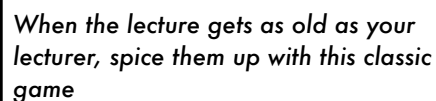


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Welcome to UOA: we have (almost) no culture

BY BAILLEY VERRY



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

As freshers begin to pile in for the beginning of uni, so do their lofty expectations of what uni will be like. Informed by teen comedies and stories from Otago students, they begin their hunt for the best clubs and the sickest house parties. The more seasoned UOA students will watch the migration of first years from halls to Bar 101, knowing that the \$3 vodka cruisers will not be sweet enough to wash out the taste of a shit time. Likewise, first year house parties will be disappointing when you realise everyone either lives in halls or with their mum, who will not approve of passed out 18 year olds on her front lawn. At the University of Auckland we struggle to foster a student culture that is on par with other Universities (with the notable exception of Engineers, who have been and always will be, a collection of wankers). AUSA's biggest event of the year, the upcoming Party in the Park can only cater for 3000 of UOA's 40,000+ student population, and even then it takes heavy promotion to sell out the

event. There is no 'event of the year' in the UOA's student calendar and no must-be place to go get fucked up every weekend. Though Shadow's bar is an institution, that institution is built on getting day drunk on a Wednesday and sobering up on \$2 toasties.

The shining beacons of student culture at UOA are our Facebook pages. *Meaningful Confessions* and *Overheard* underpin our true culture: impersonal and often judgemental. Our favourite pastimes are shitting on each other, shitting on other faculties and shitting on other universities (mostly AUT). So no, I can't say we have no culture, but I also couldn't say we have much of one either. For all the enthusiasm we have at the beginning of our university experience, we never actually do anything with it to create and sustain a student culture. And before you know it freshers, you too will be a jaded undergrad, watching the yearly migration of the first years to Bar 101, while complaining that UOA has no culture.

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VICE: Stuart McCutcheon's Greatest Hits

Daniel Meech

University of Auckland's current Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon has announced he will be vacating his position later this year, ending his 15 year tenure as the university's chief academic and administrative officer. Currently New Zealand's longest serving Vice-Chancellor (and the third-highest paid public official in the country), McCutcheon has overseen his fair share of changes, closures, and (most excitingly) controversies - so many, in fact, that we've decided to create a timeline of the best of them.

LIBRARY CLOSURES - June 2018

McCutcheon confirmed he would be closing three specialist libraries and axing over a hundred support service jobs, despite protests from students and staff which culminated in an April rally attended by more than a thousand people. McCutcheon justified the staff cuts as necessary to ensure the university remained solvent. In an article published in the Herald, he told students that the libraries would be completely destroyed - instead, most of their books were to be consolidated into the main library. Those books which weren't consolidated would be held in storage facilities off-campus, where they could be requested by students so long as 24 hours notice was given. McCutcheon contended this was a more efficient library system which ultimately benefited students, and indicated he was considering turning the library spaces into study areas. Students and staff expressed concern that the library closures would negatively impact student culture and study-life. Concerns were also raised over the university's failure to effectively communicate what would be replacing the libraries. Around the same time as opponents blocked off Symonds street in protest, the Tertiary Education Union accused McCutcheon of running the university like a dictator, and suggested he had been unfairly limiting academics right to speak out against his decisions.

FOSSIL FUEL PROTESTS - May 2017

Alex Johnston, a spokesperson for 'Fossil Free University of Auckland' (FFUA), accused Stuart McCutcheon of actively blocking the university's attempts to divest shares it owned in fossil fuel companies. 13 students occupied the Vice-Chancellor's wing of the Clock Tower, staging a 12 hour formal sit-down protest with demands that McCutcheon support the divestment. The protestors argued it was unethical for the university to continue to 'sponsor' climate change. Two days after the protestors left the building they led a much larger rally through the university, reiterating their demands. Shortly after the sit-in an unnamed spokesperson for the university told *The Herald* that the university had not directly invested in any fossil fuel companies. They said some funds were indirectly invested in these companies, but these funds were managed by the University Foundation - an organisation separate to the University of Auckland - and therefore they were outside of the university's jurisdiction.

NORTHERN CLUB SCANDAL - June 2018

As academic and support staff braced themselves for impending job cuts it was revealed the university had spent around \$33,000 in Northern Club membership fees for high-ranking academic staff. The club, located across the road on Princes Street, bills itself as an exclusive gentlemen's club which offers "luxury Champagne tastings" and "master cheese classes". McCutcheon defended the spending in an article published on *Stuff*, saying the Northern Club facilities were used to secure donations for the university. "If you want to put it in context ..." he said, "in the last four years, we would have raised \$200 million [through donations] ... None of that funding benefits the people who are on the list of memberships". McCutcheon indicated staff were encouraged to use the Northern Club meeting rooms to solicit these donations, saying there was "no scandal". Tertiary Education Union spokesperson Enzo Giordani said the membership was "a bad look" at a time when around 40 jobs were being phased out. Several students also expressed disappointment with the university's spending, with one fifth year law student labelling it "indefensible" and "inappropriate". The student went on to say "it's kind of shocking that ... [the university] spend[s] almost \$40,000 so that the Vice-Chancellor can go across the road to have a meeting rather than have it in his office."

MAIDMENT THEATRE - November 2016

Stuart McCutcheon announced the University of Auckland would be closing its famous Maidment theatre, the university's foremost performing arts space. McCutcheon said the space was dangerously vulnerable to earthquakes, and, moreover, was "no longer fit for purpose". Later, he indicated the university planned to replace the Maidment with a new performance center. Opponents of the move admitted the building was due a renovation, but maintained it was more than fit for purpose. Some called the decision "short sighted", while others claimed the promise of a new venue was little more than "a carrot" that would be taken away as soon as the closure took place. The building has since been demolished, but - to the best of *Craccum's* knowledge - there has been no word on whether the university will follow through on McCutcheon's promise.

FAIR PAY PROTESTS – October 2015

Over 100 Tertiary Education Union members marched to Stuart McCutcheon's office to hand him a series of notices demanding across-the-board pay-rises and an overhaul of the pay-rise system. Under the then-current system, only around 10% of staff were eligible for pay-rises, and it was not possible for staff to negotiate for across-the-board pay-rises. Irked staff members claimed the University of Auckland's 'no-negotiation' policy was archaic when compared to other New Zealand universities, many of whom actively negotiated pay-rises with their staff. Around the same time, the Tertiary Education Union released an article highlighting the disparity between McCutcheon's salary (more than \$680,000 a year), and other university staff, some of whom earned as little as \$36,000. Following the march McCutcheon entered negotiations with the union.

Of course, every 'best of' album sees a few fan-favourites hit the chopping-block. McCutcheon's (dis)honorable mentions include the Tertiary Education Union's decision to take legal action against his policies in 2013 (and then again in 2014); the 2015 student protests against fee raises; the staff strikes of 2017; and ... well, you get the idea. Like any long-serving public official, McCutcheon's history is a motley patch-work of positive change, short lived furore, and half-forgotten scandals. It's complicated – like *Inception*, or a high-school relationship. The question now is whether McCutcheon's legacy will be one of good or evil. Will he be remembered as a despotic overlord hell-bent on destroying the arts, or as a benevolent God come down to protect the university from the unrelenting forces of market change? No-one can answer that question but McCutcheon himself – his last few months at the helm are likely to leave a lasting impression among students and staff alike. So bring on Stuart McCutcheon's final season! Let's hope it's as action packed as his last few.



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Tax Working Group Recommends Less Tax for Low Income Earners

- DANIEL MEECH

The Tax Working Group (TWG) has released a report calling on the government to overhaul its current tax policies.

The report suggests many changes to the current system, but most relevant to students is a recommendation to raise the income tax thresholds. The recommendation would mean low income earners would be more likely to receive reduced tax rates. Currently, the lowest tax rate (10.5%) applies only to those whose income tops out at \$14,000 a year. The report suggests three variations of tax reform, which would see the threshold for the 10.5% tax rate increase to \$20,000, \$22,000 or \$30,000, depending on which is chosen. This is likely to have a major effect on students, a demographic whose individual yearly income is liable to range anywhere from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

The news isn't all good for students though. The TWG has also recommended the government extend its capital gains tax regime to cover gains and losses from all types of land improvements, shares, intangible property, and business assets (with the exception of the

"family home" and personal use assets like cars and boats). The TWG's prediction model suggested that these changes are likely to reduce house prices but raise rents – making life even more difficult for students struggling to afford rent in cities like Auckland. This prediction is by no means definitive though, as the TWG have noted that the impact of the capital gains tax is likely to be small. The TWG suggests that outside factors (like the impact of the government's ongoing KiwiBuild project) have the potential to offset these changes. Students shouldn't expect the changes to come any time soon. As the report itself explains, these reforms are just suggestions – none of them are binding unless adopted by parliament. And although former Labour Finance Minister Michael Cullen, who worked on the report, has indicated his old party intends to back all of the reforms ("it is the government's intention ... to implement any policy changes arising from the report before the end of the parliamentary term"), current Finance Minister Grant Robertson has said that it is "highly unlikely all recommendations will need to be implemented".

University of Auckland Slightly Shitter (According to International Polls)

- DANIEL MEECH

The University of Auckland has fallen on the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings for the second year in a row, from 82nd place to 85th.

A university's rank is calculated according to a set of six criteria: academic reputation, employer reputation (how valuable potential employers perceive a degree from the university to be), faculty to student ratio, citations per faculty, international faculty ratio (how many faculty members are taken from abroad), and international students ratio*. The University of Auckland received favourable scores for its academic reputation, international faculty ratio and international students ratio, but received average and below average scores in the other categories*. It was awarded an overall score of 62.8. Particularly noticeable was the score given for the university's faculty-to-student ratio: 21.3. This score places the University of Auckland 616th in the category (of the 720 universities who have had their data collected), just behind Turkey's Bilkent University. QS did not release the reasoning behind the low score, but it is likely that it was driven by the university's decision to phase out roughly 40 faculty jobs last year – a decision which would have increased the number of students per faculty member.

The University of Auckland's dip on the QS rankings was not entirely unexpected: in September last year the university fell outside of the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings top 200. Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon responded to the fall (which marked the first time the University of Auckland had not appeared on

the top 200 list since it began in 2004) in an article published on the university's website. McCutcheon said the University of Auckland's "performance [had] increased year on year", and that the fall was primarily due to "government policy [which forced the university] to operate with some of the lowest levels of income per student in the developed world". McCutcheon also warned that the university was likely to fall even further until "New Zealand governments ... stop[ped] investing in lowering the cost of education and instead invest[ed] in raising quality and the rankings of ... universities". The THE rankings are based on similar criteria to those used by QS. They include teaching, research, citations, industry income and international outlook**. The University of Auckland was given favourable scores for its international outlook and citations, but received average scores for industry income and research. Teaching was the university's weakest category, where it received a score of 30.1. Again, THE did not release a justification for its ranking, but the criteria explanation on the website indicates that the score for teaching is based on a combination of student to staff ratio, surveys, doctorates-to-bachelors ratio, and the ratio of staff who have been awarded a doctorate.

*Scores: 82.7, 59.4, 21.3, 52.3, 87, and 91.3 respectively. Weighting between criteria is not equal.

** Scores: 30.1, 40.7, 76.5, 61.6, 91.7 respectively. Weighting between criteria is not equal.

Lime in Limbo After Electric Scooters Are Removed from Streets

- DANIEL MEECH

Lime's electric scooters have been pulled from Auckland after concerns were raised about their safety.

Auckland Council says they decided to revoke Lime's license after a braking defect was brought to their attention. The defect - which caused the scooters to stop unexpectedly - was believed to have affected 92 riders in Auckland, injuring 30. Auckland Council's Chief Operating Officer Dean Kimpton said the decision had only been made after careful consideration. "While we appreciate the amenity that e-scooters offer as an innovative transport solution, safety is not negotiable," he said.

Lime responded to the decision by releasing a firmware update designed to address the wheel-locking issue. The update, implemented on the 22nd of February, did cause a reduction in the number of unexpected locking incidents according to Kimpton. However, Kimpton said there will have to be a third party review to ensure the issue is truly solved. As part of this, Lime has paid for Exponent, an international specialist consultancy firm, to review the firmware fix. Throughout the review period, Lime has agreed to report to Auckland Council and Auckland Transport every 48-hours on the progress that has been made.

In the days following the ban Lime encouraged its users to petition

the council, going so far as to send prompts to those who had the app downloaded. As a result of the campaign, Auckland Council reported receiving thousands of emails asking them to reinstate the scooters. Despite this, a review conducted on February 26th upheld the earlier verdict.

Mitchell Price, Lime's Director for Government Affairs, released an apology on the 25th of February. "We are constantly assessing our product, evaluating the unique needs of our communities, listening to rider feedback and, in turn, iterating to improve," he said, "we place the highest priority on rider and community safety and we are intentional in the efforts we undertake to ensure". He concluded by noting that the braking incidents "were rare - less than a fraction of a percent of all Lime trips in New Zealand have been affected by this issue".

At the time of writing, Auckland Council is still waiting for Lime to provide it with Exponent's report. The council has indicated it will be reviewing its ban when the report is received. A spokesperson for Dunedin City Council (where a similar ban has been issued, and where they are also awaiting the report) said Exponent's report would not only review the problem, but would provide a detailed analysis of how the e-scooters have impacted the community. The report is also expected to provide the respective council's with recommendations on how best to police e-scooter use.

Otago University Pioneers O-Week Drug Testing

- DANIEL MEECH

Otago University's Student Association (OUSA) made headlines last week for offering students the opportunity to have their drugs tested during Orientation week.

Better yet, the tests (which were conducted by a combination of OUSA, KnowYourStuffNZ and the New Zealand Drug Association) were completely free. Students were encouraged to provide a small sample of any drugs they planned to consume, and in return they were given an indication of its ingredients. Drug testers also gave harm reduction advice during the process. NZ Drug Foundation Policy and Information Officer Samuel Andrews, who helped to carry out the tests, reported around 60 tests were carried out throughout the week. Andrews said MDMA made up the bulk of the drugs tested, and that approximately one in five pills contained unexpected substances. He also reported "a handful" of students had brought ketamine to be tested.

OUSA's CEO Debbie Downs labelled the testing a "bold and pre-emptive" attempt to educate students on the dangers of drug use. "OUSA in no way condones drug use of any kind," she told the Otago Daily Times, "but in the day and age we live in, we are cognizant of the need for harm prevention. If we can't stop the intent to use, step two is to educate and inform to reach the same objective". Downs said that

previous trials had proven students were more likely to discard their drugs after they had been informed of its contents. Andrews agreed with this line of reasoning, saying he believed the harm reduction advice given before and after the testings had "definitely" saved a few students from a trip to the hospital.

Earlier this year it was revealed that a batch of illicit substances seized by police at the Rhythm and Vines festival contained traces of harmful pesticides. Following the find, Police Minister Stuart Nash said New Zealand should consider making it mandatory for festivals to provide drug testing facilities. Nash pointed to Australia as an example of this policy in action: drug checking is common there, and Nash said statistics showed drug related hospitalisations had fallen by as much as 95% in the festivals where testing was implemented. Nash said he would like to be able to enforce his drug testing policy by 2020, but noted he would be conducting a thorough review of the testing methods and results before he did.

news.

'Siva' Launches for Semester One

- DANIEL MEECH

Siva, a new education tool, is set to launch in select University of Auckland classes this semester.

The tool, according to founder and University of Auckland alumni Foss Shanahan, is designed to augment students' learning by providing a space for them to share and review answers collectively. It encourages users to pool information together through a points-reward system, and in return provides exemplar questions, lecture slides, and notes from the educator to review when studying for classes. It also allows users to share and compare notes, ask questions, and receive answers, much like Piazza.

However, Shanahan says Siva differs from Piazza in several crucial ways. Firstly, unlike Piazza (which Shanahan calls "an unstructured list where you must search for help"), Siva "show[s students] the help [they] need, right next to the slide or question which makes [them] need it". Secondly, Shanahan says he believes Siva is more visually sophisticated: the team has dedicated time and energy to ensure the website is readable and enjoyable to be in. Lastly, he says the points reward system (which offers students various incentives to provide notes, questions, and answers) actively encourages students to pool resources together, creating a wealth of shared knowledge tailored

specifically to the course at hand.

Siva was trialled in Maths 208 and Finance 261 during summer school. Shanahan says the trial period gave the team much needed insight into students' study habits and needs. "A lot has been changed," he told *Craccum*, going on to say he believed the iteration process had enabled the team to hone in on what students really wanted from the tool. He indicated the development phase was far from done though, saying the team would "continue to develop our product so that we give students the best learning experience possible". *Craccum* was unable to get in contact with anyone who used the tool, but did notice the Siva website featured recommendations from several students.

Siva is currently set to launch for another semester in Maths 208 and Finance 261. Shanahan says he is confident Siva will be rolled out across more papers over the coming years. "We want to continue to expand into other papers so we can help as many students as possible to succeed and enjoy learning" he told *Craccum*. He indicated he was already in talks to implement the tool in other papers, saying "hopefully you'll be hearing a lot more from us". Shanahan says he encourages students to message the team at Siva with any questions, queries, or suggestions for classes to expand into. The team can be reached at support@sivaedu.io.

Victoria University Still Debating Name Change

- EMMA ROGERS

Victoria University or The University of Wellington? The proposed name change remains up in the air almost nine months after it was first tabled, despite backlash from students, the public, Wellington City Councillors and Education Minister Chris Hipkins.

In case you missed it: last year Victoria University announced plans to rename itself the University of Wellington. Members of the university's executive then announced plans to rename the university Te Herenga Waka - adding that the Maori name would not replace the newly proposed name, but would sit alongside it. The proposed name change split students, staff and Wellingtonians almost immediately, with sharp lines emerging between those who supported the change, those who opposed it, and those who couldn't care less.

Proponents of the change said the new names would support the decolonisation of the city and differentiate the university from international tertiary education providers which also featured the name 'Victoria'. Opponents said the name change was unnecessary, expensive (it was estimated it would cost around \$1 million to implement), and would undermine the prestige and honour of the university. (And, of course, those who 'didn't care' repeated their opinions loudly, often, and in full caps under Facebook articles).

The university received a petition signed by more than 10,000 Wellingtonians opposed to the change, and shortly thereafter Wellington City Councillors began expressing their disapproval of the university's

plan. Despite this the university decided to forge ahead - filing an official recommendation to Education Minister Chris Hipkins asking him to okay the change in September of 2018. Vice-chancellor Professor Grant Guilford said it needed the rebrand, as the international identity crisis caused by its common name was costing the university donations and prestige. Hipkins' answer came back in December: a firm no, on the basis that the university had failed to consult properly with stakeholders "who should have their views considered".

Many assumed this rejection would mark the end of the university's attempts to rebrand itself. But, at a university council held in mid-February of this year, staff reported the minister's rejection was "considered" but not acted on. A spokeswoman for the council, Katherine Edmond, indicated the council was not quite ready to give up the fight, saying it would be taking time to consider options, and would take into account "the views of the university and legal and other advice". Edmond could not confirm what we can expect from the university council in the future, but one thing is for sure: we will be on the edges of our seats to find out what happens next in this long-winded debate.

Craccum's only wish is that the next issue Victoria University deals with - be it student mental health, student housing problems, or sexual harassment on campus - brings this level of engagement from students, alumni, staff and the media. Yeah, right.

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Interview with BENE

BY CAMERON LEAKEY

BENE. You might know her from her infectious single 'Soaked'. Or you might know her as the opening act for Lily Allen. Or from her 3.35-4.15 set at Laneway on the Thunderdome Stage, wedged between Old Choral Hall and Kate Edgar on Alfred St. Bene is already making waves as the next young thing in Auckland's music scene. Only 17 and hailing from Grey Lynn, Cracum had the chance to speak to Bene before her upcoming set alongside Robinson, Church, AP and Rūfūs Du Sol at Party in the Park 2019.

Two singles under your belt, announced as a Youtube Artist to Watch, a set at Laneway, opening for Lily Allen and now the Auckland University O' Week Concert, what's next for you BENE?

I'm currently working towards the release of a single coming shortly, followed by a bunch of other new stuff that I've been working on over the past year.

Where does your name Bene come from?

It's an old nickname (:

I see you played shows in both Sydney and Melbourne in the last few weeks, how did you find the Australian crowd?

They were amazing! The energy was crazy at both gigs and I felt so welcomed... Can't wait to go back!

Soaked has had such a huge reaction since it came out. It's now been streamed close to 10 million times on Spotify. What inspired the song?

It's just that feeling of regret you have looking back on a time with someone you care about and wishing that you'd done something or said something differently.

And how did the concept for the music video come about?

I worked with Taylor Mansfield and Nick Chrisp on the video. It started with the three of

features.



us getting together and bouncing ideas around. It grew from that into the kooky colourful adventure you see on screen.

It was an incredibly fun day... Apart from all the jellyfish in the water when I had to jump off the dinghy!

International Women's Day is on Friday March 8th, how do you feel as a woman in the music industry so far?

I feel very lucky to be able to speak my truth and make the music I want to make with the support of my audience. My experiences so far have left me in this constant mind-blown state.

I feel very privileged and I want to hear more strong female voices coming out of the industry.

What's your favourite flavour of Shapes?

Bacon and cheese haha... But I believe they changed the og flavours so now they're kinda average.

Can you name for us your top five artists of all time?

My favourites change constantly... But here are a few top contenders:

James Blake has been on top for a long time... I'm currently obsessing over Travis Scott's 'ASTROWORLD' album. Radiohead and Beirut are two of my all-time favourites and I love a lot of the work that M.I.A has created... She's so politically driven and I love that (:Lastly, can we expect another show in Auckland any time soon?

We shall see (;

Catch BENE at the Orientation Week Concert 'Party in the Park', March 7th at Albert Park.

“
I feel very privileged and I want to hear more strong female voices coming out of the industry.
”



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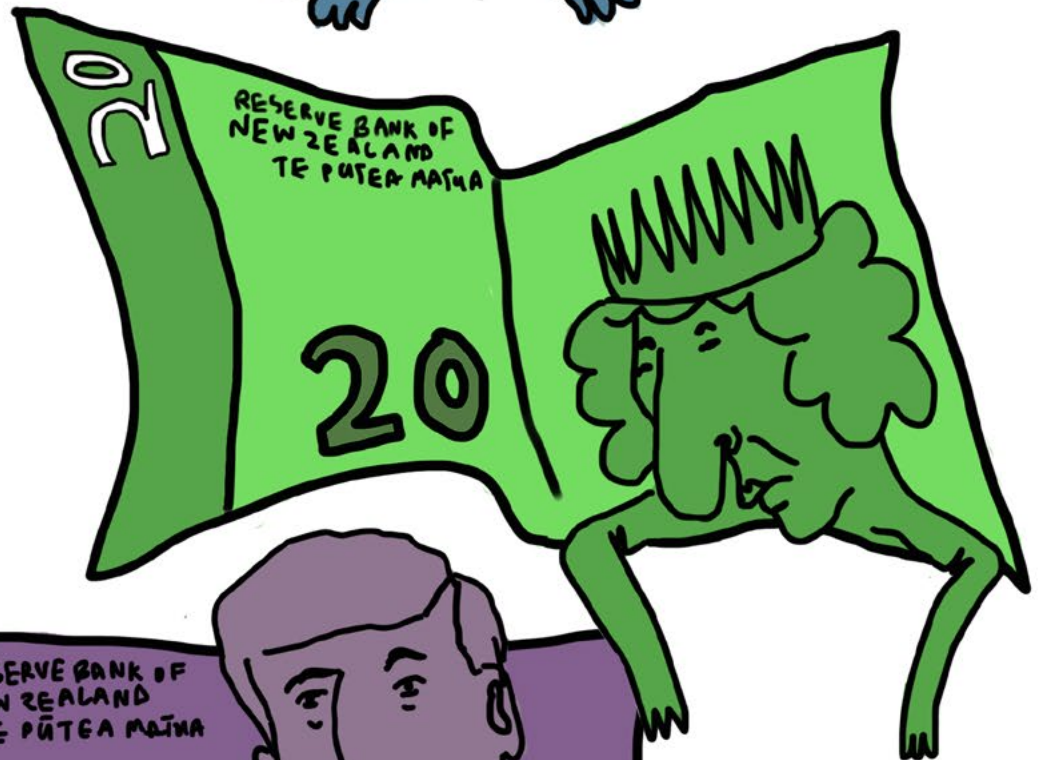
- Pacific students
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Capital Gains Tax

BY CAMERON LEAKEY

If you've followed the news recently, or had the absolute misfortune of reading a Mike Hosking column in the last several weeks ever, then you would probably think that the Capital Gains Tax is code for the end of the fucking universe. The Tax Working Group, as brought together by Jacinda Jacinda and the Labour Government, has released their final report in the last several weeks; the result of weeks of discussion, analysis and conversation around tax in New Zealand.

The report suggested to the government that they consider the implementation of a Capital Gains Tax. In light of all the fear-mongering, witchcraft talk and discussions about whether earning a living off property speculation and not agriculture is 'against the Kiwi way of life', I spoke with Commercial Law Professor Julie Cassidy to find out what's really to gain with a Capital Gains Tax, and whether we should be afraid of it. To start, defined as simply as possible, a Capital Gains Tax is a tax that is paid on the income earned from the sale of assets. Professor Cassidy specifies that an 'asset' can be defined in many ways in commercial law, however in the proposed Capital Gains Tax it is defined as Property. Property is Land, Shares, Investment Properties and Business Assets. New Zealand is currently the only OECD country to not have a comprehensive Capital Gains Tax, which in comparison seems really ludicrous. Professor Cassidy specifies that there is already some level of 'Capital Gains Tax' in New Zealand; however, the proposal is simply to make it more comprehensive so that it applies

to everyone, not just those who choose to be honest on when it applies to them.

So what would the proposed Capital Gains Tax mean? If you purchased a house to live in, and then decided to move several years later, then all chill, you won't be taxed on the money you made on the housing market. If you decide however to forego University and make your money by buying and selling houses, the income you make from those sales would now be taxed. This is because you have earned income, not through wages or salary, but through sales of property in this instance. Currently, if you make your living based on property, your income is not taxed, even though you've earned the same as someone doing manual labour or hospitality work. You've chosen another path to earning income, and that too will be taxed with the new Capital Gains Tax. Professor Cassidy is clear that this tax is not designed to raise revenue for the Government. It is not a tax on all assets and it is designed primarily to create equity amongst income earners. To quote the Canadian Report that suggested the

ILLUSTRATION BY JEN CHEUK (ig: @selcouthbird)

features.

implementation of a Capital Gains Tax in Canada, “a buck is a buck is a buck”. No matter how you earn your money, it should all be taxed equally.

So why all the fuss? Why are Simon Bridges and Mike Hosking getting so worked up? Professor Cassidy explains that to her, Kiwi values are not to own multiple properties. Kiwi values are often about equity and fairness. Research indicates that the majority of tax is paid by those in the lower income bracket, those who do not have the money to buy and sell assets. These low income earners fund the majority of revenue for the government. Those who are wealthy pay tax too, they simply make their money by other means, such as the buying and selling of assets or by avoiding tax where possible. Capital Gains Tax is ultimately designed to affect those who are selling assets and are wealthy.

I ask Professor Cassidy if Capital Gains Tax could affect University Students. Professor Cassidy states that the family home is exempt from Capital Gains Tax for New Zealand Citizens and Permanent Residents, and so would not likely affect New Zealand students. However, if you are an international student, and your family purchase a home for you to live in while you study, and then sell it after you finish your studies, they will have to pay capital gains tax as they are international citizens. Otherwise, no. University Students do not generally have the income to buy and sell property or assets. ‘Unless you’ve got a share portfolio, you won’t be affected’. Cars, Technology and all personal items universities own are not taxed upon being sold and these are the assets that University Students most currently have.

Ultimately, Professor Cassidy is a fan of the Capital Gains Tax. The Tax brings about an equity to our tax system and is designed to make all income taxed the same. Tax is viewed often as a negative thing, something that takes away money from individuals. However, all things cost money: roads, schools, universities, parks and student loans. Tax provides the ability for infrastructure and education, and everyone contributing fairly to these systems provides the ability for all to have access to these things. Despite all the media slander, falsities and emotions about new taxes, there is a root cause as to why tax is being proposed; you simply need to read elsewhere than a Mike Hosking column.

Summarizing the stances on CGT

Labour Party

- Labour is a strong proponent for the capital gains tax, and is keen on cutting out the incentive for investment in the housing market.
- Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern insists to media “the effects on [small businesses and farming] will be top of my mind when assessing options” at a post-cabinet conference press release.
- Ardern insists that no decision has been made on implementing the CGT yet, stating that nothing has been ruled in or out.
- Despite an unfavourable reception to the capital gains tax, Ardern has affirmed her belief that the majority of New Zealanders will be better off with such tax; “[New Zealanders] could receive income tax cuts or a boost to their KiwiSavers”.
- The tax working group is planning on implementing a Maori Iwi tax exemption for the CGT, as Iwi hold forestry and commercial property assets which could be impacted by the tax. Labour and the TWG are in ongoing consultation.

National Party

- National Party is staunchly against a Capital Gains Tax. National Party leader Simon Bridges has called it an “assault on the Kiwi way of life”, while Finance spokesperson Amy Adams says that the tax will just make landlords raise their rents.
- Judith Collins has said that the process has been barely consulted with the public and stakeholders to make it an effective policy. Without consulting those that will be affected, the unintended consequence could be dire for already vulnerable New Zealanders.
- National Party is also concerned about how local small businesses will be affected by the tax, but not other sizeable assets held by wealthy New Zealanders.
- An important note to consider is that three-quarters of National Party MP’s own multiple properties or have interests in properties through trusts. For example, Amy Adams has interests in eight properties with at least four of them residential. The party that is opposing it so strongly collectively have the most to lose of any party should the tax go ahead.



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The Fresher Bucket List of Things to Do In Auckland

BY CAMERON LEAKEY

So you've decided to study at the University of Auckland. Congratulations. Welcome to the top ranked University in the country for Academics and one of the lowest for student drinking culture. By now, you've probably already discovered your hall, some of the University Campus and a very limited stretch of Queen St. But there's so much more to Auckland than just the 2km radius from your chosen hall of residence. Auckland is one big sprawling mess. There's a million parks, a very disorganized public transport system and not one, but two harbours - score! Go forth Freshers and discover University life at Auckland; it's like no other, for better or for worse.

1: Attend the Toga Party.: Guaranteed, you can only do this once, but it's still a worthy time. Ask any Second or Third year and they will fondly tell you of the time they got an Uber home afterwards with their handmade bedsheet Toga falling apart at their waist. It's the one time you get to wear a bed sheet in the middle of town; it's marvelous.

2: Throw up on Elliot St outside Bar 101: I am not even going to pretend I didn't do this, just own your moment of shame. Start your Auckland clubbing adventures at the lowest point possible and buy yourself enough \$3 cruisers till you're sick of the place. Upstairs? Downstairs? It's still bad no matter what floor you're on.

3: Join all the clubs and never actually attend any events: Peak your enthusiasm with the exciting idea of taking up kayaking, declaring your political preference or investigating your absolute love of Dessert. Just make sure that you don't actually commit to any clubs that require your attendance. Clubs are a great way to put stickers on your ID and try and expand your activities before assignments take over and suddenly you want to kayak away from all your worries.

4: Get Hayfever in Albert Park: Albert Park is a great place to get hayfever in the summer, or sit on wet grass if it's winter. In between seasons, both of these things can be achieved. A special shoutout to

features.

the Queen Victoria Statue and the fountain that's mostly full of water but occasionally empty; I'm sure you could go diving for some loose change in there.

5: Claim ACC for injuring yourself on a Lime: Before last week's ban on them, Lime scooters were the absolute bomb. Fuck walking ever again. Faulty brakes however do make for a rocky ride and so for now, you might not be hooning down Wellesley St until they can fix the brake issue.

6: Go to Mission Bay: Mission Bay gets talked about like it's the place to go, and it's nice okay, go chill out there. Just don't swim in the water.

7: Spend a fortune on second-hand clothes opshopping on K'Rd: Opshopping on K'Rd in its glory days was like finding gold. Nowadays, the opshops have become expensive and very mainstream and you're honestly better to find out where your local Save Mart is and hit them up. They have much more than what's on K Rd and at a better price.

8: Smoke weed on the O Rorke Balconies: I know it's happening, you know it's happening, it's chill. Just don't let your RA catch you.

9 : Burn your feet on the black sand at Piha: Borrow a friend's car, drive out there, pay \$10 for fries at the café and pray that it's not raining like it usually is on the west coast.

10: Go out every Wednesday night: Only when you're a fresher do you really do this. Fuck your 9am class on Thursday. Wednesday night is free entry and normally there are some pretty great drinks specials on.

11: Spot a Shortland St Actor: Shortland St Actors do exist outside the Shorty St Hospital and you're bound to see one around soon. Just hope it's TK and not one of the extras who got to play a patient that one time.

12: Drunkenly order a Big Mac at 3am at Britomart Maccas: Britomart Maccas after a night out in town is a sacred institution. Try working the touch screens when you're drunk and ordering that Big Mac you craved when you first entered the club but held back on until it was the end of the night. Special shoutout to Chicken Nuggets at Britomart Maccas, 3am nuggets are the best.

13: Pay an exorbitant amount for parking in the CBD: \$3 an hour seems okay to start with, but once you've been parked for more than two hours, \$6 an hour is a much worse way to spend your Course Related Costs than on alcohol and club entry. Dishonorable mention to those Wilson car parks that advertise parking by the half hour. \$4 a half hour is a ridiculous amount to pay.

14: Share (or don't share) a teapot at Cassette Nine: Cassette Nine is cool, and those teapots are bloody delicious. Share your teapot and those little neon shot glasses with friends, or alternatively drink straight from the spout - no judgments.

15: Find a good car park to drink in when you run out of Course Related Costs: Bars are expensive. Towards the end of the semester, your assignments stack up and you can't afford to go down to Roxy again. Your local liquor store has a great range of cheap and nasty tasting alcohol that you can happily consume in any local car park. C'est la vie.

16: Eat your body weight in Shads Toasted Sandwiches: There had to be a shoutout to Shads in here, didn't there? Shadows toasted sandwiches are delicious, and if you have one every time you go to Shads in your first year, you're well on your way to a good time.

17: Do the readings before class (and then don't ever do them again after your first lecture): Readings are not compulsory and they don't pair well with a hangover so just accept you'll stop doing them after week two and get on with more important things.

18: Find a Microwave on campus: Any microwave is fair game.

“
Special shoutout to
Chicken Nuggets
at Britomart
Maccas, 3am
nuggets are the
best.

”

19: Tell a Munchy Mart staff member you love them: They stay open till late during exam time and god knows when you need a red bull at 10pm; so do they. Munchy Mart Staff are the best humans and they deserve your love. Tell them today how much you appreciate them.

20: Fall asleep in the library: It's just so quiet and so peaceful in there. The heaters are on like all year round so it's very easy to just curl up on your laptop case and have a nap. Fall asleep to the gentle lull of Macbook typing and photocopier jams, it's truly heaven.

21: Contribute to Craccum: This is compulsory. We are always desperately short on writers and we have a fridge in our office that you can hide your beer in between lectures. Check out our Facebook page and get involved! Plug over.

22: Throw a jug at Savage in Shads: Stop woah back it up now let me see that jug swing. Savage appears at Shadows every single Orientation Week and is an Auckland University staple at this point. Definitely worth attending.

**“
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be anchored at
the top or bottom
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GOOD REASONS | LACHLAN MITCHELL

5/10: A reason to dance, I guess?

A rising artist of dance-pop, NZ artist Jon Lemmon has released his newest venture: 'Good Reasons', a follow-up to his previous releases of 'It's Gonna Be Alright' and 'Something True'. While there's no question that the bubbling positivity of his output is essential to his growing success, 'Good Reasons' is his first release that has sounded utterly dated despite, or perhaps in spite, of his infectious beats.

The unrelenting march of tropical house has swarmed across all corners of the indie and 'lo-fi' scene – it is at a point where the tell-tale chimes are synonymous with cheap quality. Which is a shame, because the proliferation of artists like Kygo doesn't have to mean that the sound is unoriginal, or dated. It's just unfortunate that Lemmon has decided to take influence from Kygo – while not terrible, 'Good Reasons' sounds like a Zedd offcut, something he discarded when working with Ariana Grande a few years ago.

It's just that Jon Lemmon is late to the party on this one – a party that was never particularly interesting, but a party nonetheless. 'Good Reasons' would have been fresh out the gate three years ago, but now, it just reminds me of when Grimes released 'Go' three years after the dubstep craze similarly influenced all corners of pop.

I hope Lemmon is able to develop a newer sound – he has the tools, he just needs to move away from Youtube mixes as a reference point.



THE OSCARS | LACHLAN MITCHELL

3/10: The night of a thousand think pieces

The Academy Awards could not have done worse promo for the annual show if they had tried. The failure that was Kevin Hart's announcement as the host and the (rescinded) declaration that certain categories would have been announced at commercial breaks caused fires both in the public and within the industry itself. Hart's role was eschewed in favour of... let me count... 51 presenters and it honestly was not a bad choice – if anything, the flurry of the too rich and too famous showed how unnecessary the role really is. But out of several choices that night, it was one of the few that will be remembered positively.

I am personally loathe to give any attention to abusers beyond what it is necessary, so I will be blunt. The choice to reward Bryan Singer with, by extension, four Oscars is a massive backstab to the victims Hollywood has purported to support since the #MeToo movement began. It is especially frustrating given the entirely forgettable quality of the movie itself. As *The Onion* put it: "Rami Malek deeply immersed himself in the role of a man who knows nothing about Bryan Singer's paedophilia allegations."

Green Book's surprise Best Picture win, echoing the wins of *Crash* and *Driving Miss Daisy* before it, supplants *Crash* as the most controversial Best Picture win in our lifetimes. White saviour narratives and all that. Same old stuff.

However, Olivia Colman was great. Much love to her.



THE UMBRELLA ACADEMY | LACHLAN MITCHELL

7/10: They all dance like Mary J. Blige and that's great!

I read the *Umbrella Academy* comics when I was 13 – the side project of My Chemical Romance's Gerard Way and comic book artist Gabriel Bá, it was a pretty interesting take on how trying to make X-Men in our world is kinda fucked up. Stylistically, Bá was the star of the show. A lot of the panels still hold up. In terms of plot, it was kinda like a teenager writing *Watchmen* – the angst was there, but the feeling...? Unsure.

As for Netflix's new property of the same name, it's a bit more even-handed. The visual style is more muted as a consequence of live action. In this adaptation, both runs of the original series are combined into one overarching plot – it's a bit awkward at times, particularly when they focus on the angst and the lingering effects of terrible parenting. Ellen Page's slow breakdown is heart-breaking. But this melding also allows the story to be propped up by the breakout stars – namely, Aidan Gallagher as a 58 year old in a 13 year old's body, and Cameron Brittle and Mary J. Blige as assassins Hazel and Cha-Cha respectively. All three immediately shine as the morally ambiguous, and refreshingly not irritating, hearts of the show. Mary J. Blige gets to do her famous dance moves while high and on fire, so that alone redeems the show's flaws for me.

Worth a second season.



RUSSIAN DOLL | LACHLAN MITCHELL

8.5/10: Cackaroach!

In case you haven't seen Netflix's most acclaimed new property of the year and are relying on the wisdom of *Craccum* for reviewing content that any respectable publication looked at weeks ago, *Russian Doll* is Natasha Lyonne at her best: strung-out but with perfect comic timing, and never too far from a cigarette and a delightfully foul mouth.

It's a show that encapsulates what Netflix is capable of doing with their new budget – using a stable of faithful actors, MGM-style, to create solid properties that take our knowledge of the actors and go so much further with them. Lyonne's troubled history is intertwined with her portrayal of Nadia Vulvokov, the titular doll. She takes what could have been a very caricatured character, a software genius with a crushing family history and a semi-functional relationship with hard drugs and alcohol, and sees both the humour and the pain that comes with that identity. Vulvokov is a woman trapped in a loop – both literally, as an unwilling participant in a *Groundhog Day* time cycle, and as a woman who doesn't really know if she wants to live or die after her 36th birthday.

Through this endless cycle, we're treated to a story about a woman (and a not very interesting man also stuck in the loop) learning to forgive herself before it's too late. Aside from the aforementioned bore, the supporting cast are also welcome additions to Netflix's collection. Overall, well worth the watch.



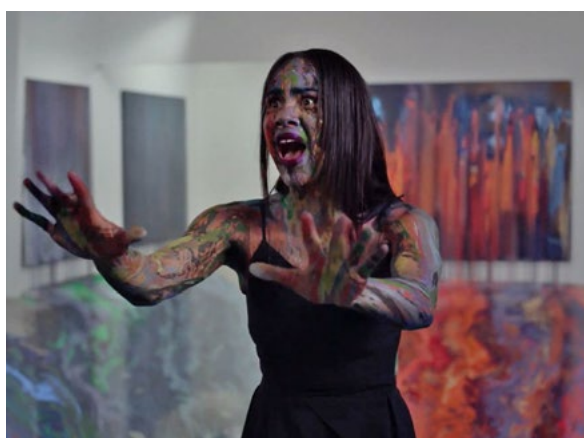
SERENITY | CLAUDIA RUSSELL

5/10: McConaughey doesn't Hathaway of saving this mess

When I first started watching Steven Knight's *Serenity*, I was confused as to why I had heard absolutely nothing about a film starring Academy Award winners Matthew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway, released less than a month ago. Unfortunately, the reason became quickly apparent: it's *terrible*. So terrible, in fact, that its promoters gave up on marketing it. However, *Serenity* is a train wreck you won't want to take your eyes off.

McConaughey plays Iraq veteran turned fishing-boat captain Baker Dill, who lives on the tropical Plymouth Island. Baker spends his days taking rich tourists out on fishing trips, when all he really wants is to finally catch a giant tuna he alternately calls "Justice" and "the Beast." Enter Karen, his ex-wife, played by Hathaway, a femme fatale in the wrong genre. She needs Baker's help, and what she asks of him will force him to question right and wrong. In the interim, a mysterious businessman tries and repeatedly fails to contact Baker. This is about all I can give away without ruining this...uh... experience. If you followed the absolute trainwreck that was 2016's *Collateral Beauty*, all I can say is that *Serenity* is similarly insane.

Would I recommend *Serenity*? Honestly, yes. The film falls squarely into the 'so bad it's good' category, and is extremely entertaining for that reason. While I fear that this could mark the end of the McConaissance, *Serenity* could become a drunken movie night staple nonetheless.



VELVET BUZZSAW | DARIO DAVIDSON

6.5/10: Not the sharpest cut, but Jake Gyllenhaal is shirtless, so

"What's the point of art if nobody sees it?"

Interesting statement from a film made by the most accessible platform on the planet. Still, there's an obvious, looming answer. There is no point to art.

Keeping this in mind is pretty helpful when you're watching *Velvet Buzzsaw*. An M rated part thriller, part black comedy, part art house film directed by Dan Gillroy (*Nightcrawler*) that does its best to keep you guessing, despite being cast from a very old and well-used mold.

PLOT: The movie follows a group of the L.A art scene's "in" crowd. Rival gallery directors trade nuanced insults, desperate and miserable assistants fetch lattes and facilitate blackmail, and a camp, sneering critic looks upon it all with disdain. This is our introduction to the world of art. It's shallow, ridiculous, and hyperbolic to the point of confusion. But the film does it so well that you accept it and get drawn into the pointless weirdness of it. When an aspiring assistant director stumbles upon a strange and incredible collection of work, she drags everyone around her into her whirlpool of success.

Velvet Buzzsaw is blessed with an original script and some exceptional casting, but occasionally let down by the classic horror trope of a wonderful build-up that doesn't deliver the goods. Good for anyone who wants a little bit of dark satire sprinkled on their regular B grade jump-scare.



Buckle Up, Kids!

Recently, I was hit with the devastating news that *Jeopardy* was going to be removed from the Netflix library later this month. For those unaware of *Jeopardy* because you're using your Netflix for the right reasons, it is a beloved American institution (in other words, a quiz show) where the format is to provide your answer in the form of a question. Having binged my way through two thrilling seasons, accumulating a meagre five correct answers over my totalled efforts, I lament to be witnessing its demise. But as a show originally formatted for broadcast television, *Jeopardy*, and so many other shows designed like it, seem almost archaic to a contemporary audience. As a result, streaming services aren't hesitating to usher these shows through the door in favour of originals from their own production studios, with far more unique and high-reward storytelling – and no expensive rights negotiations to consider. These rapid changes are redefining how we consume television, and the encroaching reality is that this transition is occurring faster than any of us can imagine.

The 'Netflix Originals' portfolio is expanding rapidly each year and is a financial investment that is set to increase exponentially as the company sheds more and more licensed content back to its competitors. Last year, *Fortune* reported that Netflix released an astonishing 88% more original content over part of 2018 than it did during the same span of 2017. *The Verge* reports that "Netflix estimated it would spend \$8 billion on creating original content in 2018 alone, with the goal that in the next few years, half of the company's available content would be original titles". Yet the company's diversification isn't justified by any current viewing figures. "Most viewers spend the bulk

of their Netflix time watching programming Netflix didn't make itself," *Fortune* claims. "Forty-two percent of subscribers also watched little or no original Netflix content".

However, one could argue that Netflix has since raised the standard of its original content, aspiring to become recognized for producing premium-quality content. Yet the price tag at which it has come by is worrying, and the fact that top contenders such as Amazon Prime and Disney Plus are also hunting the behemoth that is exclusive content, at the same financial cost, begs the question of why streaming services are so desperate to have content original to their own platform.

Ultimately, it comes down to the fact that entertainment conglomerates are seeking to provide an unparalleled streaming service, in order to increase their share of the cash-cow. Streaming services search for established industry stars to front their own originals, like David Letterman and even iron-fist Jeremy Clarkson, who manage to bring a loyal fanbase along with them. And with a wide array of other originals to cater for any viewing pleasure, fans would be left with little reason to leave, least of which having been done with their favourite star.

This, and the reality of high-cost licensing fees, accounts for Netflix's cancellation of all its lacklustre, B-grade Marvel content. The rumour, reported by respected institutions like *Vanity Fair* and tabloid rags like *NZ Herald* alike, was this: Disney had tightened the chain. Marvel Studios (itself owned by Disney) will instead have its shows produced exclusively for the new Disney Plus streaming service. Disney

themselves are prepared to put half a billion dollars towards original content for their new ambitious streaming project; what CEO Bob Iger repeatedly insists is “the highest priority of Walt Disney Co.” (reported by *Variety*). With that type of money flying around, Jeremy “What Anger Issues?” Clarkson won’t be the only celebrity stroking a pretty streaming cheque in the near future.

Of course, this begs the question of why the US government are slack to impose restrictions on this clearly spiralling industry. In the past, they have cut out the vertical integration of distribution services, in other words, preventing studios from owning the theatres they played their movies at (1948, *United States v. Paramount Pictures*). But since all that shows at theatres anymore are superhero movies (plus the odd Dwayne “Still At This” Johnson film which will shock people as being surprisingly good), the Supreme Court’s ruling fails to impose itself over streaming services sourcing content directly from their own studios. And without these restrictions, companies are at liberty to hoard ‘exclusivity rights’ over the library of content they host.

This provides the catalyst for a clear plummet in popularity of broadcast television. Increasing exclusivity rights with big studios result in filtering lower quality productions through to broadcast TV, which are destined to compete for time with perpetual ad and product placements, deeming whatever content is left unwatchable. This all spells out the imminent death of free-to-watch television. To imagine the adverse consequences would be reeling; our nation could survive nothing so devastating as if we managed to lose Lily the Big Save Furniture lady, but a cynic might say that the Christchurch earthquake gives us odds-on-favour. That’s not even to mention our national treasure Shortland Street. Chris Warner didn’t survive a plane crash, multiple explosions and raise a dozen children only to get replaced by a fucking James Acaster comedy special.

But if you’re heartless enough not to care about Lily and Chris Warner, what might make you believe otherwise is the abandonment of independent filmmakers and studios who helped launch these streaming platforms, and now unwillingly find themselves struggling to survive in this new and fast-expanding oligopoly. As *IndieWire* reports, Amazon Studios have already found themselves at the butt of criticism for abandoning the indie space; “there will be a first-time or second-time director whose relevant and urgent voice will struggle to find a home... the distribution landscape for discoveries becomes bleaker”.

Yet I’m willing to bet the reality is that for you and I, the notion that streaming services are ruining the way we watch television is incomprehensible. Content is no longer designed to be limited to half-hour packages, and writers are actually being afforded time to pace out their storytelling for greater dramatic impact. Producers are awarded desperately sought creative freedom, and granted budgets that could have made the Fyre Festival a success, all in the name of what harm: some media conglomerates trying to outdo one another? Streaming services have unequivocally changed the way we view television content for the better. We’re not leaving the golden age for television at all; we’re entering it.

I still haven’t watched James Acaster’s ‘Repertoire’. But that stands

to mean nothing; you’ll probably find me watching it in the Craccum office this week. Why? Because you, I, and probably Chris Warner too, know that the Netflix Original tagline stands for “bitch, watch this, it’s... good?”.

And so for the time being, it remains that Jeopardy will be stepping down from the Netflix library in order to welcome another high-budget binge-worthy thriller with the coveted original tag. Is there anything you’re sad about that’s being taken off Netflix? Voice your concerns to subeditor@craccum.co.nz because hey, at least someone is offering to listen to them. And if you’re lucky, I might answer in the form of a question.

END

As of writing, Netflix NZ and Australia have renewed their license with Jeopardy! Remarkable.

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GUEST COLUMN

BRIAN GU

WITH APOLOGIES TO PARIS HILTON

While reading Keeara's *Cheap Eats* spotlight this week (check it out in Lifestyle), I came across the shocking revelation that Paris Hilton once entertained the idea of a music career in the late 00's. Being a 2000 kid, this was news to me, and I'm sure it may strike you the same way if you're only just entering university. However, our editor Bailey has reassured me that Paris did indeed have a singing career, and a highly forgettable one at that. But not to worry, because here at Crac-cum, we're willing to dig deep for the scoop on any hot topic, so that you don't have to. From Stuart McCutcheon's Greatest Hits to Paris Hilton's Greatest Hits; you're right, this part of the magazine couldn't have gone downhill any quicker.

"Good Time"

If you manage to look past the fact that the opening lyrics, "I am a good time", are awfully presumptuous, the absolutely incoherent mumblings that conjugate the remainder of the song throw whatever conviction you originally had of having a 'good time' out the window, into the path of a moving bus. The appearance of Lil Wayne is laughable, and is solely driven by his stoic determination of rhyming "butt" and "fuck" as many times as humanly possible. I can safely assure you, contrary to what the title suggests, this was not a good time.

1/10 – *In the words of my idol Simon Cowell, "The only resemblance that had to Mariah Carey would be her CD left out in the sun for a year, and then trying to play it".*

"Nothing in this World"

The music video is absolutely horrific, plagued with references to bullying and sexual misconduct. Without a single redeeming quality to mention at all, it sets the tone for the standard of music that follows. Managing to slip the phrase "da da" into her lyrics countless times, it makes you wonder whether she hired a toddler to draft vocals.

The World Health Organization recently released a report documenting a lack of oxygen in health-care facilities as a major barrier

to quality care. Imagine when they find out Paris Hilton is wasting it belting out this shocker.

2/10 – *In the words of my idol Simon Cowell, "You just killed every cat in Denver".*

"Stars are Blind"

Unfortunately, opening the song with a reggae beat does not manage to ease to flow of verbal diarrhoea that follows. The only way to justify how painful this track is would be if it were originally produced for a birthing mix. Hilton adopts a raspy, effortful voice about as musical as an asthma attack, and paired with a heavy drum beat, ensures the song lands closer to the richter scale than any octave scale.

Yes Paris, the stars are blind, but they're not deaf.

1/10 – *In the words of my idol Simon Cowell, "yes you have personality, but my dog has personality".*

Paris Hilton's music is summed up by taking the sweet and innocent music of Carly Rae Jepsen, and bludgeoning to death its elegance and charm. Possessing lyrics with the imagination of a six-year old on Minecraft for two hours, Hilton revolutionizes music by seamlessly transitioning from a singing voice to a groan, then to a moan, and by the end of the *Screwed* track, some sounds that I am yet to identify. To say that it were Burger King bathroom music would be an insult to Burger King bathrooms. But I concede that at least the first ten seconds of each track are salvageable, and since this remains a fair and impartial review, I am inclined to give her that point.

1/10 – *In the words of my idol Simon Cowell, "thank you. No".*

GUEST COLUMN

NATIONAL PARTY'S
CHRIS BISHOP

Delivery is the Lowest Bar to Clear

The Prime Minister says this year will be her 'year of delivery'. While I could point out Governments should be 'delivering' all the time (that's why they're elected), at least a promise of delivery is progress. Last year felt like the year of working groups – we're up to 242 now (and counting) at a cost of \$297 million. Think of a policy area, there's some highly paid working party out there figuring out what the Labour Government should do. Nice work if you can get it, but it's depressing and comical that after nine years in Opposition, Labour still couldn't come up with coherent policy.

So far the Government's 'year of delivery' is underwhelming, to say the least.

KiwiBuild was meant to be the answer to our housing woes, but only 62 houses have been built, the targets have been dropped, and they can't even sell KiwiBuild homes in Wanaka. The whole scheme has become a joke.

The Provincial Growth Fund, aka the NZ First re-election slush fund, at last count has created 118 jobs for bureaucrats in Wellington and 54 as a direct result of the fund in the regions. I've seen better Ponzi schemes.

When it comes to tertiary education, things are a mess.

A select group of students in 2019 got their first year of fees paid for, by everyone else at a great expense. Fewer students went to University than before. Oops.

Fees-free is great for those who get it but incredibly poor public policy. Last year was the first year in a decade universities didn't get a general increase in funding – guess where all the money went? Fees-free. Yet New Zealand's student loan scheme is already the most generous in the world (no interest and no inflation adjustments).

One wonders how striking teachers and nurses feel when they see the billions going into free fees for students who would be at University anyway.

Much of the year I suspect will be spent talking Capital Gains Tax. Labour are in a right pickle here. They're desperate to introduce one. It was Labour's policy at the 2011 and 2014 elections, and in 2017 right up until then Labour Leader Jacinda Ardern got spooked and kicked the issue to the 'Tax Working Group'.

The Greens have even said they don't deserve to be re-elected if they

don't introduce one!

So don't believe the line that this is just something to be 'considered', Labour are keen as mustard on one and have been for years.

My take on a Capital Gains Tax is pretty simple.

There's lots of good and complicated arguments against it, but think of it like this. You tax what you want less of.

Do we really want less business investment, less entrepreneurship, less intellectual property creation, less savings, less investment in shares and fewer start-up businesses? The Tax Working Group has proposed the most punitive capital gains tax in the world and National will campaign hard against it.

For National this will be a year of holding the Government relentlessly to account and thinking hard about policy to take to the election in 2020.

People sometimes say to me that National is too negative (I also get people saying we never criticise Labour enough, by the way, proving that in Opposition you can almost never win). I appreciate that people like positivity but being negative is literally our job.

As someone who's worked behind the scenes in Government, I am very confident in saying that a good Opposition makes for a good Government. Our system is built on robust debate, critique and questioning of Government. We'll keep doing that.

It's not all doom and gloom though. National will continue to work constructively with the Government on areas we agree on, like reducing child poverty and tackling climate change.

We also have a job to develop a programme should we earn the right to govern in 2020. The good news is we're all brimming with ideas. I'm proud of the last Government's achievements, but we didn't get everything right – no Government does, try as they do.

Last year, we launched our Have Your Say campaign, and this year we will be releasing policy discussion documents on everything from the economy, law and order, infrastructure, education and health, so keep an eye out for those.

We want to hear from you so we can make your lives better and create more opportunities for you here in New Zealand.

We want to be ready to go on day one after the 2020 election, which is (incredible, I know), only eighteen months away.

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A Visit to the Waitakere Alcohol and Drug Treatment Court

By CLAUDIA RUSSELL

Ten people sat at a round table singing a Waiata. Later, a heavily tattooed man stands up and shares his personal journey to recovery. By the end of it, there isn't a dry eye in the room. Is this a group therapy meeting? Nope, it's a courtroom.

I had the chance recently to attend the Waitakere Alcohol and Drug Treatment Court – one of the few therapeutic courts in New Zealand. The waiata we sang – Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua Waita – describes the court as 'The House that Lifts the Spirits.'

To qualify, offenders must plead guilty to their charges, then agree to undergo strict supervision, intensive treatment, 24-hour monitoring and take random drug and alcohol tests. Some are also allocated special bracelets that are able to detect if they've been drinking.

I've had the chance to watch a few court appearances before, but this was a different breed of courtroom altogether. Contrary to what *Law and Order* might tell you, courtrooms are normally tense places where formality rules and emotion is frowned upon. The energy at AODTC is incredibly warm and supportive. Judges, forensic nurses, police constables and hardened criminals sit side by side at the same table.

First to the stand was Ross*, a man in his late 50's. Judge Tremewan noted his recent birthday, and asked how it was. Ross says it was the first time he's been sober on his birthday in 30 years. He tells her that what he's really looking forward to is his "sober birthday," which will celebrate a year of being clean.

Restorative justice for drug users is a topic that has floated between various political parties in recent years, and is likely to rise into public awareness in 2020 when the Labour Party has vowed to hold a binding referendum over cannabis law reform. The AODTC was established in a five-year pilot in 2012 with the aim to reduce recidivism by empowering individuals to break the cycle of addiction and crime. In June 2017, the National Government extended the pilot for three more years. A recent conference lauded the success of the courts so far in terms of graduate numbers and reduced re-offending rates, and many hope that Alcohol and Drug treatment courts will be opened all over New Zealand. Proponents of the court are confident that AODTC is one of the best therapeutic courts in the world, as we have the benefit of seeing what has worked for countries like the United States who have more established therapeutic courts.

One by one, participants walk up to the stand and talk about their progress since the last sitting. There is an 'A team' and a 'B team' – 'A team' members are those who are doing well, while those who have had minor slip ups in the programme – not showing up to an appointment, not complying with treatment orders – are on the B team. The teams don't make a practical difference, but it helps attendees stay accountable for their actions and recognise their achievements.

The next speaker is Josh*, a young man celebrating his first year of sobriety. His speech is deeply personal, going through the trauma and

emotions which led him to use in the first place. He encourages new participants to fight through the initial struggle of sobriety and to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Graduates of the programme often come back as support people to help guide others through the ups and downs of the programme. At least three graduates sat in the courtroom that day simply to observe and support.

A friend of Josh's then gets up and tells the court how he has seen a massive change in him. "He's like a new man."

Less than half an hour in, and I was already struggling to hold back tears. I wasn't alone – several participants could be seen on the edge of crying in the public gallery. There was a deep sense of being part of something significant in another person's life. For many, entry into the AODTC is the turning point away from a lifelong involvement in criminal activity. Graduates have so much to gain from participating – they may re-connect family ties, have their children returned from protective services, gain stable employment, or pursue higher education.

The Judge presents Josh with a medal to celebrate the achievement and praises him for his authenticity. Authenticity and honesty seem to be highly valued here, even when it means admitting one's failures. There is some risk that participants will use the programme as a 'get out of jail free' card, completing the programme to avoid a prison sentence rather than to genuinely better themselves. However, Judge Tremewan seems to have a keen eye for identifying those who genuinely want to be there.

I also have the chance to see an 'exit hearing.' Because only 100 people can be in the programme at any one time, those who show a lack of determination to complete the programme are sometimes exited to make space for those who need it most. It's an unfortunate occasion, but the Judge remains positive; "evidence shows that even people who don't graduate from this programme still have reduced rates of recidivism and substance abuse," she says. "It's just not your time yet."

The basic idea behind AODTC is that in order to reduce drug-related harm in New Zealand, the law should take a health-focused approach rather than a punitive one. Evidence suggests that prison sentences do little to reduce drug use and put the offender in increasingly stressful positions which can lead to an inescapable 'wheel of offending.' It's no secret that drug use is rampant inside prisons, despite the constant surveillance. Emerging research in neuroscience suggests that drug addiction can be thought of as a chronic disease of the brain – one which cannot be cured without treatment. If the goal of drug laws is to reduce drug use in the community, locking drug users up together without treatment is surely counter-intuitive. Fingers crossed that we start to see a trend in evidence-based therapeutic courtrooms throughout the country.

A Ludicrous Lexicon

By JESSICA THOMAS

The English language has a reputation for being rather ridiculous - full of exceptions to rules which don't really make sense to begin with. I've scoured my stack of dictionaries and lexicons so you can wow your dinner guests with your lexicographic knowledge (or possibly make them never want to come back again).

Avocado: The word avocado derives from the Spanish term aguacate, which comes from the Nahuatl *ahuacatl*, meaning 'testicle'. If you're wondering why, have a look at an avocado tree; the sight of these soft, semi-round balls hanging down will likely give you a clue.

Cappuccino: 'Cappuccin' means 'hood' in Italian. How are hoods and coffee linked? By the dark oak-brown hue of the cloaks worn by Capuchin monks- the colour of a perfect cappuccino.

Salary: The origin of this word is the Latin, *salarium* - the payment given for salt. Centuries ago, salt was at a premium, so much so that it was referred to as white gold and in Egypt, labourers were paid with salt so they could preserve their food for the next month.

When the Romans took over, they continued the custom and the word 'salary' became a catchall term for payment given to workers at the end of each month.

Muscle: The Latin for muscle, which is 'musculus,' means 'little mice.' Romans apparently perceived rippling muscles as mice moving about under the skin.

Tell that to the grunting, flexing sweating specimens hogging the gym mirror. Or maybe not.

Vanilla: Hernando Cortes, who conquered the Aztec Empire, found the vanilla plant and named it 'vainilla.' 'Vainilla' came from the Latin word 'vagina' which means 'sheath'.

It's said Cortes chose the term for the way the pod must be split open for the beans to come out.

Electric: This is once for the gemmologists among you. William Gilbert coined the term in his 1600 book *De Magnate*, to describe the flow of charged particles from a medium. It comes

from the ancient Greek term for amber, *electron*, likely chosen by Gilbert because rubbing amber on cloth generates static electricity.

Sabotage: Destruction and footwear are etymological cousins. The word comes from rioting French workers in the early 19th Century who would damage machinery by throwing sabots- wooden shoes- into them.

Tomfoolery: Like we use 'Tom Dick and Harry' as a generic term for the human race, Tom Fool was the generic idiot in the 16th Century. 'Tom o' Bedlam' was also a popular term for the beggars and vagrants who would pretend to be maimed or mad in hopes of receiving donations from the public. Hence, we use 'tomfoolery' to refer to various varieties of shenanigans. Sorry Tom.

Rucksack: Another instance of linguistic thievery. 'Ruck' comes from the German word *rücken* which means 'back'. So Rucksack literally means 'backpack.'

That just sounds inappropriate to me.

Tofu: This many confirm a lot of things for some people, depending on which side of the 'tofu is disgusting and should be banned' argument you're on.

'Do fu' is the Chinese word from which we get 'tofu' in English.

'Do' means 'bean' and 'fu' means rotten or sour.

So, as many will agree, tofu is literally 'rotten beans.'

'Nuf said.

Ketchup: This one also comes from a Chinese word. 'Ke-stiap' is a potent concoction of pickled fish and spices popular among the early Chinese.

By the 19th century, new versions of the recipe emerged in the U.S. thanks to colonialism. Of

the three varieties available (Tomato, walnut and mushroom) the tomato version became the most popular. In a case of Chinese Whispers, 'ke-stiap' became 'ketchup.'

Moped: Turns out I've been using this word wrong all my life and you probably have to - unless you're Swedish. Moped combines the Swedish words 'motor' and 'peddler.'

So technically, the proper definition of a moped is a bicycle with a motor, and we should be using it to talk about e-bikes rather than scooters. My life is a lie.

Loft: Yet more robbery. But there aren't many Norse men wandering around these days to be offended. Another word for attic, loft comes from the Old Norse 'loft,' which means sky.

I want a sky room now.

--

I hope you feel more entomologically informed than you were five minutes ago. That's all from me for now. Toodle-oo! (A word which likely came from 'toddle' meaning 'to walk', or a neologism designed to resemble the farewell toot of a carhorn.)

And here are a few more words I found in the writing of this article that really have no place here other than that they're weird and good for a giggle:

Bonus words

Doodle-sack - a word for bagpipe from the 19th century.

Erinaceous - resembling a hedgehog

Oxter - an outdated word meaning 'armpit.'

Winklepicker - a style of shoe from the 1950s which had a sharp and long pointed toe. Not sure I want to know what a 'winkle' is or how you pick it with a shoe. I'll leave that particular bit of research to someone else.

LECTURE BINGO

"You are not in high school anymore"	Lecturer reads directly off slides	Technical difficulties	"Can you hear me at the back?"
Someone leaves 10 minutes in	Lecturer is #relatable	Turn and talk to the person next to you	2 hr lecture that could be done in 1
No substance to one hour lecture	Icebreakers	Group two rows behind won't shut up	Student watching a film on laptop
Lecture is recorded	Required textbook is written by lecturer	majority of students have one seat between them	Person in front row transcribing

Awkward squeeze past	Lecture finishes early	Mates organising 12pm Shadz	Technical difficulties
Person in front row transcribing	"Can you hear me at the back?"	Someone leaves 15 minutes early	Uses outdated memes
People bring textbooks to class	Lecturer is under 40 (probably)	Group of girls with Starbucks coffee	Student exclusively on Facebook
Lecturer goes too fast	Someone argues with lecturer	Mature student in the front row	Repeated messenger pings

Required textbook written by lecturer	Technical difficulties	Lecturer goes too slow	"About Me" lecture slide
Student exclusively on Facebook	Multiple "sorry" squeeze past	Lecture not recorded	Phone rings
Can't get Youtube audio working	Marked tutorial attendance	Lecturer talks about family	Lecturer is over 40 (most likely)
Unnecessary applause after lecture	Student points out typo on slide	Lecture theatre smells like B.O	Someone is told off for eating

"It's in the syllabus on CANVAS"	Lecturer fumbles microphone	Lecturer says "just before you go..."	Technical difficulties
Someone drops pencil case on row below	Lecturer mumbles	Mature student asks question	Someone talks about their work experience
Class has group project	Lecturer boring themselves	Student slams door when leaving early	Class rep elections
You sit next to coughing student	Someone says "well, actually"	Lecturer joke meets silence	Someone argues with lecturer



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SIKA
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From the creators of *Scream*, amateur clairvoyants **SHERRY ZHANG** and **DAPHNE ZHENG** Know What You Did Last Summer and are ready to predict your futures.

ARIES

21 march - 20 april



Good for you! You've managed to save up a bit this summer despite all of the devil's temptations. Whether this be sticking to your budget, or healthy lifestyle, you are a saint. With Shadows \$2 toasties, and \$7 jugs, we reckon it's time to let loose and celebrate.

TAURUS

21 april - 21 may



You spent the summer falling in love. A person, a puppy, or simply summer's hot hot relentless heat. Bet the lack of ozone really did a number on your back baby. If you are peeling, the guru recommends a healthy dose of aloe vera to lubricate your energies.

GEMINI

22 may - 21 june



You've had the ball rolling this summer. New job, new gym workout, new year new you, busy busy bee. But be careful of burning out, you are not the sun. Take a mental health day you workaholic fiend, it's okay to skip a lecture once in a while.

CANCER

22 june - 22 july



This summer you've caught the travel bug, whether it be the penultimate OE or just a couple trips to the beach. Wanderlust soul: appropriative dreamcatcher, finger tattoo etc. Pinterest loves you. Maybe dial it down a notch, the coconut oil is stinking everyone out in The Fridge at OGGB.

LEO

23 july - 22 august



You really did shit all. Hey, don't feel bad! I mean... there's always next summer. Plus, who else is going to ace all the movie quizzes? You buddy! You.

VIRGO

23 august - 23 september



You've spent your summer living it up, Amelia Finlayson is that you? Instagram has been loving all your summer pics, Bali Beach Babe! Now it's time to buckle down and wash the sand out of your peach, I heard the sixth floor of the General Library has some #views too.

LIBRA

24 september - 23 october



You've experienced some loss this summer. Be gentle on your soul. Eat pray love some shit, you've got a new year's resolution list that isn't too late start cracking on. The new year doesn't really start until you buy new stationery, take advantage of the joy that overpriced moleskine might bring you.

SCORPIO

24 october - 22 november



You were stuck in summer school, freezing under the aggressive aircon while you scrolled through missed plans with your friends. A real trooper, you didn't miss a single tutorial! You could give Gemini a run for their money, but we all know you'd win. Be generous with your talents, help a gal out. They might've murdered someone.

SAGITTARIUS

23 november - 21 december



You probably spent it moving into a new place, Marie Kondo-ing the shit out of it. Did it really spark joy? I bet your life is soooo put together now, and ready for the new school year. Ka pai. But within all that cleaning, you stumbled on something from the old life. An old friend...ex...? Maybe it's time to reconnect...

CAPRICORN

22 december - 20 january



Unfortunately for you, your birthday was overshadowed by the Big Man, Good Ol' Saint Nick, and Father Time himself. Sorry all your friends couldn't come to your party. Maybe get some better ones this year. Kia kaha mate.

AQUARIUS

21 january - 19 february



You murdered someone. Holy shit. Turn yourself in. What the fuck dude.

PISCES

20 february - 20 march



Career changes and major blazers have happened once again. Are we surprised? Perhaps you're feeling stressed and itchy to finish your degree. But it looks like legalisation of marijuana will pass before you manage to sort your shit out. Perhaps minimise the use of legal highs too. Caffeine, vaping....

the people to blame.

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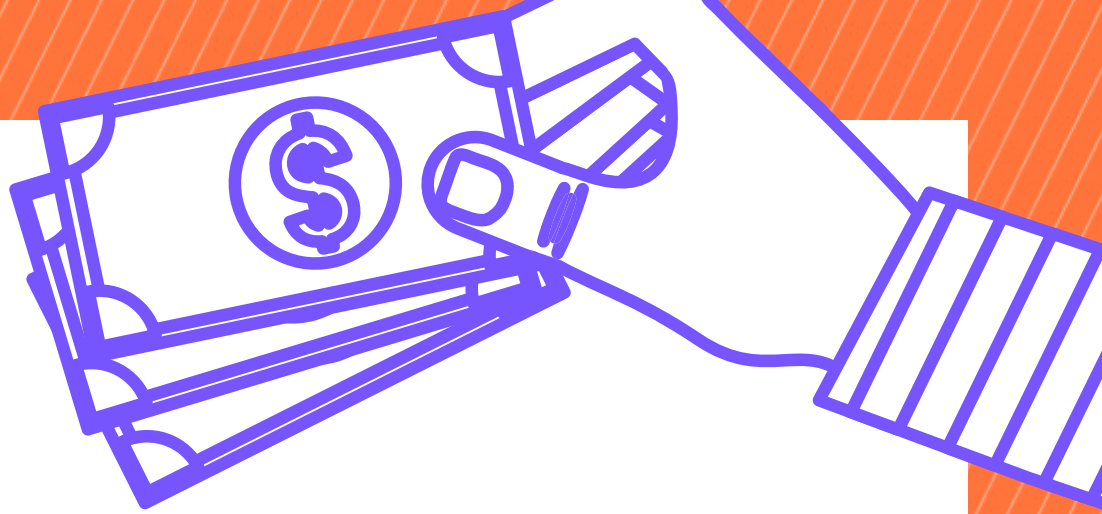
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