



sex issue. 20

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STENZETZ CO

EDITORIAL 5

NEWS 6

**JUST CHI-NA GET TO
KNOW YOU HERE ;)** 12

DECOLONISING SEX 18

REVIEWS 22

THIS IS: SEXY AS 24

**THE HALFWAY-TO- 29
40-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN**

SEX TOY REVIEWS 30

SEX AND THE UNI 32

HOROSCOPES 38

WRITERS

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Honk if You're Horny

Sex is literally everywhere. It's baked into every facet of our society. From gender segregated bathrooms, to school uniforms (lengthen your skirts!), to advertising—so much of our society is built around sex; having it, avoiding it, struggling with it, or literally building phallic objects and monuments. We seem to be endlessly preoccupied with who is and isn't having sex: virgins, whores, sluts, prudes, and even incels and chads. It's always splashed across the front page and randomly placed in films.

Yet for most of the time in polite society, we have to keep pretending sex doesn't exist. There's that saying that you should never talk about politics, sex, or religion at parties or the dinner table—though these days, it feels like that's all people ever talk about.

Still, even in a left-leaning country like Aotearoa in 2022, sex is by-and-large very taboo. That's why sweet older ladies having a pastry next to you in cafes will pointedly turn around when you're loudly debriefing last night's hookup with your friends over brunch. Turns out yelling, "Yeah I didn't cum but it was alright," in public is still

unacceptable behaviour. We learned that the hard way—pun intended.

But when we don't talk about sex, or pretend it doesn't exist, or treat it as dirty or shameful, we begin to get into tricky territory. Knowledge is power, so why would we collectively keep ourselves ignorant? It probably comes as no surprise that misogyny and patriarchy have a lot to do with it. People with uteri are taught to feel ashamed about sex and their sexuality. We're taught that sex centres around the phallus, and therefore that sex is for cis-men, and cis-men only. Add heteronormativity and sexual racism and everything else on top of that, and sex suddenly becomes a very complicated topic.

If we're lucky, we would have received comprehensive sexual education in high school—unfortunately, that's rarely the case. People are still struggling to grasp what healthy and consensual sex actually is, and a lot of women still don't know what an orgasm even feels like. A major problem is how sex is constructed to be only penetrative—everything else is disregarded. This marginalises women with conditions that affect

their reproductive system such as endometriosis, vaginismus, or different types of ovarian cysts. Penetrative sex often is not an enjoyable activity with these conditions, when it really should be pleasure central. Add to that, so many of us still believe that sex ends when the man cums—and for so many, that is probably the sad reality.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Not to be too #girlboss about it, but we can and should reclaim sex—for everyone. That's why *Craccum's* Sex Issue isn't only a sexy, fun issue that we put out every year: it's an essential one. Because we need to keep destigmatising sex, widening our definitions of sex, and promoting healthy and consensual sex. We need to normalise queer sex, and the pleasure of women, enbys, and trans people. Sex doesn't have to be shameful, painful, or penetrative. So, let your freak flag fly, and let's talk about sex, baby.

XOXO

Arohanui

Flora Xie (she/her) and Naomii Seah (she/they).

University Unions Vote to Open Strike Ballot



NAOMII SEAH (SHE/THEY) AND JESSICA HOPKINS (SHE/HER)

The Tertiary Education Union (TEU) has confirmed a national vote on strike action will be held this week.

The news comes after all eight universities in New Zealand called for paid stop-work meetings on Wednesday 28 September.

The TEU and the Public Service Association (PSA) held joint votes and discussions at these meetings to inform members of ongoing collective agreement negotiations with tertiary institutions.

These negotiations come following the expiry of previous collective agreements between unions and tertiary employers. Negotiations for a new collective agreement began in July, and have so far not been settled.

The focus of union bargaining is to bring pay-rises in line with recent inflation, at 8% over a period of a year. The stop work meetings were held as all eight universities' pay offers were criticised for falling well under recent inflation, meaning staff would be accepting a pay decrease in real terms.

Currently, average pay rise offers from universities across the country sit at 2-3%. The University of Auckland is offering 5% in 2023 and 4% in 2024 with "claw backs"—decreases in staff benefits such as a slash in long service leave and retirement benefits. They also proposed "grandparenting" benefits, meaning current long service and retirement terms would apply to current staff, but not new hires. Without claw backs, the University's offer decreases by 1% in each respective

year.

The University of Auckland is also offering an additional 1% pay increase for staff on salaries less than 60k per annum.

However, members of TEU and PSA say that's not good enough. At the stop work meeting on Auckland's City Campus, members expressed concern and frustration over these proposed conditions. Many pointed out

will not only hurt them, it will hurt this University."

One union member pointed out that any salary less than 70k was now recognised by the New Zealand government as a low income, and criticised the existence of 60k per annum salaries within the University.

In an email to staff released just after the stop work meeting, the University stated that they are "aware of the

financial pressures of the current economic environment and the impact of the cost of living increases on our staff, particularly in Auckland... We remain committed to bargaining constructively and in good faith with the unions."

PSA Organiser Bella Chase says they're proud of the turnout at the University of Auckland's stop-work meeting.

"People are struggling, and they want to feel valued," says Chase, who cites cost of living as one of the reasons for coordinating a national, cross-union response for

staff in the tertiary sector.

"It's time universities paid a decent cost of living pay increase, and respected and valued their staff."

"We've made our position clear here today," added TEU Organiser Nicole Wallace.

Should the vote to strike pass nationally, a strike committee will be formed to coordinate strike action across the motu.



MEMBERS OF THE BARGAINING TEAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND HOLD SIGNS FOLLOWING THE UNANIMOUS VOTE TO OPEN A STRIKE BALLOT AT THE STOP-WORK MEETING ON CITY CAMPUS.

that although the numbers seemed good on paper, and in relation to other university offers, accepting such a collective agreement would detriment the sector as a whole, and compromise its future.

Dr. Paul Taillon, a long-time union member at the University of Auckland said: "The removal of core terms and conditions from the collective agreement don't relate directly to our salary but they do bear a cost... our future generations will lose, and they will be further squeezed. That

AUSA Lobbies for AUSA to sit on University Council



JESSICA HOPKINS (SHE/HER)

An AUSA Instagram post endorsing incoming President Alan Shaker for University Council Student Rep saw mixed reactions.

The University Council, the University's highest decision-making body, has one student representative elected by their peers annually. The AUSA President previously sat on the Council, but they lost this seat in 2019 due to legislation changes. This means that currently, any student can run for and sit on the University Council, and they do not have to be affiliated with AUSA or any other student representative body.

Current AUSA President Alofa So'olefai told *Craccum* that they have been fighting to get this seat back ever since.

"AUSA is here to make sure that students are being heard. I admit that it hadn't been all that great in the past, but over the last few years, we have made significant moves to formalise processes and systems that enable AUSA to be held accountable by the students."

So'olefai argues that because the AUSA president sits on multiple student committees, they are in the best position to help make efficient and effective decisions that benefit students.

"It's nothing against other candidates, and I do apologise if it seemed that way."

"Regardless of who sits on Council, I would hope that the Student Council Rep taps into the resources that AUSA has as this hasn't been utilised much in the past."

The original post on AUSA's Instagram stated, "Did you know AUSA's current Education VP and 2023 President, Alan Shaker is a candidate? Cast your vote now."

The student association also posted four Instagram stories promoting Shaker.

One of Shaker's competitors commented, "I find it absurd as to why AUSA has sought to endorse one candidate. AUSA should only promote the election and let the campaigning be done by the candidates."

Fifth-year student Jono commented, "Why is AUSA endorsing and campaigning for a candidate? Shouldn't they be neutral to whoever the students want most in the role?"

AUSA later removed their initial statement, responding to commenters' concerns.

"Those who have commented are correct, the students should decide for themselves who they want to vote for. We are not saying you have to vote for a particular person, but we believe that the AUSA President (regardless of who it is) has the connections and support to ensure that students' issues will be heard."

"Despite AUSA's position, we hope the student body will vote for whoever they think is the best candidate."

Jono later told *Craccum*, "I appreciate they changed the caption to be more honest, but I'm still concerned that this is their position."

"It just feels like a rigged election if it's the AUSA President versus four other random students who don't have the clout and outreach that Alan does because he has access to the AUSA social media. Seems a bit unfair."

Shaker told *Craccum* that he had no input in the decision-making process behind AUSA's campaign.

"I was removed from all discussions that considered this."

Some students have supported AUSA's push for the student association President to sit on Council.

Albany Students Association President Jake Law shared with *Craccum* that he commented in support because it has been difficult having a student rep on their University Council that is not associated with any Massey association.

"This has meant that all the representation and

consultation work the associations do isn't linked through to the university council. We also don't get feedback from our uni council rep on what they are advocating for."

"This disconnect affects students negatively as it limits our ability and access to Council to advocate for improvements to students in wellbeing, academic and diversity representation areas."



Discrimination Isn't Sexy!: Aotearoa Sex Worker Discrimination



CHARLIE PARKER (SHE/HER)

On 16 September, RNZ published an article outlining the heavy discrimination sex work still faces in New Zealand, despite sex work being made legal in the Prostitution Reform Act 2003. The article contained stories from sex workers who have found it difficult to open bank accounts since sex work is labelled as a 'high risk' career, making financial applications hard. The article also recounts how the general stigma around being a sex worker affects day to day life. In the piece, Aotearoa New Zealand Sex Workers' Collective notes that with everyone who visits them at the organisation has a story of discrimination.

On the Community Law website under the question: 'Can banks and other businesses refuse to serve me because I'm a sex worker?' it states "They probably can. It's not illegal to discriminate against someone because of what they do for a job, so a bank could decide not to serve you because you do sex work, and that would not be illegal under the anti-discrimination laws. The courts have said though that a person's sex work history is not relevant for some other things, like whether someone is a good parent, or whether an attacker could assume a sex worker was consenting to sex."

Craccum spoke to several sex workers who are also university students on

Aotearoa New Zealand Sex Workers' Collective notes that with everyone who visits them at the organisation has a story of discrimination.

their experiences of discrimination. Rosie*, who studies at the University of Auckland, said "I think when you're a sex worker as a student the discrimination takes its toll, because everyone [discriminates]. People in your uni cohort leave you out like you're dirty. God forbid you tell half your family what you do, and then applying for any other form of job after doing sex work is a nightmare. Everyone looks at you like you're the lowest person on the planet. I'm so over it."

Naya*, who studies at AUT, said, "I find it unbelievably funny that the article mentions how bank workers

"I think when you're a sex worker as a student the discrimination takes its toll, because everyone [discriminates]. People in your uni cohort leave you out like you're dirty..."

discriminate against sex workers, because half the time it's white-collar people who I'm working with. Sex work isn't just for some grimy little men who ask you to do the most horrid things you've ever heard of. I've had clients I've really liked working with, sometimes we've built up their confidence together if they've come back and they were unsure the first time. It's fun, you're in a job that's contributing to someone else's happiness for once. I don't see what's so disgusting about that."

Leanne*, former sex worker who attended Victoria University of Wellington, said, "Everyone has a

"I find it unbelievably funny that the article mentions how bank workers discriminate against sex workers, because half the time it's white-collar people who I'm working with..."

different experience being a sex worker, and I met a lot of people who loved it. Personally, I had such a bad time, but that doesn't mean everyone else has to give me a hard time too! I couldn't even open a new bank account to put my tips in because my job wasn't 'stable enough'. At least let me pay my rent with the money I earned."

For sex workers who may be struggling with discrimination or may feel they are unable to speak to anyone, the Aotearoa New Zealand Sex Workers' Collective provides information on sex worker, sexual health, relevant laws, and rights. They also run community drop in centers that can be used for support in worker issues.

"... I couldn't even open a new bank account to put my tips in because my job wasn't 'stable enough'. At least let me pay my rent with the money I earnt."

“Y'all are smoking in here? Go off I guess”: Billie Eilish Reacts to Auckland Fans



JESSICA HOPKINS (SHE/HER)

Fans were stoked to see Billie Eilish perform in Tāmaki Makaurau earlier this month for the first time since 2019. On Billie's final Saturday night show, the US singer-songwriter noticed members of the audience burning one down.

“Y'all are smoking in here? Go off I guess”, Billie was recorded responding in a now viral TikTok video. *Craccum* previously reported on US rapper Jack Harlow who, while performing in Auckland on 31 July, called out concert-goers for vaping.

Billie seemed somewhat more neutral on the situation than Harlow, but did make a gesture referring to the pungent smell. Billie's brother and music partner Finneas reportedly said, “You can't say much with your stupid juul thing that smells like watermelon.”

Audience members shared on TikTok that they saw “so many clouds popping up everywhere.”

“The amount of cigs, vapes, and joints I saw was uncountable,” another person commented.

Many commenters agreed that this behaviour is “typical for concerts in New Zealand”, with one user adding, “can confirm that it's too common lmfao bud erywhere”.

The number of young New Zealanders aged 15 to 17 who vape daily has tripled in two years, from 2% in 2018-2019 to 6% in 2020-2021, according to the most recent New Zealand Health Survey. For young adults, aged 18 to 24, daily vaping has increased from 5% to 15%.

Manufacturers and promoters of vapes have been criticised for using social media influencers, enticing flavours, and music event sponsorship to target young people. Some retailers have also lobbied against recent legislation aimed at preventing vape products from being marketed to young people.



Mind the Gap: UC's University Gender Pay Gap Study



CHARLIE PARKER (SHE/HER)

A new study published by researchers from the University of Canterbury used mathematical models to highlight the prevalence of the gender pay gap at the University. The authors of the study, Dr. Alex James and Professor Ann Brower had done a previous study back in 2020 that showed female academics at New Zealand Universities will earn \$400,000 less than their male counterparts over a lifetime.

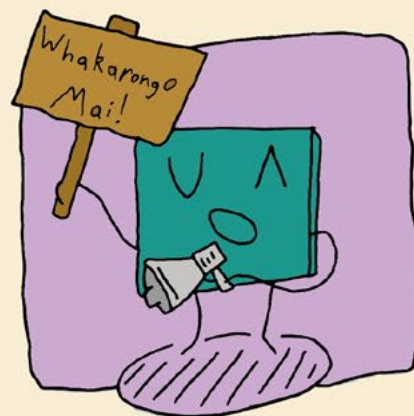
Regarding the recent study, Dr. James told the *Herald* that “For the majority of the population that focus as much on teaching as they do on research, men are far more likely to be promoted, and

so they reach the higher ranks quicker than women”. The study outlines that a future focus on hiring and promoting is needed to make sure women are reaching higher level positions, otherwise some Universities may not ever see 50% of their highest-ranking jobs being held by females. However, the study only detailed the gender pay gap seen between male identifying and female identifying staff and doesn't include non-binary people, or represent statistics from other genders.

One University of Auckland researcher who didn't wish to be named said, “I don't know how far the issue extends at

the University, but I do know of women who are earning less than their male colleagues overall despite the amount of work they do. It's frustrating watching your colleagues work diligently [and] passionately, and yet they're still being underpaid because of an archaic view that men are more suited to higher power roles”. Currently, no public information regarding the extent (if at all) the University of Auckland has a gender pay gap is available. However, AUT recently published their second annual Pay Gap Report reviewing 2021. It showed that the median pay gap at the institution was 9.5%, higher than the New Zealand average of 9.1%.

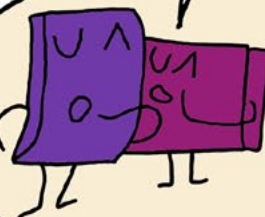
Computer Science students are bad at sex. We all stay inside for like 12 hours a day playing League of Legends



The best would be Business students. They only have one class a week for each course, so they have all the time they need to think about what they can do in the bedroom.

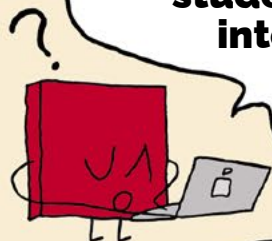


I feel the best would be Arts because they're poetic and romantic, and would probably write you a poem before or something.

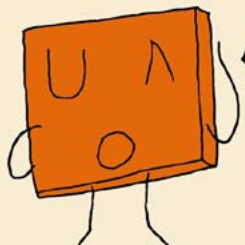


Grass is a foreign concept, let alone sex

I just get the feeling that Commerce students are bad. I feel like intellectual sexy is the new sexy. And they're not very intellectual.



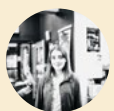
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The Worst and the Best Sex at UoA



JESSICA HOPKINS (SHE/HER)

For our Sex Issue, *Craccum* asked students which faculties they think have the best and worst sex lives and why?

As most students wanted to stay anonymous, we've only identified respondents by their faculties. While it turns out many students agree on who among their peers are the best and worst at getting it on, there were still a few controversial takes.

Disclaimer: the opinions of students mentioned in this article do not represent the views of *Craccum*. If you're a Computer Science or Engineering student having good sex, good for you!

The Worst

A group of Computer Science students *Craccum* spoke to said that their own faculty is "definitely not the best."

"Computer Science students are bad at sex. We all stay inside for like 12 hours a day playing League of Legends," said one CompSci student.

"Grass is a foreign concept, let alone sex," another added.

Three Engineering students also thought students in their faculty had the worst sex lives.

"Definitely Engineering. Because it's mainly guys, and they don't have game."

"I agree Engineering students are the worst. They don't know how to communicate and are the most anti-social shits ever."

"Engineering students are mostly at home studying and crying."

A Law student who wanted to go by the pseudonym Harry, perhaps referring to the Duke of Sussex—or more likely, the other possibly balding sex icon, Harry Styles—ranked Computer Science the

lowest.

"Computer Science students study a lot and stay in their rooms."

Another Law student, who was outed by their friend as also studying Arts, made the bold claim that "Engineering students don't have sex."

"They don't know how to talk to anyone. They've got a lot of work to do, always calculating things."

A Creative Arts and Industries student also said Engineering.

"They make a lot of sexist jokes. Too many incels."

A Science student hypothesised that Commerce students would be the least desired sexual partners.

"I just get the feeling that Commerce students are bad. I feel like intellectual sexy is the new sexy. And they're not very intellectual."

An Arts student also took a stab at guessing who would be the worst in bed.

"Business and Politics students. I feel like it's self-explanatory. Also Philosophy. They don't ever shut up."

The Best

Students across many faculties agreed that Business students would most likely be having the most hook-ups, but it wasn't necessarily a compliment.

"The best is probably Business because they don't do anything. I know a bunch of Business students that smoke weed, and I heard that increases your sex drive."

"Probably Business students because they don't study as much. So, they have more time to go and be a free animal. They just party all the time."

"The best would be Business students. They only have one class a week for each course, so they have all the time they need to think about what they can do in the bedroom."

A Law student who asked to be referred to as Isabella had a different opinion, suggesting that Exercise Science students have the best sex.

"They're like fit, muscular, and athletic."

A different Law student claimed Law students have the best sex lives. But when *Craccum* asked for evidence to back up their statement, they declined to comment.

A Medical and Health Sciences student believed Music students would have the upper hand when it came to "setting the mood".

"I reckon the best would be the music people. Imagine the rhythm that they have. They have good music taste and can set a good ambience."

But another student felt that Arts students would actually be the best lovers.

"I feel the best would be Arts because they're poetic and romantic, and would probably write you a poem before or something."



Just Chi-na Get to Know You Here ;)

Experiences of Asian fetish and what one Psychology Masters student is doing about it



HANNAH GOH (SHE/HER)

It's a Friday night. You're lying on the bed, mindlessly scrolling by the hundredth person on Bumble. Left, left, left, then right! Suddenly you get a match. You're wide-eyed and feeling a quick flutter of anticipation in your stomach. You message them something on the fly, maybe a reference to a joke on their profile just to let them know that yes you read it, that you're not just here to get down and dirty for their looks. Suddenly their reply comes:

"Haha yeah, what kind of Asian are you btw" or "I love Asian women because they're so smart." Or the classic pun: "just Chi-na get to know you here :)"

Shit. Your heart sinks. But really, I should have expected this.

To all my fellow Asians who have had similar experiences, I feel you.

Sadly it's not uncommon. And with the pervasiveness of this attitude towards Asians, and Asian women in particular, it's easy to internalise it, and to normalise it.

Asian fetish (the romantic or sexual preference for individuals of Asian descent by those who are non-Asian)

Asian fetish (the romantic or sexual preference for individuals of Asian descent by those who are non-Asian) is no compliment. It is reductive, demeaning, and at times downright terrifying.

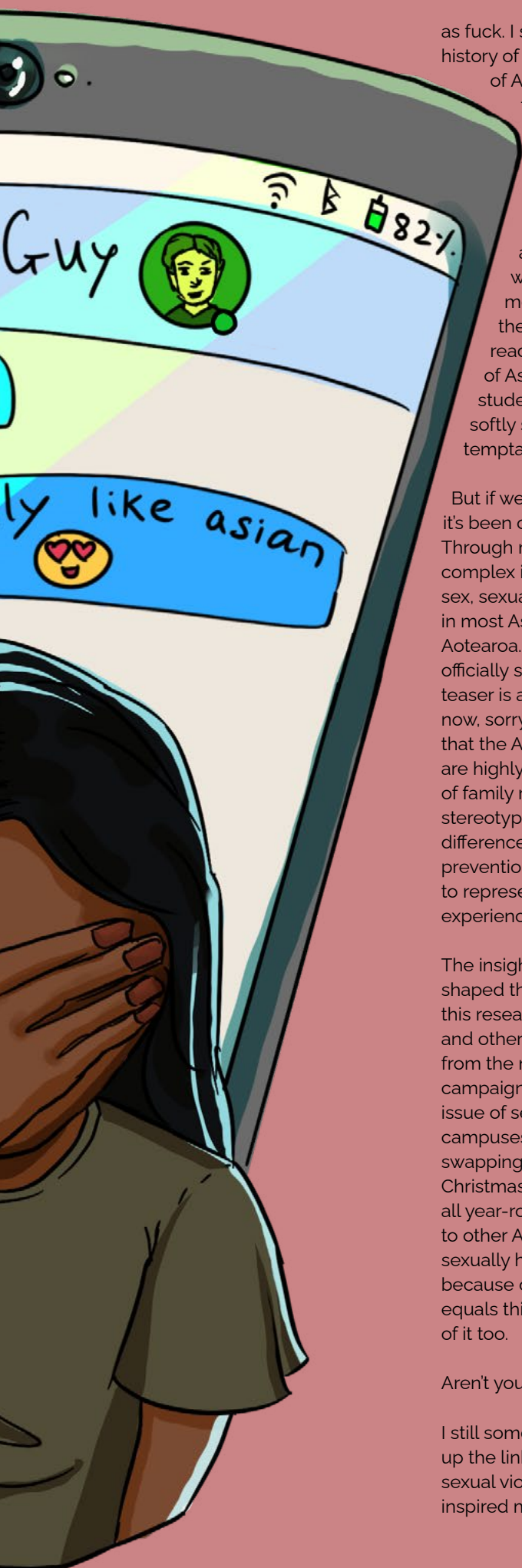
is no compliment. It is reductive, demeaning, and at times downright terrifying. Particularly, stereotypes around Asian women means that we are often viewed as exotic, childlike, hyperfeminine, promiscuous, "easier to obtain" than women of other ethnicities, and always submissive to men.¹ This form of racism often leads to the consent of Asian women being seen as an expectation rather than a question, further 'justifying' acts of sexual violence perpetrated against them.

Fetishisation of Asian women can be psychologically damaging too. Many victims report navigating doubt, insecurity, and low self-esteem.² For example, I spent much of my 23 years feeling as though my Asian-ness was a big plus to some of the people around me. I even remember nervously asking my first boyfriend: "do you just like me because I'm Asian?" Yikes. While he didn't (thank God), this questioning of intent exemplifies how one can get used to being seen exclusively for your ethnicity rather than your personhood.

Throughout my (very long and very pricey) uni journey, I've had the privilege to discuss all of the above with other students. Naturally, all this grumbling did was to piss me off to the point where I decided that I wanted to try to address Asian fetish and just how twisted it is. And what better way to do it than in a Masters thesis? From there, the whole thing spiralled out of control to become something bigger than I ever imagined.

The topic of how to design "sexual violence prevention campaigns to meet the needs of East and South-East Asian students" is no glamorous task. Its background reading was bleak





as fuck. I spent hours poring over the history of colonisation and exploitation of Asian bodies by the West;³

the 20th Century ban on Asian women immigrating to Western countries like New Zealand because of fears that the Chinese would "breed like rabbits" and that "Chinese women would spread STIs to White men who would then spread them to their White wives". I also read about the sexual targeting of Asian women (particularly students) because they were "nice... softly spoken... less likely to report... a temptation" and so on and on.

But if we're talking pros vs cons: it's been one worthwhile, wild ride. Through my Masters, I learned just how complex it is to address taboos around sex, sexuality, and sexual violence in most Asian communities within Aotearoa. Quick sidenote: I haven't officially submitted the thesis yet, so a teaser is all that's gonna happen right now, sorry. But sneak peek! Turns out that the Asian students I interviewed are highly concerned about the power of family reputation, gender and social stereotypes, Asian and Kiwi cultural differences, and the limits of bilingual prevention campaigns when it comes to representing diverse identities and experiences.

The insight of my participants has shaped this research; I hope in turn this research will inform policy in uni and other settings. This research stems from the need for culturally sensitive campaigns to tackle the persistent issue of sexual violence on our campuses. Because we can do without swapping stories like they're gifts on Christmas morning (except this time it's all year-round). I don't need to relate to other Asian women about being sexually harassed and/or assaulted because our ethnicity apparently equals this treatment. We're all so tired of it too.

Aren't you?

I still sometimes apologise for bringing up the link between 'Asian fetish' and sexual violence even though it first inspired my Masters. I dislike upsetting

those around me because this isn't exactly a hot party topic—it is exposing, sensitive, and sometimes people would rather not talk about it. But on one occasion, I remember one of my supervisors reassuring me: "You don't have to say sorry. You're the one who has to experience it."

Because my research is not just on paper. It is lived and breathed for many Asians in Aotearoa every day. It's not fun talking to someone new and wondering if they only like you because you're Asian or in spite of it. Nobody wants to hear 'jokes' about someone "ordering you like a mail bride from Vietnam" (how about no). And it's not fun to be grabbed in public because some guy has decided your consent doesn't matter, or never could.

We never wanted to be 'special' or singled out. We just want to be safe.

And I think that is why I'm not doing something about Asian fetish—we all are.

Everyone who has shown any kind of support—whether it's signing up to participate, agreeing to informal Zoom interviews, jumping on board the research team, or even sharing the many words of encouragement from friends (old and new alike). Everyone who's had to experience Asian fetish, or shared their experiences, and everyone who's listening and learning.

Ngā mihi—this research belongs to all of us.

Disclaimer: all the personal anecdotes shared here are my own unless stated otherwise

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- 5 SEE CHOW (2002), ELLIOT (2000), GLEN (2002), MAS-CABASCO (2005), MURPHY (2002), STEVENS & ABUSAID (2021), TIZON (2011) AND ZACHARIAS (2002) FOR SOME EXAMPLES



Dating: the Good, the Bad, and the Controversial?

From pigeon funerals to painting portraits, *Craccum* finds out how UoA students date

CRACCUM

CRACCUM EDITORIAL TEAM

Dating in modern western society is straight-up weird. The majority of us find ourselves scrolling through various apps and praying the hot person we matched with doesn't follow Andrew Tate or harbour some quirky conspiracy about vaccines. When the chat doesn't reveal any red flags, the next step for most is to meet up in person. However, doing so is a potentially tumultuous experience, as *Craccum's* readers shared. From DMing someone else for the entirety of the date to having their age grossly underestimated, we might have just heard it all. Well—almost all... For one person, their first date involved going to McDonald's and witnessing their companion accidentally kill a pigeon. At least we can all be thankful that that hasn't happened to us yet and hopefully never will.

A reader described the very odd date they went on. Even though pigeons weren't harmed in this instance, pizza

was. The pair met without a plan, so they "walked around Queen Street and Britomart" and "ended up running errands for him like going to the

From DMing someone else for the entirety of the date to having their age grossly underestimated, we might have just heard it all. Well—almost all... For one person, their first date involved going to McDonald's and witnessing their companion accidentally kill a pigeon.

pharmacy". They got some pizzas, but while their date was in the bathroom, they dropped the uneaten pizzas onto the ground, topping-side down. Despite the devastation this must have caused, they agreed to hang out again. However, one night before the next date, the *Craccum* reader was looking at their date's Instagram story. "He was ranting heavily about how feminism sucks and women always abuse men in relationships." The reader admits that they "took the bait", resulting in a "massive argument through voice message." After that, the pair decided it would be best if they didn't go on a second date.

Another *Craccum* reader shared the time they met someone else while waiting for their date to arrive. The reader arrived at the bar an hour and a half early to get in some drinks before the date officially began. However, while at the bar, they met a guy they

"really clicked with". They were very open with this bar guy and told them they were waiting for their Tinder date. But the bar guy was still happy to hang out. "By the time Tinder guy showed up, [the reader] was super not into the idea of a date anymore." The bar guy invited them both to his friend's table. The reader was sat in between Tinder guy and bar guy. In confusion, the reader went to the bathroom for "some good ole fashion girly advice", ultimately deciding to ditch Tinder guy. However, when the reader went to go break it to Tinder guy, he had clearly received the message "because he was already long gone."

Even though these dating experiences are pretty cringe-worthy, love is often found in the most unexpected situations. At least, that's what my nana tells me. And unless your friendship has blossomed into something more romantic like in every good rom-com, going on dates is something we will probably continue to subject ourselves to in search of "the one" or to add some spice to our assignment-ridden lives. What makes a good date, then? That's a fairly subjective question. But the team at *Craccum* have clocked up a hefty number of dates between them, and we have some date ideas that might just lead to something more...

Go on a picnic

Being out in nature is actually proven to increase serotonin levels, diffusing the brain and making you calm; plus, it's nice. It sets the mood, and you have so much to talk about—the weather, your memories on the beach, you can

If it goes well, drive somewhere for a meal or whatever. It's a guarantee that sitting in a car, side by side, increases sexual tension... and a walk sets the date's intention.

ask them if they like the beach during summer, what's their fave beach, etc.

A walk then maybe drive somewhere

When walking, you don't have to make eye contact and can read their head-to-toe body language. Have something to drink while you walk; it lets you think about what you want to say next without having to awkwardly sit in silence. If it goes well, drive somewhere for a meal or whatever. It's a guarantee that sitting in a car, side by side, increases sexual tension... and a walk sets the date's intention.

Do a class in something that neither of you has any idea about

There are plenty of classes in Auckland, like pottery, dancing, or cooking, available to try. Some are more expensive than others, so it might not be a first date kind of thing, but even if you realise you don't like the other person, you can still learn something. A class can be a casual way of seeing how your date reacts to trying new things or how competitive they are. You will also most likely always have something to talk about, from what other people are making to questioning each others' creative choices. Depending on how things go and what kind of class you do, you might have a physical object to either smash or trigger fond memories in the future.

Arcade

Unleash your inner kid and see if they feel nourished around this other person. Let's face it: if they're not gonna fail super badly at Dance-Dance-Revolution with you, then do you really want it? The only issue with this one is that arcades sometimes have a lot of actual children and loud music. Maybe go at a time when kids are either in school or bed. And the loud music isn't ideal, but it's still better than screaming "how are you?!" at your drunk pash in the middle of Face, or whatever.

You might notice cute things about them you've never thought about before or giggle your way through with some light roasting of each other's lack of skill. You might even find the tension gets CRAZY as you're taking appreciative glances at each other.

Pool (the game, not the place)

Pool halls are possibly the best first date places. There's alcohol, there's low lighting, and there's a game to focus on. Plus, tables are usually paid per 15 minutes, so you can make a quick getaway if needed. It's quiet enough so you can talk, but not so quiet it's weird. You can stay as long as you want. Plus, no one is that good at pool anyway, so the stakes are low.

Paint each other

Okay, this might seem slightly high stakes and like a rip-off of *Titanic*'s sexiest scene, but this is an especially fun idea for people with no artistic talent. Grab a couple of cheap paints and canvases (and maybe a glass of wine), and park yourselves down for a half-hour painting session. It can be a little funny at first, but it's surprisingly relaxing and a great way to let your walls down around each other. You might notice cute things about them you've never thought about before or giggle your way through with some light roasting of each other's lack of skill. You might even find the tension gets CRAZY as you're taking appreciative glances at each other. If you're feeling that type of way, you could go full Rose... art has never been sexier.

Would you rather Bleeding, Depression, or a Baby?

The ins and outs of long term contraception, what's still unknown, and the future of male contraceptives



GRACE BURTON-MCKEICH (SHE/HER)

For lots of us, sex is a great thing. Among many things, it's pleasurable and can help us feel connected to people. But what doesn't often feel great about sex is the side effects of preventing pregnancy. Many people have heard a horror story or two about someone trying a form of contraception; whether a pill, the Depo Provera injection, or a type of implant, only to have it significantly impact their quality of life.

For instance, using the Jadelle, a contraceptive implant inserted in the upper arm, can result in irregular bleeding. You can go months without a period, and then... Hello, Aunt Flo turns up without warning. This basically means you are subjecting your pastel clothes and favourite underwear to a game of Russian roulette every time you wear them. Irregular bleeding is pretty annoying, but when using contraception, it doesn't typically signal anything sinister. What might be more concerning are the mental health symptoms that can begin when using contraception. Experiencing depressive thoughts, low mood, or any undesirable

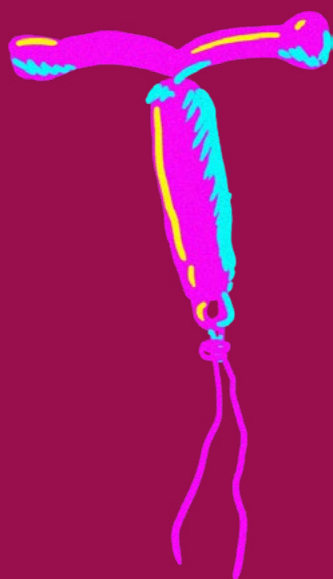
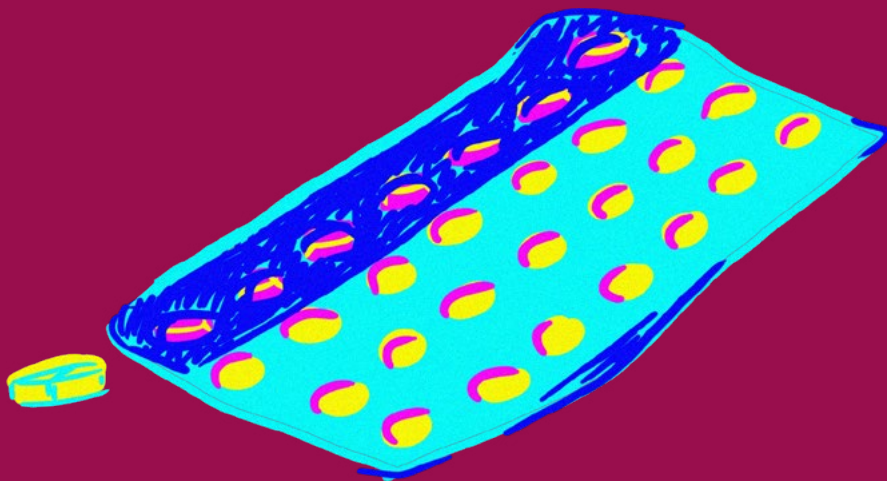
side-effect for more than two to four weeks after starting new contraception should be something you see your doctor about as soon as possible, says Dr. Wendy Burgess, a senior lecturer in obstetrics and gynaecology.

You can go months without a period, and then... Hello, Aunt Flo turns up without warning. This basically means you are subjecting your pastel clothes and favourite underwear to a game of Russian roulette every time you wear them.

There has been a multitude of large, rigorous studies that have tested the effectiveness and effects of all kinds of contraception currently available in Aotearoa. These studies show that some people experience various things,

from weight changes to bloating. These side effects are primarily the result of having a hefty dose of the hormone progesterone. These studies also show that there is an association between taking the contraceptive pill and symptoms of depression. This means that the pill and depression are linked, not necessarily that the pill causes depression—science can't prove that without a randomised controlled trial. Unfortunately, it's impossible to tell why the Mirena, an intrauterine contraceptive device, gives you sore boobs, your friend back pain, and your sister nothing at all.

The fact that the Family Planning nurse or your doctor can't tell you how a type of contraception will specifically impact you is a gap in contraception research. This gap is challenging to fill because everyone's bodies are so different. Dr. Burgess helped me conceptualise this by referring to the range of symptoms people can experience when they have a period. For some people, a period means that they will bleed for a few consecutive days in a month. For others, their period means seven or more days of pain and being confined to their bed. What biologically happens during a person's period is the same,



yet how that manifests in physical and mental symptoms is highly variable. Likewise, contraception operates the same in every person, but other effects, apart from preventing pregnancy, differ across individuals.

Finding what contraception works best for you can be taxing and frustrating. Like those of us who have gone through this process, Dr. Burgess wishes that a simple blood test could be done to identify what contraceptive would be the least symptomatic for a particular person. Often, the best a health professional can do is help you find contraception that doesn't induce the symptoms you're not willing to live with. In the case of the oral contraceptive pill, it might be switching to a pill with different hormone ratios. In the case of long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), it might mean changing to a different form altogether, i.e., from the Mirena to the Jadelle. Dr. Burgess recommends LARCs over a daily pill because they take away the human element of needing to remember to take it at the same time every day.

According to Dr. Burgess, using a period tracker app is the best way to see if your contraception is causing symptoms like low mood. (Sometimes, it can be hard to tell amongst everything else happening in our lives.) Many free ones are available, like Flow, Clue, and Period Tracker app. A person can record all sorts of information, not just bleeding days. This information can help identify patterns in your symptoms. You can also show this information to your doctor to help them give you the best advice.

I agree that this information is pretty anti-climatic (pun intended). Turns out

According to Dr. Burgess, using a period tracker app is the best way to see if your contraception is causing symptoms like low mood.

there are very few things we can do to change the situation apart from doing a PhD and conducting the research ourselves or protesting about the bias in the academe. But at least there are studies showing that contraception has no long-term impacts on a person's fertility. Dr. Burgess says that once one stops contraception, a person's period should return to how it was always going to be.

Some other good news is that we are closer than ever to male contraceptives becoming available. There are plans to begin a trial in Australia that will hopefully replicate the positive findings of those done in the US.



Aotearoa is more likely to adopt male contraception once it has been tested in Australia because of the similarity in the rules of conducting research. One reason the development of male contraception has been slow is that clinical trials have had to be stopped. Trials have been stopped when men have reported experiencing low mood and other symptoms women typically experience on contraception. This has been the case even when the men said they would continue despite these symptoms... I'll let you make up your mind about that.

Four types of male contraception are currently being tested around the world. The one Dr. Burgess thinks is

At least these studies have shown no long-term impacts on a person's fertility. Dr. Burgess also says that once stopping contraception, a person's period will also return to how it was always going to be.

most likely to become available in Aotearoa the soonest is a topical gel. This gel is applied daily by the person to their upper arm—Dr. Burgess has no idea why it's a gel and needs to be applied to the arm. She guesses it has something to do with the psychology of pharmacology. The second option is an oral contraceptive pill. The gel and the pill work similarly to the combined oral contraception that females can use. Instead of having oestrogen and progestin, they contain testosterone and progestin. They stop testosterone from being produced and, therefore, sperm production.

The third and fourth options are non-hormonal. One is an injection being tested in India. The injection contains a polymer that blocks the vas deferens, the tube that transports sperm from the testes to the urethra. This will last about 15 years but can be reversed at any time with another injection containing a substance that dissolves the polymer. The fourth kind of male contraception has been trialled for two years, and so far, no one has gotten pregnant. This kind of contraception operates similarly to the third, except the polymer dissolves after one year. These injections would occur under local anaesthesia.

Contraception is an excellent thing for people who want to have sex but don't want a baby. Even though there is so much we still don't know, it's exciting that new solutions are on the way—especially ones that might make the burden of contraception more equal.

Decolonising Sex

Uncovering nearly lost stories of Indigenous sexuality



OMNI ARONA NGĀPUHI, NGĀTI WAI, AITUTAKI (HE/HIM)

Māori have lost so much from the attack on our language and culture. Part of that loss was what sexuality and gender identity looked like prior to the arrival of Europeans to Aotearoa. Many Māori activists and researchers are beginning to uncover and relearn much of what we thought was once lost. We are beginning to understand how historically, Māori society was known for its acceptance of sexuality and sexual diversity. Recounts are being unveiled with our traditional waiata, carvings, and karakia, which contain narratives pertaining to Māori perspectives prior to colonization.

With regards to sex, Māori perspectives were vastly different from European views. For Māori, sex before marriage was common and carried no stigma for women. George Forster, a British explorer on James Cook's second voyage, said, "Their (Māori) ideas of female chastity are, in this respect, so different from ours, that a girl may favour a number of lovers without any detriment to her character". Those bonded through political marriages were, however, forbidden from extramarital affairs. In pre-contact Māori society, young unmarried men and women had a high degree of sexual freedom. With the exception

When these men went to court, Māori whanau showed that they had no problem with homosexual intercourse. Not only that but within Te Ao Māori, there was no punishment for participating in non-cis sex.

of a few high-born women who were ceremonially betrothed, pre-marital sex was considered socially acceptable, though blatant promiscuity was frowned upon and a certain level of discretion expected.

Whilst uncovering pre-colonial Māori perspectives on sex, emerging histories indicate that being good at sex was something Māori took a lot of pride in. Being able to practice with different partners was key in being able to exercise one's sexuality and identify how they wanted. It was a point of pride and skill to be able to please one's partner.

When Cook first arrived in New Zealand, sexual activity between his crew and local Māori, both women and men, was a feature of their early encounters. Many explorers, sailors, and even missionaries had sexual relationships with Māori. An example of this was missionary William Yates, who lived with his male companion for two years in the Māori village of Waimate, before being expelled to England for homosexual behaviour with Māori men. When these men went to court, Māori whanau showed that they had no problem with homosexual intercourse. Not only that but within Te Ao Māori, there was no punishment for participating in same sex intercourse. What this tells us is that Western beliefs regarding homophobia, transphobia, and misogyny were not embedded into Māori society pre-European arrival. Having no punishment for same sex intercourse, The Christianisation of New Zealand appears to have been the biggest factor in introducing stigma towards same-sex relationships.

The implementation of Christianity and Western views drastically changed Māori structures regarding family, gender roles, identity, and sexuality. Māori were forced to assimilate to a

nuclear family structure, consisting of two parents and their children, which is now the norm within New Zealand. This runs adjacent to the Māori family structure called *whānau*. This term conceptualises the family to include all extended family through blood ties, in-laws, even extending to those who share whakapapa as well as strong



Māori perspectives were vastly different from European views. For Māori, sex before marriage was common and carried no stigma for women

social bonds with each other.

Māori sexual narratives are represented in much of our *haka* (weaving) and *Whaikairō* (carvings). It was common for

the female vulva to be depicted on the entrance way to meeting houses. Penises, sometimes erect, were also depicted in wood carving as a sign of virility and strength. In some cases, copulating couples were also depicted. These things were deeply troubling for European missionaries who went out of their way to have the "offending" carvings altered or removed, and depictions of sexual organs or acts destroyed, in accord with their own "sensibilities". This was coupled with an effort to remove any representation of Māori gods and figures as these missionaries saw it as a depiction of god in a form that was not correct in their eyes. The Catholic Church's efforts in Northland meant that *marae* in these areas did not display Māori art and carvings on our *marae*, further contributing to a loss of our culture and identity.

These Western notions led to vigorous attempts to change Māori perspectives and culture. Sexual organs in carvings were habitually removed or destroyed. *Waiata* and *karakia* that had explicit language in them were often redacted. Despite the openness with which Māori talked about sexuality, the Williams Māori-language dictionary only gave the meaning of sexual terms and body parts in Latin.

Overlapping with this loss of culture and identity, *wāhine* were stripped of their influence in many aspects. Men took on the primary roles within post-European-arrival society. Power began to shift from *wāhine* to *tāne* even within Māori families. *Wāhine* were pressured into assimilating towards British ideals of women in the Victorian era.

It is widely believed that men and

Western beliefs regarding homophobia, transphobia, and misogyny were not embedded into Māori society pre-European arrival.

It is widely believed that men and women's roles were both equally valued and respected in traditional Māori society.

women's roles were both equally valued and respected in traditional Māori society. The most powerful indication of this is embedded within the Māori language, as both the personal pronouns (*ia*) and the possessive personal pronouns (*tana/tona*) are gender neutral.

Takatāpui is a traditional Māori term meaning "intimate companion of the same sex" and has been increasingly reclaimed by Māori and adopted by those who are lesbian, gay, trans, and intersex, although the discourse is ongoing. "*Takatāpui*", which originally referred to a close companion of the same sex, fell out of use for many decades, but since the 1980s has been reclaimed as an inclusive term used by gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, and intersex Māori who feel the term is more representative of their identity than a Western label. It is a term that encompasses Māori spirituality and culture as well as sexuality. *Takatāpui rangatahi* are weaving together both Māori and LGBTQIA+ communities to promote the identities, health, and well-being of *Takatāpui* using an intersectional approach that takes into consideration the overlapping forms of oppression that these communities have faced.

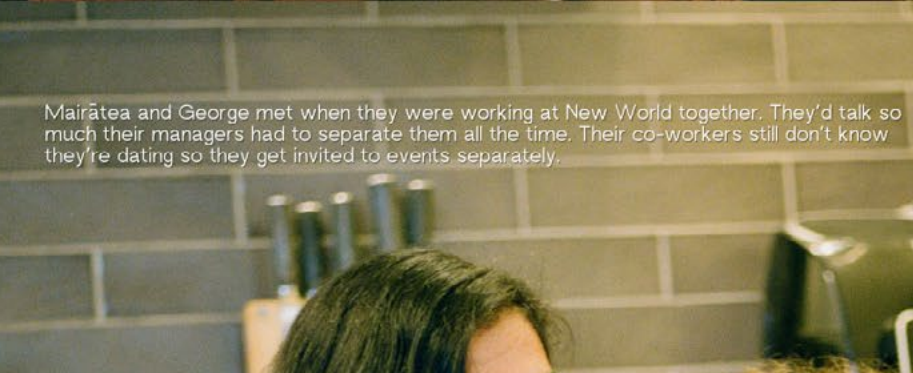
The challenge for Māori now is in continuing to rediscover and reassert our identity as Māori in a form that is true to ourselves, our culture, and our perspectives, in a form that distances ourselves from forced Westernisation. We must understand that an existence where men have power and authority over women and children is not in accordance with *tikanga* Māori. We must recognise that European beliefs and ideals have been imposed upon us: laws with which we have no affinity and that we have every reason to reject.



Danny and Ant had their tarot cards read before they decided to get together.



Danny drew an ace of pentacles, which apparently meant Ant was planting a seed in him.



Mairatea and George met when they were working at New World together. They'd talk so much their managers had to separate them all the time. Their co-workers still don't know they're dating so they get invited to events separately.





Topia's pickup line was "You could be the 'u' in my uTopia".

After their first date, Gabbie didn't plan on seeing Topia again.



Evelina had a crush on Aidan for a while before they started dating, but Aidan's friend had a thing for her, which complicated things for Aidan.



Kate and Isla were in a long-distance relationship for two years before they moved in together. During that time, Isla directed her first show outside of high school and Kate flew down to Christchurch for a weekend to surprise her in the audience.



FILM

FIRE OF LOVE

DIR. SARA DOSA



MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY
(SHE/HER)

This documentary is set to be the hottest film of the summer—in a slightly more literal way. *Fire of Love* is packed with jaw-dropping imagery of scientific exploration, and unexpectedly makes for a really steamy date night rom-com.

Made up of stunning archival film footage, and supplemented with delightful pop-up book animations, the film follows the lives of **Katia** and **Maurice Krafft**. The couple are two French volcanologists who risked their lives throughout the second half of the 20th Century to study active volcanoes, often with more excitement and awe than horror. The film tracks their love story, from the initial mythic meeting (chance meeting on a bench at university/a glance across the room at another volcanologists talk/an excellent blind date), to their passing in the 1991 Mount Unzen eruption.

The beautiful footage captured by Katia and Maurice themselves is the immediate draw of the documentary. Their recordings capture them within metres of red hot lava flows, standing

in front of terrifying explosions, and cheekily frying eggs on hot lava rock. Some of the footage looks like it's from an alien planet—the decimated surroundings of Mount St. Helens' post-eruption is so eerie, and the underwater footage of lava meeting the ocean is a surprising and strange organic wonder.

Erin Casper and **Jocelyne Chaput** are the real heroes in bringing the film to life, weaving the Krafft's footage together to amplify both tension and the couple's sense of humour. The narration by **Miranda July** also works to bring some closer insights to the couple's relationship and the impacts of their work, providing a sense of closeness and intimacy to people whose bravery and resilience seems so foreign.

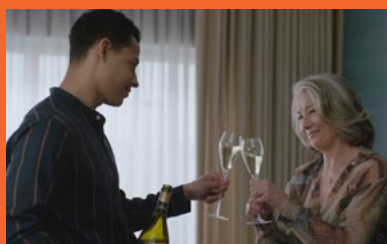
The documentary is not deeply focused on the scientific knowledge that Katia and Maurice built over the span of their careers, giving only brief descriptions of basic volcanic science. Instead, it's more interested in exploring how this couple lived with the allure and fear of volcanoes. The presence of their voice recordings and diary excerpts help to draw out their unique perspectives and give clear, enticing insights into their psychologies and philosophies. At one point, Katia explains, "I like when he walks in front of me. If he is going to die, I'd rather be with him." Through the documentary, it becomes clear that their partnership is what drives them to such extraordinary

heights. By the time the film ends, you'll also be deeply in love with their incredible characters.

While it's, of course, a deeply awe-inspiring film, it's also funny, and exciting, and sad, and nerve-wracking. There are moments of unexpected levity. At one point, Maurice rows a rubber boat out onto an acid lake, and Katia is furious with him. In another instance, the narrator explores the crafting of their media personalities, and shows footage of them making the same jokes again and again. A real highlight is when the film reflects on Maurice's talents and enthusiasm for film-making (which he rejects publicly), showing a clip from his collection where scientists ride horses at the base of a volcano, as if they're in a Hollywood Western. Awe is a central part of the scientist's journey, but the film asserts that all of these other emotions and exploits are part of their lives together too.

You may feel inspired to fall deeply in love and climb the many volcanoes of Tāmakī Makaurau after watching *Fire of Love*. It's an intimate and inspiring documentary, with an element of thrill that's completely unique—you'll leave feeling fulfilled and clamouring for a similar dedication for your passion.

Explosive and intimate, *Fire of Love* is the most awe-inspiring romantic film there is.



FILM

GOOD LUCK TO YOU, LEO GRANDE

DIR. SOPHIE HYDE


 GRACE BURTON-MCKEICH
(SHE/HER)

Good Luck to You, Leo Grande is a highly realistic depiction of sexual relationships—the act and the emotions. Perhaps that's what makes the movie so original. We rarely see sex on screen that isn't orgasmic and prefaced with fears and doubts. Nor do we see the stories of those unable to act on their desire; whether that's the result of internalising societal messages about who should and shouldn't have sex; or relationships' power dynamics that prevent a person from asking for what they want. If you've ever struggled to overcome a less-than-sex-positive view of sex, this feature will make you feel seen, regardless of how much younger you are than the film's 60-something-year-old lead, Nancy Stokes. While the movie is centred around Nancy's goal to have her first orgasm, it explores so many other ideas, including the precarity of sex work, self-acceptance, and ageism.

If you're in the mood to watch something wholesome, enlightening, and calming, then *Good Luck to You, Leo Grande* is a great way to spend 1hr 37 minutes of your life.



FILM

AFTER

DIR. CASTILLE LANDON



ANON

Over the last decade or so, there has been a wild increase in the production of so-called 'fanfic films'. We've had *Fifty Shades of Grey*, *The Kissing Booth*, *365 Days*, *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*, and, arguably the worst addition to the genre, *After*. The five (!?) *After* films are based on a book that was first published as a 'dark' Harry Styles alternative universe fanfiction. Mr Styles is a mysterious, tatted up English university student, who falls for reader-insert Tessa. In all iterations of the story, the two begin a toxic, on-and-off relationship, and, of course, sex is a key part of the narrative.

Fanfiction is not inherently terrible, despite the ongoing meme-ing and cultural ridiculing of its existence. It's a space to challenge copyright, an opportunity to lower barriers of access to budding writers, and a place where norms of representation can be disputed. However, the representation of relationships and sex in fanfic films that are being made for young audience is completely crap. In *After*, a relationship with absolutely no respect is made sexy, and the sex itself is largely based on some type of manipulation. The best way to enjoy this film is laughing at it, with pals or a partner (though even that becomes tiresome). There's better fanfic out there—if five versions of this story can be made, there's no excuse for not finding ones of actual quality.

Do better.



1. Forever Is A Charm

 Princess
Chelsea

2. No Drama

Hans Pucket

3. Ripship Is Online

Ripship

4. The Way It Works

Soaked Oats

5. Waterfall Fireball

Kraus

6. Fall Back Down

Jim Nothing

7. Mask

Michael Logie

8. Animal Attic

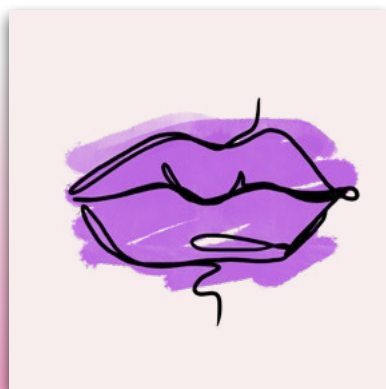
 Blue Mt
Lumber

9. Ism

Half Hexagon

10. Knees Deep

The Beths



MUSIC PLAYLIST

This Is: Sexy As

CRACCUM EDITORIAL TEAM

Hey, baby. Why don't you turn down the lights and slip into something more comfortable? We're about to do all the work for you... Attune your sexy time to our picks and you'll have no trouble getting in the mood.

Baby by Donnie and Joe Emerson

This track grants the perfect background mood to drop that smooth line you've been holding on to all night... even if it's to that ethereal being in the mirror. It's got smooth oooohs, a steady rhythm, and adoring lyrics. Chuck it on repeat for a romantic and lovely time.

Come Over by The Internet

This song will definitely have you Coming All Over, alright. Syd's raspy croon has me on my knees immediately. Yes mommy.

Put On Repeat by Sabrina Claudio

You could actually put this song on repeat and just fuck all night long to be honest. With Sabrina crooning "he likes to compare me to wine / over and over he tastes me / only gets better with time" in the background? Girl. Bedsheets are gonna turn into a swimming pool with this one.

Whoa by Snoh Aalegra

Just had the picture-perfect date and looking to get that slow burn sexy groove on? This is the song for you. Let Snoh's silky smooth voice take you straight into the bedroom. The moment this song comes on, candles automatically light up, ambient lighting is on, and your crusty ass mattress becomes a soft cloudy heaven to your date. Promise you won't regret it.

OPEN UP by Daniel Caesar

Alright this one is for the fuckboys in the room. And I mean that in the most gender neutral way. With a deep bassline that resonates right down to that bu\$\$y and lyrics such as: "I don't feel like talking unless it's about me, or philosophy.. can we just get down to business?", you'll be tapping and gapping like a pro in no time.

Dress by Taylor Swift

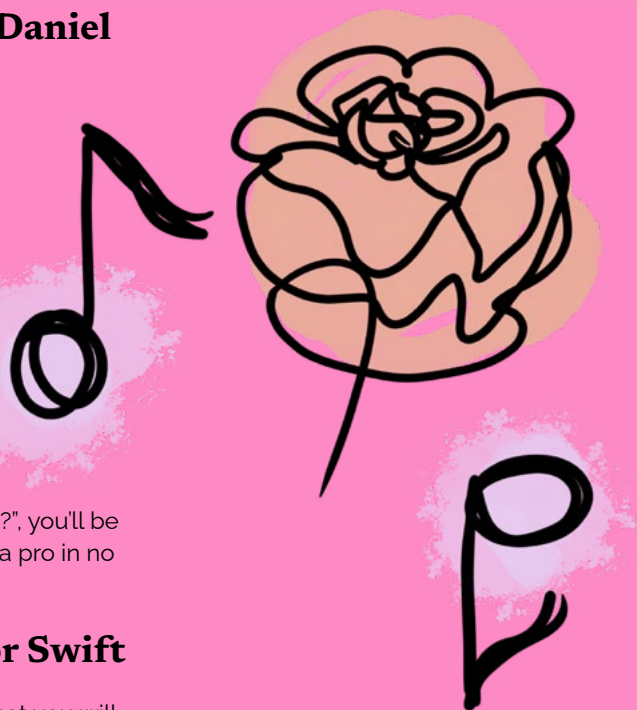
Take what you will, say what you will. Swiftie propaganda will never stop as long as you have one on the team. Miss Blondie declared it was time for Swifties to have our sexual awakenings when *Reputation* came out in 2017. 'Dress' literally has moaning in it so you can't blame us for laying pipe!

Careless Whisper by George Michael

This one is a classic for a reason. Just try not to imagine your parents doing it when you hear this song, okay?

Can't Get Enough of Your Love by Barry White

If this song is enough to get Aunt Fanny in *Robots* going, then there's no doubt it's going to work for you too. The



sultry tunes and husky voice will have tingles running up and down your spine, and grease up the gears to get things moving.

The Sims Theme by Steve Jablonsky

This one is for all you BDSM aficionados out there. With this banger from *The Sims 3 Official Soundtrack*, you'll be the ultimate mood-maker to set the sexy tone just right. Transfer those feelings of playing God in the game into the bedroom. You're in control, daddy. Want me to leave dishes on the floor that I can't walk around? That's so dirty.





My Boy is for The Boys

On his latest album, Marlon Williams is still a loveable weirdo—but he's finally growing up.



ARELA JIANG (HE/HIM)

My Boy, the third album by **Marlon Williams**, paints a very different sonic landscape than its predecessors. Gone is the lovesick sap that was Marlon; in his place stands a man not quite wise yet, but getting there.

Starting out strong with the title track, 'My Boy' is a stunner for summer. Everything about this song feels so cheerful and lighthearted, it's kinda cheesy (in a good way). A gentle Māori strum (Marlon's words) of an acoustic guitar grounds the song, with Marlon's coos of 'doos' and 'woos' popping up throughout. It makes for blissed out listening.

On my first playthrough, I jumped onto Google and searched "Marlon Williams bisexual?". With lyrics like "He

don't suffer my mistakes, I love him / He's why I'm what I am / nothing can touch my boy", could you blame me? Yes, it seems, you can. When you give it another listen though, everything becomes clear: he's talking about that love you feel for your best mate, your dad, your brother. You know, those platonic relationships between guys that get people feeling a bit toxically masculine. And Marlon sings about these bonds so innocently, with an honest earnestness that it doesn't feel revolutionary—it's just a guy, singing about loving his boy (friends). But a small revolution it still is, made better by the fact it's just a groovy song.

Rediscovering identity, or at least, exploring one's identity and how that relates with the wider world reigns

as a consistent theme throughout. Marlon continues this foray with 'My Heart The Wormhole'. It's the most chaotic song of the album that's full of silences breaking up raucous, almost Wild-West-sounding instrumental. 'Wormhole' plays out that awkward dynamic one has with their emotionally-distant Dad: "'Don't you dare speak to your father that way' That's what you say", Marlon laments, "I'm still a boy and you're still a king".

Not all songs on *My Boy* are deep—some are just bangers for the sake of being bangers. The hypnotic 'River Rival' is a synth-driven grower not a shower. You can't help but get a bit mental as the tune builds towards a final meltdown of vocals and keys. 'Thinking of Nina' is probably the most

sensual the album gets. You're instantly hooked with hints of 80s nostalgia, and a song that wouldn't seem out of place on an A-ha album. And Marlon really hits it out of the park with 'Don't Go Back', a spiritual successor to 'Party Boy' from his second album. There are owl noises and foreboding whisper-singing of party anxiety, spun together as a cautionary tale of dark nights on the park. Point taken, Mr Williams.

Some songs don't quite hit the mark though. 'Soft boys make the grade' is an introspective lament on masculinity and a critique of the modern pursuit of love, with Marlon impassioned and showing off his rather impressive vocal abilities. The lyrics, unfortunately, may need an upgrade. They come off a bit too whimsical and maybe for a



Gen-Z listener, cringey. "Coulda wrote it all down in a letter; But here I am in your DMs"—just the mention of social media, unironically, cannot be taken seriously. 'Morning Crystals' has an old-timey quality to it and a bit of mania thrown in. Resuscitating old country music tastes and interspersing upbeat, almost luau guitar at random times, 'Morning Crystals' throw you a bit off your guard with the tonal shifts. Unfortunately, it's not quite as charming as it thinks it is.

It may not soar to the heights of *Make Way For Love*, but *My Boy* is full of gems for old and new listeners alike. Marlon Williams set out to reinvent new sounds and explore new ideas, and for that it's worth a listen.





Intimate Wanderings

A walk through Walls to Live Beside, Rooms to Own



MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY (SHE/HER)

The many Covid lockdowns brought some strange, invasive moments when boundaries between public and private were blurred, and, in some cases, completely demolished. As Zoom became a staple of both our student and work lives, we were forced to adapt to a new reality, where all of our responsibilities had to be fulfilled in our intimate spaces (with the exception of essential workers).

Walls to Live Beside, Rooms to Own explores this experience from the perspective of artists. With the materials and environments of the home being key touchpoints, the works look to understand the relationship between interior spaces and the practice of creating art. Different mediums are explored and there's real variety captured among the pieces, but the sense of intimacy and homeliness remains clear throughout.

In some instances, the exhibition interprets the blurred boundaries in a way that is really playful. Sculptural artists commonly play with a sense of balance and suspension, stacking unlikely, homely items on top of each other. Segments of rooms seem to be gently lifted and placed within the gallery, without too much disturbance. In the larger spaces, where multiple

sculptures and pieces are combined, it feels as if you're in a slightly liminal space—which can be delightfully eerie.

Two artists included within the exhibition have been commissioned by the gallery. One is Tim Wagg, an ELAM alumni. Wagg's piece 'Youth Portrait' is a video, which captures real-estate agent Jadyn Dixon in his work, and explores the wider contexts and ideologies of the industry. It's a standout approach within the exhibition, and a watch that seems to inform the way you continue to engage with the surrounding pieces.

The other commissioned pieces come from Fiona Connor, another ELAM graduate. Through pieces 'Walls #1–#6 and #8 (featuring Rob Gardiner)' Connor creates seven walls that are inspired by actual interior walls dispersed throughout the wider Auckland and Waikato regions. Engaging with Connor's work feels much more familiar and intimate, and the sculpture highlights the architecture of the home in a direct manner.

It's likely, as the show goes on at the gallery, that the pieces will come to have different meanings. The context outside the walls, such as the wider anxieties and issues in housing, and



TOP LEFT: FIONA CONNOR WALLWORKS (TREVOR VICKERS), INSTALLATION VIEW MUMA 2014, PHOTO ANDREW CURTIS.

TOP RIGHT: TIM WAGG YOUTH PORTRAIT, 2022 (INSTALLATION VIEW), COMMISSIONED BY AUCKLAND ART GALLERY TOI O TĀMAKI, 2022

ABOVE: FIONA CONNOR WALLS #1–#6 AND #8 (FEATURING ROB GARDINER), 2022 (INSTALLATION VIEW), COMMISSIONED BY AUCKLAND ART GALLERY TOI O TĀMAKI, 2022

the negotiations of our relationships with home in a potential post-lockdown future will be ongoing tensions that impact the way we view these pieces. The fact that the exhibition reaches into our past reveals how these materials, and our relationship to the place that they come from, are ever-present. *Walls to Live Beside, Rooms to Own* is an exhibition that offers up some comfort and empathy for our relationship to home—sometimes delighting and sometimes strange, but always interesting.

WALLS TO LIVE BESIDE, ROOMS TO OWN: THE CHARTWELL SHOW IS ON DISPLAY AT TOI O TĀMAKI AUCKLAND ART GALLERY UNTIL 26 MARCH 2023.

The Halfway-to-40-Year-Old Virgin

When did sex become something to tick off a scorecard?



EMILY SMITH (SHE/HER)

I don't know when the transition from "you've had sex?!" to "so, did you have sex yet?" began. I think somewhere between the ages of 17 and 18. That's when you're meant to be done with the 'awkward' phase. The phase where your mum drops you and your date off at the movies, and you watch whatever shitty Marvel film has just come out. You awkwardly reach out to hold hands, and both your palms are weirdly sweaty. Then you go and have clumsy sex in your childhood bedroom, and it's both your first times and it's incredibly uncomfortable. I don't know. I never got that far.

You're meant to be knowledgeable about these things after you turn 18. Sex is simple! There's nothing attached to it. You don't overthink it. Casual hookups abound! You don't have to be good at it, or have a lot of it, but you should've done it at least once, right? Everyone expects you to have all the secrets of life figured out by the time you hit 19.

When a friend sent me the Instagram post asking for contributors for the Sex Issue of *Craccum*, I was pretty taken aback. He thought I'd be interested in writing something. My first thought was, "Really? Writing about the sex I don't

have?" The sex I don't have *is* my story. It's a story about crippling insecurities and uncertain desires, and not knowing if you like boys, or girls, or both, or neither.

No, I'm not waiting for marriage. I'm not religious, I don't have strict parents. I'm just a 20-year-old virgin who has no idea how the schematics work. I know bits and pieces, of course. The actual act is straightforward. The before and after are what confuses me.

The Before: Do you need to wax strip every piece of hair on your body off? Makeup? What do you wear? Do you go comfy or sexy? Does it matter? Won't it come off anyway? Do I get to keep my glasses on?

The After: Do you leave straight away? Do you compliment each other on your performances? Go for a high-five? Give quarterly reviews? I know you're meant to pee after. How do you smoothly segue into that?

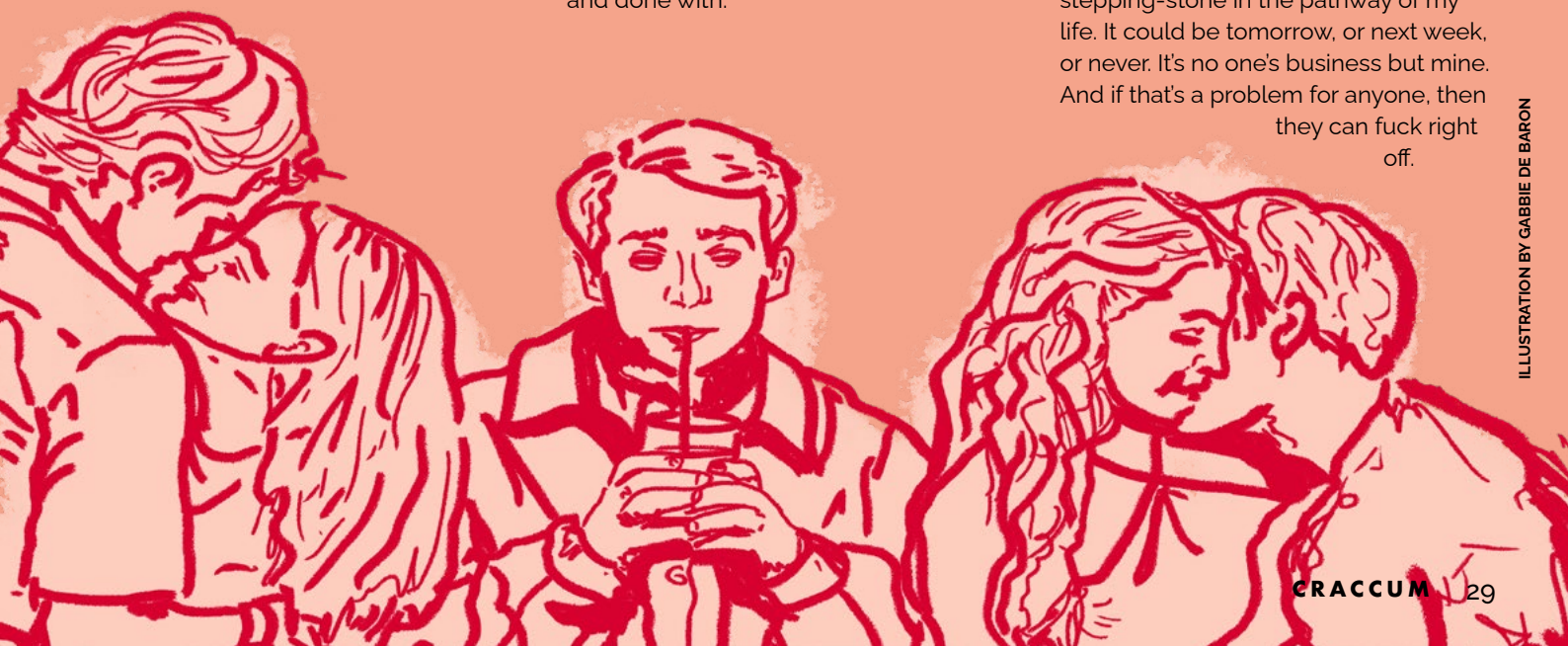
Hook-up culture makes it seem so easy. I get Tinder messages asking to link up all the time; like, right then, right now. No prep time whatsoever, like forgoing a home-cooked meal for instant ramen. Maybe it is easy! Emily, just bite the bullet and do it. Get it over and done with.

But, my insecurities dig their slimy fingers into my brain as they take hold of my hands and type out "oh hahaha, not for me sorry".

A few months ago, I was hanging out with a few of my friends. The conversation shifts to the men in our lives (or lack thereof). Whenever I chime in, one of my friends gives me a look that verges on pity. "Emily," she says finally, "the problem is that when you do find someone, you won't have any experience." "Well," I counter desperately, "if they're the right person, then it won't matter." And she chuckles as if I am a child, oblivious to the otherworldly ethereal realm of sex.

Thinking about that now, as I write this, I am still angry. Is my virginity the sum of my worth when I'm being scouted by potential partners? The make or break? The dirty, shameful little secret? Are you kidding me? It's as if sex is some sacred rite of passage I have not yet completed. I've yet to cross the holy threshold into the land of casual flings, drunken sex, and dollar-store lube.

The day I cross into that land might seem groundbreaking at first, but I doubt it will really matter. I'll still look the same, feel the same, and have the same goals. Just another little stepping-stone in the pathway of my life. It could be tomorrow, or next week, or never. It's no one's business but mine. And if that's a problem for anyone, then they can fuck right off.

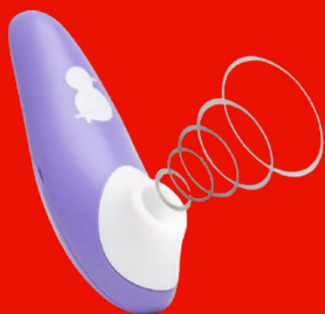




CRACCUM CRAC(CUM) COMMUNITY

DISCLAIMER: LOVEHONEY VERY GENEROUSLY SENT THESE SEX TOYS TO THE CRACCUM COMMUNITY TO REVIEW, BUT THE OPINIONS ARE THE REVIEWERS' OWN.
STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO GET 20% OFF THEIR PURCHASES WITH UNIDAYS ALL YEAR ROUND.

Over the mid-semester break *Craccum* received a package in the mail that contained various 'massage apparatuses' from Lovehoney. None of our writers have made it out of their beds since. They have, however, managed to take a break from their continuous orgasms to write a live report for you, dear horny *Craccum* reader. Read on to find out which toys are good enough to replace a partner—because if you're buying a sex toy in this economy, it'd better be worth it... if you know what we mean ;).



LOVEHONEY X ROMP SWITCH CLITORAL SUCTION STIMULATOR

JOE MAMA

Okay, so this Miss Thing took me by surprise. Don't let her small size fool you, she's pretty well-powered (comes with batteries!) to do the job.

Compact, grippable, gender-neutralish purple design—she packs a punch for the price. She's giving you six intensity levels using "Pleasure Air Technology" and a 300 minute runtime. I couldn't tell you what Pleasure Air Technology is but it feels pretty good, let me tell you.

Its biggest disappointment has to be the slow-response time in shutting the fuck off. You know when you're done doing what needs to be done, and almost instantly everything needs to STOP or your clit will fall off? Well, unless you establish a mind-toy connection where you can synchronise an orgasm with the switch off, you may get your clit fried a bit until you adjust. The shutdown button isn't as reactive as some may desire, so just a heads (so no head?) up.

For the poor man (or gender anything person), it's a good enough wanna-be Satisfyer Pro 2 for the struggling, sexed-up student. 6.9/10.



LOVEHONEY DELUXE RECHARGEABLE MINI METALLIC MASSAGE WAND VIBRATOR

ANASTASIA CUMIN

The Deluxe Rechargeable Mini Metallic Massage Wand Vibrator from Lovehoney is a fun, two-in-one toy that can serve orgasms and relieve muscle tension.

It has seven different patterns, each with ten intensity levels. The first pattern is just your classic vibration and can get a girl there quickly. I don't think the other patterns are as efficient for climaxing, but they're still fun to experiment with. If your sexy time was body-pump-class-esque, or you just have some tight muscles, the toy's other patterns come in clutch. Because the vibrator is much more compact than a massage gun, you can easily target hard-to-reach knots.

The ribbed head of the toy is super flexible, making it easy to manoeuvre into the spots that feel best. However, the head ribbing doesn't add to the experience and makes cleaning a bit more difficult. Another con is that it's a bit loud. Not so loud that your entire household will hear it, but the kind of loud that you might want to make sure your flatmate is watching TV or at least not in the room next to yours before you turn it on.

This vibrator is a cute addition to a person's toy collection. It's compact, easy to use, and offers plenty of variation.



MY ILO REMOTE CONTROL RECHARGEABLE G-SPOT AND CLITORAL VIBRATOR

DOM DRAPER AND PEGGED OLSON

When my bum buddy and I sought after some spice for our next visit to Lula's Inn, what better way to top off the viaduct view with a top-of-the-line orgasm that's at a stranger's fingertips?

We almost achieved this dream; courtesy of Lovehoney.

The My ilo Remote Control Rechargeable G-Spot and Clitoral Vibrator is a butler that can work many charms, as proven by our inability to make it to the door. However, its flattened shape combined with the edges is slightly off putting. The vaginal walls definitely learned their lesson with this one.

Any idealist, like ourselves, wishes to subtly equip this boneshaker unbeknownst to the thanked bus driver. Even with its clearly orgasmic movements, it seems the stimulator screams louder than us. You can hear the exploration of nine vibrations as they are frantically scrolled through using the singular button on the remote. One fatal misclick and you, unfortunately, have to trudge all the way through the vibrations to get back to your pleasure paradise.

This trembler does the trick, but a slight change in shape, intuitive controls, and a *discrete* approach to the vibrations would mean our next venture to Pak'n'Save wouldn't just be during meat week.

A remote vibrator: a high-end dream for some, a disappointing reality for others.



MY ILO RECHARGEABLE SILICONE CLITORAL EGG VIBRATOR AND LOVEHONEY ENJOY WATER-BASED LUBRICANT

IRONHIDE

Let's call it "the egg"; my first big girl sex toy. Big girl meant it was rechargeable and a sex toy I could do regularly. It comes with a bag and a little card that tells you how to use it, plus, tips for introducing partner play! Spicy.

It's great, let's enumerate. Firstly, this toy proves that size doesn't matter. I can literally hold it in the palm of my hand and it's so bendable—also proving I don't need to ride a throbbing stiff cock to get to cum city. It's like a tongue, if a tongue never gets tired. Secondly, it only takes 90 minutes to charge for 90 minutes of straight bouncing. Charge it once a week, and it's playtime every night. The last and best reason: it looks like a skincare device. If you've had to move back home—in this economy—you know it's essential for sex toys to camouflage.

The lube also looked like hand sanitizer, but it got us dripping dirty. I don't feel comfortable putting lube up my vag, so I've learned to enjoy lube for handjobs. Just rub two pumps all over the d'ck, like you're applying lotion, slowly and tightly. Wanna get your mouth on it? It doesn't taste bad either. The only downside is it does dry out quite quickly, because it's water-based—so it doesn't ruin rubber or silicone—but compared to l'xe or d'rex lube, this one was way thicker and had cum-like texture. So hot, so heavy.

11/10. The egg and the lube. They look so normal, but help you get so freaky, it's crazy!

Firstly, this toy is gorgeous. It's sleek, the silicone feels soft and supple, and the grip is intuitive.

Sadly, looking pretty is about it for this toy. It's... fine? It's a vibrator, and it does what it's supposed to do, but there's nothing mind-blowing about it. It has a three hour run time from a 1.5 hour charge, and it's waterproof; I won't lie and say I didn't have a good time in the shower with it. The toy is also designed for both vaginal and anal play, but in all honestly, it didn't do anything for me in the front department. The shape is very well designed to slip up a tight ass, though, as I found out in the shower.

Personally, I think this toy works best as an external vibrator. The eight patterns are nice, but some of them do feel a bit too complex—this isn't a DnB remix. The turning on/off and cycling mechanisms do take a bit to get used to, but after a couple minutes become pretty natural. Overall, I felt like this toy was trying to do too much, and it ended up doing almost nothing.

Sometimes multitasking is a good idea, and sometimes it's better to focus on one thing at a time.



MY ILO CURVE RECHARGEABLE SILICONE G-SPOT VIBRATOR

ANN AL

SEX AND THE UNI

What Does a Girl Have to Do to Get Fucked Around Here?

Life can't always be like Sex and the City, especially when you're busy doing an assignment or cramming for an exam, but fear not—we're here to help! You didn't ask for relationship or sex advice, but we're giving it to you anyway. Between the two of us—Samantha Bones and Cuntly Bradshaw—we're gonna make sure you have the best sex of your life and cum doing it!

How do I ask my partner to get into some freaky shit? I'm tired of vanilla sex.

Samantha Bones: You've answered your own question babes: just ask. Despite what Samantha Jones says in S6Ep2, 'Great Sexpectations' at 14:40—"honey when it comes to sex, spray it don't say it"—you should most definitely say it. Because without saying it, you won't get to spray it. Capiche?

My namesake is right though, the only words that should be said in bed *are* dirty ones. So, wash that mouth out with garbage, because it's time to get filthy. Sometimes it's easier to vocalise what you want in bed when you're already horny. Don't spring it on them out of nowhere, of course—you can preface the act with some non-horny talk outside of the bedroom. Maybe tell them you'd like to try something new. Discuss both of your respective boundaries, as well as your desires. And the next time you get down, try saying something like: "it'd be so hot if we..." or, "I really want...". Trust me, it's life-changing. And hearing your fantasies out loud? Mmm. You'll be on your way to tied-up, spank-fest, kink-town in no time. And if your partner kink-shames you, well, maybe you guys have more to worry about than just your sex life.

Cuntly Bradshaw: The thought of asking is more daunting than it actually is. Chances are, if you want to try something new, your partner might also be in the same boat. There's nothing sexier than talking to each other about what turns each of you on—well, except for actually doing it. Communication is key in a relationship, especially in the bedroom. And, trust me on this one, trying something new will spruce up your relationship—even if you both tried it and didn't like it.

Dear Samantha Bones and Cuntly Bradshaw, what are your best sex tips?

Samantha Bones: Firstly, and I cannot stress this enough: masturbate. Masturbate in the shower, masturbate in bed, masturbate in the lounge and kitchen when your flatmates aren't around, masturbate in your car, masturbate with toys, or the good ol' fashioned matihao manual. Okay just kidding about some of those, you can masturbate wherever you're comfortable with. My point is: get to know yourself and what you like. Try different types of porn: audio, visual, written, and try no porn at all. What comes to mind? What makes you cum faster than Forrest Gump in that one scene where he loses his v-card? Now you know what you want, find someone

who makes you feel safe and explore these fantasies with them.

Secondly, learn how to verbalise your wants and desires. No matter how many *Twilight* fantasies you have, you'll never find a person who can actually read minds. Trust me. I spent so long having bad sex because I felt awkward about telling others that what they were doing just wasn't it for me. But everyone appreciates a little guidance in bed, and being a little more vocal could really get you singing, if you get my gist.

Cuntly Bradshaw: Absolutely agree with Samantha on this one. Getting to know yourself and being able to communicate what you like to your sexual partner are two of the most important things when it comes to having good sex. But also, listening and responding to what your partner likes is equally important. You want to make sure everyone's having a good time, after all. Finally, be open to trying new things! You never know what you might end up enjoying.



"Please Fuck Me"

A non-comprehensive list of unhinged Grindr messages I've recieved



TIM EVANS (HE/HIM)

Hey fam, what's poppin'

White guys say the darndest things, don't they? This guy messaged me just as I'd moved to Auckland. I love his energy and enthusiasm, but he struck me just at the wrong time (during my great Grindr break of March/April). **7/10**

I'm keen as for some cock. Bet you got a nice big juicy one for me

Coming from a slightly older man, this was a little forward. Better yet, I had only just said hey to him. All he could see of me was my profile photo. Love his faith in me though. **8/10**

Want to be my god? Worship, rub and work every inch of your body and pleasure you until you cum on my face/mouth

"You've charmed me, you've got the job." Is that what he wanted to hear? I'm really not sure if this had worked for him in the past but I appreciate how dedicated he was to fuck me. I hope this man has touched grass or found a god of some form. **8/10**

Bring the dick over

Clear, direct and respectful for Grindr standards. Shoutout to this man for knowing what he wants and knowing how to get it. I did not end up meeting this man but honestly I would if he used this line again. **Very strong, 10/10**

I'm quite masculine in day to day life so quite enjoy being more submissive in bed and doing what I'm told

Firstly, this extreme twink with not an ounce of traditional masculinity in his photos or profile is almost definitely not "quite masculine". Secondly, I have no interest in telling him what to do. I'd put money that this guy works in finance. **6/10**

Don't worry about showering or spray, man smell turns me on

I'm not ashamed to say I continued this conversation and ended up having sex with this man. He was attractive and age appropriate, double tick. It wasn't until he asked me to pee inside him *after* I'd finished that I wanted to pump the brakes. **8/10**

Hey, are you a p-value <0.05? Because you're looking statistically significant.

Love a cheeky pickup line, King. This is bold, interesting, and it would usually pay off. Unfortunately, making a joke about stats is way too close to home for me and for that, you cannot be forgiven. I wish you the best, hopefully fucking someone much better at math. **So close chief, 9/10**

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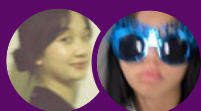
COMICS!



ANTON HUGGARD

ESTEEMED GRAPHIC NOVEL VISIONARY ANTON HUGGARD HAS BEEN PRODUCING ART FOR THE PAST SEVENTY-FOUR DECADES. OVER THIS STELLAR CAREER, HE HAS ACHIEVED SUCH SOARING HEIGHTS OF ARTISTIC SUCCESS AS PUBLICATION IN THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED *SALIENT* AND THE EQUALLY PRESTIGIOUS *CRACCUM*. DUE TO HIS THOUGHT-PROVOKING SOCIAL COMMENTARY, HE HAS BEEN CALLED "THE BANKSY OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE", AND "THE MICHAEL ANGELO OF OUR GENERATION". BEING A HUMBLE AND MYSTERIOUS FIGURE, HE HAS DECLINED TO COMMENT FOR THIS BIO. FOR MORE, VISIT LARRIKINS.CO.NZ.

WHAT dating app ARE YOU?



NANCY GUO (SHE/HER) AND GABBIE DE BARON (SHE/HER)

The dating app realm is full of strange characters. You've got horndogs that just wanna have fun, junkies looking for their next hit of external validation, old-fashioned romantics desperately searching for 'the one', and the bored profile-swipers. Chaotic mish-mash of personalities aside, every app also comes with its own vibe. Complete the quiz below to find out which dating app you most resemble.

What's your most major red flag?

- a) Probably my commitment issues and ability to suck the moisture out of any convo.
- b) Settling for toxic people, and my chronic dependency on external validation.
- c) Falling head over heels for anyone that shows me the slightest bit of attention.
- d) Call me a material girl, but I just appreciate and seek the finer things in life.

What's your most major green flag?

- a) I always know how to have a good time.
- b) My ability to hand out infinite second chances, and making sure everyone is taken care of.
- c) My vivid imagination and being able to romanticise any situation.
- d) My unstoppable drive. I know what I want, and I get what I want.

It's a Friday night. What are you doing?

- a) Probably you.
- b) I'm free. What do you want to do?
- c) Watching a rom-com and crying over my non-existent love life.
- d) Working... But for you, baby, anything.

What do you look for in a partner?

- a) I'm on the lookout for an absolute catch—the bigger the fish they're holding in all of their photos, the better.

- b) The bare minimum. But extra brownie points if they're respectful and/or hygienic.
- c) Someone that will cuff me the fuck up—with a ring, not handcuffs!
- d) Six-digit salaries and above. Someone that's not afraid to spoil me.

Your bedsheets are...

- a) Plain scratchy ones that I got from Kmart.
- b) Organic cotton. I gotta protect my skin and the environment
- c) Sheets from my childhood, or whatever my parents bought me.
- d) Silk. Sexy, sexy silk.

What's your love language?

- a) Physical touch.
- b) Words of Affirmation.
- c) Quality Time.
- d) Receiving Gifts.

Mostly As: Tinder

You probably think you give off big dick energy, but all you are is a walking ick. At best, you're efficient, blunt, and convenient. Although you're always DTF, and your Snapchat score is in the seven digits (who still uses this app at this age?), you ain't fishing anyone with those grainy-ass thirst trap pics, or festival photos that require Sherlock Holmes to figure out who you are in the group.

Mostly Bs: Bumble

Oh humble Bumble. You give so much, and yet receive so little in return. Dating for you is straight-up philanthropy at this point. But, it's time to stop scraping the bottom of the barrel. Know your worth, raise that bar from the depths of hell, and stop settling for the barest of bare minimums.

Mostly Cs: Hinge

You're like Tinder, but the softboy/softgirl version. As an emotional thirst trap connoisseur, you prefer to show-off your dog, rather than your washboard abs or juicy badonkadonk. You're also not afraid to profess your undying love for a stranger with your arsenal of 'ironically' corny pick-up lines. But, behind your carefully crafted cool persona, you're just a downbad hopeless romantic like the rest of us, desperately looking for someone to watch movies with on a Sunday night.

Mostly Ds: SeekingArrangements

In this crumbling economy and cost-of-living crisis, we absolutely respect the material girl hustle. You know exactly what you're looking for, and if a special sugar daddy/mummy can provide that for you, that sounds like the ideal arrangement to us. Honestly, you're the only one who's winning in the dating game. Catching feelings and falling in love only ever ends in hurt and trauma, but \$\$\$ has always got your back.

Sexy Puzzles

P	C	T	D	P	S	A	D	D	L	I	N	G	Y
L	R	I	G	W	O	C	Y	S	I	O	S	L	I
Y	G	N	I	T	T	I	S	E	C	A	F	A	E
N	Y	L	F	R	E	T	T	U	B	L	G	R	A
L	C	S	G	R	O	S	S	I	C	S	O	O	R
H	U	O	O	L	T	S	T	A	R	F	I	S	H
O	D	G	S	E	L	F	L	O	V	E	E	B	E
E	D	I	I	C	O	R	K	S	C	R	E	W	O
R	L	G	W	O	R	R	A	B	L	E	E	H	W
M	I	S	S	I	O	N	A	R	Y	L	E	T	F
S	N	K	R	E	T	P	O	C	I	L	E	H	G
V	G	G	O	V	S	P	O	O	N	I	N	G	L
R	H	W	K	F	A	N	A	L	N	R	R	A	S
A	E	D	O	G	G	Y	S	T	Y	L	E	S	L

BUTTERFLY
 CORKSCREW
 FACESITTING
 ORAL
 HELICOPTER
 STARFISH
 WHEELBARROW
 MISSIONARY
 ANAL
 SELFLOVE
 DOGGYSTYLE
 SADDLING
 SCISSOR
 COWGIRL
 SPOONING
 CUDDLING

WORD SEARCH ↑

SUDOKU ↘

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

HOROSCOPES

With Mercury retrograde still in the works, the planets are spicing things up. Even Polly Pocket has been feeling a little out of it, despite her religious sage cleanses, and her tarot consultation business taking off. Retrograde or not, she still managed to decode your future for this week...

ARIES

The hustle and bustle of uni and work has taken its toll recently, but fear not, all of your hard work will pay off. You just gotta hang in there, we're almost at the final stretch!



TAURUS

This is your week to risk it for the biscuit. Whoever is on your mind deserves to know how you really feel! Don't worry, the universe has got your back.



GEMINI

Your soft emotional side is thriving this week. Get your ice cream and comfort movie ready, you'll need them to get through all the ups and downs heading your way.



CANCER

Ooh la la! The person you've been secretly pining over will start to feel the same. Be sure to bonk yourself out of obliviousness to not miss their subtle hints!



LEO

Surprise, surprise. There's another awful week in store for you. Have fun navigating missed deadlines, unopened messages, and cancelled plans babes.



VIRGO

Sad girl spring has struck and you're downbad with the blues. Use this time to self-reflect and work through those suppressed emotions.



LIBRA

The stars have been a little unkind to you folks recently. But don't worry, you're back in the good books. Suddenly, your life looks a little rosier and everything you've been worrying about will fall into place.



SCORPIO

Exhaustion has been the central theme of your September. It seems like you're becoming cumulatively more tired with each passing day. To avoid teetering near burnout, consider clearing out your schedule for some breathing room, you deserve it.



SAGITTARIUS

You're hot and you're cold, you're yes and you're no. It's clear that you've been a little all over the place emotionally. This is the time to ground yourself and make sense of that confusion.



CAPRICORN

Uncertainty and worry has dominated your energy this month. But fear not, your overthinking spiral is coming to an end, happier days are on the horizon.



AQUARIUS

Lately, life has been moving faster than you can keep up. You feel like you've blinked and the year is almost over. Instead of stressing about the things you haven't accomplished, take this opportunity to celebrate the milestones you have achieved.



PISCES

Welcome to your hermit era. You've had enough of the crazy, chaotic, and cold world. Embrace the cosy comforts of home and find solace in familiar faces.



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