied settlers. Fighting was sparked initially in retaliation to large-scale land confiscation and disputed land purchases, which saw Maori lose 16,000 km squared of their land. During the wars, the colonial government also deployed troops to quash the Kingitanga (Maori king) movement in order to make Maori pledge allegiance to Queen Victoria. Land was eventually confiscated from 'rebel' and 'loyal' Iwi alike.

Many believe that New Zealand's race relations are too good for us to ever need to worry about protestors tearing down statues. The United States is practically littered with confederate and otherwise controversial statues, such as the Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville which was the subject of heavy debate in 2017. However, the New Zealand Wars Memorial was the target of vandalism in 2018 by a self-described 'anti-colonial activist group.' The group issued a statement, saying 'the 'Zealandia' war memorial is an ode to the violent and brutal occupation of Māori lands. It celebrates the ongoing colonisation of Aotearoa, its lands and its peoples.' Another statute was targeted for similar reasons in the same year - that of Colonel Marmaduke Nixon. Nixon led colonial troops into Rangiaōwhia where a dozen people were killed in 1864. Parties on both sides met with Mayor Phil Goff to discuss moving the monument to a museum, however the council is yet to take any action.

The New Zealand Wars Memorial is not the only controversial figure to be immortalised in stone on campus. A statue of the

infamous Governor George Grey stands in Albert Park. Grey led the invasion of Waikato in order to dismantle the Kingitanga movement. In 1864 Grey and his ministers resolved to confiscate almost 3 million acres from the 'rebels' in Waikato and elsewhere. His monument was erected in 1904 in commemoration of one of the colony's 'great men.' Despite having his head cut off in a Waitangi Day protest in 1987, Grey still stands today (the statue's head has since been replaced).

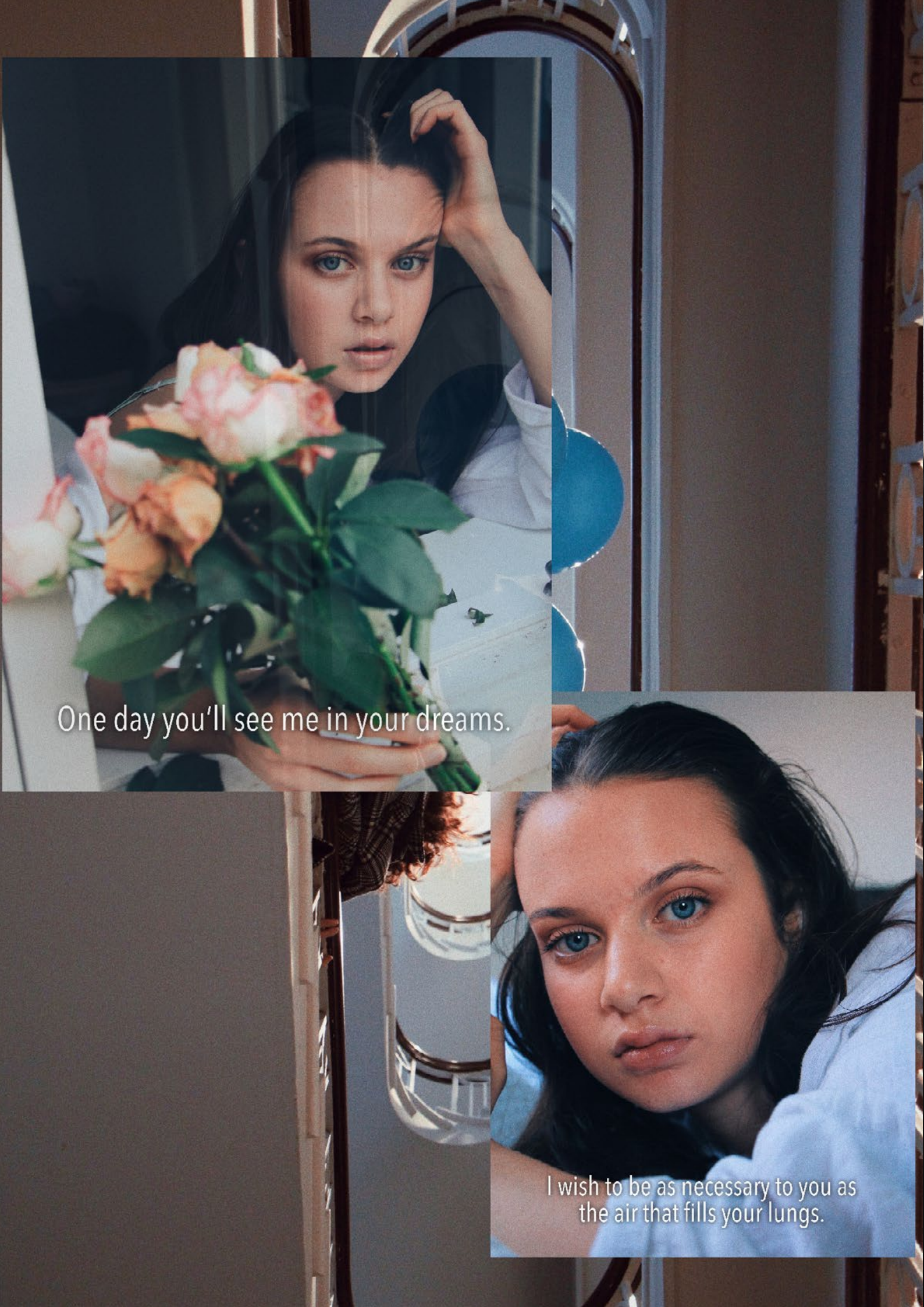
"Someone can look at the statue of Sir George Grey and say, 'This person was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of members of my hapu,' and that is distressing," says AUT professor of history Paul Moon. It is in many ways upsetting to see these figures celebrated, particularly when their actions caused intergenerational heartache. But whether to deface, destroy or preserve controversial monuments is a decision no one seems able to reach. On one hand, statues like this present a very one-sided and Eurocentric view of New Zealand history. The comparative lack of memorials from a Maori perspective make this even more true. However, on the other hand there is a case for preserving historical relics whether they evoke positive or painful memories. For Paul Moon, "it's not a case of 'You're living in the modern era, get over it.' There are legacies people suffer from, but getting rid of the piece of stone won't change that for them. In fact, there's a risk that it removes a reminder and makes it easy for people to forget." As one writer notes for *The Listener*, the key distinction to make is whether we commemorate or celebrate. These monuments are a time capsule from a different perspective. We do not need to look back on figures like Governor Grey with admiration, but we should remember that they existed. Rather than erase painful memories, we can learn from them. We might even wish to add a modern explainer in order to give frame and context to historical figures. At least in this scenario, readers would be given the whole story rather than a rose-tinted view of the past.

“

*The United States is practically littered with confederate and otherwise controversial statues, such as the Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville which was the subject of heavy debate in 2017.*

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One day you'll see me in your dreams.

I wish to be as necessary to you as  
the air that fills your lungs.





i hold my melancholy close

By Flora Xie (@floraescent)

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# HOROSCOPES

*This week, Average Kevin takes the stars on a tasting tour.*

## ARIES

21 march - 20 april



The stars to the west have been watching your eating habits with much concern. They ask me, with great fear in their hydrogen-en-crustured hearts, to explain how someone can survive for so long while eating only kale.

## TAURUS

21 april - 21 may



This week, you need to let go of baking. Every weekend it's something new. The endless batches of cookies, the occasional pinwheel scones, the cake you're gonna bake while drunk on Friday night... not only is this a huge drain on a tight budget, if it goes too far you will get burned (like your cake this Friday)

## GEMINI

22 may - 21 june



Italian food is amazing.

## CANCER

22 june - 22 july



How did it get to this? Saturn may be out of whack but man, you're gonna end the week in a flat buried deep in pizza boxes, eating ice-cream out of a tub, and worst of all it'll be entirely your fault. You'll enjoy Wednesday though.

## LEO

23 july - 22 august



Cette semaine, vous aurez besoin d'un changement de culture. Vous rêvez de grandes avenues Pariennes (remplies de manifestants), vous voulez goûter de beaux Bordeaux et des fromages à pâte molle des Alpes. Oui, c'est vrai, vous voulez vous échapper en France - mais vous restez sans cesse à Auckland.

## VIRGO

23 august - 23 september



You may feel a craving for eggplant this week. The stars have aligned with Neptune to bring meaning to your life, and if it can be found in eggplants, then so be it.

## LIBRA

24 september - 23 october



This week you'll be stuck in a two hour coding lecture, with the lecturer droning on about classes and assignments, and you'll only want one thing. You're trapped, stuck in the middle of the middle row, suffocated by the laptops which surround you, your energy slipping away faster than your GPA, and all you can do is dream of the silky smooth Dark Ghana Chocolate bar which awaits you.

## SCORPIO

24 october - 22 november



Don't eat the bug. Your friends may hold it against you for the rest of your life, but at least the rest of your life won't be twenty minutes.

## SAGITTARIUS

23 november - 21 december



Nighttime is hard and the dark can be incredibly scary. But you know what they say? A carrot a day will keep the evil night monsters who roam the city in search of vegetable-neglecting souls away.

## CAPRICORN

22 december - 20 january



You are as bright as an orange. You never fail to bring a little sweetness into everyone's day. What's better is it's so natural for you, you don't even realise it! Just don't let reading this change that - after all, sometimes a little too much citrus can sting.

## AQUARIUS

21 january - 19 february



Ugh. Life is so draining right? You're probably feeling like you're taking on a lot and are unbelievably tired. The solution: potatoes! They are so full of energy and come in so many forms there's something for everyone. Potato bake, stuffed potatoes, wedges... the opportunities are endless! Try and cook up something different, you're gonna feel loads more energised.

## PISCES

20 february - 20 march



This week, you will meet the legendary Joshua Jayde. When you do, you must ask him how many mangos he has waiting for him at home. If you guess right, the stars shall look favourably upon you. Guess wrong, and you will be haunted by his sports columns forever.

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# the people to blame.

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