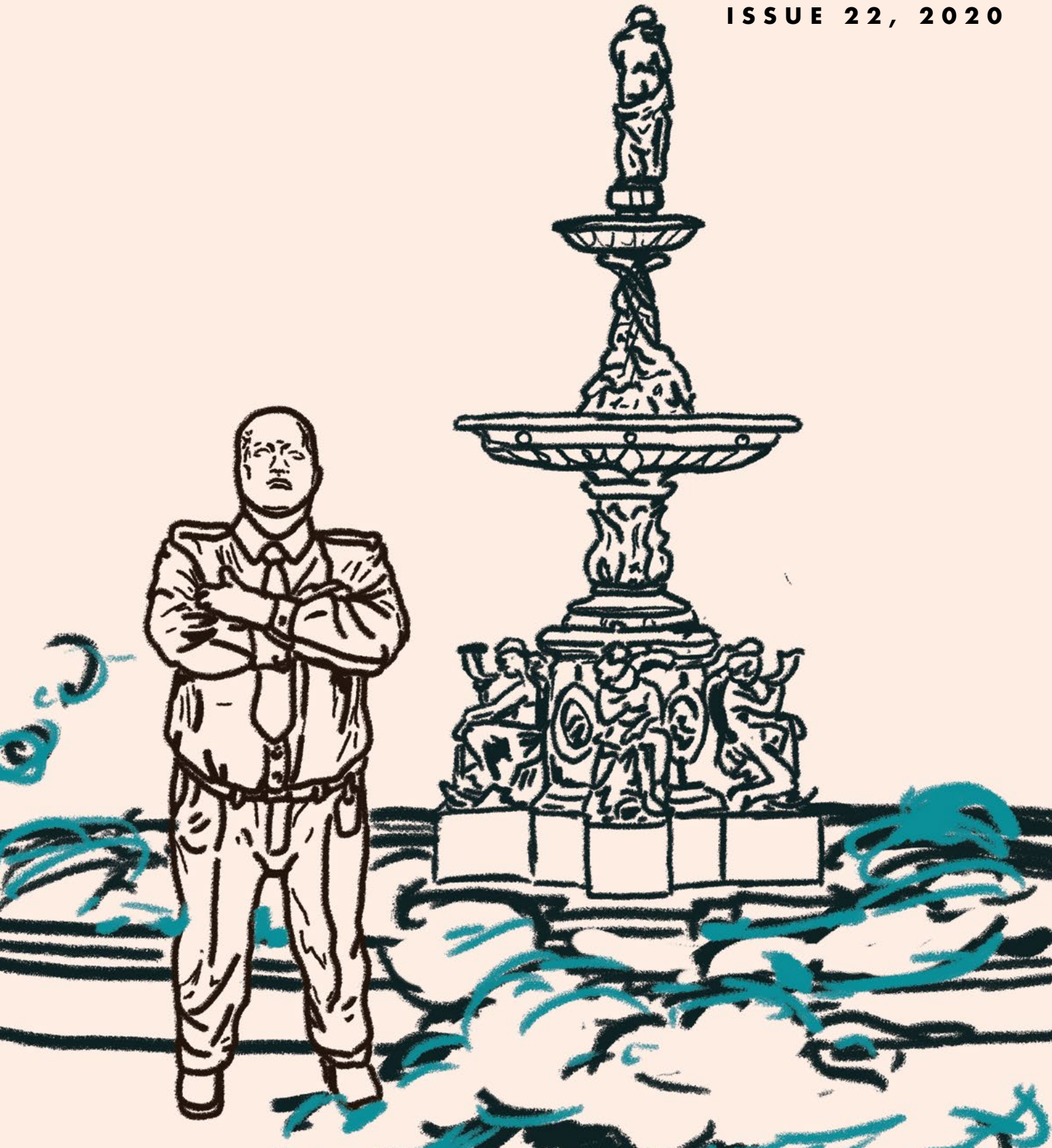


# CRACCU M

ISSUE 22, 2020



## University Still Charging Compassionate Consideration Fees

The university promised compassionate consideration fees would be waived this semester, but some students claim they're still being charged. PAGE 11.

## How Secure is Uni Accommodation?

Talia Parker went for a wander around all the different university halls to see which ones were the most (and least) secure. PAGE 18.

## Top Ten Alternatives to In-Person Graduation

Dawn Freshwater said we might have to have an online graduation. We're not too fussed - Club Penguin graduation ceremonies, anyone? PAGE 21.

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# contents.

**04** EDITORIAL

**07** NEWS

## **14** End of Life Choice Bill

**16** TIME TO LET IT GROW

**18** HOW SECURE IS UOA ACCOMMODATION?

## **21** Top Ten Graduation Alternatives

**24** REVIEWS

**26** FINDING THE FUN IN FANFIC MOVIES

**28** THE BAHATIS ARE BACK!

## **30** Memory

**31** DINNER AND A MOVIE

**32** POETRY

**37** HOROSCOPES

### WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

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# Vote

## Cam says:

It's that time every three years where we implore you to vote. This year, I'm not going to stand on my soapbox and tell you who to vote for. You can probably already guess who I'm going to vote for, and my answer to that is that you're absolutely fucking right. What I will talk about is why we need more students voting.

Youth voter turnout is pretty low. For this election, 72% of people aged 18 to 29 are enrolled. While this is an improvement from 69% in 2017, it's still far below the enrolment rate of the older boomer generation and it's concerning that our generation can't seem to get their shit together and mail off the enrolment form.

So the question is: how do we get young people to vote? Those who aren't enrolled to vote potentially aren't reading this. They're certainly not watching the Ghost Voter campaign ads and for sure don't enjoy the Electoral Commission's 80s inspired song about MMP (it's as fucking cringe as it sounds). They're a hard audience to capture and engage with and political scientists recognise that by the time people are old enough to contribute to these efforts - they're not in the target audience anymore.

I guess if we already had the answers to getting young people to vote, we would've done it by now. I'm over all the youth voter campaigns. They do an incremental part to raise turnout, but since 2014, our turnout has only risen 3% - that's not enough. The most practical thing to raise youth voter turnout would be to lower the voting age to 16: Get kids to vote when they're in school, socialising with others, and where the peer pressure is actually to do it. To those who say that 16 year olds don't know enough, I will say, you can make dumb voting decisions at 16 or at 50 or at any age in fact: we've seen this many times before.

Go out and vote,

Cam



## Dan says:

Listen, I didn't want to be that guy telling young people to vote. It's overplayed. It's condescending. It's a little too boomer-y for my tastes.

But, as Cameron points out, it does need to be said. Stats show that younger people just don't vote as much as older people. Which sucks. Because older people are lame.

If you're thinking of not voting because you're worried the process will take too long, or that it'll be weird and scary, or that it'll be boring, or that you won't know what to do, let me tell you how my recent experience voting went:

I was sitting at home, trying to avoid watching the lectures I needed to catch up on. I googled 'election voting booths nearby'. My search took me to the Vote NZ website. A webpage with all the voting booths on it told me the nearest one was just round the corner, at my local mall. I rocked up at the mall. I scanned the COVID-19 QR code. I walked inside and stood in line for about two minutes. A lady handed me two forms and a pen and told me how it works. I went to a booth. I ticked for my party vote, my MP vote, my cannabis and euthanasia vote. And then I dropped my slips of paper in a box by the door and walked out.

The whole thing took me about five minutes.

So, please vote this election. I don't want a country run by boomers.

Cheers,

Dan

PS. If you're at uni right now, you can vote anytime during the week by rocking up to the Aotea Centre on Queen Street.





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# International Students Call for More Representation and Action

BRIAN GU

**A tumultuous year, compounded by disturbances to teaching delivery, has left international students disillusioned with their investment in education at UoA, and underrepresentation for their interests.**

These concerns have led third-year international student Varsha Ravi towards petitioning for more action from the university and Ministry of Education, amassing over 100 signatures so far.

"Originally, I thought it was just my friends and I who were fed up and upset with the quality of education this year," says Ravi, "but whilst I was in the running for ISO, the massive amount of international students that shared this feeling was brought to light."

Ravi's petition calls for international students to receive financial compensation for their education being affected. Possible solutions include tuition fee relief, papers offered at free or domestic rate, or assistance with accommodation fees.

"We do not want [the university] to just acknowledge that there are COVID relief funds and hardship funds - those are only applicable on a personalised basis," says Ravi. "We want a decision that favours and is applicable to all international students."

Ravi also holds underlying concerns about how international students

are perceived and treated by the university. "[Our] community has been used for the tokenistic term 'diversity' but reaps minimal benefits for this multicultural education system we contribute to."

Meanwhile, AUSA have made the late decision to appoint an interim International Students Officer (ISO), with Afiqah Ramizi stepping into the role. After originally leaving the position vacant since the start of the year, AUSA have told students not appointing a stand-in "was a mistake, and we apologize."

Ramizi's plans for the remainder of the year include establishing a committee for the ISO to lead and engage with, holding an online hui including offshore students, and to begin conversations with senior university officials about International Student fees for 2021.

While Ravi believes this decision should have been made at the earliest opportunity, she admits it is "better late than never."

"We needed someone to navigate this battle through the institution and hopefully we have now found that person through the interim ISO."

You can visit the petition via the following link: <https://www.change.org/p/ministry-of-education-international-students-deserve-tuition-fee-relief>

# Teachers Highlight the Importance of the Profession on World Teachers' Day

ELLA MORGAN

**Low pay, high stress and lack of value placed on early learning are all challenges faced by early childhood teachers, says Lee Tulloch, manager of Li'l Pumpkins Early Learning.**

World Teacher's Day was held on October 5th, with people around the world celebrating the valuable work that teachers do in our communities. However, in Aotearoa, large numbers of ECE teachers are rallying for change in the sector.

"I love being an ECE teacher and enjoy being part of the profession, but love does not pay the bills," says Tulloch. "When asked about whether a person should consider training I say 'don't do it', too much stress and responsibility for a government attested rate of \$23.95. Take out of that contribution to Kiwisaver and student loan repayments, the outlook isn't great for a quality lifestyle."

Tulloch says that the pay rate of teachers reflects misunderstandings

of the importance of the work teachers do. Widespread academic research has demonstrated the importance of quality early childhood education for determining positive outcomes later in life.

"For decades ECE teachers have struggled for recognition for the important work that they are doing for our youngest community members. With the growing research validating what we have known for years that quality ECE has long term social and socio economic outcomes on our tamariki, families are still happy to put their precious taonga with the lowest paid professionals in New Zealand."

The education sector has also experienced a teacher shortage, with many teaching graduates choosing to work in other areas due to low pay and difficult working conditions. However, some sector experts say we may see a rise in those joining the teaching profession in a post-COVID environment.

# Promote the Vote: Student Electorates Hit an All Time Low in Enrolment

CHARLOTTE PARKER

**The youth population in New Zealand has some of the lowest levels of enrolment to vote, with Electoral Commission statistics showing that only 72% of 18-29 year olds are enrolled to vote.**

Major cities who hold the highest student populations in New Zealand still report having the lowest levels of engagement when voting. Electorates surrounding university campuses have also been shown to have the low rates of enrolment to vote across the country. In New Zealand's 2017 general election, 30.73% of enrolled voters aged 18-24 did not vote; In the Auckland Central electorate, only 79.94% of enrolled voters turned out to vote.

The issue of youth non-voting is concerning due to the fact that in this year's election, voters will also be able to vote on the End of Life Choice and cannabis referendums. Older generations will have a larger say in the future of younger generations if there is a lack of engagement from younger citizens.

In a 2011 study conducted by Statistics New Zealand, 21% of non-voters

reported that their reason for not voting was as a result of forgetfulness or disinterest. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, and with the whole of New Zealand now back at Level 1, these may be widespread reasons for non-voting as people adapt back to ordinary life. With many universities requiring students to return to campus, and with the University of Auckland's upcoming in-person exams, there are far more distractions than in previous election years.

Professor Jack Vowles from Victoria University of Wellington says that "voting is something people do together". After multiple lockdowns, University of Auckland students may not want to feel alone in doing their civic duty. So, grab a friend and head along to your local polling station.

Advance voting began on the 3rd of October, with the official date of the Election set for Saturday the 17th October. Anyone who is enrolled and eligible to vote is able to cast their vote between 9am-7pm at a number of registered polling stations. You can find out where to vote by heading to [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz)

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# Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Election: Where Does Each Party Sit?

*With the 2020 General Election happening this weekend, it's important to understand what policies each party is proposing should they form a government. This week, we're taking a look at the key policies that each party has proposed in regard to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.*

These lists do not constitute a full analysis of each party's stance on Te Tiriti, however they serve as a guide to the approaches of each major party this election.

## What is Te Tiriti o Waitangi?

The Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi is an agreement signed by a number of Māori chiefs and a representative of the Crown in 1840. It contains three articles that addressed issues of sovereignty, the protection of Māori taonga and established equality. However, there were a number of differences in translation between the English and Te Reo Māori versions of the treaty, and understandings of the meaning of the Treaty in practice differed. Regardless of this, the Crown over time violated both the English and Te Reo Māori versions of the Treaty, which has had a number of long-term effects such as alienation from land and culture and the degradation of taonga. Te Tiriti o Waitangi doesn't have formal legal status in Aotearoa, however Treaty principles are referenced in a number of laws, and a commission of inquiry (the Waitangi Tribunal) has been set up to investigate treaty violations and make recommendations for settlement. So how does each party approach Te Tiriti?

### Labour Party

- No specific policy toward Te Tiriti.

### National Party

- Support the development of teaching resources about Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

### Green Party

- Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Change the constitution to be based on Te Tiriti by 2040.
- Adopt the recommendations of the Waitangi Tribunal's kaupapa inquiries.
- Implement Treaty settlements regarding co-governance of conservation land.

### Act Party

- No specific policy toward Te Tiriti.

### NZ First

- No specific policy toward Te Tiriti.

### Māori Party

- Implement the Matike Mai recommendations to change the constitution.
- Permit local government land to be returned to Māori following treaty settlements.
- End the notion of "full and final" treaty settlements so historical claims can be revisited.
- End the requirement of negotiation with "large natural groupings".
- Reform the settlement process and remove limits around the value of land claims.
- Make Waitangi Tribunal recommendations legally binding.
- Introduce a Parliamentary Commissioner for Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Make Treaty of Waitangi impact statements mandatory in legislation, executive regulations, and cabinet papers.

### New Conservative Party

- Change laws to only refer to Treaty "provisions".
- End the Waitangi Tribunal and set a deadline for settlements.

### The Opportunities Party

- Resolve Treaty breaches by 2040.
- Establish a codified constitution that includes Treaty obligations.
- For more information on each party's specific policy, head to their party website, or check out [policy.nz](https://policy.nz) to compare parties by issue.

# Race for Auckland Central: Student Issues, Transport, and Poverty on Show At bFM Debate

JUSTIN WONG (CRACCUM) AND JAMES TAPP (DEBATE)

**Three candidates of the Auckland Central electorate have gone head-to-head in a debate on radio station 95bFM.**

Labour's Helen White, the National Party's Emma Mellow, and the Green Party's Chlöe Swarbrick were present on the station's current affairs show, *The Wire*, last Thursday, and debated on topics including student life, public transport, local government, arts and events and poverty.

The debate was mostly orderly, but occasionally boiled over while discussing public transport, poverty, and mandatory student association membership.

All candidates were asked their thoughts on Auckland University's decision to not give a grade bump to all students for Semester 2.

Swarbrick said it has been a huge challenge to coordinate a cross-country response because student associations have become powerless under voluntary membership, which caused a divergence on how universities respond.

She wanted to see a uniformed approach between universities.

That was echoed by White, who said student associations have become weaker under voluntary membership, and strengthening them is important.

"They don't have the same pulling power and ability to really advocate as they did."

"Universities tend to be full of pretty powerful and intimidating people on issues like this."

But Mellow, who recently finished postgraduate at Auckland University, disagreed, saying students should be able to choose if they want to have a union membership.

While on transport, White claimed more central housing is needed to reduce commute times, while all candidates agreed more measures to support electric vehicles are needed..

All candidates also agreed Auckland's local government needed more respect from the central government so local matters would have the support they need.

They all had their own areas of focus, and felt they were the best people to be the representative for Auckland's local government.

Next, the conversation moved to arts and culture, with small venues being a key focus as Karangahape Road is considered the soul of Auckland Central and the location of many of these venues.

Finally, after we heard their stances on student life, the conversation moved to poverty, with emergency housing, the city mission and funding for health and education all being discussed.

This debate would be the last of which the three candidates would be present at the same stage.

*Justin Wong and James Tapp were the moderator and producer of the debate.*



# Contrary to University Statements, Students Are Still Being Charged Compassionate Consideration Fees

DANIEL MEECH

**Craccum understands that students applying for compassionate consideration and aegrotats are still being charged a fee this semester.**

This contradicts emails sent by the university earlier this year, in which spokespeople repeatedly stated that fees would be waived for applications made this semester.

According to the university's website, compassionate consideration fees are a \$30-\$50 fee students have to pay if they are unable to sit an exam because they are sick, in an accident, or have been affected by an unforeseen event which has affected their ability to complete the exam (such as a family member dying suddenly beforehand).

Earlier in the year, after Craccum revealed the university planned to charge the fee against students who were affected by COVID-19, staff, students, AUSA and politicians publicly called on the university to scrap the fees.

As a result of the backlash, Vice-Chancellor Dawn Freshwater announced she would be waiving the fees "this semester".

In an early email to students and staff, Freshwater stated the fees would be waived for COVID-19 related applications only. However, in later emails, she appeared to expand the waiver further, stating

That "administration fees for Covid-19 related applications for aegrotat and compassionate consideration for tests and examinations in Semester Two will be waived for Semester Two".

Many students took the broad wording in these subsequent emails to mean that all application fees would be waived. This view was supported by a statement Craccum received by the university. When Craccum asked a spokesperson to clarify if all compassionate consideration fees would be waived this semester, we were told that "the administration fees for both the aegrotat and compassionate consideration process will be waived for Semester Two". The spokesperson did not state that the waiver would apply only to COVID-19 related applications.

In multiple different emails sent throughout September and October, Freshwater repeatedly said that "arrangements for aegrotat and compassionate consideration will continue, but with the fee charge waived". Nowhere in these emails did she state that this waiver would apply only to COVID-19 related applications. The wording strongly implied that all application fees would be waived.

However, Craccum understands that students are still being charged the application fee if their application is not COVID-19 related.

One student told Craccum that they were charged when they applied for compassionate consideration. They were told that the fee waiver did not apply to non-COVID-19 related applications.

This student's statement is supported by the compassionate consideration application form itself (which can be found on the

university's website). Contrary to claims from the university that all fees are waived this semester, the form states that the fee will only be waived if the student can prove their application is COVID-19 related.

Moreover, Craccum understands that, even where students have applied for COVID-19 related reasons, some students have had trouble having the fee waived. Another student who spoke to Craccum claimed that they had applied for COVID-19 related reasons, but were told that they would have to pay the fee unless they could prove they tested positive for the virus. Craccum contacted the university to confirm whether or not this is true; they have seen our email but have not replied to confirm or deny whether students need to produce a positive test to have their fees waived.

One student who spoke to Craccum said they were worried this might encourage sick students to come to university.

"I think it's asking sick students to make a choice between staying home, and having to pay a fee, versus going to class or tests or whatever and not having to fork out for it," they said.

Another echoed similar sentiments.

"I do think a fee is probably going to encourage sick students to come to university".

"We're all students, we're not exactly rolling in money. Right now I'm waiting for my pay to come in and I know I personally wouldn't have the funds to pay for an application fee if I had to do it right now."

Another student told Craccum that they didn't think the fees were fair in the first place.

"It makes no sense to me. The university is charging you for being sick. Like, 'that sucks that you were in an accident, give us 50 bucks please'. Isn't it enough that we pay our course fees?"

"I didn't get why students were so happy that the fees were being waived in the first place. They were only being waived for one semester - and then I guess they're not even really being waived anyway. Why can't the university waive the fees for all semesters?"

Two staff members working at the university told Craccum they believe the fees are not actually used to cover any costs. Instead, they believe the university charges students an application fee to lower the numbers of students who apply for consideration. Craccum is in the process of lodging an Official Information Request to determine whether or not this is true.

A spokesperson for the Auckland University Students Association (AUSA) told Craccum that they have heard similar stories from concerned students. AUSA plans to meet to discuss the matter later today.



## WHAKARONGO MAI!/LISTEN UP!

# What is the most important issue to students this election?

ELLA MORGAN

*With the 2020 General Election on this weekend, we wanted to hear what students thought was the most important issue this election. Here's what University of Auckland students said.*

### Gemma, 21, Postgraduate Arts

"Obviously COVID is very important, but other than that the most important issue to me is sorting out the housing crisis. I'm going to be finished uni soon and hopefully working to save for a house, but what is the point if prices are so high and unattainable. It's pretty disheartening that neither major party wants to change the nature of our housing market, so I don't think there's much chance of things improving any time soon."

### Jacob, 24, Commerce

"Like Jacinda said, it's a COVID election. We need a clear plan to rebuild our economy. I don't think anyone could have predicted how big of an issue this was going to be this year and I think that rebuilding from COVID and getting back to a stable way of living is really important, not just for the economy but for our mental health and quality of life."

### Tina, 18, Arts

"COVID-19. It's a global pandemic affecting our economy, health, jobs, education, events, sports. Whoever gets in, whatever party, is going to have a huge effect on how we recover, and actually how we cope because it's still happening."

### Anna, 21, Science

"The environment needs to be considered in our COVID recovery. We've all seen how the environment has improved around the globe when we were forced into lockdown. How we recover is an opportunity to change the way we treat the environment for the better. It's a chance to be better than how we were before."

### Maddy, 21, Arts

"The most important thing to me is keeping our communities healthy and safe in the wake of COVID-19. I think privileging anything else over the health of New Zealanders at this time is very foolish and I will be voting in a way that reflects that. Also Vote yes on the Cannabis Referendum".

### Cameron, 21, Arts

"For me, the most crucial issue for this election is the need for our COVID-19 recovery to rebuild New Zealand better and more equitably for all. Our marginalised and disadvantaged communities are struggling and this unprecedented time reflects a new opportunity to alleviate income inequality and do so in a way that makes New Zealand stronger".

### Carlos, 20, Arts

"The most important thing I'm thinking about is the cannabis decision. It's going to benefit us in so many ways with taxing it, jobs and health benefits if we can get it legalised. I'm a bit worried because young people aren't likely to vote as much as older generations so we might not get it, but I really hope we can come together and do this for the benefit of society."

# akaKorongo 3 Mai!

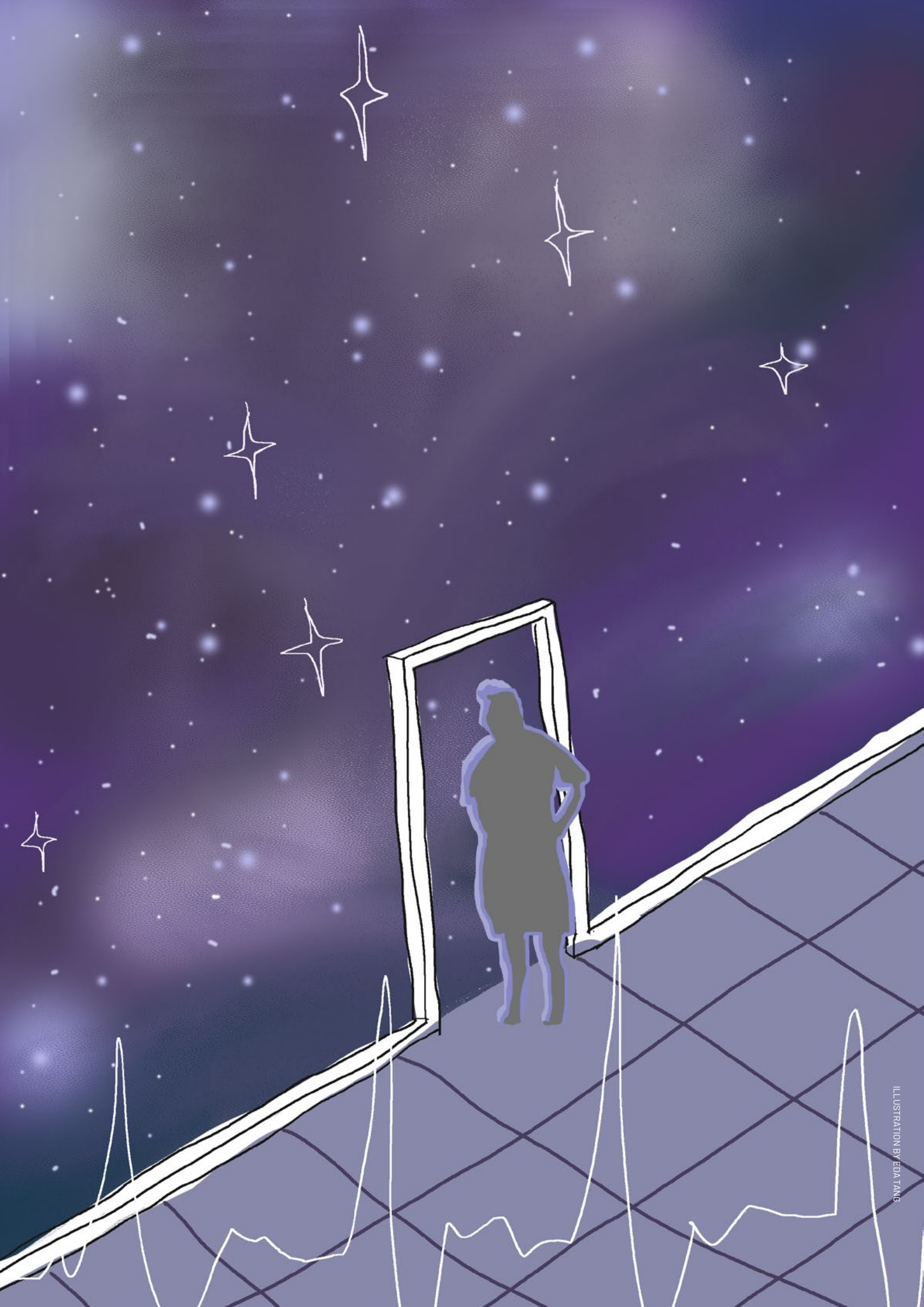
**COVID-19.** It's a global pandemic affecting our economy, health, jobs, education, events, sports. Whoever gets in, whatever party, is going to have a huge effect on how we recover.

The most important issue to me is sorting out the housing crisis. I'm going to be finished uni soon and hopefully working to save for a house, but what is the point if prices are so high and unattainable.

The environment ... we've all seen how the environment has improved around the globe when we were forced into lockdown. How we recover is an opportunity to change the way we treat the environment for the better.

The most important thing I'm thinking about is the cannabis decision. It's going to benefit us in so many ways with taxing it, jobs and health benefits if we can get it legalised.







# End of Life Choice Bill: Dying with Dignity? Or Dying Too Soon?

TULSI KHANNA

One of the most contentious pieces of legislation ever seen in New Zealand Parliament has now been passed through its third reading and will go to referendum in the 2020 election. Inspired by the judicial action taken by terminally ill lawyer Lecretia Seales, David Seymour's End of Life Choice Bill was introduced to the House in 2017 and proposes the choice of assisted dying or euthanasia to the terminally ill. It is not there to encourage dying, but to give those who are suffering and facing inevitable death a choice, to die peacefully and with dignity.

To be eligible for assisted dying, a person must meet all the criteria:

- **Be aged 18 or over**
- **Be a citizen or permanent resident of New Zealand**
- **Suffer from terminal illness that is likely to end their life in 6 months**
- **Have significant and ongoing decline in physical capability**
- **Experience unbearable suffering that cannot be eased**
- **Be able to make an informed decision about assisted dying**

That person cannot be eligible if the reason is that they are suffering from a mental illness, mental disorder, have a disability of any kind or be of advanced age.

This bill has triggered a very strong and highly emotional response since its introduction nearly three years ago. Parliament had voted on this bill as a conscience issue, meaning their vote did not have to align with their party values, but with their personal ones. This welcomed a range of responses that strongly supported and strongly opposed this bill, finally reaching 69 votes to 51 in favor of the bill. This

sent the bill to referendum, where the public will decide on its fate this upcoming election.

In a 2018 debate, ex-Prime Minister Bill English had called the proposed legislation, "parliamentary-sanctioned murder". During the third reading of the bill, National MP Nick Smith had expressed his worry that this Bill allowed for eligible people to request for euthanasia without consulting with their family and loved ones. However in the Bill it does state that a doctor must suggest for the person to talk with their loved ones, but they do not have to do so. Many people have opposed this bill on cultural and religious basis, for the fear that it is taking one's life away too soon and that it is inhumane for healthcare staff to have to carry this out. There was also concerns that people could be pressured by their families to make the decision, or that privatised medical practitioners would offer this service for financial gain. Essentially, the biggest worry was that this procedure would be easily abused. Under clause 8(2)(h) of the Act, the doctor must ensure that the person wanting euthanasia was under no pressure from any other person, they would do this through talking with the family members. However, many submissions claimed this was too low a threshold, and some patients would not want their family members to be consulted. New Zealand's criteria around the process is much stricter than elsewhere around the world. The Swiss Law, one of the world's most liberal allows any person, irrespective of age, to be euthanized so long as they are capable of understanding what they are choosing to do. In comparison, New Zealand's proposed legislation is stringent and only available to those who would likely die within six months following their request for assisted death and

are terminally ill. This bill does not extend to mental disorders, mental illnesses, or disability. Thus, it is fair to question claims such as National Party's Harete Hipango's overstatement that this is simply "a kill bill".

One major argument against euthanasia was the way it would impact Māori, as they have disproportionately bad health outcomes. This was put under the spotlight by National MP and GP Shane Reti and supported by Labour MP Adrian Rurawhe. However, after discussing the issue with three high profile Maori leaders, Labor MP Willie Jackson rejected this view saying these Maori leaders had helped him realize that "Tikanga evolves, Tikanga changes and there is no one Tikanga".

Being put to the public with the success of its third reading, this bill did not go without its praise and supporters. The third reading of the bill was an emotional debate, especially since it was a conscience issue. National MP Chris Bishop states, "I do not accept the argument that has been put by some- that painful death is just something we should blindly accept, that it is 'Gods Will'". He also went on to cite that between 3 and 8 per cent of suicide in the 20th century was committed by people who were "rational, competent, and suffering a terminal illness". This shows how the legalization of assisted dying could be a way that the terminally ill are able to pass away without pain, with the support of their loved ones, rid from the taboo nature of suicide and with dignity. The stringent laws on euthanasia in New Zealand would make this process only available to those who were in immense pain, with no way out of their suffering than through a painful and slow death. It aims to alleviate the suffering, using the rule of law to help those who are rendered







# Time To Let It Grow

HASINI WANIGASURIYA

*The first time I felt the need to shave was at 11 years old. I was in PE class and noticed that none of the other girls had hair on their legs. So, I went home, got my poor dad's razor, and shaved my leg hair off. I imagine that it's a similar story for many other women and anyone who shaves alike.*

But why did we start shaving at all?

Shaving our hair off is nothing new. Razors made of copper were first found in India and Egypt 3000 years ago. Egyptian women and ancient Indians considered pubic hair uncivilized. Egyptians removed their hairs to keep cool and prevent lice. Roman women also plucked and pulled on the quest to be hairless. Darwin then came along and in 1871 said that less hair meant you were a more sexually attractive partner, which is why humans had evolved to be less hairy than our hairy ancestors. Being hairless had gone from being a matter of practicalities to a matter of sexual attractiveness.

Hair removal advertisements were first run by Harper's Bazaar in 1914, with the arrival of the flapper dresses and evening gowns. Body hair became something you had to remove because, according to Harper's Bazaar, it was "objectionable" for your armpit hair to be seen. In 1922, Harper's Bazaar even went as far as to say that a woman must have "immaculate underarms if she is to be unembarrassed." Gillette then launched an attack on underarm hair in 1915, calling underarm hair "objectionable" and "unsightly" as they were not selling enough razors. The consequences of these men branding body hair as unsightly is still felt around the world among many women. Then came along WW2, and a shortage of nylon, which meant women were more likely to shave leg hair as well because stocking supplies were low. Hugh Hefner's Playboy magazine decided

to showcase hairless pubic areas. And why not? Of course, a man decided women needed to have prepubescent looking nether regions. The beauty industry, capitalism and patriarchy worked to instill this insecurity into women, and continue to profit off of this degrading work.

By the early 1900s, femininity and smooth skin were synonymous among white American women. By 1964, 98% of women aged fifteen to forty-four shaved their legs regularly. Though it's not like the beauty industry and the marketing lads in Gillette can accept all the blame. It seems for millennia that women have shaved and, in certain instances, we certainly did shave when we knew our bodies would be exposed. But it wasn't quite the same insistent norm to shave then as it is now.

The problem I have with shaving is that many women do it today because of the reasons Gillette and Harper's Bazaar cited. I know I started to shave because I found the hair below my head to be "objectionable" and "embarrassing." I imagine it's the same for many other women and anybody else who shaves. Hairlessness and its associations to womanhood have caused problems for women with hirsutism and transgender women. Research shows that body hair can worsen gender dysphoria for transgender women. But this shouldn't be the case. We should only shave because we want to, not because society equates hairlessness to femininity.

I decided to grow my body hair purely by accident. I returned to Auckland after quarantine, a hairy beast, without any razors and forgot to buy them every time I went to the supermarket. After a while, I thought, why not join a movement? I realized that when I saw women with body hair, I was surprised and my first thoughts weren't all that positive. I still struggle to untangle the idea that body hair is not gross. Having this reaction made me angry because I hated that this was my immediate response to something good for our body. After all, body hair serves us in thermoregulation and helps to keep away infections.

My hope is that eventually people will see women with body hair and not be surprised by it. Because it is normal! I want to aid other women in this movement to change how body hair is seen. Where I come from, the majority of women still don't shave, but rather embrace our hairy femininity.

Next time you pick up the razor or start waxing, I challenge you to ask yourself: Am I doing this for myself? Would I feel insecure if I didn't shave or wax? Why do I feel insecure if I don't wax?

If the answers are "no" and "yes," then put the razor down and join a movement. As much as society may tell you otherwise, the only validation you ever need is from yourself.





# How Secure is Auckland University Accommodation?

TALIA PARKER

*Not fucking very, it turns out.*

I live in University accommodation, and I basically never have to use my key. This left me wondering; could a random, with no special training (or talent), make their way to the top floor of our accommodation buildings without a key? Then I thought; hey, I'm a random with no special training or talent! I don't have a key to these buildings! Thus, this god-tier mischief was born.

**THE TASK:** Get from the outside of the building to the top floor, without a key, and without being stopped.

**THE ONLY RULE:** If I am stopped, I cannot lie; I must admit I don't live there and leave.

Spoiler alert – literally not one person questioned my presence. That alone is terrifying. People, please, I beg you; *be assholes!* You're too nice! Don't let people follow you in! Question people who don't get their key out! Some people will think you're a wanker, but you'll be a very safe wanker. There were times where I looked sketchy as all hell (wandering around with clearly no clue where the lifts were, waiting outside on the step and leaping up to tailgate someone in), so the fact that no one stopped me is very, VERY concerning. A little bit of douchebaggery on your part could keep your whole building safe.

Without further ado, let's find out which buildings I visited, how I rate their security, and where I made it to.

## UniHall Towers: 0/10 – Top Floor

I almost gave this place a 1, because I did have to sit outside for a while before



someone came along. But, I still got in, and made it all the way up. Thanks to the nice man who opened the door for me, but that's probably not a great idea. Also, to the girl on floor 14 who looked me dead in the face and said a cheery hello – you probably should learn the faces of the people who live on your floor. I mean, what if I had been a total weirdo who sneaks into buildings for fun?

....moving on.

## ANZAC BEACH: 5/10 – Entrance to Flats

I made it inside, but missed getting through the second door following that same person. Eventually, someone came out, and I got through the second one, only to find that there was a fucking third one! This building loses points because I did get through two, but doesn't get a fail grade because I couldn't reach the actual area where the flats were.

## Waiparuru Hall: 8/10 – Study/Kitchen Area

If you are a burglar, do not try to break into this building. You need a swipe card for EVERYTHING.

I managed to follow a group of three into the building, but the crafty buggers stopped at the reception desk, so I couldn't follow behind them through the second door. This led to my awkward diversion to the bathroom, where I hoped someone would be there to follow when I came out. As luck would have it, someone did show up, and I followed them through to the second area. Once I got in there, you needed a goddamn map to find the fucking lifts! That ground floor is bigger than HSB. After ten minutes of searching, I decided I looked properly suspicious and would imminently be arrested if I did not quickly vacate.



Turns out, you need a key to exit the damn place! I had to sit right beside the exit, looking for all the world like Selina Kyle with twenty extra kilos, and follow someone out with my tail between my legs. I sweated through my damn shirt, convinced I'd be taken to Mt Eden Prison and thrown away for life. It's not getting a perfect 10 because I did manage to get some way in, but boy, my blood pressure was up damn high. Do not recommend.

#### **Te Tioranga:** 0/10 – Top Floor

This place almost has excellent security, but it doesn't have overly cautious residents. I followed two people in through both locked doors, and thought I was golden. But, when I entered the lift, I realised you needed a key to operate it. I thought my goose was thoroughly cooked. But, thankfully for this experiment (though not for the safety of his fellow residents), a lovely young man swiped his card for me. I didn't ask him to, and he did it without a word, so I didn't break my rule. Hey friend, I'm sure you're very nice, but maybe don't do that without even asking if I live there. Again, thanks for caring, but stop it.

#### **O'Rorke Hall:** 3/10 – Top Floor Corridor

The fact that I was able to even get through the gate after sitting outside for 15 minutes looking guilty as all hell is proof enough that this place needs better security. But, the addition of swipe access to the individual floors meant I could only make it to the

corridor of the top floor, not into the floor itself.

It was also a nightmare trying to get out. Like Waiparuru, you need a swipe card to leave. While you're sitting there, waiting to tailgate some poor unwitting sap back to freedom, you might as well be dressed as the Hamburglar. But, again, the fact that no one questioned me was lunacy.

#### **Grafton Hall:** 10/10 – Not Even Inside

This place is like Fort Knox. There are so many entrances that it's impossible to follow anyone in, because there's nowhere to wait for them. Also, you need a swipe card to get out of the gate to the complex, which had me convinced I would die in there, but thankfully I found a side exit. No mischief to be done there.

#### **Carlaw Student Village:** 9/10 – Reception Area

There are so many parts to this place, it's like a transformer. I made it through one door, but then they pulled that sneaky visiting-reception trick again, and I couldn't get through to the other building. Well played, Carlaw, well played.

#### **55 Symonds Street:** 0/10 – Top Floor

Absolutely horrific. Got straight from outside to the top without any pause. Undoubtedly the easiest one to do. So easy, in fact, that I have nothing else entertaining to say about it. Fix it up, guys.

### So, what did we learn from this?

Well, most notably for me personally; I am wasting my time paying for Uni when I should just become a burglar. Eat your heart out Tom Cruise.

But, for the safety of students, every accommodation building should have:

- A reception desk RIGHT BESIDE the first set of locked doors, because it's extremely intimidating to try and sneak in right in front of them.
- Elevators that require a swipe key to move the floors (and for god's sake, don't swipe up people you don't know!).
- No clear signage to point out the lifts – makes it pretty obvious who doesn't live there.
- Exits that operate by swipe cards, so that if you do manage to finesse your way in, you can't get out.

I promise, that's the last time I'll use the word 'finesse.' I honestly feel dirty.





# Top Ten Alternatives to Traditional Graduation

CAMERON LEAKEY AND DANIEL MEECH

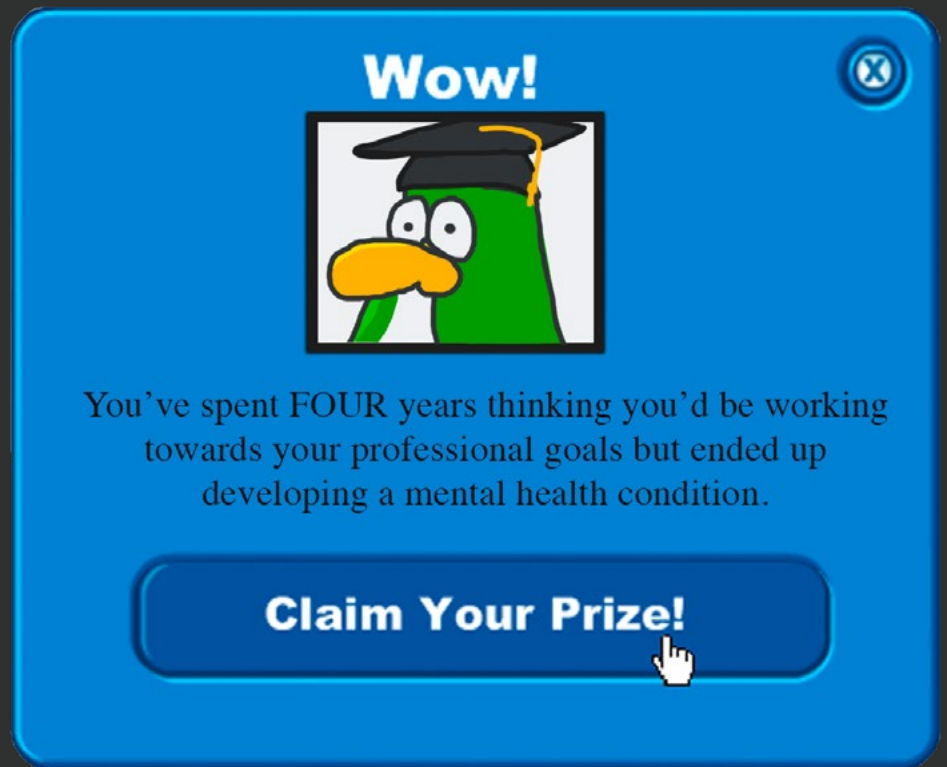
A few weeks ago, beloved Vice-Chancellor Dawn Freshwater announced that there would be no graduation ceremony this semester due to lockdown restrictions. Instead, students would have the amazing, once-in-lifetime opportunity to graduate virtually! What did a virtual graduation ceremony actually entail? We never found out – student backlash forced Freshwater to change her mind and graduation is now back in person! But, on the off chance that we go back to lockdown before grad can take place, we've prepared some alternatives for the uni in case they need it:

## 1. Club Penguin Graduation

Students get to create their own penguin and then gather around the Ski Village for the graduation ceremony. A penguin called Dawn Freshwater stands at the front of the crowd with a bunch of pink puffles (stand-ins for the certificates). When she types the name of a student in the chat, they walk over, do a little dance, and then take a puffle off-stage with them. Cue all the students tossing celebratory snowballs into the air. The best part? You can hit up the nightclub if you're feeling a little funky afterwards.

## 2. Facebook Group Chat

Chuck all the graduates into one big group chat. All the proceedings can go ahead in long essay messages: the type that you'd normally skip past. The university song is sung via voice memo. Eventually people start spamming the group chat. People leave and come back. Who would've thought 300 people in one group chat would be a bad idea?



## 3. The Graduation Podcast

Graduations are so old-school. You know what's down with the kids? Podcasts! Why not turn this year's graduation into a podcast by having Dawn Freshwater record herself doing the whole ceremony on her own? Divide the audio into 30–45 minute chunks, chuck a couple ads for Harry's razors in there, and slap that baby on Spotify. Easy.

## 4. Socially Distanced Graduation

Okay everyone take two steps back and keep that 2m bubble around you: if anyone gets too close: two week mandatory isolation. Claps are fine, but make sure you sanitise beforehand. When you walk across the stage, the Chancellor still pretends to put the hat on you because apparently that tradition has always involved social distance.

feature.

## 5. Fortnite Graduation

You know what's better than a Fortnite concert? A Fortnite graduation! Just picture it: 300 students desperately sprinting around Twisted Towers whilst Dawn Freshwater's voice booms down on them from above. "We are pleased to announce that profits are up 200%," she rumbles, "Also, it's nice to see you all graduating I suppose." Only the last student standing gets to graduate; the rest have to re-enroll for next year. Let the games begin.

## 6. HouseParty Graduation

Everyone's favourite app, House Party, is back for virtual graduation. It works great when it's just you and Dawn, but as more people join, the party gets a bit full. Laggy internet gets in the way and the maximum of 8 makes it very difficult. Your mate tries to start a game of *Chips and Guac* but their drawing is shit and the whole thing is fucking lame. You all give up. Why didn't we just use Zoom to start with.

## 7. Drive-By Graduating

Fast-food restaurants are allowed to operate drive-throughs under level 3 of the lockdown. Here's the plan: Freshwater chucks a big yellow M on the top of the clocktower. She buys a McDonald's uniform off AliExpress or something. Then, she tells all students to drive over to the university. Students drive by the Vice-Chancellor's open window, and as they do, Freshwater leans out and tosses them a Big Mac and a certificate. Graduation solved! Plus everyone gets a Big Mac, which is nice.

## 8. The Empty Stadium Special

COVID-19 has meant that sports teams can't have crowds in their stadiums anymore. But that hasn't stopped them - instead, they've started charging fans to have their faces printed on cardboard, cut out, and glued to chairs in the stadium. That way, it's like the crowds never left. Freshwater could follow suit by giving students the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to pay to attend a graduation they won't ever actually get to attend. What could be more UoA?

## 9. The 1pm Press Conference

Do you want to graduate with the soothing dulcet tones of Daddy Bloomfield reading out your name: Today we have 300 new cases of students getting qualified to report. All have severe student debt and due to the current economic climate, a low chance of becoming employed.

## 10. Do it at Dawn's

It's a \$5 million house, it's absolutely big enough to hold the ceremony. The university did purchase it for 'official university functions', and we can think of nothing more official than a graduation ceremony. Just think of it like a great big housewarming - we did pay for the house after all. BYO for a good time.



0:00

-53:20

## Graduation - Class of 2020

Dawn Freshwater



1x



UE ROLL 2



ukiwi<sup>®</sup>  
NATURAL ORAL CARE

Blueberry  
Breath Freshening



Kiwifruit  
Reduces Cavities



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—Enjoy the feeling of a clean fresh and cavity free mouth—

## UKIWI MACARON TOOTHPASTE COLOURFUL SWEET AND FULL OF HAPPINESS

With New Zealand Manuka propolis and a variety of plant extracts as core ingredients ukiwi Macaroon Toothpaste effectively freshens breath and provides a natural protection. Hydroxyapatite strengthens tooth enamel and soothes sensitivities. Each of the five flavours in the range have different benefits, suiting a range of oral needs ukiwi Macaroon Toothpaste makes brushing teeth fun with its brightly coloured packaging

**from New Zealand**





## SCARY MOVIE 2

MICHELLE KANAGAWA

**9/10:** Problematic? Duh. Who cares lol

Scary Movie 2 is a relic even tho it is almost 20 years old, lol. People always say you couldn't make Blazing Saddles today but who cares? Boomer movie. You couldn't make Scary Movie 2 today and that's the real crime. James Woods as a priest trying to touch up a 15 year old in an Exorcist parody? Lol. It's even racist and mocks disabled people and all that. The ghost sticks his ectoplasm dick in a sleeping Tori Spelling, even tho she turns out to be game. A Twitter cancellation orbital strike would happen within minutes of the movie's release.

But who actually cares? It's meant to be gross and bad and not inclusive. It's terrible, but who cares! So let's move to the good bits. The most well-known gags still hold up - any scene with Brenda is wonderful. The skeleton scene? Wouldn't change a thing!! Cindy is great all the time and Anna Faris looks beautiful in dark hair, and can sell stupid like few can. Very dated at some points, like the three minute Nike commercial parody and jokes about Calista Flockheart, bc this was 2001, lol! The cum scene featuring the eldest brother in Malcolm in the Middle? Still wild.

Watch it, or don't watch it. It's called Scary Movie 2, not Sociology Class 102.



## KILL COUNT

CHANEL POOMPHUANG

**8/10:** Let's get to the kills!

Interested in murder? Fascinated by guts and gore? Ever watched a horror film and wondered how many deaths they managed to rack up in an hour or two? Well, the YouTube channel **Dead Meat** has the series perfect for this: the **KILL COUNT**. Host **James A. Janisse** brings in light comedy to commentate all sorts of horror films as he "tally up the victims in all our favourite horror movies". Janisse gives a rundown of the film and how it begins and incorporates extra behind the scenes footage and facts about how the films were made.

These episodes are a great watch to introduce you to films you haven't heard of before or if you don't want to spend your time watching a horror movie that may or may not be good, or totally bonkers like *Evil Bong* - and yes this movie has 3 following sequels and is about a sentient bong that captures souls of those who smoke from it and traps them in The Bong World. So if this sounds like something you're into, no judge, go ahead and watch it; but if you're just mildly intrigued in what crazy shenanigans of a movie this is without spending almost 1 and a half hours on it, the Kill Count is the way to go.

The Kill Count finishes off with the kills tallied and a Golden Chainsaw award is given for coolest kill and a Dull Machete for the lamest kill.



## TRAVELS WITH MY FATHER SEASON 4

HANNA LU

**7/10:** Funny for the very reason that Jack Whitehall's stand-up isn't, because here, poshness is the joke

Comedian, actor and professional child **Jack Whitehall** is back with the two-episode fourth season of *Travels with My Father*, and this time he and Daddy (**Michael Whitehall**) are in Australia. Emus! Nudist beaches! Bush walks and camel humps and other tasteless innuendo! It's the tried-and-tested travel show formula: a pair of royalty-adjacent English dudes going around a country they know very little about, making ignorant remarks and complaining about the accomodation. Unbearable.

And yet—it was a fun watch. We see them compete in a drag show as Jackie Whitehole and Queen Elizabeth II. We see Jack's exasperation as he explains to Michael that the red sandstone formation is called Uluru: "Ayers Rock was the name a white guy gave it when he discovered it, even though it had been discovered for thousands of years by the indigenous people" (progress!). For the most part they are respectful, and when Michael's grouchy persona slips, we can tell that he is actually having the time of his life.

If it were a show about destinations, *Travels with My Father* would fall far short of the mark, playing too much into British stereotypes of Australia and not letting the place itself shine. But it isn't. Rather, the show's heart is in its title. It's about family, and Jack and Michael's delightful dynamic of love and exasperation. And it's about the ridiculousness of travelling in the searing heat wearing a full colour-coordinated suit.



*All or Nothing: Tottenham Hotspurs*, Amazon's latest entry in the *All or Nothing* series, is a doozy of a documentary series. It's a no-holds-barred expose of Tottenham Hotspurs football club; a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go behind the scenes to see what the players, coaches, and staff are like when the (football) cameras aren't on them. It's raunchy, it's raw, and it's real, scintillating drama.

At least, that's what Amazon (the show producers) would have you believe. The reality is *All or Nothing: Tottenham Hotspurs* is a fairly pedestrian docuseries which occasionally dips its toes in interesting conflicts, but mostly avoids creating controversy. It does all the usual things well: it's well shot, the characters pop, and it gives viewers a chance to see what life as a footballer is really like (spoiler: it's basically just eating chicken and riding exercycles for 9 hours a day), but the lack of real drama means it ultimately ends up being little more than an interesting ad.

If you were hoping the series was going to show you what the world of football is really like, kill those dreams now. The show does play up a couple of arguments between the players, and head coach Jose Mourinho's eccentric character is put on display for all to see, but the docuseries never touches on genuinely controversial topics - controversies around the firing of staff during the pandemic, the Tanguy Ndombele saga, and the wage subsidy are all conspicuously absent. In their stead, we get a lot of scenes of players volunteering. Wow, aren't Tottenham so nice.

## ALL OR NOTHING: TOTTENHAM HOTSPURS

DANIEL MEECH

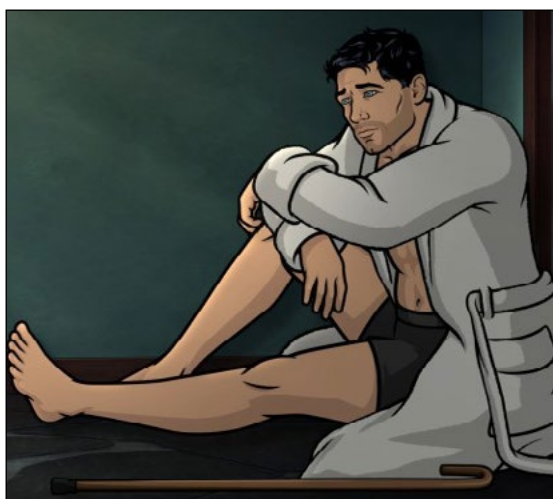


Gonna review myself on this one! A while ago, I did a big feature that asked us all to not underestimate **Judith Collins** - 'yes, she's utterly corrupt and entirely unelectable, but she's really smart and vicious and while she won't win, who knows what will happen??' Lol. I'm a fucking idiot. Imagine spending like 1200 words trying to be measured about the rise of a corrupt scumbag to the party leadership, because you thought you knew enough about NZ politics to predict how things would go. Turns out that base instincts are really all you need sometimes, forget the desire to waffle.

Despite all the anecdotal evidence about ol' Judith being a genius and deeper than what was on the surface, it turns out that, no, she's as self-destructive as one might have guessed. Don't need to be the Governess on *The Chase* to guess that bit of trivia. Like, have you seen the debates? Jesus wept. The most recent debate - as of writing - hosted by Stuff was just a masterpiece in how to end a campaign. Like, I've seen Megatron blow up Chicago with more grace - he would have simply vaporised the jeering crowd, not rise to their antics and try to match their screams with bitter stabs. Watch this space: MPs seem pretty fuckin' pleased to leak to Tova their intentions to do a coup the moment the election is lost. Good lord. I really thought I was being clever by presenting a more multifaceted view of the woman, but it turns out, I was the sucker! Turns out, I'm a dumbass!

## I WAS PRETTY FUCKING WRONG ABOUT JUDITH COLLINS

LACHLAN MITCHELL



*Archer* has had a rough few years, both in-universe and out of it. Budget cuts since 2016 have seen the show reduced to an ever dwindling number of episodes per season, yet still lumbering on, propelled solely by the strength of tired gags devised by better writers ten years earlier. Three years of coma seasons - *Naruto* levels of filler - have left fans thinking it's time to take this dog out to the shed and Old Yeller it. In-universe, Sterling Archer feels the same: broken, rejected, and incapable of matching up to his old glory, having only recently woken up from a coma into a world that simply doesn't need his antics any longer. For now.

Archer hasn't known what to do with itself for years, and even in this long-awaited return back to consciousness, it is clear that it still just wants to relive the dreams of the past, not bold enough to come to an end on its own terms and not pitiful enough to yet be smothered with a pillow. The gag of Pam being Archer's only real friend seems to be the only thing worth watching for - out of all the fanservice desperately being thrown about like Tec-9 hollowpoints, it's the only bit that gives the show a little spark in this otherwise dreary retread into *The Glory Days, But Totally Cynical Now*.

It's just sad. I wanted better for so long, but when it came, I realised they simply lost the last of their vitality in 2016.

## ARCHER - SEASON 11... SO FAR

LACHLAN MITCHELL

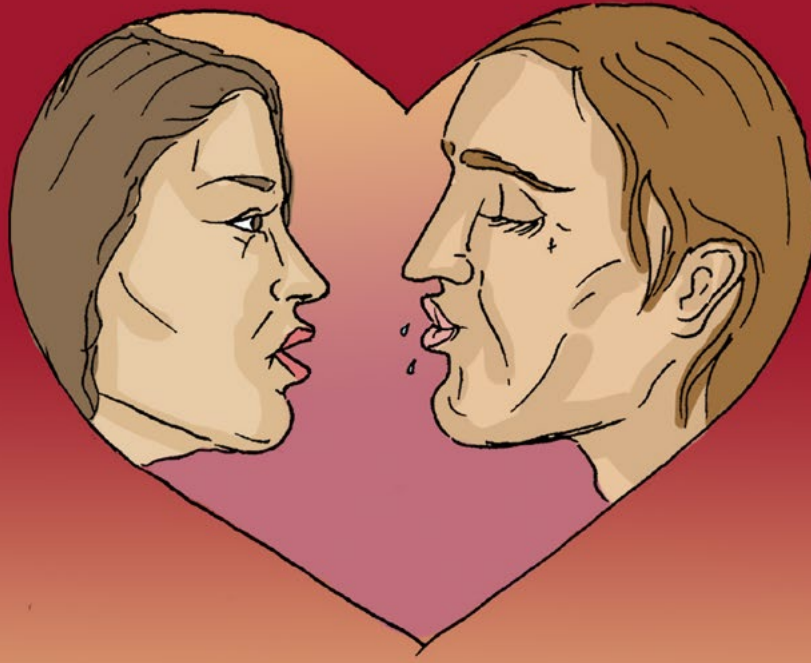


ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE WANG

# Finding the Fun in Fanfic Movies

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

*Madeleine Crutchley makes her fourth or fifth return to the realm of fanfiction this week, this time talking about the rise of fanfic movies and what they offer the world. Or don't offer, really.*

Christopher Nolan's *TENET* has been speculated to be the 'last Blockbuster' in the wake of its international release into struggling, COVID-ridden theatres (which many scientists have labelled as the WORST place to be during a global pandemic). Many of my R-Pattz obsessed friends have been egging me to join them in a lewd and lustful watch of our beloved *Twilight* bad boy. While this is very much still on the cards, I had to disappoint my mates with some alternative plans for my first trip to the movies since early February. Instead, I dragged my best friend to a mid-week, mid-afternoon showing of *After We Collided*. We were easily the oldest people in the room, but it didn't matter. I was insistent that we enjoy the filmic realisation of one of our favourite high school One Direction fanfics. My sincere apologies to the tweens and teens for our inappropriate levels of laughter.

Over the last few years, we've seen an increase in films that could be classified as fanfic movies. Famously, E.L James' sexy, 'scandalous' and successful *50 Shades of Grey* was painstakingly typed out on a Blackberry mobile (**Editor's note:** WHAT???) and posted on Fanfiction.net under the account name 'Snowqueen's Icedragon.' When the first film of the trilogy (yeah, unfortunately there were three of them) was released, reviewers tore apart the plot and prose, which had been sourced from the novel. You could see the production and widespread commercial success of *Fifty Shades of Grey* as a bit of a turning point for fanfiction films. The film made \$571 million worldwide, proving that these passionate fan bases and titillating tales had serious monetary value. Though, *Fifty Shades* was largely marketed to a slightly older age bracket than the fanfic films



that have followed in the years after (there were rumours of raunchy Mums bringing cucumbers to theatrical showings). Now, production companies like Netflix, Voltage Pictures and Wattpad are targeting tweens and teens, pumping out coming-of-age *Riverdale*-esque garbage.

Fortunately, due to my lack of brain cells, fanfiction series such as *The Kissing Booth* and *After* have become some of my favourite 'bad' movies. I stumbled across the former after a very stressful late night study session. Looking for literally anything that would help my mind shut off at 1am, I clicked on the teen drama with low expectations. Upon reflection, I was probably VERY delirious, but at the time it was one of the funniest films I had ever seen. I giggled my way through the 110 minutes, feeling a major sense of familiarity. After a quick Google, I was surprised to learn that the film was based on a novel of the same name, extracted from a fictional story posted on Wattpad. I was even more surprised to find it was one I had binge-read on my cracked iPod touch during school lunchtimes. In the film, the virginal, clumsy protagonist, Elle, falls in love with her best friend's bad boy brother, Noah, after they kiss at a – you guessed it – Kissing Booth. The two have to hide their forbidden love... for some reason? It's unbelievably cheesy, with terrible dialogue, endless montages and effects that look like they're straight out of the early 2000s. While this technically isn't a fanfic film (the characters are all 'original'), the Wattpad story has all of the hallmarks of a classic mid-2010s fanfic; an accidentally revealing outfit, an overly aggressive man, a toxic relationship and a high school prom. It's entirely out of touch, in a way that's endlessly entertaining.

*After*, I'm unashamed to say, was a film I religiously followed the production of on Twitter. Anna Todd, the author, started posting the original fanfic series on Wattpad after she was inspired by a punk edit of Harry Styles she saw on Tumblr. It follows the story of Tessa, a virginal, bookish college newbie, who is pursued by Harry Styles (he's not an international boy band star in this, obviously) looking to win a bet to 'take her virginity.' As any true 1D fan will know, *After* was a major source of drama within the fan community,

Fans argued endlessly over the toxicity in this story, as well as the depiction of their sweet Harry Styles. In this story he's not just a bad boy, he's unquestioningly manipulative and abusive. One of the plot points – brace yourself – is that he keeps the bloody sheets to show his friends. When I heard this story was going into production, for an M-rated film, much of my residual disgust was brought to the surface. The film itself is much more tame, barely rivalling the soft-porn gifs that would have partnered the chapters on Wattpad. Both the first film and the sequel, similar to *The Kissing Booth*, are bad in a laughable manner, with even more out-of-touch depictions of young adult life. There's no way I could take either film adaptation seriously if I tried. However, seeing the sequel in a room filled with younger people made me reconsider the breezy attitudes that I was bringing to my viewing of fanfic movies.

Largely, these films are being marketed as fantasy escapes for younger teens. I'm not going to try and discredit the intelligence of those teens; like any other viewers, they have agency and produce negotiated readings. Like I've noted, many fans in the mid-2010s were calling out the grossness of *After*. However, fanfiction films do serve as a useful tool for finding out what popular fantasies can leak through into the mainstream. Most feature a young teenage/college age girl at the centre, who's sexuality is awakened by a semi-sensitive, bad boy. There's betrayal, secrecy, drinking, love, violence, sex, parties and proms. And often, they're pretty misogynistic. In *The Kissing Booth* Elle is consistently slut-shamed,

and in *After* women are made out to be bitchy and aggressive (catfight!). These aren't aspects completely new to romance films; much of them are staples to the genre. I think that these fanfiction films come together in a bit of a Frankenstein-ing process. There are genre staples, including the mainstream misogyny and male gaze, that are interpreted and retold through the curious lens of teenage girls, which then go through studio sanitisation before wide release. They're a fascinating reflection of consumption and production.

Most of these films have been critically panned, barely breaking over 30% on Rotten Tomatoes. They've also become the butt of jokes, with many, many commentary videos hitting YouTube, pointing out their incoherence. Since the release of *50 Shades of Grey*, I've been sharing fanfic movies (and wine) with my friends in our guilty pleasure binge sessions. We laugh and cringe our way through them, in the same way that we have with *The Room*, *Showgirls*, *Sharknado* and *Cats*. However, the fanfic watch sessions bring me even more pleasure. We're not just laughing at the fanfic, or the shoddy filmmaking; we're laughing at ourselves. These stories, which we shared across our lunch boxes, were ones that we found genuinely compelling. I hope that these will become cult movies, specifically within communities of young people; it's a chance for us to laugh, at the tired tropes, at the misguided production studios and at our younger selves scrolling through Wattpad, seeking any inkling of romance. None to be found there, kid.

**“We laugh and cringe our way through them, in the same way that we have with *The Room*, *Showgirls*, *Sharknado* and *Cats*.”**



ILLUSTRATION BY GABBIE DE BARON

# THE BAHATIS ARE BACK!

GABBIE DE BARON

*Gabbie De Baron explores the work of one of Auckland's Black artist groups in this review of **Regarde Moi, Vol. 2** by Synthia, Frandson, and Sonielle Bahati.*

A luminescence of faded colors and a tiny '90s television, that read 'REGARDE-MOI, VOL 2' as it played a video recording of the space in real time, were the first things you would see. The Bahatis have utilised the space in such a way that the exhibit is one cohesive artwork. No labels dictate what is what: it's beautiful seeing everything consummate into the preeminent idea of *Regarde Moi*: "to gather people who wouldn't normally go into gallery spaces or see themselves in the images surrounding; images that command a sense of agency to have people see and acknowledge the Black community around us. To *really* see them not only visually but in the physical too".

The gallery is partitioned into a bifold. The first room has the tiny television in the off-center, surrounded by photographs that are scattered on the wall and a photography publication to culminate the experience. The second room is overlaid in

a red light, with photographs hanging on the left accompanied by lightboxes in the center of the space, and more.

To detail, a powerful A1 close-up portrait hangs perpendicular to these, and in between, a pair of jeans don the wall. A crowd of printed mini-Frandsons sprawl the jeans; these prints are screen-printed by hand and are done to the absolute nines! – plus, during the opening they were also selling some nineteen99 garments, which is a side hustle of theirs as well (fucking talented beings!). As you navigate the room, you notice a few photographs that vary in size and color. These photographs disseminate through the space and shroud you so sublimely. Seemingly haphazard, it entails that these moments were documented as they happened in relation to the artist. We, the audience, only see what the artist has fixated within the frame; the ephemerality of the moment is immortalised. What *they felt then* and

what *they want you to feel* as you view it is dictated by every component photograph's fashion, thus the composition, color, texture, and even size; It's a strong piece: they all come from one lens, an umbrella element of warmth transcends through the aesthetic.

The alluring continues as you realise that a projector plays a large moving image piece. It basically covers the wall and memories emanate from this light as it flows through the first room of the gallery. A small white table camouflages to the wall the video is projected on. Atop holds a publication created by Synthia Bahati, entitled "The Pyramids Are Rising". It's an agglomeration: documentations of a portion of the Black community in Aotearoa, and it's done with an ascendancy is only factual. These bodies are portrayed in such power and the book is its own divine diadem! As you explore, the space between the two rooms are hinted with analog collage pygmies, forging the

wall as a scrapbook. It shows a trace of the manual labour of cutting and rearranging these photographs; an interaction with these moments in the physical form. This enacted a break from the predominantly digital sphere in the exhibit.

Though the first room was its own reverie, it was the inner room that lived as an august chimera! That night, it was cloaked in a red light which dressed the work in such stellar fashion. Large portraits hung on a clothesline to the left and large photographs in lightboxes structured the centerspace. These two works harmonised with a cheeky lot of the dispersed photographs; creating a linear force in the room. They yolk this line with another, as they drape a wall from top to bottom filled with screen-printed tote bags of the *Regarde Moi* poster and alee this piece, is my absolute favorite one: the moving image piece. The scale of the projection is much smaller and because the room is as well, there's an intimacy felt; the piece narrated a visual memoir by stringing together anecdotes that definitely hypnotized. This room was just a vivid dream breathed into life and the Bahatis have shaped an intersection of

creativity, even in this small space.

There is a volume of media used throughout the exhibit, yet they all cohesed and just prove how multi-talented these siblings are. The Bahatis carry so much power as makers, and they have delivered it with such tonicity. The use of no labels set an accord for them as a collective. It was a warm opening to an exhibit, everyone was connected to everyone. Both rooms have their own spirals of animateness yet exist in unison.

They've fashioned the space with such liveliness and dynamism across the room, yet leaving spaces to let the viewer breathe. They have showcased the exhibit, demanded an agency to *regard* the Black community around us, yet the Bahatis have reasoned how their voices, not only insist a 'regard' but, necessitate a world centralised on the multifaceted and the diverse.

*"This room was just a vivid dream breathed into life and the Bahatis have shaped an intersection of creativity, even in this small space."*



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# Memory

FLORA XIE

The thing that we've been dreading all semester is finally coming: exams. No matter how many exams we've done, it's always a nerve-wracking experience. Since our exams are probably going to be in-person, and it's still relatively early, let me provide you some insight into our memory system so you can make the most of it.

A commonly used memory model suggests there are three parts to your memory system: sensory memory, working memory (also known as short-term memory), and long-term memory.

Your sensory memory is high in capacity but it rapidly fades unless you actively maintain the information in your mind. If you asked someone for their phone number, what they say all goes into your sensory memory, but you'll lose it if you don't keep the numbers in your mind. That information moves into your short-term memory as you repeat those numbers to yourself.

Your short-term memory has limited capacity and can only hold about seven things at a time. But, you can maintain information in there for a longer time than in your sensory memory through techniques like repeating the numbers. These numbers can remain in your short-term memory for as long as you do this, until you no longer need them.

These numbers may also enter your long-term memory if people keep asking you for that person's number. Your long-term memory has no known upper limit. However, it's often fallible because you can easily change it. When you retrieve information

from your long-term memory, there is a risk that you'll bring out incorrect information simultaneously, as memory components are reconstructed at the time of remembering. This could result in you misremembering the information again later.



You can retrieve information from your long-term memory through recall and recognition. Recalling information brings it out of the long-term memory intentionally, whereas recognition brings information out of the long-term memory to compare it with new information, which may not have been accessible without external help.

That's partly why multi-choice questions are much easier to answer than essay questions. Recall is harder because it requires information to be found, retrieved, and recognised as correct.

So, how can we improve our recall for things like exams?

When information enters our brains, the serial position effect happens. For example, when you hear words presented in a list, words earlier in that list are stored into your long-term memory, and words later in that list are stored into your short-term memory.

However, words in the middle of that list will most likely be lost. This is because the first few words have been encoded into your memory, and the recent words can be maintained through short-term memory techniques.

This reflects content you learn in class. You're most likely to remember things you've learned earlier because it would've been repeated throughout the course, and you'll likely remember the things you've just learned. But, the things in the middle will be a bit hazy, so it's a good idea to start your revision there.

To improve your memory and recall, you have to learn things multiple times. This helps to slow the decay in your memory on the topics you're trying to remember.

Moreover, as you'll probably be writing your exams by hand, it'll be beneficial for you to handwrite what you revise so the muscle memory of you writing your answers can be encoded into your long-term memory. Engaging with your notes and lecture materials also allows your brain to encode information more deeply than simply passively rereading information.

I hate to say it, but this is why it's important to start exam preparations early.

# Dinner and a Movie

XZADIA JOHNSON (@CHEFXZADZ FOR MORE RECIPES)

*What movie would you pair with a great vegan burger?*  
*Pulp Fiction. You've seen it. Even if you haven't, you've seen it*  
*parodied. Quentin Tarantino's masterpiece established a new*  
*style of quirky filmmaking from which future filmmakers would*  
*borrow extensively.*

Tarantino drew upon a huge range of film influences from across the globe including French, Japanese and Italian violence, thriller and martial arts films. He loved films considered high art and also low budget, exploitation pulp. His classic Pulp Fiction is an homage to his influences, crafted into a unique vision. The name comes from creative fiction from the early 1900s for mass audiences printed on cheap paper and often including detective, lurid and sci-fi stories.

This post-modern, dark-humour comedy follows multiple, intersecting characters and storylines, although edited out of chronological order, in ways that reveal ah-ha moments of connection. There are the gangsters, their boss, his wife; a boxer and his girlfriend; drug dealers, drug users; rapists; a couple that robs liquor stores and restaurants (well just one restaurant); and a briefcase with a mysterious glowing content. Tarantino loves casual dialogue about nothing plot-related, that reveals character and is hilarious. The soundtrack is great and worth listening to by itself. And then there is the Big Kahuna Burger – from that tasty Hawaiian burger joint – which some young men are having for breakfast, and their last meal. Not a spoiler – 'cause you've seen it. But it's worth watching again. Watch out for Tarantino's homages to his film influences, watch out for product placements. Also, apply some basic cautions. Don't mimic any of the drug use – it never ends well – and don't play any drinking game tied to use of the F-word in the movie.

The film won numerous awards and nominations – well deserved. Watch it with my (vegan) burger, fries and a five-dollar shake. Pulp meets classic in this extremely well-crafted piece of film decadence.

## Sweet Potato & Black Bean Burgers

### Ingredients:

- 2 large sweet potatoes
- 1/3 cup uncooked quinoa
- 1 cup oats
- 1 can black beans
- 1 red onion
- 2 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 2 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp salt
- Handful of fresh coriander
- Oil
- Burger buns
- Toppings of your choice
- Condiments: e.g. Culley's garlic aioli and ketchup



### Instructions:

1. Roughly chop sweet potatoes and roast in oven for 30-40 min until cooked through. Once cool enough to touch, peel off skin and continue to let cool completely.
2. Cook quinoa according to instructions on packet – 1/3 cup uncooked quinoa to 2/3 cup water.
3. Blend oats to create a flakey and powdery consistency.
4. In a large bowl, combine sweet potatoes, quinoa, black beans (drained and rinsed), diced onion, coriander, cumin, chili powder, paprika, and salt. Mash with a potato masher or with a handheld blender.
5. Once mixed and mashed well, add oats and stir together.
6. Create balls (approx 1/2 cup of mixture each) and flatten out into circular patties.
7. Bake in oven for 15-20 min, flipping halfway through.
8. Optional – Before serving, pan fry quickly in oil until golden brown on both sides for additional crispiness.
9. Serve with chosen burger ingredients and enjoy!!

(Makes approx 8 patties)



# two cars by the beach

JAMES FISK



1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE WINNER

UOA POETRY CLUB  
COMPETITION

i share the COVID equivalent of a pot of tea  
with the old lady parked in the car next to me  
windows down, both sipping away peacefully at an

afternoon. dissolving as many sugars as we want  
in tide and sun, sweetening both  
stirring them in while wave watching;

they meet the shore like shoulders brushing  
like catching eyes in awkward glance, like gentle smiles, but not us;  
we won't meet, won't greet, won't shake hands

not till this latest wave passes. i  
leave her, let her be inside her bubble of  
steel, glass and plastic, i hold her like fogging steam on glass

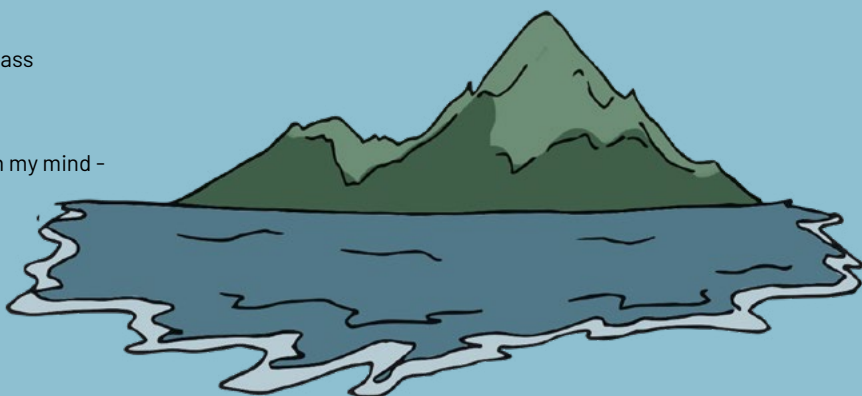
instead. like vapour rising on my dashboard.  
with warm hands cupped i stand her on a wooden trivet in my mind -  
my new friend raised up. our common interest in

the comings and goings of our level 3 seascape  
our people, their sandy-footed single-minded mission;  
we won't walk, share smiles or hug but i

feel her close, she's the mask on my face  
the 2 metre gaps, the perpetual days spent voluntarily, habitually  
peering out of dusty windows at the nostalgia of

carefree faces and the stale indoors. the hand sanitizer and isolation  
the held-back tears, the heavy hearts  
the waking to alarm clocks for no good reason and the

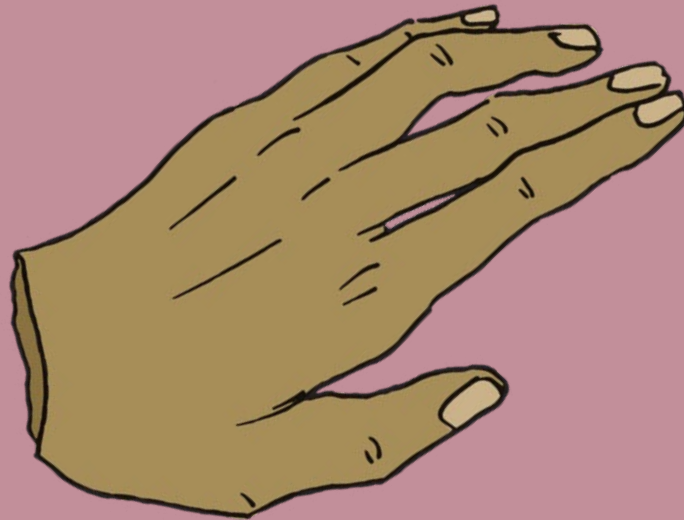
fetid air. she reminds me of an airtight seal that can't and will not let a drop of  
life in or out and i love her for it, every dreary piece  
for giving it a reason.



*About James: James is a 28 year old "mature" student and aspiring retiree, now back studying psychology at UOA after temporarily quitting a career in medicine to travel South America. After finally realising a career as a lead singer was out of the question due to possessing a voice similar to that of a sloth being stepped on, he decided writing poetry was the next best thing. He has since been fueling his creative side through a wide variety of adventures and misadventures, while quietly praying for the world to open back up.*

*The poems are republished with the permission of UoA Poetry Club and the respective authors. Pieces were originally entered in the Uoa Poetry Club written poetry competition, sponsored by UBIQ and NZ Poetry Society.*





# Tether

GALI MORTIMER-WEBSTER

I admit, you were the unbounded sky,  
As if painted an inch from my fingertips.  
I was a kite in a thunderstorm,  
Or doomed jetsam fathoms below.

You drifted through my mind because  
I was never your anchor.  
Your face could launch myriad unmoored ships,  
And I'd remain marooned.

Your entrance centre-stage left me entranced,  
Then the curtain closed on your cameo.  
We were Romeo and Rosaline: not to be.  
Some things are best left unrequited.

You are not quite forgotten;  
My poems still cast you as the star.

*About Gali: It's odd that so many ways I describe myself begin with 'P'. Philosopher, poor planner, programmer, and poet (duh!). At some point every perfectionist has to grapple with the fact that 'perfect' is a made up idea. Over the years I've tried to shoo a fair few of my emotions, so 'Tether' is a farewell to some of them. Not everything fits together neatly, no matter how hard you try to make 'improv actor' or 'Swiftie' begin with 'P'.*

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**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE WINNER**  
**UOA POETRY CLUB**  
**COMPETITION**

# Broadcasting: To Laika, From Russia

PARIS WHITEHEAD (3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE WINNER, UOA POETRY CLUB COMPETITION)

Laika,  
step lightly. I am too heavy for lift-off.  
Fly circles around Sirius. I'll split from Earth's fetters,  
and I'll meet you there.

Laika,  
we didn't teach you about the Lord,  
but angels dive from sky to sky, unbidden by men who know how to despise.  
1957, an angel first died.

Laika,  
with your ribs showing,  
a snout dribbling frost on the pavement, and an eye transforming the moon into a mistress -  
How do you survive a lonely night in Moscow?

Laika,  
We loved you.  
Us, scraps and streets and ice in sheets, wondered what bound you to an Earth-around  
course.  
Were you afraid to let us go?

Was it nice, Laika,  
to play with children who only threw balls, recalling that lonely nights had fallen behind you,  
to not know about the lonely night that would never end?

Did you miss the Moscow frost when your tincan started to sweat?

Did you know, Laika,  
that the masters who fed you and combed back your fur,  
who played your games and kissed your nose,  
parcelled you into the stars and knew  
nobody would meet you there?

*Laika, first found as a stray mongrel, was the first animal to ever orbit the earth. She was reportedly euthanised during launch until, in 2002, it was revealed that she survived initial launch and died from overheating after thermal insulation was torn loose from her spacecraft. Vital tracking tells us that Laika died afraid. Her body orbited the earth for 162 days until it disintegrated re-entering the atmosphere.*

*About Paris: Paris Whitehead is a second-year student studying Commercial Law, International Business, and English. She has published children's fiction in the past but loves to enjoy poetry in her spare time.*

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**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE WINNER**

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ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE WANG

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# WHO ASKED YOU?

Welcome to Craccum, where we put the “agony” in “agony aunt.” We’re not qualified to deal with your problems, but neither are you.

## ***How do I get a W.A.P for my man?***

1. Stick a hose up your hoo-ha.
2. Fuck in the bath
3. Think about Chris Evans as Captain America
4. Think about Scarlett Johannsson as Black Widow
5. Cry, and use your tears as lube.

Side note: isn't it your man's job to cause your P. to be W.A.?  
This seems a question he should ask.

***I was in a zoom call and I thought I was on mute but I wasn't on mute and I farted. I know that everyone heard it and I died a little bit inside and immediately left the call. How can I ever come back from this?***

You can't. You have to drop out.

***My flatmates keep having really loud sex at night and it's keeping me up. How do I (politely and non-awkwardly) ask them to keep it down so I can get a good night's rest in?***

Every time you hear them start up, go right outside their door and bark really loudly. Make sure it's as aggressive as possible. Wait until they fall silent, wondering what the fuck you're doing, and then stop. When they start again, do the same. Repeat until they get the message.

Alternatively, burn the house down. That should fix the problem (though it may create a new one – do you know a good arson lawyer?)

## ***How do you keep on track with watching lectures?!?!***

I mean, I don't. I asked my friend who actually does, and she said you're supposed to have a schedule and take frequent breaks. I've got the second one down at least.

## **CRACCUM'S CRACKIN' TIP:**

Give us a fucking grade bump.

# Horoscopes

CRACCUM'S RESIDENT ORACLE MISS FORTUNE HAS AN ORTHODONTIST APPOINTMENT THIS WEEK SHE CAN'T RESCHEDULE, SO HAS PASSED THE MANTLE ONTO DAWN FRESHWATER'S WAYWARD SON, DUSK DIRTYCOFFEE.

## ARIES

Headfirst and headstrong, you will engage this week with an unbridled enthusiasm. Your forceful foray into every endeavour means you will be a leader in your journey. Walking up Albert Park, you swell with pride as you look back and find yourself ahead of your peers. Pride precedes fall. Because of your arrogance towards those who trail you, you will miss the gigantic low-hanging Albert Park branch ahead (seriously, why hasn't this been cut down?) and smack your giant fucking forehead into it. Shame.



## TAURUS

The universe, or whatever deity you associate with horoscopes, have blessed you with fine weather. Finally, you can enjoy the flora in their coruscating tints. You say to yourself, 'fuck it', and take advantage of the warm, almost-spring breeze. You ditch your first tutorial to roll in the grass, rationalising that you can miss up to two and still gain plussage.



## GEMINI

This week, you'll find yourself saying yes to every opportunity that presents itself. Although you've never played Chess, you're suddenly a member of the university chess club. Despite living at home with a bountiful fridge, you install UberEats, feeling sorry for the often-ignored UberEats people wandering Symonds Street. You've never written a Horoscope before, so you decide that the last semester of your undergraduate degree is the best time to do it.



## CANCER

Your intuition will serve you well this week. You feel the psychic energies swell within; the stars are once more in your favour. During your first tutorial you will easily intuit who, *like, totally is your, like, vibe—you know what I mean, like?* However, your inner insight falters in absence of social contexts. You fail to feel the negative energy of the Level 4 Disabled Bathroom's toilet seat, contracting crabs in the process.



## LEO

Pleased be the galaxies with you, dear Leo. More than ever, you exude an effervescent passion attractive to all. That very effervescent passion, unfortunately, carries with it the Coronavirus. To your credit, you are fashioning a mask—because it's *so totally in right now*.



## VIRGO

You're set for the semester, for the stars have been awfully kind. Everything has been organised to perfection. You have bought the perfect stationery to take your beautiful, methodical notes. You take down everything your lecturer says and highlight every second passage in the readings. Well done.



## LIBRA

Ready yourself, pay attention to your surroundings, for your balance and harmony will be tested. Hurrying to lecturers? Boom!—surprise tree root as you walk along Princes Street. Running to Munchy Mart because they're about to close? Bang!—that little fucking concrete hump along the Kate Edgar pathway. Forget to use protection after getting with that first-year Business student you met at Shadows? Smack!—Chlamydia.



## SCORPIO

The sparkling planets understand your post-isolation struggles and imbue you with an abundance of emotional energy to satisfy your relationships. Your newfound wellspring of emotions compel you to pursue intimacy in those unwilling to reciprocate. Yikes. The sparkling planets are cruel. Those damn gassy, rocky bastards and their perpetual spinning.



## SAGITTARIUS

Your intrinsic wanting to cultivate your intellectual spirit has been heard by the cosmos. The paths you walk are littered with mindfulness enthusiasts, Buddhist dilettantes, and religious nuts professing their spiritual panacea. Despite the warning bells blaring in your head, you warily accept an invitation to a Bible-reading session. You fucked up. You're now part of the Freemasons.



## CAPRICORN

True to your zodiac, you navigate this week of university with flawless form. You don't fall prey to the Ubiq stationery discounts. You don't impulsively volunteer to be a class rep. You go to every class and every tutorial. True to your zodiac, unfortunately, you've also magically transformed into a sea goat, a mythological creature with the body of a goat and tail of a fish. Being non-human, this means that you no longer have the right to vote.



## AQUARIUS

This week is one of deep and mindful contemplation. Your inner exploration invites the ether of the universe towards your soul. The sparkly ingredients of the heavens bring with it energies beyond your appetite. Amidst an exceptionally meaningful meditation session, you attract the thunderous arrival of a celestial spark. Before you know it, lightning descends upon you, striking the tip of your nipples.



## PISCES

Beware of koi ponds, the heavenly beings warn. Although aquatic beings have been favourable to you in the past, this time they carry malice with their wet little tails. Karma awaits its retribution within its watery walls. This is what you get for not having a KeepCup. All that plastic you've wasted from the Starbucks Iced Mochaccino is going to bite you harder than the brain freeze from an eager first sip.



# the people to blame.

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