

CRACCUM

ISSUE 21, 2019



Staying Positive After Diagnosis

Jonathan Van Ness' openness on his HIV status is a brave step to help his community

Mistaken Identity

The Thai trans and gender non-conforming communities battle to be recognised outside the binary

Dragging RuPaul's Racism

While it may be gay as hell, let's not forget that RPDR caters to a very white audience

EQUITY OFFICE – TE ARA TAUTIKA

Proud to support our Rainbow communities and Pride Week

The University supports a safe, inclusive and equitable environment through:

- Our LGBTQITakatāpui+ Student and Staff Network
- Faculty Rainbow Groups
- Legal name change support for transgender students
- Unisex toilets for gender diverse students and staff

Find out more
www.equity.auckland.ac.nz/rainbow



THE UNIVERSITY OF
AUCKLAND
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau
NEW ZEALAND

contents

- 04 EDITORIAL
06 NEWS SUMMARY
08 PATTY TIME

14 Pete Buttigieg

- 18 GENDER IDENTITY
20 JOHNATHAN VAN NESS
24 LEGENDS & ICONS

28 Reviews

- 30 RU PAUL
32 GEORGE MICHAEL
34 CHAT BOT

36 Crossword

- 38 THE PEOPLE TO BLAME

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

Send your ideas to:

News

news@craccum.co.nz

Features

features@craccum.co.nz

Arts

arts@craccum.co.nz

Community and Lifestyle

lifestyle@craccum.co.nz

Illustration

visualarts@craccum.co.nz

Need feedback on what you're working on?

subeditor@craccum.co.nz

Hot tips on stories

editor@craccum.co.nz



Your
bookstore on
campus!

100% student owned

ubiq.co.nz



Counting Ourselves

by CAMERON LEAKEY and LACHLAN MITCHELL

This week, Cameron Leakey and Lachlan Mitchell give Bailey a run for her money by completing the editorial a few hours before the deadline (just kidding, we wrote the tagline before we wrote the article and we're now writing this after deadline). For Pride Week this week we discuss how the queer community is doing.

Lachlan: *Counting Ourselves* released a report two days ago that details just how precarious things are for our transgender and non-binary siblings here in Aotearoa. This shouldn't be news to any self-described queer, gay or what have you. New Zealand activists and people that live these stories every day have been talking about this shit for years. The healthcare inequalities, the systemic ignoring of basic needs, the casual mockery from the public at large. This is not news – especially with how this disproportionately affects our Māori friends and family. But it is the first time that NZ has officially carried out a survey that directly talks to our transgender and non-binary population, and it is extremely important that you read it. It's easy to joke about effeminate pop culture references all day long, and god knows I do, but it's beyond time to get serious about things that aren't solely what middle-class white gays are interested in.

Cameron: This report is so important. Statistics New Zealand refused to ask about sexual orientation in the census. Reports and statistics about the feelings within the queer community are so vital to signalling to policymakers and legislators what needs to be done to further improve outcomes for the LGBTQ+ community. Gains have been made but there is always a continued need to advance the rights for the queer community to make equitable outcomes.

In preparing this edition, Craccum recognises how hard it can be to make a queer edition for the sheer nature of the diversity of our community. Experiences by some are not experienced by all.

With the Super Serious stuff spoken for, we hope you enjoy our Pride issue. Oh, we've got jokes. We've got very serious arguments. We've got a crossword. We should have saved Suzy Cato for this week, the icon that she is, but nothing we can do about that. C'est la vie.

COME CELEBRATE THE LAST DAY OF LECTURES

CLASS OF 2019

OCTOBER 25TH
FROM 6PM IN SHADOWS

IAN MUNRO

OTÔ
SAN
TETO



SHADOWS
BAR & EATERY

POSTER CHILD

RVLTN CREW

Student Death Goes Unnoticed in University Accommodation

BRIAN GU

A student's body was discovered in a Canterbury hall of residence last Monday, despite no-one having noticed for almost two months.

It was only after fellow residents noticed an odour that the student's body was discovered. It is yet unknown how the student passed, but a specialist police team has been called into the facility to investigate.

The student was a resident at the Sonoda Christchurch Campus, a fully catered first-year hall at the University of Canterbury (UC). The university website says the facility "provides pastoral care, events and activities suited to a younger, more vibrant and lively community".

Australian company Campus Living Villages (CLV), whom manage the Sonoda facility, announced they would conduct their own internal investigation towards the circumstances behind the student's death.

However, since *Stuff's* initial report, students have stepped forward criticizing the company's operations. Anonymous residents

described the living situation as "completely independent", while one student went as far to say "you could really fly under the radar there".

Education Minister Chris Hipkins has vocalized his own concern over the student's death, calling for a thorough investigation to be launched. "This tragedy raises a number of questions, and I expect the university to conduct a thorough investigation," he told reporters.

However, UC Vice-Chancellor Professor Cheryl de la Rey insisted that students were under diligent care in their halls of residence. "Despite the comprehensive pastoral care programmes in place, for us it is inconceivable to imagine how these circumstances could have occurred."

In the aftermath of this discovery, the university has been stringent in enforcing privacy; media swarming the university have been ordered off campus by a private security firm.

Both the UC and Campus Living Villages have chosen not to disclose further information to the media. It is understood that this is at the behest of the family's wishes for privacy.

New Zealand Students' Union Calls on Government to Set Minimum Standards for University Accommodation

DANIEL MEECH

The New Zealand Union of Student Associations - an organisation which sits above and provides support for university-level student unions, such as the Auckland University Student Association - is calling on the government to create a document outlining the minimum standard of care university hostels are required to provide.

The call comes after a university student was found dead in Canterbury University's Sonoda halls, eight-weeks after they had passed away.

NZUSA acting president Caitlin Barlow-Groome says tragic incidents like this are unacceptable. Too long was taken to discover the body, and something has to change. "We definitely need to see a minimum standard implemented around student accommodation," she told RNZ, and she wanted to see the government outline what that minimum standard is, as a means of holding universities and hall residences to account. Students should be able to find out "what actually is best care, and what does pastoral care mean when that's advertised," Barlow-Groome says.

According to the university's website, Sonoda hall is unique in

that it offers a "smaller close-knit community" with active "pastoral care" for residents. It costs more than \$400 a week (\$16,400 spread across a 41-week university year) to stay there. The hall is targeted towards students attending university for their first year.

Education Minister Chris Hipkins agrees that in this instance, the university failed to perform its duties as an accommodation provider. "No student should be left for that period of time unattended, uncared for when they're living in a hall of residence or a hostel," he says, "There's a duty of care that goes with operating a hall of residence or a hostel and clearly they haven't lived up to that in this situation ... If you're going into a hall of residence or hostel you're paying top dollar for not just a roof over your head but also for the pastoral care that goes with that. I think that clearly that has not been present in this case".

As of time of writing, Canterbury University and Campus Living - the two organisations responsible for the running of hostel - have not issued media statements. Both groups have refused to grant media access to the university halls, and students claim the pair have advised them not to speak out on the issue.

Vice-Chancellor McCutcheon Calls New Batch of White Supremacist Posters “Unfortunate”, But Says the University Will Not Remove or Condemn Them

DANIEL MEECH

The University of Auckland’s campus has played host to white supremacist posters for the second time this year. Students have reported finding blue stickers and multi-coloured posters scattered around the university’s quad area, law school, and general library. The stickers and posters encourage viewers to visit the webpage of a white supremacist group who wish “to build a new generation of capable, young white men who will assume the mantle of re-taking control of our own country”.*

The website – which details the group’s motives, and provides contact information for new recruits to get in touch – says one of the group’s many aims is to battle the “propaganda promoting incoherent ‘diversity’ and ‘anti-racism’”. Their other goals include ‘revitalizing’ the European culture in New Zealand, returning New Zealand into the hands of “strong men”, and stopping the government passing policies which are “at the expense of the European community”. According to the website, women, non-Europeans, and non-heterosexual individuals are strictly forbidden from becoming members.

Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon says although the group’s posters are “unfortunate”, they are protected by free speech. As a result, he will not be instructing staff to remove them from the university’s campus, and the university will not officially condemn the group or their message.

“I think there is a balancing act – and it’s particularly important at a university – between the rights of the people to free speech and the rights of people not to be upset by things,” McCutcheon told *Craccum*. In his view, the group’s anti-minority rhetoric does not constitute hate speech, and so there is insufficient reason for the university to intervene with the dissemination of their message.

“The stickers themselves aren’t illegal,” he says, and “the particular posters I have seen ... are not of themselves hate speech, they are not illegal, they are not inciting people to violence”.

“I know some people go from those posters to [the group’s website] and form a view that it’s a right-wing or white supremacist group and they may well be right. But [the group] are ... not illegal, and so I tend to the view that we should promote free speech wherever we can,” he told *Craccum*.

McCutcheon says he empathises with minorities who feel threatened by the appearance of white supremacist posters on the

university’s grounds. “I absolutely get that,” he told *Craccum*, “but I do think that in a university in particular – and in society generally – we should think quite carefully about boundaries on free speech where what is being said is not illegal”.

Auckland University Students Association President George Barton disagrees with McCutcheon. “While the Vice-Chancellor is correct in saying that we operate in a society that has free speech, we also operate in a university that strives, within that context, to be safe, inclusive and equitable for all students, as enshrined in the Student Charter,” he told *Craccum*. “In my view – and I think the vast majority of students’ views – that involves recognising that these kinds of views don’t belong in our university”. Barton told *Craccum* he would be speaking to university security and Campus Life about removing the posters.

This isn’t the first time white supremacist rhetoric has appeared on campus. Earlier in the year, university students reported finding similar posters plastered around Albert Park and the ClockTower. Around the same period, a group of post-graduate students lodged a formal complaint with the university, alleging a student with Neo-Nazi views had threatened them and made them feel unsafe.

At the time, Vice-Chancellor McCutcheon said reports of an increasing problem with white supremacists on campus were “unsubstantiated” and “utter nonsense”, but that the university would support anyone who said they felt unsafe on campus. McCutcheon also promised the university did not “condone any sort of harassment and will always act” against discrimination and harassment.

Two years before that, the university made headlines when lampposts and buildings around the General Library were covered with dozens of posters calling on white men to oppose “white genocide”.

Barton says AUSA “encourage students who see these stickers and posters to remove them”. McCutcheon also says that – while he personally believes the group are entitled to spread their message on university grounds – “if people want to take down other people’s posters, there isn’t a whole lot I can do about it”.

** Note: Craccum has chosen not to publicise the name of the white supremacist group, to avoid gifting the organisation undeserved publicity and attention. If you have a problem with this decision, you can email the News Editor at news@craccum.co.nz.*



On Patty: An Afternoon With Patrick Gower

AOTEAROA STUDENT PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Aotearoa Student Press Association speak with Patrick Gower about his 'On Weed' documentary.

How often does someone yell out "it's the fucking news" to you?

Once in the morning, once in the afternoon. Maybe once in the evening.

Why did you feel a need to make this documentary [Patrick Gower: On Weed] and show it to the world?

Weed is part of Kiwi life, right? When I was... at Vic uni, we'd get on the bongs every flat you went to... We'd be doing Bucky bongs Friday, Saturday nights. A lot of my mates were stoners; I wasn't really a stoner. But you know from time to time I'd have a suck on a Bucky

bong as well when I was at uni. And I think for lots of people, you know, weed in New Zealand is part of their life... And it's here, right? ... It's part of us. But it's illegal...

Here we got this plant ... that is part of our life but it's illegal and we don't understand it. We really don't understand it. We don't have research; there's a lot of myths around it... for a journalist this plant, this weed plant, this cannabis is the ultimate documentary. It is the ultimate journey into something in terms of finding out about something that is part of life but is hidden away for some reason we're not knowing about. And that's what journalists are meant to do is actually get out there and find shit out for people and tell them about it. And that's what this documentary is about; finding out about weed and telling

people more about it so that they can be informed in 2020 when they vote.

What do you hope to achieve with this documentary?

I don't care if people vote yes or no in 2020. What I do want to achieve is that people are more informed about cannabis. First thing that I want to achieve is that people are more informed about the medical powers of the plant. We've legalized medical marijuana in New Zealand but we're still waiting to actually bring it in so people can use it. And, every day that we wait, every day after making this documentary, I know that we're leaving people in pain because there are people out there that could use medical cannabis right now and would use it and it would help them; people suffering with cancer and stuff like that. So the first thing I want people to know is we need medical cannabis...

The second thing is when it comes to 2020 I want New Zealanders to be informed. I have found it really hard while making the documentary because I haven't been able to talk about cannabis, to sit on the sidelines and see people pro and con just yell at each other. And the debate goes nowhere. Kiwis are brighter than that. They need to understand more about things. And I just want people to be informed... That's not saying I'm pro-cannabis. That's not saying I want to legalize it. But there's a lot to it and it deserves respect. I learnt respect for the plant in the documentary and it deserves to have a good debate. So that's the second thing I want to do is an informed debate... Because you know I'm sick of seeing debates in this country that just kind of gets skewed and everyone yells and then the average New Zealander turns off. And we don't get anywhere on it.

Historically, people of colour have been, and still are, the ones most affected by these drug laws. Would the drug reformers change any of that do you think?

Yeah. Look, I think the majority of people convicted of cannabis offences in this

country are Māori, right? When, or if ... we legalize recreational cannabis, we need to let these people that have suffered from all of the criminalization around it back into the industry. One of the heart-breaking parts of the documentary was when we went to visit Blaqstar, which is an African-American cannabis company that's gone straight ... into the legal market and they said: "hey, you know, as soon as this got legalized it was run 90 percent by white men". When it was illegal, it was mainly African-Americans getting prosecuted, [then it] switches over to legal the business side [and] things gets taken over by white men.

That is not fair, and that could happen in New Zealand. The only thing that's gonna save us from that is companies like Hikurangi over on the east coast there that is setting up their own business and aim to employ their own local whānau ... I'm fucking worried that Māori are gonna be shut out of this thing because that would be the biggest bloomin slap in the face to legalise it and then for white guys to come in and take over this whole thing and leave them shut out after all the shit they've gone through over this drug.... I think there would be an obligation on the government, if they did legalise, to help Māori communities get up and get into the industry straightaway. What concerns me is I haven't heard the government talk about that once, okay, during this whole during this whole debate so far.

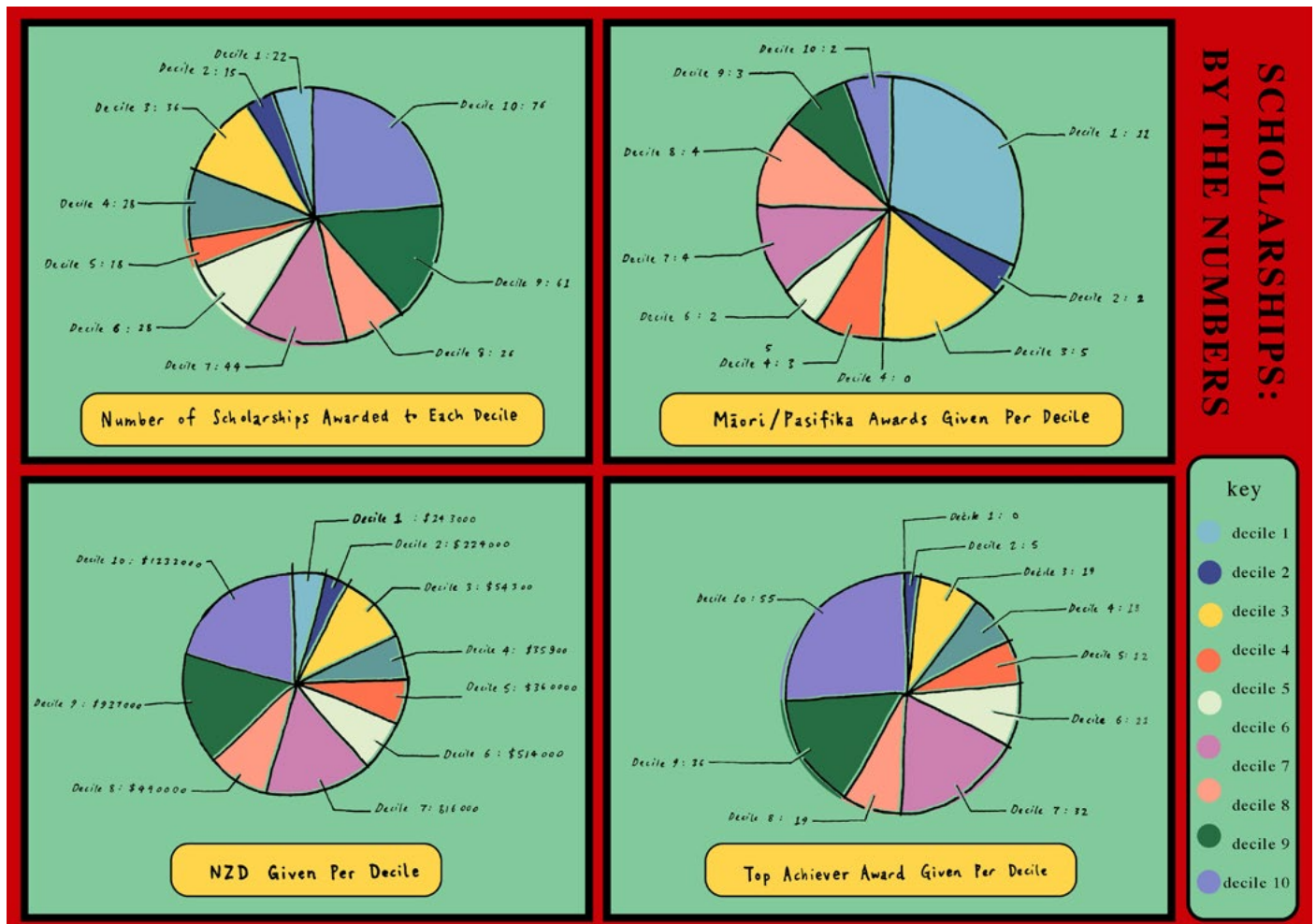
What happens if New Zealand votes no on the referendum?

To be honest I don't really care how people vote as long as they vote. And as long as they vote in an informed way. As long as they understand what they're voting about. But, you know, if we end up voting no, then we're going to carry on having a black market for cannabis because no one's gonna stop smoking it. We're going to carry on having police criminalize people for it no matter what. We're going to carry on with having green fairies supplying medical marijuana for cheaper than the medical people do, so we're gonna have... what I call a grey market, as well. We're actually going to get

nowhere if we vote no. We're not going to deal with what's out there. Weed's still going to be there. People are still going to want it for recreational or medical use or cheaper medical use because we might have medical. And we're actually just going to be in the same place.

The government's not going to give the police 500 million or a billion more dollars to go out and extinguish it with gangs. We're just gonna carry on where we are. And as time goes by, more and more people are gonna get used to having medical marijuana, they're going to want to get marijuana easier for medical reasons, they're going to wonder why they've got to go through their doctor, they're gonna wonder why it's so expensive, and we're just gonna have this weird grey market that doesn't deal with any of the problems that weed brings and just leaves us where we're sort of standing now, which [is] kind of in no person's land. So a no vote, I don't think is gonna solve anybody's problems. You know I'm not against the no vote like I said, but I don't think it's gonna solve any of the problems that we've got with weed. A yes vote would solve something... [but] would bring some other problems as well.

"I don't care if people vote yes or no in 2020. What I do want to achieve is that people are more informed about cannabis."



Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon Responds To Allegations Of An Unfair Scholarship System

DANIEL MEECH

Earlier this year, Craccum ran 'Rags to Rags, Riches to Riches: the University of Auckland's Unfair Scholarship programme', an article which examined how the university's scholarship funding was divided between deciles. More than a month after Craccum first asked the university for comment, Stuart McCutcheon responds.

The article (using data obtained under the Official Information Act) revealed that the university's scholarship programme disproportionately benefitted students from wealthier backgrounds. The university granted students living in the wealthiest 10% of neighbourhoods around \$1,250,000

worth of scholarship funding in 2018. In the same year, those living in the poorest 10% received around \$250,000. The article also revealed that scholarships like the university's Top Achiever award - which, according to the scholarship's official assessment criteria, is supposed to take into account

students 'personal factors' as well as their academic record - disproportionately benefited students from wealthier communities. Whilst 55 Top Achiever awards were given to schools in the wealthiest 10% of communities, none were given to colleges situated in the poorest 10%.

When asked whether he thought the scholarships system favoured students from wealthier backgrounds, Stuart McCutcheon told *Craccum* "if you took the scholarships system alone and didn't consider anything else, you might come to that view". However, he believes critics need to "look at the total support we provide to students".

McCutcheon says that - although it may not have an equitable scholarships programme - the university invests in a broad range of generalised projects which aim to help students in low-decile communities receive a better standard of education in high school and beyond. McCutcheon believes these programmes must be taken into account when considering whether the university provides ample opportunities for all students. "If you look at the full package of what we do it is much more balanced than simply a focus on scholarships would reflect," he says.

This "full package" of initiatives includes projects like StarPath (a ten-year research project "which looked at 'why is it that students of ability from underrepresented schools don't get here?'"), first-in-family grants for students, and STEM Online (an initiative which has seen the university put "free-to-air" high-school learning materials online). McCutcheon says he does not have any statistics evaluating the efficacy of STEM Online (as the initiative is so new), but "something like 1000 students out of ... 60 or 70 schools" have benefitted from it.

McCutcheon says these initiatives are more beneficial to low-decile communities than providing "token" scholarships to disadvantaged students "which wouldn't get taken up" by students who have no interest in gaining a tertiary education. As a result, McCutcheon says he does not plan to reform or change the university's scholarships programme.

"It is absolutely the case that our

scholarships are not simply about equal opportunities," McCutcheon says. However, the university makes up for this by investing in pro-active programmes designed to give students a better education before they arrive at university. "When they get here they'll have access to the same set of scholarships and support as everybody else," he says, "But again, giving a student a scholarship to go to med school when they're not going to pass year 11 maths is a complete waste of time".

McCutcheon says up-and-coming initiatives include the development of a new campus in South Auckland, and the launch of a new foundation which will see Auckland University "working with [four South Auckland] schools to identify the students from year 10 to year 13... who have the ability to go on to university and succeed but who without their help won't do so". According to McCutcheon, "a couple of hundred thousand university dollars" have been invested in these initiatives.

McCutcheon believes granting scholarships to students from low-decile communities - many of whom he believes are not ready to attend university - would do more harm than good. "If you come here and fail, it will be a financial cost to you. You will have to pay your fees for the paper you failed, you will have to pay for your resit. You'll take longer to get through university. People don't think about that opportunity cost," McCutcheon told *Craccum*. "[So] a scholarship to come to a university that you

probably won't get to come to is not a good investment for anybody".

"What we think of is not just the scholarship programme, we think about the whole package and how that package relates to the needs of particular students," McCutcheon told *Craccum*, "For example, when Maori and Pacific students come into the university they have the Tuākana programme which helps support their particular cultural needs. This helps them be successful".

According to the university's website, the Tuākana programme offers Maori and Pacific students "small-group learning, whakawhanaungatanga, wānanga, fonotaga, face-to-face meetings and workshops" to help "connect Māori and Pacific students with senior Māori and Pacific students (tuākana), academic teaching staff, and key people across the university". In McCutcheon's view, although these programmes "don't necessarily do it by giving people a cheque in the form of a scholarship", they are still "trying to get our students to the point where they are going off into the workforce" and should be considered when debating the university's scholarship programme.

Because McCutcheon's response came so close to the time of publication (and no hard figures were given in the conversation), *Craccum* has been unable to obtain information on how much has been spent on any of the initiatives mentioned, or on how successful they have been. *Craccum* plans to investigate these further in the future.

"McCutcheon says these initiatives are more beneficial to low-decile communities than providing 'token' scholarships to disadvantaged students 'which wouldn't get taken up' by students who have no interest in gaining a tertiary education."

Get 20/20 vision before 2020!

- Mates Rates for Uni students: **\$400 off** Laser Vision Correction!
- **Free** Initial Laser Suitability Assessment
- **0800 55 20 20**
www.revision.nz

re:VISION
Sight Correction Centre





A Week in Sport

JOSHUA JAYDE

This week, our columnist trying to relive the glory days of Grade 6 football, Joshua Jayde, provides a unique view on the world of sport.

A Week in Replay

What a fantastic week. The Rugby World Cup is in full swing, having begun with some tight heavyweight battles and a host of minnows fighting it out for the dubious honour of finishing fourth in a five team pool. In Europe, football is finding its (haha) feet, with the top leagues beginning to take shape and the boring part of the Champions League, well, basically just happening in the background. Stateside, the NFL... well... no-one really cares about the NFL.

But more important than all of this is the sheer amount of controversy that sport is generating. Was it a goal, or was the player's left toenail offside by less than the width of her perfectly-arranged hair? Did that Australian shoulder-charge a Fijian's face, or did the Fijian head-butt Reece Hodge's moving shoulder? Above all, if we replay the incident a hundred times, will it allow us, heroic couch referees, to warp reality and make us actually more right than the officials? The answers to those questions may never be known.

But wait, isn't there a way to solve these controversies? What about the Video Umpire/Third Match Official/Official Couch Referee?

NFL, both codes of rugby, cricket and football, all now have systems in place to try and solve these issues. But, far from removing controversy, these technologies actually provide more of it. Let's take rugby to start. In the first weekend of the World Cup, there were a number of crucial calls that brought TMO, as it is called in this code, into the spotlight. In the South Africa v New Zealand game, the TMO, against the laws of the game, suggested a professional foul should only warrant a penalty. But worse, even with TMO, the referees missed a number of crucial calls across three matches. Firstly, in the Australia vs Fiji, the Wallabies outside back Reece Hodge shoulder-charged and injured Fijian star Peci Yato. This could warrant as much as a red card, yet the referee and TMO both did not see it. Add that to the number of offside calls, notably two intercepts in the France v Argentina and Springboks v All Blacks games which resulted in a try

and a penalty. In fact, the last ten minutes of the France v Argentina game was riddled with French offside calls and cynical fouls as the men in blue defended a crucial two point lead. The TMO is supposed to stop teams doing that, but it failed, leaving Argentina facing an unjust early exit from the tournament.

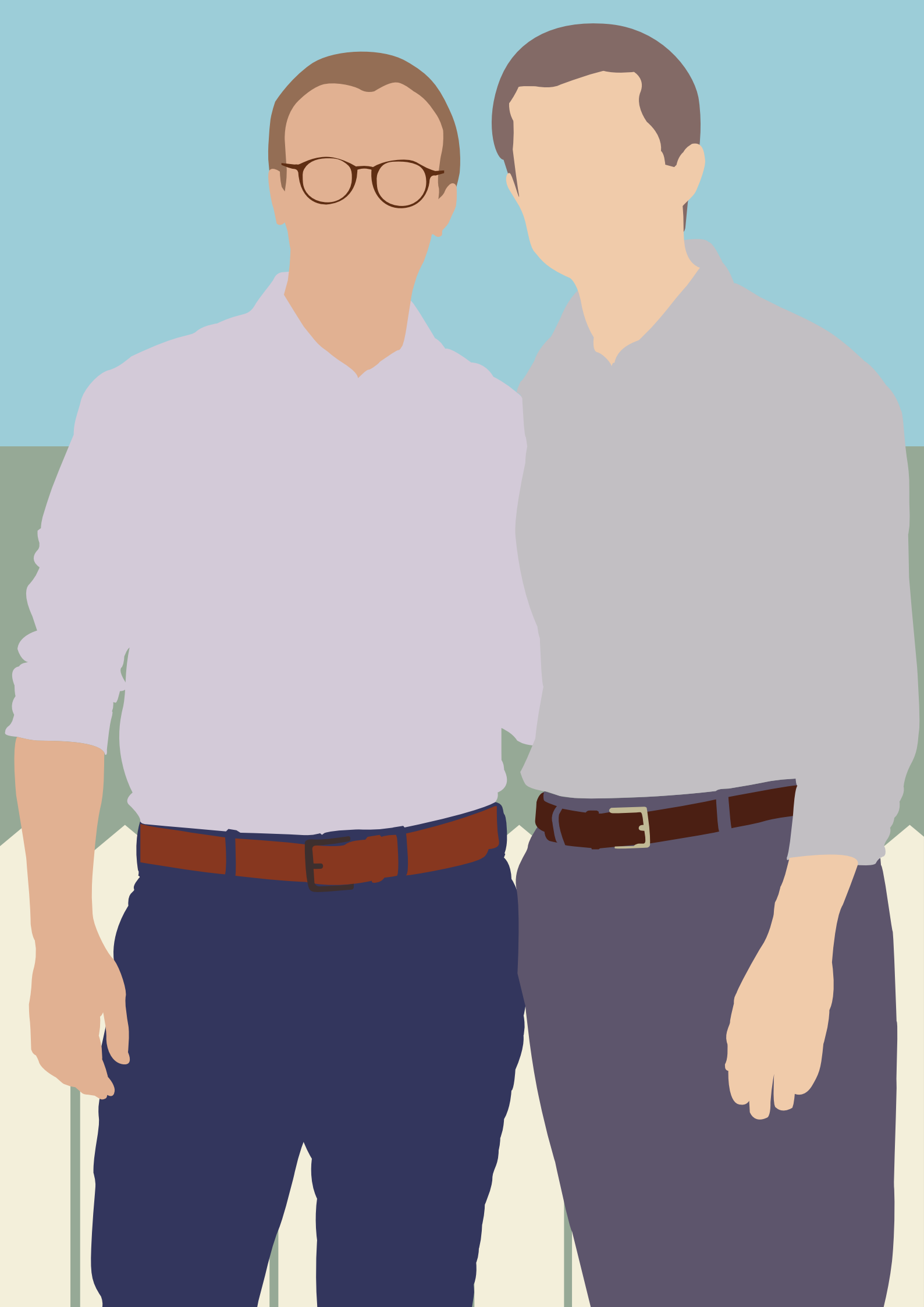
But even when video refereeing is called into play, it creates a mess. Take football, whose VAR is creating a commentary storm. Late in a tense Napoli v Liverpool game, VAR was called in to confirm a penalty against Liverpool fullback Andy Robertson. On review, it was clear to all viewers that the Napoli forward threw himself forward to milk a penalty - everyone except the people upstairs. The penalty was given, and Napoli took the win. This is just one of about a million such controversies, with any brush of a hand, any millimetre of hair offside, and any touch on a player in the box resulting in VAR mayhem.

Both VAR and TMO, as well as the bunker in rugby league and the NFL equivalent, have been in the headlines frequently. But that's half the problem. Sports commentators - who, by the way, are just glorified couch referees - the world over have criticised every decision these systems make. The same people who complain bitterly against the injustice of refereeing calls are now complaining bitterly about the debatable justice of video refereeing calls. They all sound the same: "how dare this system correctly call my team offside! It ruins the game, makes the players depressed and just isn't (insert sport here)". When it doesn't work, people are quick to attack it, and when it gets it right, people grumble about how it didn't go their way.

So, should we get rid of it, given that it seems to add, not solve, controversy? I would argue no, keep it exactly the way it is. Controversy is the best part of sport, not least because it gives me something to write about. What would there be to talk about? What would the point of watching be, if not to complain about how the world is out to get us? So I think that video refereeing should be left alone, with all its flaws, and come Monday morning we can bash the incompetent officials who think they know better than us, champions of sport, the couch referees.

Go the All Blacks!

...Until they lose to Canada.



'How much do you want it to define your campaign?': Just how gay is Pete Buttigieg?

By Cameron Leakey

Pete Buttigieg currently remains in the well overpacked field of U.S. Democratic presidential candidate hopefuls. I first visited his candidacy in a Semester One essay, however six months later, Buttigieg is facing criticism for both being 'too gay' and 'not gay enough'. This week, I discuss just why Buttigieg is facing these critiques, what he could do and the challenges that face our first openly gay candidate.

Pete Buttigieg has described himself as the only 'left-handed Maltese-American-Episcopalian-gay-millennial-war veteran' currently in the Democratic candidate race for the presidency nomination. According to the New York Times he currently polls nationally at 5%. With current projections, he is unlikely to become the democratic nominee. Buttigieg, the current mayor of South Bend, Indiana, is the most intriguing of candidates and, in many ways, a complete antithesis of Trump: millennial, liberal, democratic, war veteran and gay. Buttigieg, in a CNN interview at the beginning of his campaign, was asked how much he wanted his sexuality to define his campaign. Whilst this question was one that would never be asked of a straight candidate, Buttigieg's response is the best way to start this analysis of the criticisms towards Buttigieg, notably that he is aware of what being gay 'represents' but rather wants to be evaluated on his political achievements and merits. This is where Buttigieg struggles; to just what extent do you discuss your sexuality and how you remain a 'gay candidate' but not 'the gay candidate'? Buttigieg's response indicates he does not wish to challenge societal norms and expectations but simply that his sexual orientation stands insignificant in the face of his political achievements. The rhetoric employed by Buttigieg is similar to how other gay politicians discuss their sexuality in the political arena. In a New Zealand context, current Finance Minister and Labour #4 Grant Robertson, has responded to similar questions about his sexuality in saying that being gay does not inhibit his ability to connect with the concerns of regular New Zealanders; that being gay is one facet of other experiences and characteristics that shape

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

how he conducts politics. Being gay is often something that, in a political setting, is placed alongside many other facts about a candidate as one of many things about the candidate's identity and ability.

Worth discussing in this analysis is the heteronormative space that politics exists in. Heteronormativity refers to the way that societal systems, institutions and norms give privilege to the norms and expectations for heterosexual individuals. When a politician is LGBT+, this is often a prime focus of their personal profile in the media. Queer politicians must consider the decision to divulge personal information such as sexual identification and relationship status to mitigate the risk of being outed or hiding sexual practices and relationships. This decision is not one that heterosexual political candidates must consider. Buttigieg's sexuality is a feature of his candidacy, Buttigieg has chosen to acknowledge his sexual orientation whilst being profiled.

LGBT+ media has become critical of Buttigieg in recent times. With similar reasoning as some women didn't vote for Clinton in the 2016 U.S. Presidential election, some queer individuals don't want to vote for a candidate primarily because they are gay. However, If Buttigieg plays to the diversity of his policies and presents as a candidate with wide ranging political interests, he then faces the criticism of abandoning the needs of his community. The organisers of a 'major LGBT event' in Iowa were disappointed that Buttigieg was not planning to attend. A BuzzFeed article that discusses this further placed this in context, highlighting the feeling by some that Buttigieg is 'reluctant' to discuss and endorse LGBT+ issues. Other members of the community feel frustrated. There is a want for Buttigieg to recognise the intersectional nature of the queer community and recognise these concerns. Another talking point is the criticism leveraged at Buttigieg for what was perceived as ignoring growing racial tensions in the community leading to the shooting of a black man by a white police officer, and his failure to discuss the struggles faced by queer migrants in Latin communities.

"to just what extent do you discuss your sexuality and how you remain a 'gay candidate' but not 'the gay candidate'"

Annise Parker, president of the Victory Fund, a group that endorses LGBTQ candidates, defends Buttigieg however, speaking of the "extra burdens and extra expectations" placed on historical first candidates to speak for their community and for the entire population. The BuzzFeed article speaks of the expectations of Obama for the African-American community and Clinton for the female population. Buttigieg has spoken of his sexuality as something which allows him to connect with 'othered' communities and understand a wide range of perspectives. This has been both accepted and rejected; a columnist for medium.com criticised Buttigieg for what he perceived to be rejecting this 'othered' identity as inferior and not recognising how sexuality allows an individual to recognise systemic inequality. For some, having a gay candidate is about having someone who is proudly 'othered', but this could then present as a character who isolates themselves from the wider population. With Buttigieg currently on 5%, how can he grow voter support whilst either increasing or decreasing how he presents as a gay man, especially with the LGBT+ community comprising approximately 6% of the U.S. population. Where is Buttigieg best to channel his political communication?

There is no correct answer for how Buttigieg is to resolve these issues. Buttigieg is walking a political tightrope not ever walked before. I commend Buttigieg for getting this far as a queer candidate and for standing proud in his sexuality, but to many he may never be 'gay enough' to stand for the community, while for others, his sexuality presents a challenge to how they perceive his ability to connect with diverse issues. In an environment where hypermasculine, heterosexual candidates such as Trump have seen political success, it may just not quite be the time for a gay president, or simply, it might not be the time for Buttigieg to be president. Regardless, the conversation about being out, proud and queer whilst a presidential candidate is one that would never have been possible years ago - this is something worth celebrating.

HARD SHIP



GRANTS

THE AUSA FINANCIAL HARDSHIP GRANT PROVIDES UP TO \$250 (OR \$400 IF YOU HAVE DEPENDENTS) TO STUDENTS EXPERIENCING UNEXPECTED FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

APPLY AT AUSA RECEPTION OR ONLINE AT
www.ausa.org.nz/hardship

QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS?
welfare@ausa.org.nz





Why gender identity matters for transgenders and those with non-conforming gender identities

By BLOOM

"I'm the boy that was born as a girl, and has to prove myself that I'm man enough for the world" - The words of an anonymous transman

Consider the following scenarios...

- Joy is a recently graduated transwoman with a law degree from one of the best universities in Thailand. She hopes to work for a legal firm that would allow her to help those who are in need. However, several legal firms declined her application because her national ID card still identifies her as "he".
- Tan, a transman, experienced a severe car accident on the way home during the New Year celebrations. He was in a critical and life-threatening condition. However, when he was about to be hospitalized, the hospital hesitated over whether to put him in a male or female ward, as his national ID card still referred to him as "Miss". While the hospital hesitated, Tan suffered significant blood loss that ultimately led to his death.
- A bank teller refused to open a bank account for Karn, an intersex university student, as Karn avoided ticking the "male" or "female" boxes on a form. Karn's national ID card still uses the title "Mr" in front of Karn's official name.
- A nurse gave me a "rude" stare when I refused to tick the "female" or "male" options on a form while I was holding my national ID card that has "Miss" in front of my name. The reason is I'm non-binary.

These scenarios are based on true stories from Thai trans and gender non-conforming communities. What are these stories telling

you? That we, transgender people and those with non-confirming gender identities, are still facing discrimination every single day in Thailand.

The root cause of this discrimination is the lack of recognition of gender identities on our legal documents such as our passport, birth certificate, household registration, and most importantly, our national ID card. Currently, Thailand has not yet acknowledged any other gender identities apart from "male" or "female", which are assigned at birth by medical professionals. The challenge becomes prevalent here for us, transgender and those with non-confirming gender identities, as every Thai is required to have a national ID card. Thailand only issues national ID cards based on one's sex assigned at birth with assigned gender titles such as "Miss", "Mrs" and "Mr." Hence, our national ID cards might not match our gender identities. Consequently, we face challenges and discriminations on a daily basis. Even things that most people take for granted (such as picking up a parcel from the post office, or travelling) can be challenging for us.

Thai transgender and gender-non-confirming activists and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) are currently in the early stage of drafting Thailand's legal gender recognition. **The aim of this draft is to allow transgender individuals to change their gender titles and markers on their official documents such as a national ID, passport, house registration, and birth certificate. This draft would give an option for non-binary people or those with other non-confirming gender identities to not to have gender titles or markers on their official documents.** Meanwhile, I will point out the reasons why legal gender recognition significantly matters for Thai transgender people and those with non-confirming gender identities as well as why it matters for sustainable development.

Everyone has the right to define their own gender identity

Legal gender recognition is the basis of human rights. It is the right

"A nurse gave me a 'rude' stare when I refused to tick the 'female' or 'male' options on a form while I was holding my national ID card that has 'Miss' in front of my name. The reason is I'm non-binary."



to acknowledge who we are as human beings. Transgender people and those with non-confirming gender identities should be treated and recognized as the gender we are. The 4 stories that you have read above reflect how we are not treated with dignity as human beings. To obtain legal gender recognition, no one should not be forced us to undergo unwanted surgery or sterilization, as this violates our free will. According to the LGBT rights principles, the Yogyakarta Principles. No. 3 states that:

"Everyone has the right to legal recognition without reference to, or requiring assignment or disclosure of, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics."

Because of the importance of legal gender recognition, some countries allow transgender and non-binary people to change their gender titles and identities (on official documents/IDs) so that they match their preferred gender identities. For instance, Argentina was the first country to allow transgender individuals and non-binary people to change their gender identities and gender titles without undergoing sex-reaffirming surgery or imposing an age restriction. This model corresponds with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Yogyakarta Principles No. 3.

Gender recognition could reduce discrimination against transgender individuals and those with non-conforming gender identities

Official gender recognition can lead to more accessible social services as well as opportunities for transgender individuals and people with non-conforming gender identities without the fear of discrimination or stigma. Joy would have gotten her dream job in the legal sector. Tan would not have died from the car accident because the hospital was too hesitant to put him in the “right gender” ward. The bank would have let Karn open the bank account without facing discrimination from the bank teller. The nurse would have not given me a “rude” stare when I refused to tick either the “male” or “female” boxes on the form. Ultimately, we would have better well-being as we would face fewer social discriminations.

Gender recognition will boost Thailand's economy

Transgender people and those with non-conforming gender identities are part of Thailand's workforce too. UNDP Thailand and International Labor Organization (ILO)'s report, “LGBTI People and Employment: Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics in China, the Philippines and Thailand” (2018), reveals that a lack of LGBTI inclusion would cause huge damage to the national economy of around USD 30 million. This is because the potential talents, capacities and creativity from LGBTI communities are excluded from joining the workforce that could contribute to a GDP growth. In Thailand, around 60% of transgender and those with non-conforming gender identities face exclusion from employment. This is partly because their national ID cards do not match their appearances (or preferred identities). Thailand is still losing a future workforce that could boost the country's economy.

Gender recognition could promote Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to promote legal gender recognition in Thailand!

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are 17 goals which tackle challenges our world faces, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. Legal gender recognition mainly addresses SDG No. 5 “Gender Equality” and SDG No. 10 “Reduced Inequality.” This is because legal gender recognition allows transgen-

"Legal gender recognition is the basis of human rights. It is the right to acknowledge who we are as human beings. Transgender people and those with non-confirming gender identities should be treated and recognized as the gender we are."

der people and those with non-conforming gender identities to have equal rights to cisgender people. In addition, legal gender recognition also tackles other SDGs as well, not just these two goals. For instance, legal gender recognition could address SDG Nos. 1 & 2 “No poverty” and “No Hunger,” as legal gender recognition allows our communities to have more access to social welfare services in Thailand. Also, with our identities recognized, we could access health care services without fear of discrimination and stigma. This addresses SDG No.3 “Good health and wellbeing”. In Thailand, approximately 9-11% of our transgender friends are at risk in HIV/AIDS. The majority of us are too afraid to come to clinics because of our mismatched national ID cards which do not reflect who we are, which leads to social discriminations from health practitioners. Moreover, with our identities recognized, we would not face social discriminations at workplaces or get rejected for our job applications because our identities match our national ID cards. This tackles SDG No.8: “Decent workplace and economic growth”. Overall, legal gender recognition would also tackle SDG No. 16: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”. In other words, Thai society would become much more inclusive for us if there was legal gender recognition. We would be treated with dignity as human beings.

So, you can see why legal gender recognition is so important for us, Thai transgender, non-binary and those with non-conforming gender identities. It is not about feeling satisfied that our gender markers or titles get changed (yeah!); it is about empowerment. It is about dignity and equal rights – recognizing who we are as Thai citizens and human beings in the Kingdom of Thailand. As we are still being treated as second class citizens or “sub-humans,” it is important for us to stand up and speak out.



Jonathan Van Ness, We Salute You

By FABIO PIZZERIA

This week, Fabio Pizzeria sends an ode to Jonathan Van Ness for his fierce bravery.

The article appeared on my newsfeed. Last weekend. “Jonathan Van Ness comes out”. I was confused. The breakout star of *Queer Eye* is open about his queer sexual orientation and non-binary gender identity (he uses both she/her and he/him pronouns). Alas, Jonathan Van Ness, in an exclusive interview with *The New York Times* preempting the release of his autobiography ‘*Over The Top*’, spoke his truth. Not a truth he always felt comfortable to share but one that he felt was important. Jonathan Van Ness is a sexual assault survivor, a former drug addict and sex addict and is H.I.V. Positive. The interview speaks of the trauma Van Ness has struggled with and sends a stark message to how much those who seem bubbly and light are often filled with dark pasts and battles they have fought.

Since this interview, Jonathan Van Ness has spoken in the media with many reporters. Currently promoting his new book, he has been honest about how well he is doing since he was diagnosed, particularly since he is on antiretroviral medication which means he is undetectable. Being undetectable means that there is no risk of transmitting the virus to any partners and stops the damage the virus can afflict. In recent interviews, he has educated reporters and audiences on this information. For someone inside the queer community – particularly in the Men-who-have-sex-with-men category, this information is supposedly well known, when it is not, education campaigns are often targeted towards this group in order to promote awareness and education around preventing H.I.V.. However, regarding the education of mainstream audiences that are involved and that care, *Queer Eye* is paramount to helping end stigma around H.I.V. and continuing to bolster the ability for heterosexual people to be allies for gay issues. Van Ness speaks openly of feeling healthier

and stronger for treating H.I.V. head on and for taking control of his health. This is a message that needs to be heard.

H.I.V. is still an issue for many individuals. Modern advances in medicine have led to the reduction of transmission rates and in many developed countries, with guaranteed access to preventative and treatment antiretroviral medications, H.I.V. is no longer a death sentence. For Van Ness, speaking to *The Guardian* about his diagnosis, he remembers the day he was given his HIV diagnosis, he asked the doctor if he could still live to 75. The doctor told him, “I will keep you alive long enough to die of a heart attack or cancer like everyone else”.

I’m not going to sit here and argue that Jonathan Van Ness coming out as H.I.V. positive is going to single-handedly change the course of discussion around H.I.V. and end all stigma. This is not the case. But for someone at the forefront of popular culture right now to stand proudly as a member of the ‘H.I.V. positive community’ and to bring back this conversation that started with people such as Freddie Mercury and Magic Johnson is so important a time where globally, queer rights can be seen as almost going backwards in some parts of the world. To sit in a room and talk about undetectable viral load, treatment options and how good they feel for speaking their truth, it paves the way for better discussion around H.I.V. and how we perceive the sexual health of members of the queer community. Jonathan Van Ness is the continuing of a legacy of queer men standing proudly in their identity, their health status and who they are. I am excited to see the advocacy that I hope Van Ness takes up, and how this topic will be addressed in upcoming seasons of *Queer Eye*. Jonathan Van Ness, we salute you.

ILLUSTRATION BY DAPHNE ZHENG



Legends & Icons

By LACHLAN MITCHELL

'What becomes a legend most?' is a famous tagline for Blackglama, a collective of Americans mink fur farmers that desperately needed a rebrand. Fur was starting to lose its allure by the '60s: veganism was on the rise, and Americans were developing a new kind of sexy, a new kind of classiness. Basically, whatever Europe had been doing 30 years earlier. And yet, this advertising campaign saved the American side of the mink industry, through its legendary bombardment of stars of yesterday, present and tomorrow. Bette Davis, Judy Garland, Barbara Streisand, etc. Even that racist offal-looking yellow-toothed swamp witch of Tumblr adoration, Brigitte Bardot, made an appearance. Like the 'I'd like to buy the world a Coke' campaign, it entered the annals of advertising Valhalla.

But the tagline presents an interesting question - what makes a legend? Or rather, who is worthy of being described as one? For The Gays, and the LGBT as a whole, this is a constant discussion. Stan twitter is built on this. But I know better. Because it is our Pride issue, I am intent on giving an answer. As a Grande Dame pop culture connoisseur that has been called a very old queen since the age of 15, I would like to make a definitive declaration for you all to consider.

Who is a legend, who is an icon and who is... not?

Firstly, what is 'legendary' in this context? What sets it apart from Being An Icon? It's a very easy word to throw around, and yet, very hard to prove. So few live up to the standard legendhood implies, cheapened by every two-bit twink that unrestrained ketamine usage hasn't yet robbed of the ability to compose an 'and I oop' tweet. To be a legend is to set the standard that others follow, it is to be the template that others strive to be. It is the ability to be more than the indefinable 'it girl', to use a gendered example. It is the power to be more than representative of a single moment - an icon, for all their worth, is ephemeral by definition. They disappear. Everyone fades,

feature.

everyone steps off the stage that final time, but only some people rust. The power of a legend is their ability to repel that rust; they are gold, even when the fashion is pyrite. Sometimes, all it takes is one single action to solidify one's status as a legend beyond reproach; sometimes, it's just a case of 'you know it when you see it'. To be a legend is to have the inevitability of failure not be a detriment to their legacy/their staying power – an icon is only one or two slip ups from losing their footing for good. To be iconic is human, to be legendary is divine. Just a simple equation: (legacy) – (relevancy of the moment) + (% of scandal) x (time). I can't do math because I'm a faggot, but I think I did it.

Examples of legends:

- **Princess Peach**
- **Lorde the moment she thought of Supercut**
- **Beyoncé from the moment she was but a zy-gote**
- **Bic Runga**
- **My boyfriend understanding how I feel about Vegeta**
- **Gays that don't drive well into their 20s**
- **The number one mononyms: Prince & Cher**
- **Whoever introduced Grimes to acid**
- **Fran Fine after finally eating Mr. Sheffield's hairy ass**
- **Mariah Carey treating herself well on bipolar medication (mental health queen)**
- **Karl Marx and/or Garfield, same role in society**
- **Whitney Houston, no qualifiers needed**
- **The guy who threw his shoe at George W. Bush**
- **Lesbians**
- **The husband & wife BDSM couple that take each other walking on Cuba Street**

What makes an icon? They are not the polar opposite of legends, rather, they are to be compared by degree or scale. They have many interesting qualities, and they are largely talented and worthy of recognition, but do they possess essence? By no means is the icon meant to be looked down on – rather, one is meant to recognise that they shot for the stars and landed on the moon, while the legend is somewhere in the Andromeda Galaxy. Furthermore, an icon might be the hype of the moment, the representation of the year. Even a decade. But do they exist beyond just being the person of the time

period? Are they more than that? To quote the incomparable Got 2B Real, which you all should watch: "Iconic for a day, or legendary forever? Hmm. I'll let you decide."

Examples of icons:

- **Bisexuals with a sense of humour**
- **Jewel of India's curry on chips \$3.90 deal**
- **Charli XCX but this will change within 12 months**
- **LOONA**
- **Ally McBeal - all the rage in 2000, then vanished from pop culture forever**
- **Nelly Furtado (note: *All Good Things (Come to an End)* is legendary)**
- **Brockhampton [for two weeks]**
- **Rihanna is an icon to you girls, I guess**

And finally, there are those that simply are just *not*. Maybe they are successful and adored by others, but they were icons that gays were supposed to move past many years ago. Maybe they're just losers, or bigots, or proponents of neoliberal economics. Maybe they're not bad people, but rather, just people that lack that special something that makes them something more. They're the bottom of the totem pole, and you all need to remember that.

Examples of those that lack:

- **Kim Petras**
- **Leighton Smith**
- **Jeffree Star's 'black women look like gorillas' violently racist ass**
- **The entire Auckland CBD**
- **That '70s Show**
- **RuPaul and you will all see in like two years**
- **People that say GLBT**
- **Stuart 'hated by literally every university I've ever worked at' McCutcheon**

TETO



SHADOWS
BAR & EATERY

POSTER CHILD

RVLTN CREW

CLASS
OF
2019



ONLY CONNECT | BRIAN GU

7/10: "s_v_n _t_ft_n"

Only Connect is a British panel quiz show hosted by Victoria Coren Mitchell, often labelled as the most fiendish quiz on British television. Put simply; every aspect of its existence is purposely dedicated towards reminding you of your stupidity.

Remember how your lecturer insisted there would be nothing to trick you in the test, but there was anyways? This is that, but a hundred times worse. The connections are designed to be a slap in the face once revealed, despite the clues initially seeming as inconspicuous as possible.

The show's opening round gives contestants four clues, asking for the connection between them. The next round requires teams to not only solve for the connection, but also provide the final clue.

And despite the show's final missing vowels round being arguably its easiest, an intense stare-down with the clock asserts its capability of throwing off even the most capable of quizzers.

Once that dreaded bell tolls, it's the end of the quiz; one of Britain's smartest quiz teams has been toppled by another, and you at home are left gobsmacked by how you only managed a measly four points.

While, in all seriousness, it isn't the Formula One alternative that I'm making it out to be, *Only Connect* is still an excellent novelty if you're looking for a new quiz show format to binge.

If moral degradation is your kink, then this is the quiz show for you. Otherwise, you'll find it a very long, futile half-hour, spent wondering if the clues would only connect...



THE MUSIC TASTE OF THE GUY WHO HACKED MY SPOTIFY | LACHLAN MITCHELL

2/10: *it's shite, luv*

You got one over me, Brazilian hacker that managed to crack my admittedly pisspoor password. You were in my account for probably a month's time before I realised as well, because I'm an Apple Music weaking that only uses Spotify for finding songs that Tim Apple hasn't decided I am worthy of listening to. I only noticed after Spotify was like 'uhhhh you've been international for over two weeks luv, that cannae be happenin xx'.

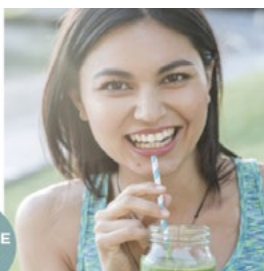
That period of time was enough to irreparably change my daily recommendations - instead of getting the likes of The Cure, Megan Thee Stallion, City Girls, Miss Britney Spears etc, I now have 6ix9ine hanging out with the likes of... let me read... PnB Rock, Kodak Black, and Taliban Ju, the former three of which (not Mr. Taliban) are sex offenders. I'm sure Taliban Ju is a perfectly nice person, and upon your recommendation I did give him a try, but his music is kinda the second worst thing associated with the Tailban name. I am also rather loathe to have Kodak Black in my listening history in the same way that I avoid Woody Allen movies.

However, Brazilian hacker, I will give you credit. You've put me on to Erica L. James - now she's a talent one should watch out for. A voice that deserves far more attention than she currently gets. Thank you for your work there, citizen of Brazil, couldn't have done it without you. If you figure out my new password, give me more of her.

NADIA LIM'S FRESH START COOKBOOK

Over 100 delicious everyday recipes for lasting good health and weight loss

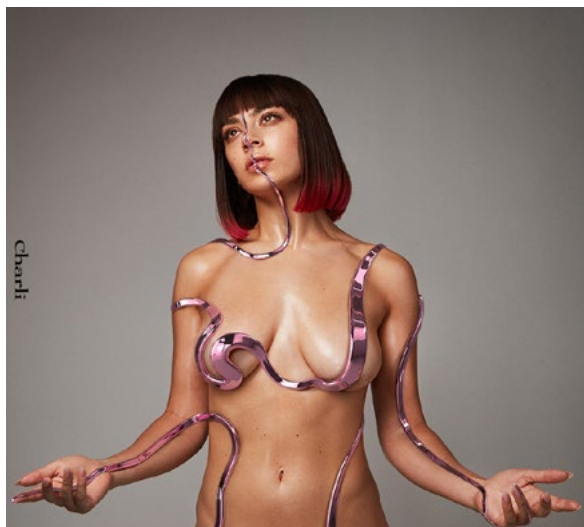
SAY GOODBYE TO FAD DIETS!



FRESH START FEEL GOOD! NADIA LIM | CAMERON LEAKEY

10/10: *wow what a way to feel good*

Wow look at this cookbook with all these things I don't have any time to make! That's neat. I love that



CHARLI - CHARLI XCX | POLLY AMOROUS

8/10: *she's going to laneway so uhhhh buy your tickets, folks!*

I adore Charli, so I'm gonna give this review effort. It is our Pride issue, after all! She posted a video of her yelling GAY RIGHTS! while holding a vial of poppers, so Carly Rae has been dethroned for the meanwhile.

To get this part out of the way - I'll never understand Charli's insistence on collaborating with Troye Sivan, as he is always the most boring part of any mixture he is in. For someone as exciting and future-focused as Charli XCX, working with Troye Sivan is enough to strike her down from the hard-earned status of gay icon. How do you make a track like 1999 sound tiresome? He's just so boring. Why are male pop singers so uninterested in doing anything fun?

Otherwise, Charli's newest self-titled addition to her masterful catalogue is every bit what you'd expect from the queen who has been performing in warehouses and dirty rave houses since the age of 15. Every other collaboration (can't comment on the Kim Petras track as I refuse to give that rape apologist any streaming coin) is perfect for Charli, and no song on the soundtrack feels like a true 'miss'. This isn't a surprise. It is very rare that Charli makes a mistake, as even her more avant garde experiments since coming under PC Music's wing make a point of being interesting, if not necessarily good. Big Freedia getting the PC Music treatment is fantastic and works a lot better than what I initially expected. Getting Sky Ferreira out of the opium den was worthy of its own accolade, but Cross You Out sounds like 'early '00s Bjork mixed with SOPHIE's standard bubbling cauldron of honking sound effects, and I'm so glad to see Sky used with good effect. Shake It reunites her with Cupcake, Brooke Candy (does anyone else think about how she calls her fanbase fagmob LMAO????) and Pablo Vittar, but while it is super fun, it doesn't quite match up to the brain-melting chant of I got it I got it I got it I got it I got it I got it I got it I got it..... I got it.

I'd say the only 'eh' song on the album is Blame It On Your Love, and it is still a great song. Rather, I'm just so used to its existence as Track 10 on Pop 2, her most 'out there' and revolutionary track. The reworking of Track 10 into radio fare for Lizzo to hop on with is still great on its own merits, but it just makes me want to listen to Track 10 pushing my headphones to their limits. Considering that Lizzo is more of a 20 second drop-in, if that, I feel a bit robbed of the Lizzo Experience, and wish she reworked it in a way that actually had the ft. Lizzo part of the title seem relevant.

I'm just so happy to see that Charli can go from strength to strength, even if some of those steps are with people that are immeasurably boring, or immeasurably callous.



THE MALE GAYZ PODCAST | CAMERON LEAKEY

8/10: *pretty funny yeah*

Okay I must preface this review with the fact that I have not consumed any new media this week other than a new episode of the Male Gayz and as it is Pride week I feel obliged to review it. I also want to note that whilst I find Eli Mathewson hilarious, back when I was single I messaged him once on grindr and he never responded, I'm over it I swear... jerk.

The Male Gayz is a sometimes regular but always funny podcast by Chris Parker and Eli Mathewson where the two frankly just have a conversation for about an hour. Chris and Eli are both comedians (as seen at the comedy festival and in Snort every Friday at the Basement Theatre 10pm) and are both gay men and as good friends, the two have a pretty fabulous banter that makes the podcast very entertaining and easy to get caught up in. If you're queer, into pop culture or are down with talking about gay things, then I would recommend this podcast. I would however struggle to recommend this podcast to many, if any, of my straight friends because primarily Chris and Eli talk about some pretty gay things and I just don't feel ready to have a conversation about bottoming with my straight friends anytime soon. Regardless, The Male Gayz is well worth a listen, I give it two very enthusiastic thumbs up.



ILLUSTRATION BY DAPHNE ZHENG

RuPaul's Drag Race and Racism: How Queens of Colour are Overlooked in a Movement They Crafted

I may not be Jasmine Masters, but I have something to say: RuPaul's Drag Race panders specifically to a white audience. Bottom line, cut and dry. Now you're probably wondering "HoW cAN a sHoW tHAT iS pREsEnTeD bY a PeRSoN oF cOLOUr PaNDeR tO A WhiTE AuDlEnCE?" Well buckle up bitches and let me take you through RuPaul's Drag Race's promotion and villainizing programs to explain how.

Back in 2009, a show called RuPaul's Drag Race began airing on Logo in the United States, the show received only a few hundred thousand viewers per episode and the audience was almost exclusively queer people, people of colour, or both. As the years and seasons progressed, the audience grew in size, which meant the number of straight and white people watching the show grew too! Flashforward to 2019, the show has hundreds of thousands of viewers for every single episode that airs, and that's just network television; the viewership is in the millions if you think about all of the people who stream the show online. Today, millions tune in to watch the best queens that RuPaul can find from across America battle it out, and nearly every season Black Excellence is ignored by both the show and the fans. Take the short list of queens for example: Shea Coulee, Tatianna,

SHANGELA, Kennedy Davenport, Monique Heart, Coco Montrese, Latrice Royale, Asia O'Hara and many, MANY more. So many black queens who strive to stand out in the competition are often pushed to the side for a white queen who did not achieve as much, or just happened to fall into the high position.

Let's take All Stars 3 as a case study. Ultimately, Trixie Mattel was the winner of this shitshow season. In saying this, to say that Trixie is a caucasian queen is misleading, Trixie is actually a Native American person who is white-passing. Even though many fans of the show, including myself, LOVE Trixie... she won the season via circumstance. She did relatively well throughout the season, but she didn't start exceeding expectations until she had the fear of God placed in her soul when she **NARROWLY** escaped elimination. Due to the fact that she had a meh track record she never eliminated any queen; this meant when the twist that the eliminated queens would choose the top two happened, the two with the worst track records became the final two. The queen who had statistically had the best run on the show was Shangela, but she became the only frontrunner at the finale because white frontrunner BenDeLaCreme quit the competition halfway through. So basically even though Shangela had performed exceptionally for all but one episode in the competition and was made the solo frontrunner; she was shoved to the side for a white-passing queen who had a pretty mediocre run on the show.

Another example of this comes in the form of Shea Coulee on Season 9. Although Shea had a better track record, many were quick to discredit her. Many fans thought, and hoped, that Trinity Taylor was going to win Season 9. Shea won more challenges, was usually in the high grouping, and she was only ever in the bottom once. Trinity however was in the bottom three times and spent most of competition as safe. Unfortunately, the show's format changed in this season and the iconic So Emotional moment with Sasha Velour happened; this meant Shea was shoved to the side for a white queen who only won challenges when paired with Shea.

This pushing to the side of people of colour does not just end with black queens; it also extends to Asian and Latinx queens. Never in the history of the show has an Asian queen won and only one Latinx queen has won. When it comes down to it, queens of colour are often overlooked and pushed to the side for white mediocrity. Seen clearly when you realise 56% of winners are white queens. This promotion of white queens is very apparent in the past two All Stars seasons: in Season 3 50% of the cast were queens of colour, and 75% of the final four queens were black queens and yet the white queen won the season. In All Stars 4, 80% of the cast were queens of colour, once again, 75% of the final four were black queens, and again the white queen won. When queens of colour are the majority and still end up with one getting tossed a first equal placement to avoid claims of racism; the preference by the show, and fans, for white queens is apparent.

It would be easy to just claim that the pandering is simply just promoting white queens over queens of colour; but production doesn't stop there. Villainization of queens of colour is one of the production team's most consistent tools. About 61% of queens that the fans and show consider to be "villains" are queens of colour,

whether production edit queens a certain way or queens are just bitches for the sake of it. Ultimately, it's easy to villainise any personal trait, especially with queens of colour. The best way this process can be summed up is with The Vixen arguing with Aquaria in an episode of *Untucked*. Aquaria was constantly picking at The Vixen making snide comments about her, but whenever The Vixen would clap back, Aquaria would get upset and/or cry.

"You say something. I say something. You start crying. You have created a narrative of I am an angry black woman who scared off the little white girl. Doesn't matter how you do it; and so when you get super defensive and tell me I'm negative, when I'm just responding to what you brought to me. That will ALWAYS read to [the cameras] as a race issue."

This was backed up the other queens of colour present for that discussion and one claimed:

"People are going to judge The Vixen because Aquaria's crying, they're going to completely overlook the fact Aquaria came at her first."

Which was exactly what happened although Aquaria made many nasty, snide, and rude comments majority of the fans, and show, do not consider her a villain; but rather a poor victim attacked by an Angry Black Queen.

After Season 3, the villainization of queens of colour began to be paired with the victimisation of an underdog/golden child queen, with the exception of Seasons 6 and 8. Queens like Aja, Jasmine Masters, Kennedy Davenport, Phi Phi O'Hara, The Vixen and others all "lashed" out at an underdog who did a style of drag they couldn't or a golden child who production thought could do no wrong. Each and every one of these queens has received hateful comments and some have even received death threats from "fans" of the show and/or the queen who was victimised.

RuPaul's Drag Race has become a cultural phenomenon... that discredits a major demographic that made the drag scene what it is today. The consistent pushing of white queens over queens of colour will stay and is even apparent within the new UK series. Maybe it's time for this show to sashay away.

"Today, millions tune in to watch the best queens that RuPaul can find from across America battle it out, and nearly every season Black Excellence is ignored by both the show and the Fans."



Unrelated, but I really miss George Michael

LACHLAN MITCHELL

I had no idea what to write for this column, after rather foolishly shoving our regular columnist off her spot for the week, in the misguided belief that I would have an idea in my mind within minutes of doing so, and not feel stressed out trying to write all my content in the night before it is due. Oh, the folly! Oh, the joke of it all! I considered writing something about Scooby-Doo, because it turned 50 years old this month! Isn't that delightful, doesn't it make you smile? I know it makes me happy. I love Scooby content. I'll have to come back to that one, like polio to the Philippines.

But then a thought popped into my head. Why not just be honest? I had to turn down that early Mariah Carey banger 'Prisoner' in order to hear myself think. A rarity. I live in fear that I will one day meet her, and she will stare into my soul and say 'I know you turned down my music, Lachlan.' I also have a fever dream that Beyoncé will do the same thing, except she will beat me down with a back hand and say 'Child, I know you've been skipping my songs. Pray I don't catch you doing that with my new shit.' Judgement B'Day. Terrifying. But anyway, back to honesty, because I keep delaying what I actually want to talk about.

I don't like leaving my room for much, with its George Michael and Whitney Houston posters and the dozens and dozens of vinyl covers adorning the walls. Britney has a *flag* in one corner because it looked prettier than the poor printouts available on TradeMe. It's calming. I keep to myself more than people pick up on. I don't really care to put forth a lot of my own identity. That's a big discussion to have with Sniks, that pork crackle goodness, and a joint for my nerves. However, and I swear I'm getting there, the relevance to Pride week is the aforementioned brain fart of 'Honesty!' and I think I

know what it means.

'Maybe Tomorrow' by Goldenhorse is such a good song. Always brings me a sense of peace, that beautiful NZ goodness that apparently exists out of the cosmic mismanagement that is Auckland. It's a good song for right now. It makes me think of when I was young, and the distinct otherness I always felt - not *just* from being a horse-fucked-Michael-Cera ugly fuck, but rather, a distinct otherness in relation to 'boyhood'. It just never fit, like a sleeping bag that doesn't quite give you warmth, but you stick with it, because you don't want to wake anyone up. I felt like that for a long time - I still do, to an extent. When I grew up and embraced Gayness, it felt like a better fit, because sure, I was still associated with Being A Man, but now I could be a little less of one. And it worked for a while! But then it didn't. Then it really didn't. Then it was super depressing, especially as my height just didn't calm the fuck down.

I started going to a special little gender therapist in the same way an A-lister would sneak off to McDonalds - sunglasses and hats, looking down. It didn't really accomplish much, kinda because I ghosted them ;) And that was the status quo for a

few years. Sure, I was already well versed with all the gender terminology by now and the idea it was okay to feel these things, but it was just easier to ignore the world in my ill-fitting sleeping bag. 'La Bamba' is on now. Para bailar la bamba, para bailar la bamba, se necesita una poca de gracia. I did need a different kind of grace, a reprieve, after a while - I didn't necessarily have to tell anyone, well, I had already gone through it all with my parents years prior, but I decided that I needed to just decide some things for myself. To be honest. To be Lachlan or Adriana or whatever name I clung to more. Well, I knew what name I clung to more and which made me cringe to be addressed by, but I had to let myself be okay with just being more than a boy. I don't have to like myself, and I still don't really feel any sort of self-respect there, but I think I'm okay with being more than a boy, and not quite there with girlhood for now. Fluid is fine. Fluids? Not so much. But gender fluidity? I like it. I really do.

Pretty funny that 'Stronger' by Britney Spears would come on right now. Perhaps not quite as on the nose as 'I'm Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman', but Brit Brit always knows what to say.

StudentCard



STAY WOKE with StudentCard discounts till March 2021

AUSA exclusive member code f4833e5b22

Torpedo7

Carl's Jr.



Domino's

noel leeming



Download the **StudentCard** app to access your virtual card



How a New Chat Bot is Helping Students Solve Their Renting Dilemmas Without Leaving the House

CLAUDIA RUSSELL

The landlord-tenant relationship has always been an awkward one. Half the time you're wondering "can my landlord do that?" And the other half you're thinking, "can I do that?" As a student, it can be particularly difficult to find answers when things turn sour. Luckily for us, the folks at Citizen AI have come up with a handy chatbot to answer all of your tenancy law-related questions. I spoke with Joshua Barlow, a fourth-year law student at Victoria University and a third of the Rentbot team.

"Rentbot is a chatbot made by Citizen AI, founded by Geoffery Roberts and Matthew Bartlett. It provides information on tenancy law on a Messenger-type platform. It's important to distinguish between information and advice because things could go to sh*t if we say we're giving out legal advice."

A user might type in a question like 'can my landlord show up at my flat unannounced?' And Rentbot will spit out an answer almost immediately (answer: they can't. However, a landlord can come onto the exterior – lawns and paths – without giving notice.) "We're currently trying a new approach for Rentbot," says Joshua, "so rather than just providing information, we're trying to provide resources on the tenancy tribunal process and how to navigate it."

The bot is available for anyone to use, however students are a huge part of the

target audience because they tend to rent or flat. "The motive behind Rentbot was to democratise information a little bit more, and to have the law in plain English in a way that everyone can understand, rather than it only being accessible for people who have legal training."

So how does the bot work? Artificial Intelligence, on a basic level, is something you feed information to. The AI then learns from that information and uses it to develop better problem-solving capabilities. RentBot in particular learns from the repetition of legal phrases. None of the RentBot team are trained in computer science, so the process has been a lot of trial and error.

"It started off with us just re-writing the community law manual. We'd watch for when it didn't understand somebody's question and then teach it that question. We feed

it information and training phrases, but it has been super hard to train it to understand colloquialisms and misspelling of words. Giving it the ability to break down long paragraphs has also been a challenge.”

Citizen AI are funded by Community Law and the Borrin Foundation, which is a foundation set up to provide legal resources and education for the community. In terms of the grunt work – putting in legal terminology and training the bot to answer accordingly – most of that comes from Joshua. “We use the community law manual a lot, the Residential Tenancies Act, all the recent cases and tribunal hearings, and we get it all legal checked by Chapman Tripp pro bono.”

I ask Joshua what the appeal of a chatbot is when compared to something more traditional, like a book. “A book’s great, but it can be a bit intimidating when you’re just looking for the answer to one specific question. The bot takes your question and

immediately finds an answer in the right area of law.” It can also find answers people didn’t know they were looking for – “not everyone knows they have rights as a tenant, not everyone knows their landlord can’t just walk onto their property.” Unlike the arduous process of legal research, RentBot can teach users their rights in a matter of minutes. There’s also the added advantage of RentBot being a conversation-based platform. “We’re trying to make it as human as possible, so it almost feels like you’re chatting to a real legal expert.”

Citizen AI has a couple of other projects in the mix. One of these is called WorkBot, the employment law chatbot. “That one is huge,” says Joshua, “employment law is a little bit more complicated than tenancy law. We’re always looking for testers, so if anyone wants to be a tester they can hit us up on Facebook at Citizen AI.”

So far, the response has been overwhelmingly positive. “I think we’ve had

roughly 4000 chats so far, so a lot of people are using it. It’s really cool to see how it allows people to actually access their rights. It’s also quite nice to have a break from law school and reading about the law, and to instead be using the law to help people out.”

While RentBot started out through Facebook Messenger, Citizen AI has recently launched the web chat model, which means you don’t need Facebook to use it anymore. “We’ve had a huge amount of people use that because we’ve been able to promote it with Google AdWords. It’s definitely helping quite a lot of people, which is great to see.”

While RentBot can’t be classified as ‘legal advice’ per se, for people who just have one or two questions about tenancy law, it’s a hell of a lot easier than going to a lawyer or community legal services. Users can have their queries answered without paying any money or even leaving their house.

You can access RentBot through rentbot.nz

FAIR • SUPPORTIVE • INDEPENDENT • CONFIDENTIAL

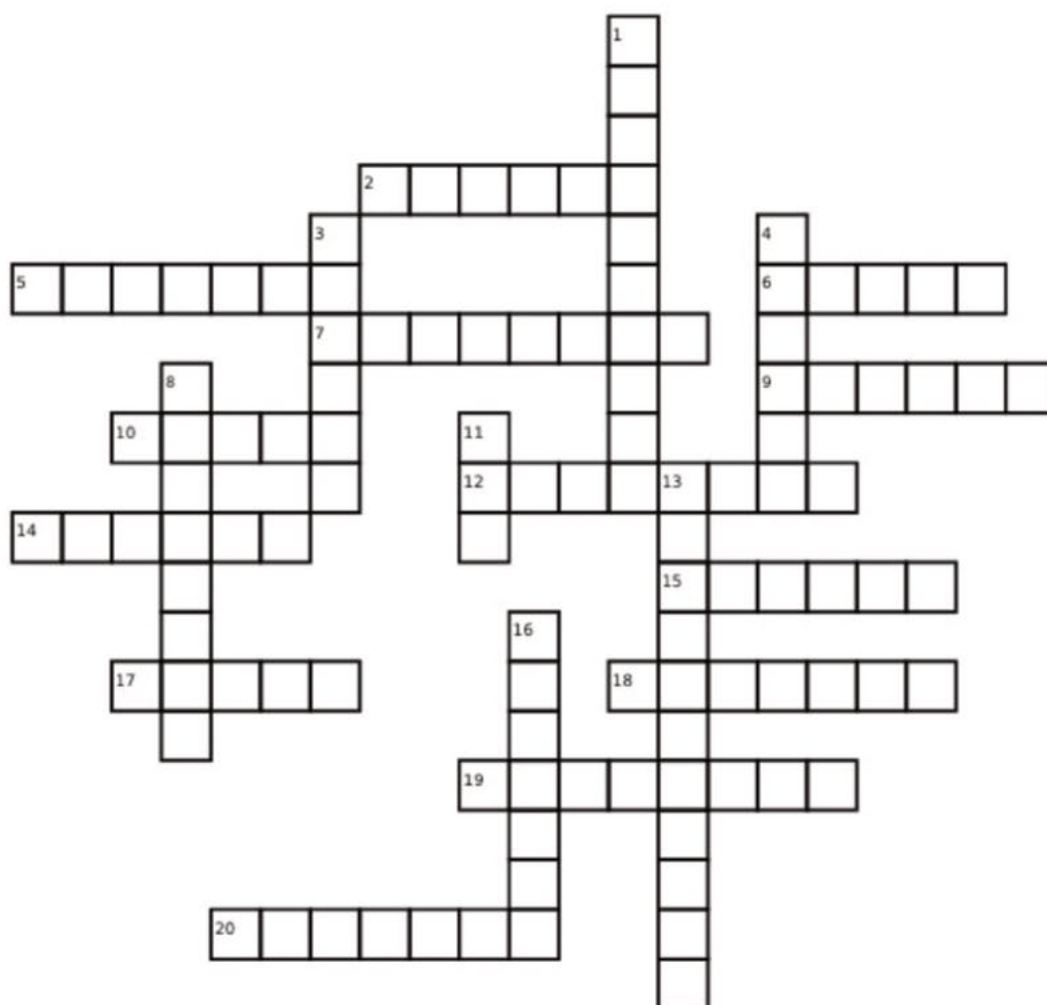


**We offer advice
about your rights,
university procedures,
tenancy and more.**

ausa advocacy 📍 OLD CHORAL, ALFRED ST, CITY CAMPUS
📞 09 923 7294 🌐 WWW.AUSA.ORG.NZ ✉️ ADVOCACY@AUSA.ORG.NZ

Just a Crossword

Round #4



Down:

1. an occurrence that is impressive or extraordinary
3. Far away
4. Grim reaper's blade
8. Transferral to a specialist
11. Unprocessed
13. Repayments
16. A small space or compartment partitioned off

Across:

2. A type of punctuation mark
5. Allow
6. Halt
7. Reflected
9. an indication or warning of probable trouble
10. A first public appearance
12. Pondered painfully
14. To take into custody
15. Rarely
17. Bird of Prey
18. Royal houses
19. a collective consciousness analogous to the behaviour of social insects (4, 4)
20. So-so

HOROSCOPES

Average Kevin *is* here to provide your future, if he can distinguish the stars from his alcohol-fuelled hallucinations.

ARIES

21 march - 20 april



Every day this week, when you look in the mirror, you will find a more and more haunting reflection of a rat staring back. Don't let this dishearten you; I'm sure mad gains at the gym will fill that hole in your heart.

TAURUS

21 april - 21 may



STOP DRINKING START STUDYING STOP DRINKING START STUDYING oh it's a lost cause.

GEMINI

22 may - 21 june



You're going to discover that you hate Quorn sometime in the next week. Quorn sucks.

CANCER

22 june - 22 july



This week you'll wish you could swim like a dolphin, swim away from all worries and just be. That, just for one day, you can be a hero.

LEO

23 july - 22 august



This week you will be faced with the daunting realisation that Christmas is less than 90 days away and you only have 13 cents to your name. Your sister got you an amazing present last year and the best thing you can do is a paper clip. It's a scary time.

VIRGO

23 august - 23 september



Oh well.

LIBRA

24 september - 23 october



You're going to feel absolutely fantastic this week! Everything will go your way, you'll spend the week glowing. It will be the best week of your life.

SCORPIO

24 october - 22 november



IT'S NOT CHRISTMAS YET. Put those god-damn fairy lights down.

SAGITTARIUS

23 november - 21 december



You will find love this week, and it will be slightly disappointing. Such is life.

CAPRICORN

22 december - 20 january



You've been hiding a secret from your family for too long. Soon, it will become impossible to hide, and you will face the consequences. Brace.

AQUARIUS

21 january - 19 february



Everyone you love will leave you. Even your minecraft dog.

PISCES

20 february - 20 march



Someone, somewhere out there loves you. Unfortunately, it isn't someone you particularly like that much. But hey, at least there's someone.

the people to blame.

CONTRIBUTORS

Brian Gu, Daniel Meech, Aotearoa Student Press Association, Daphne Zheng, Lachlan Mitchell, Cameron Leahey, Joshua Jayde, Claudia Russell

COVER ARTIST

Daphne Zheng

ILLUSTRATORS

Daphne Zheng, Wai

LAYOUT

Daphne Zheng

EDITORIAL OFFICE

4 Alfred Street,
Private Bag 92019
Auckland

ADVERTISING

Aaron Haugh
marketing@ausa.org.nz

EDITORS

EDITOR IN CHIEF

BAILLEY VERRY

SUBEDITOR

BRIAN GU

DESIGNER

NICK WITHERS

NEWS EDITOR

DANIEL MEECH

FEATURES EDITOR

CAMERON LEAKEY

ARTS EDITOR

LACHLAN MITCHELL

COMMUNITY & LIFESTYLE EDITOR

CLAUDIA RUSSELL

VISUAL ARTS EDITOR

DAPHNE ZHENG

The articles and opinions contained within this magazine are not necessarily those of the staff, AUSA or printers.

FIND US ONLINE

WWW.CRACCUM.CO.NZ



: CRACCUIMMAGAZINE



: @CRACCUIMMAG



: @CRACCUIM

**NOW POURING ON TAP
ONLY \$5 A PINT**



**AVAILABLE NOW AND EXCLUSIVELY
AT YOUR STUDENT BAR**

SHADOWS
BAR & EATERY

COME CELEBRATE THE LAST DAY OF LECTURES

CLASS OF 2019

OCTOBER 25TH
FROM 6PM IN SHADOWS

IAN MUNRO

OTÔ
SAN
TETO



SHADOWS
BAR & EATERY

POSTER CHILD

RVLTN CREW