

# C R A C C U M

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# Normal

## Cam says:

What even is normal anymore?

We used to have a 'normal' and now, as things have changed so much, it can be hard to know what that even means anymore.

As we step down to level three and begin to regain this sense of 'normality', I feel that it is both exciting and also a little surreal. For 400,000 New Zealanders this is a return to work, for many, it's an opportunity to leave your home a little more, expand your bubble a little wider, and if you're at University, maybe a chance to return to your office, laboratory space, or research facility - this is of course being only if you absolutely must.

Some have described level three as just "Level Four with takeaways" and in many ways it can appear that way. Though let's not underestimate the satisfaction in a good Drive-Thru Burger. Takeaways aside, I am more excited that this appears to be a step back towards some sort of 'normal' - even if this 'normal' is very different from the 'normal' we all knew before.

A lot of things have changed as a result of this pandemic. We're making conscious efforts to socially distance, work remotely, and to be contactless in our transactions. This comes at a cost though - we simply cannot all come together - and as much as I'm glad the semester can continue, I look forward to that feeling of coming together on campus. Even if it must be for a particularly boring lecture, an exam or on a day when we'd rather not.

Please remember this is level three - things haven't changed too much yet, but if we all do this right, we can go to level two, and then one, and at each level, we can come together a little more.

Till then, reach out, we'll be back in person soon.

Cheers,  
Cam



## Dan says:

It's kind of amazing how quickly things start to seem normal.



When the lockdown began, it was like the whole world was ending. Students couldn't believe what was happening. Everything we knew was being upended. There were no more in-person lectures. There were no more tutorials. Most assignments had to be scrapped, or reworked, or pushed back again and again and again. Labs were replaced with recorded videos. Office hours were replaced with piazza pages.

It was insanity, confusion, and chaos. Everything concrete about student life - the campus, Shadows, the very concept of classes themselves - were gone. It seemed hard to believe that anything could ever be normal again.

And yet, only a few weeks on - here we are.

Things seem... normal. Not good. Not great. But definitely normal.

For the most part, students have adjusted to this new life remarkably quickly. They've developed new student lives - new schedules and habits and things to do. Lectures are completed at six in the evening, lying in bed, instead of the usual 10am classrooms. Friday nights at Shads have been replaced with boozy Zoom calls. And study sessions have moved from the general library to the garage. But for the most part, student life goes on.

That's pretty fucking amazing. We're pretty fucking lucky to live at a time - and in a country - where this is possible. Yes, Zoom lectures suck. Yes, emailing a lecturer isn't the same as seeing them in person. And yes, chatting over FaceTime isn't the same as meeting up in person. But let's just be thankful that - in this crazy, disruptive time we're in, where people are dying overseas, and some countries are struggling to keep their citizens fed - we can afford to have any kind of normal at all.

Having said all that, I understand that for some of you reading this, adjusting to the new normal has been more difficult. Maybe you're struggling financially. Maybe you're cooped up with an abusive family, or boyfriend, or flatmate. Maybe you're suffering from an illness which has gotten worse.

To you: I hope you're okay. I strongly suggest you check out our article on the student support services different organisations are offering.



LIVE

*Fitness*

# Accommodation Residents Facing Further Restrictions at Alert Level 3

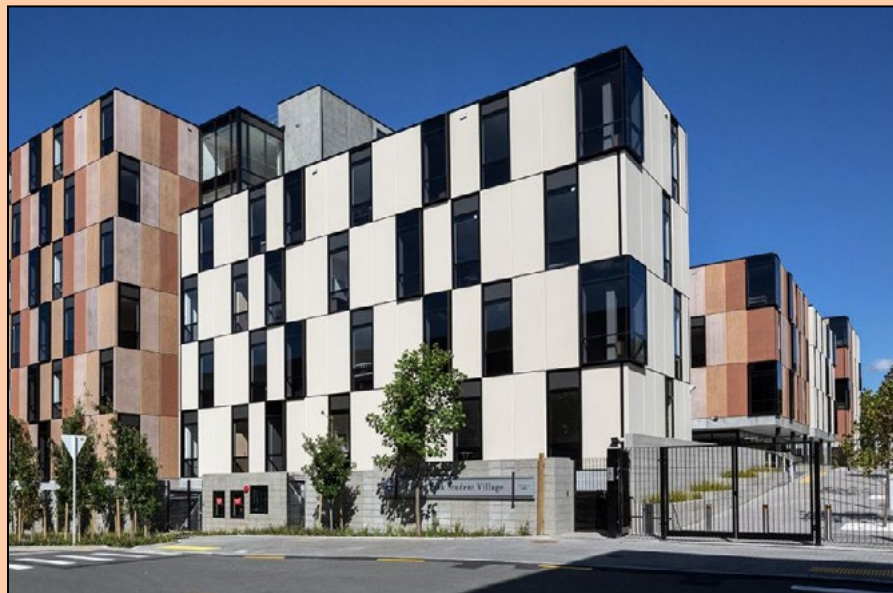
ELLA MORGAN

**Last week, residents of Carlaw Park Student Village were advised that common areas would be closed at the direction of the government. Common areas, such as study spaces, a games room, a music room and a communal kitchen, were previously open during the first four weeks of the nationwide alert level 4 lockdown.**

In an email to residents, Carlaw Park Resident Manager Sylvia Wheeldon expressed that she “understand[s] this must be a frustrating development for many of you, especially as we have had use of these rooms for the past few weeks at level-4. We must follow all directives as provided by the Government which are in place to keep us all safe.”

Residents will still have access to communal laundry facilities and printing machines, however they must use sign in sheets while accessing certain areas and follow physical distancing protocols.

Throughout the level 4 lockdown, up to 10 residents at a time have been able to access common areas. On the 25th of March, an email sent to all residents advised that “if you have friends that live at Carlaw Park you cannot visit them in their flats and they cannot visit you in your flat. Common areas can be utilised for these kind of meet ups, you must adhere to the social distancing rules”. Effectively, residents have been able to socialise in common areas if they remain two metres apart.



According to the accommodation team and a university spokesperson, each apartment within Carlaw Park Student Village is considered a ‘bubble’ - a group of individuals that are limited to only have contact with others within that group.

A university spokesperson confirmed to Craccum that accommodation has followed all government advice throughout the lockdown, however “we had a few instances of students breaking their bubble in Carlaw Park Student Village and not respecting the required physical distancing requirements. We have now fully closed any use of scheduled shared spaces in light of these violations to protect the community.”

The new restrictions will remain in place until we enter alert level 2. Last Monday, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that New Zealand would enter alert level 3 at 11:59pm on Monday the 27th of April. The nation will remain at level 3 for at least two weeks, and then a review will take place.

# University Will Continue Remote Learning Until At Least Semester Two

ELLA MORGAN

**Following the government's announcement of the move into alert level 3, Vice Chancellor Dawn Freshwater has reiterated that the university will continue online teaching and learning until at least the beginning of semester two.**

Alert level 3 will begin on Monday the 27th of April at 11:59pm. According to Freshwater, the Ministry of Education has provided guidelines for tertiary education at the lower alert level, and that "While these restrictions allow for more flexibility in on-campus activities compared to Level 4, it is clear that such activities are still severely limited, and only allowable as exceptions."

Freshwater has previously made clear that the majority of in-person activities will not resume until semester two, due to the potential for the alert level to change and the "practicalities of re-opening our campuses".

The university's position is currently that campuses would re-open at alert level 2, but not before the beginning of the second semester. If this occurred, physical distancing and other precautionary measures would be in place. All in-person teaching activities would resume.

As the nation prepares to move to alert level 3 this week, it is becoming clearer what this will look like for people and businesses. Last week, business owners and workers were permitted to return to their premises



to perform maintenance and prepare to re-open with physical distancing protocols in place. Businesses that involve physical contact will be unable to operate.

At level 3, you are still encouraged to stay home as much as possible and only travel for essential reasons. Individuals should work and study from home wherever possible. Bubbles can be expanded by a small amount in some cases.

In order to access the latest information regarding COVID-19 and our current alert level, head to [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz). If you believe you could have coronavirus, stay at home and contact Healthline at 0800 358 5453.



# Tertiary Student Support Package Announced

ELLA MORGAN

**The government has announced changes to the course related costs limit as part of a Tertiary Student Support Package.**

Full-time domestic students can now borrow up to \$2000 in course related costs. This total is added onto student loans and must be paid back.

Students can apply for the extra course related costs online through the Studylink website. However, there are limitations on what the funds can be used for. Borrowed course related costs cannot be used to pay for normal accommodation costs, such as weekly rent. Students who do not use course related costs for their intended purpose would technically be committing fraud.

The announcement has been met with mixed reactions. While some are just happy to have an extra \$1000, others, such as The New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) President Isabella Lenihan-Ikin has highlighted that "students remain the only group in society that are forced to borrow to live during this period of uncertainty."

NZUSA have been vocal in their criticism of the package. "The announcement...fails to meet the hardship needs of tertiary students. Not only does the increase in course related costs force students to take on additional debt, students are unable to put course-related costs towards rent and food costs, despite these being the main areas of student hardship".

The NZUSA has also claimed that they were not consulted on the package. Speaking to Otago student magazine *Critic*, Lenihan-Ikin said despite multiple attempts to contact the office of Minister for Education Chris Hipkins, they have heard no response.

The Auckland University Students' Association have also publicly criticised the government's student support package. In a post published to their Facebook page, the AUSA expressed disappointment with the fact that students have to incur more debt in order to support themselves during the COVID-19 pandemic. The AUSA, along with 43 other students' associations in New Zealand, supports the NZUSA's National Student Action Plan on COVID-19. The main points of the plan include a universal student allowance, creating a COVID-19 hardship fund and ensuring students can access a larger winter energy payment. The plan also argues for increased mental health support for students during and after the lockdown.

Students who enrolled in courses that have now been cancelled due to COVID-19 will still be able to access support from Studylink for a further eight weeks. Student loan entitlements will not be affected by cancellations, and students in their first year with courses cancelled will still be eligible for fees-free should they choose to re-enrol in tertiary education.



# Auckland Takes Top Spot in Sustainability Rankings for Second Year Running

JUSTIN WONG

**The University of Auckland has ranked first in the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings for the second year in a row.**

The rankings, which were launched in 2019, assess the broader impact of the work of global universities against each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 to provide a framework for developing the world in a sustainable way.

These goals included affordable and clean energy, quality education, climate action and gender equality.

Out of 850 institutions from 89 countries that participated, the university was ranked second globally in achieving the 'Life Under Water' goal, which aims to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development", fourth in 'Good Health and Well-being', which ensures "healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages", and fifth in 'Affordable and Clean Energy', which "ensures access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all".

This follows the university deciding to divest from fossil fuels last August, reducing their investment to 0.5 percent or less by December this year after a five-year student campaign involving lobbying, protests and an occupation of the Vice-Chancellor's office in May 2017.

Student group Fossil Free UoA had estimated the university donated a total of \$3.3 million to coal, oil and gas companies.

Vice-Chancellor Dawn Freshwater said the rankings reflect the world-class outcomes achieved by the university, and demonstrate why focus on sustainability is important.

"There is a growing call for countries to use this (Covid-19) crisis to radically rethink economic and social models."

"This includes concerns about increasing reliance on fragile global supply chains, dependence on single countries for essential manufacturing, precarious health systems, and placing too much emphasis on economic growth that puts unsustainable pressure on the environment."

"In the post-Covid world we will be building on this in collaboration with our many stakeholders and communities."

"The ranking positions us and New Zealand very positively for the strengths and abilities that we offer alongside our partners."

## WHAKARONGO MAI! LISTEN UP!

# Are You Satisfied With the Way Online-Only Classes Are Being Handled?

COMPILED BY JUSTIN WONG

**This week Craccum asked students how they are coping with online learning (through online of course because of the rāhui), and this is how five of them responded.**

*\*Names changed to protect respondents' identities.*

### **Aiden:**

"Not going so well for some of us."

"It's hard enough most of us have to teach ourselves everything without having any tutorials or getting old lecture recordings where a few things have been changed or are now disregarded."

"Expecting us to do all these assignments and tests online make it even harder because some of us live in bad living conditions where we sought out peace and comfort in the library where we knew we'd be able to study and get our work done without any distractions or negative atmospheres."

### **Erin:**

"Most of my classes are going okay, but some are just not working well."

"I'm sick of previous year recordings - we sometimes can't see what the lecturer is talking about as they don't have an online audience in mind."

"Some lecturers don't check Piazza very regularly, or

leave questions unanswered when they answer all the ones around it. This is so annoying since we can't just ask them in person as usual."

### **Joshua:**

"Teachers with a background in education are doing bloody amazing. No class has been as great of a transfer as Sociol 206 (Dr Sereana Naepi is a legend)."

"Another class overwhelmed me with almost 30 emails with each more than 500 words - that's like having to read 15 short essays just to keep on top of 'How to Attend Class'."

"The same teacher used online learning as an excuse to remove time limits for their lectures. leading to the first lecture being 4 hours."

"It's just not as easy from home, at least not for me."

### **Liz:**

"The lecturers have been harsher with marking because according to them, we 'have more time to do assignments and tests'."

"They should be being more lenient because of the situation."

### **James:**

"Plussage for assignments this semester would be nice."

## HEARSAY!

# *Simon Bridges Tests Positive for Chronic Lack of Social Media Clout*

A National Party spokesperson confirmed over the weekend that Simon Bridges had been diagnosed with a chronic lack of social media clout. As no-one from the National Party was willing to confirm this as being the situation, he has been treated as a probable case. His most recent post (criticizing the government's pandemic response) has been in a deteriorating state since last Monday, with trained social media teams monitoring the situation and describing the growth in angry reacts as 'exponential'.

"There was nothing we could do to save it," described Bridges' chief social media representative Manny del Gato. "We proposed having Bridges' post in 'block topics', where every two weeks he'd focus on a specific topic, but we made the mistake of announcing that on April Fools, so people thought it was a joke and we just went with it."

In response to the recent flurry of negative responses to his boss' posts, del Gato has opted to implement an alert level system responsive to Bridges' social media activity. If the situation reaches Alert Level 4, Bridges gets an emergency alert telling him to step away from his phone and Amy Adams is deployed to retrieve Bridges' personal devices. At Alert Level 3, Judith Collins claims it's just the same thing but with KFC. "Never have we taken such drastic measures in our party's history," admits del Gato. "But they are necessary at such a

time."

In a leaked recording from Jamie-Lee Ross over the weekend, Bridges had been reportedly flouting the rules by Zoom conferencing Clarke Gayford about Jacinda Ardern's social media popularity. The National Party spokesperson assures that this quickly ended, as it turned out there had been a significant error in communication on both sides when Bridges asked for tips on 'reeling in followers'. When asked how Ross obtained the Zoom recording, he responded "Zoom? You're telling me I haven't been using Omegle this whole time? Is that why people keep asking me to leave?"

While we can confirm none of us reached out to him for comment, David Seymour still insisted on providing his opinion. "He should do Dancing with the Stars," said Seymour, to himself, because we didn't send a reporter to ask for his opinion.

The Labour Party have expressed concern on how these restrictions on Bridges' posting might negatively impact their polling statistics.





LIVE

Wellness

# Here's All the Support Packages Available for University of Auckland Students

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY AND ELLA MORGAN

*On the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, Education Minister Chris Hipkins announced a support package for full-time, domestic tertiary students across NZ. He stated that COVID-19 has impacted the ability for students to continue their courses and fund their studies. He also expressed that the Government wanted to give students certainty that they would be supported until education providers could put in place alternative methods for teaching and learning.*

The package announced includes;

- Increasing the student loan amount for course-related costs for full-time students from \$1000 to \$2000, on a temporary basis;
- Continued support payments for students who are unable to study online for up to 8 weeks (this includes both Student Allowance and Weekly Living Costs under a loan, but you must remain enrolled at the university in order to receive them)
- Technical changes that will ensure that:
  - Students that receive partial tuition fee refunds in 2020, due to the discontinuation of a course because of COVID-19, will remain unaffected in their entitlement to student loans
  - When students are unable to complete a course

of study in 2020 due to COVID-19, this will not affect their entitlement to Fees Free study.

If your parents' income changes due to COVID-19 you may be eligible for Student Allowance, or a higher rate of Student Allowance. Studylink has also highlighted their emergency cost services, which are available over the phone. Hipkins also highlights support for students' mental health needs, referring to online services such as the Lowdown and Mental Health Foundation. Studylink echoes this, with links to Youthline and Need to Talk posted on their COVID-19 news page.

Hipkins also noted that the government would be working on a second package to prepare the tertiary system for significant growth, with greater numbers of New Zealanders expected to retrain and enter new industries.

You have been able to access these supports through

Studylink (both online and over the phone), the Ministry of Education and their universities since the 15th of April. Most sites have this information accessible on their homepage and the phone lines are open if you need any assistance.

The government response has been met with criticism from students, who feel it does not go far enough to counteract the financial hardship many will be facing. This package is the only COVID-19 financial support that comes in the form of a loan, and some feel that it is an acknowledgement that course-related costs have long been used to assist living costs by students facing hardship (this use of course-related costs means students are technically committing fraud).

The university and the AUSA are providing a number of support options for students facing financial difficulties in light of COVID-19.

Students can apply for dedicated COVID-19 Hardship support online through the University of Auckland website. To access these funds you must be a currently enrolled student in New Zealand, and be able to demonstrate that you are facing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. According to the university, this could include bank statements or correspondence with your employer. There is also guidance available on the university's website around managing rent, groceries and internet, accessing the wage subsidy, employment rights and Studylink payments.

If you are experiencing difficulties with online study, you may be able to access support such as loan computers by completing the "Helping you study remotely" survey. This can also be accessed through the universi-

ty website.

Students who were previously living in university accommodation and have returned home without cancelling their contract should now be receiving reduced rent. This should be applied to your account, however if you have any problems you should contact the university accommodation team.

The AUSA is still running their advocacy services. They can assist you with issues related to the university or other areas such as tenancy. You can message them through their Facebook page, AUSA Advocacy, email them at [advocacy@ausa.org.nz](mailto:advocacy@ausa.org.nz) or fill in an online contact form. The AUSA also has hardship grants of up to \$250.00 for students in need. To be eligible for this, you must be a University of Auckland student who is not an AUSA staff member, you must be employed, seeking employment or unable to do so and be experiencing severe financial difficulties. To be considered, you must fill in the online form on the AUSA's website.

The AUSA have also set up a dedicated page on their website providing students with information and resources related to COVID-19. This includes a lot of helpful information and answers to questions you might be wondering about during the pandemic.

The University has also listed resources for students struggling with their physical safety in isolation. Students are encouraged to access services such as the Shine Helpline, Are you OK, Need to Talk and Women's Refuge. Health and counselling services are also available throughout the remote learning process, which you can access through the university website.





ILLUSTRATION BY EDA TANG

# Pātaka Kai: The Community Food Pantries Serving New Zealand

ELLA MORGAN

*Throughout the Level 4 lockdown, many have lost their primary sources of income. The lockdown has not affected everyone equally; those already struggling, or in a precarious financial position, will have had a very different lockdown experience to those comfortably tucked away in their homes enjoying time spent in their bubble.*

The government's tertiary student support package allows students to borrow up to \$2000 in course related costs, up from \$1000. However, according to the office of Minister for Education Chris Hipkins, these funds must be used to cover costs directly related to study - not food or rent.

Over the last four weeks, some students have experienced a decrease in income. For students who depend on casual work in industries like hospitality, earnings have drastically reduced.

One Auckland student who spoke to *Craccum* said he is almost unable to pay his rent, and depends on borrowing from Studylink to make ends meet during the lockdown. He previously worked casual shifts often to pick up more income, but has been unable to do so during the nationwide lockdown.

Even before the lockdown, poverty has been a hallmark of the student experience in New Zealand. A 2017 Unitec survey of 1,964 students found that two-thirds of students had considered leaving study due to financial pressures. 55% of students “did not have enough income to meet their living costs at some stage in the past 12 months”. Māori and Pasifika students were even more likely to report facing financial hardship.

However, New Zealand’s experience at alert level 4 has shed light on some of the ways in which the generosity of communities can help our most vulnerable – in or out of lockdown. Pātaka kai are community pantries where anyone can donate food and take food as needed. They have been around much longer than the lockdown, and operate all over New Zealand. In Auckland alone, upwards of 50 pātaka kai exist serving the communities they are located in.

Unlike some other means of accessing food, pātaka kai can be visited at any time of the day or night. Anyone, regardless of financial position, can take food from a pātaka kai with no judgement. In that way, anyone who

needs some quick help can get it. Those who may not be eligible for government assistance but need food are able to access some.

Pātaka kai, along with other community-based food programmes, was deemed an essential social service on the 3rd of April, just over a week into the lockdown. However, they are only able to operate in “high need areas”, meaning that many pātaka kai have closed for the lockdown. Those that remain open are taking a number of hygiene precautions to protect against COVID-19. Advocates of pātaka kai contacted Minister for Māori Development Nanaia Mahuta to push for the reopening of pātaka kai.

Lisa Nepia, a pātaka kai kaitiaki in Hamilton, says she was shut down at the start of the lockdown by police. She has since been granted essential service status,

***“Over the last four weeks, some students have experienced a decrease in income. For students who depend on casual work in industries like hospitality, earnings have drastically reduced.”***

and been able to work with a team of five to keep the pātaka kai stocked and deliver food and hygiene supplies to those in need. Nepia's team has delivered boxes of supplies to families, students and Waikato University halls of residence.

Pātaka kai all around New Zealand benefit from partnership with local businesses and organisations. The pātaka kai that Nepia takes care of last week stocked bags of flour and rice from a Four Square, feijoas from a local childcare centre and hygiene supplies from a healthcare provider. In Auckland, many pātaka kai are supported by neighbourhood supermarkets, and Unitec has built pātaka kai for those wanting to start one in their community.

"The community have come together in support of food donations...I love what I do and I am very resourceful, and I love seeing our people work together in any way they can to ensure we do our best to meet people's needs," says Nepia.

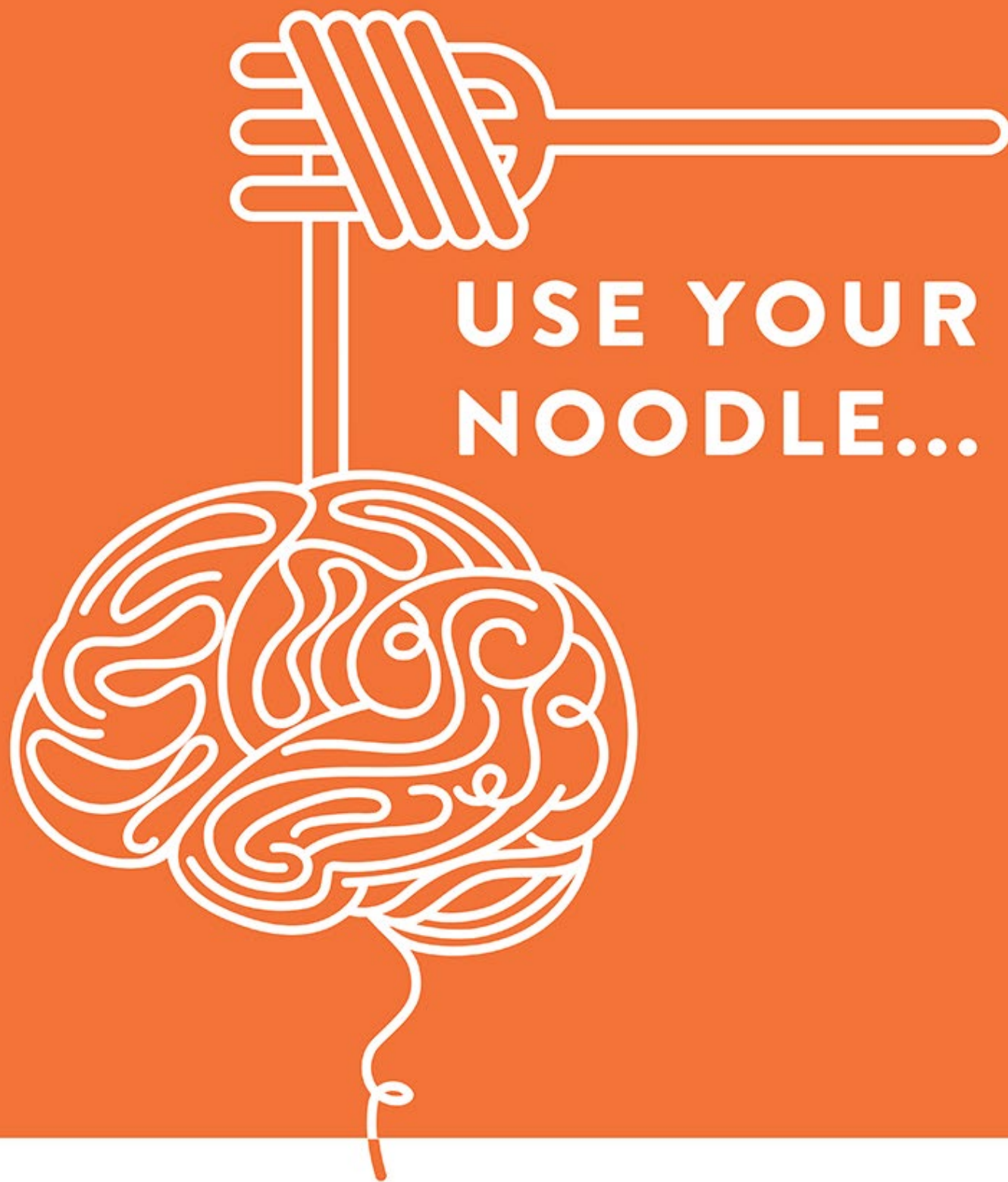
Nepia highlights an important point; those within communities are often the most knowledgeable about their communities needs, and in the best position to meet these. For a long time, community-led initiatives have been at the forefront of addressing issues like food insecurity. The fact that so many of our community social services, like pātaka kai, are able to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic only affirms the fact that the efforts of volunteers, the work of non-profit organisations and donations from the public are essential to the functioning of our society.

If you are a student in need of support at this time, you

can find more information on the 'Student Support' pages of this week's issue. The university and the AUSA have a number of resources available for students in need, and a number of community organisations such as the Salvation Army, Foodbank NZ, the Auckland City Mission and the Auckland Council are providing food and welfare parcels for those who meet each organisation's eligibility requirements.

***"Nepia highlights an important point; those within communities are often the most knowledgeable about their communities needs, and in the best position to meet these."***





**USE YOUR  
NOODLE...**

**STAY SAFE, BE KIND, STAY HOME.**

Essential service and other offers available.



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feature.

# Top Ten Power Move Backgrounds for Your Next Zoom Tutorial

CAM AND DAN

*Hey you, Zoom can be pretty cool, but you know what makes it even cooler? Backgrounds. Next time you have a zoom call, choose a bold background to set the mood. What mood you ask? Domination. It's time to make a power move and set a background that will establish you as the alpha of the zoom call.*

## **10: The Judge Judy background**

You're the law now. This is your courtroom and you're taking charge. If anyone speaks, interject and bring order to the courtroom. You will not be disrespected. Start dealing with personal grievances during the call. Refer to your lecturer as the defendant. Judy always looks for the truth and so should you.

## **9: The Red Room from 50 Shades of Grey**

How kinky and not at all inappropriate. The Red Room symbolises sexual domination and that's a strong background choice for your next zoom tutorial. Make sure the whips and chains are in full view. Occasionally lick your lips.

## **8: The Lecturer's Home Office.**

You're the lecturer now. Mirror their home office background. They say imitation is the highest form of flattery - but this isn't about that, it's about replacing the lecturer and establishing your place at the top of the food chain.

Bonus Point: dress the same as the lecturer.

Bonus Bonus Point: cut your hair the same as the lecturer.

## **7: The Clocktower**

Tell everyone how much you love the university. UoA is the best! You just love university and you want to let the whole class know! Give me a fucking A please! ahaha

Bonus Point: tell everyone this is where your future office is.

## **6: Graduation Stage**

Jokes on you all, I've already graduated. I don't need this class, I've already finished.

Bonus Point: wear a Lolly Necklace.

Bonus Bonus Point: start reading out names of students in the call and send them pdf participation certificates.

## **5: The Sinking Titanic**

A metaphor for your sinking grades this semester, remind everyone of the disaster that was the Titanic, and the disaster that will be the rest of their degrees.

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feature.

Bonus Point: play the shitty flute version of 'My Heart Will Go On' on loud speaker for the whole class.

Bonus Bonus Point: respond to questions with lines from the Titanic script.

#### **4: A Personal Photo of the Lecturer's Dog**

What a cute dog. Oh shit wait isn't that my dog, what the fuck how did you get that photo of my dog.

Bonus Point: wear a balaclava and use a voice-modifier.

Bonus Bonus Point: casually tell the lecturer you know where they live. Y'know. Just in case.

#### **3: A Weed Leaf**

420 blaze it homies! Nothing says you're a fucking cool kid like having the weed logo everywhere. You blaze it, you light up a doobie, you inject the MaryWana, how sick bro. You're gnarly! Make everyone see how totally cool you are.

Bonus point: Jamacian flag colours behind the weed leaf.

Bonus Bonus Point: play Bob Marley in the background.

#### **2: Shadows Bar**

Life is too short to give a fuck about university and academics. Blow off class in class by zooming in from the middle of Shadows bar. Help yourself to a couple of toasties mid-call. Challenge your tutor to a round of pool. Vortek a long white. What the fuck is your tutor gonna do about it? Mute you?

Bonus point: get a flatmate to cosplay as Matt, the manager.

Bonus bonus point: have a pub quiz playing in the back-

ground.

#### **1: Toilet**

Nothing says confidence like calling someone while you're taking a shit. It sends a message: I'm in control, even when I'm at my most vulnerable. Does the rest of the call look uncomfortable? Good. Seize the moment. Thrive on their pain.

Bonus point: occasionally grunt and frown like you're squeezing out a biggie.

Bonus Bonus point: when there's a lull in the conversation, look slightly off camera and yell "Hey, I'm tryna take a shit in here!"

The Most Bonusest point: accentuate a really good point by pausing mid-sentence, wiping your ass, and then checking the toilet paper on screen. Then continue on like nothing happened.

***"Nothing says confidence like calling someone while you're taking a shit. It sends a message: I'm in control, even when I'm at my most vulnerable."***





LIVE  
*Home*



Instagram



itsemmyyy\_xo

CLAUDIE LASHES  
CASHMERE \$25 >

MAKER'S CLAY  
COOLING MASK \$57 >

IT'S EMY VELOUR  
BRALETTE \$85 >

IT'S EMY VELOUR  
LOUNGE PANTS ... >

ILLUSTRATION BY HAZEL OH



000 Liked by Mr.creezywindo123 and others

itsemmyyy\_xo Ugh you guys! so needed this tonight, feeling SO BORED



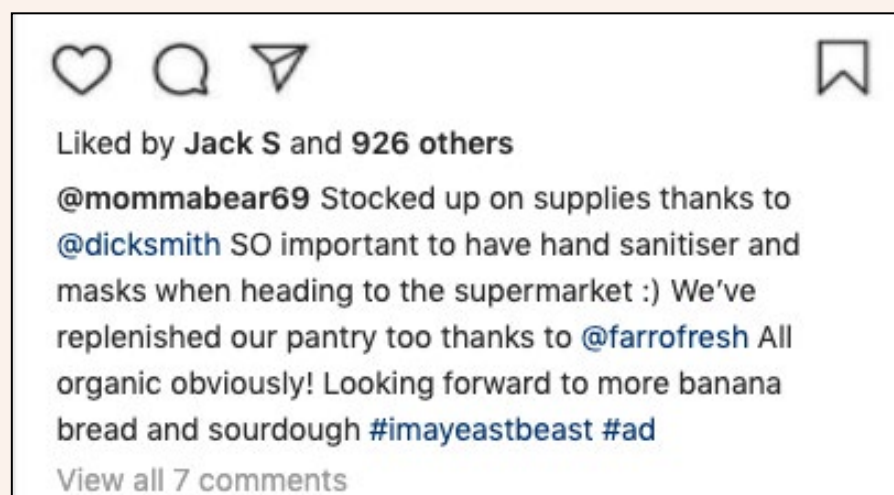
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feature.

# Buy Buy World - Marketing During a Pandemic

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY AND SHERRY ZHANG

*Madeleine and Sherry trawl through their overrun 'promotions' tab on gmail and put their copious scrolling time on social media to good use: because even an pandemic isn't immune to being #marketable #commercialised and #girlbossed.*



***"Are Instagram influencers the only people on earth immune to Coronavirus?" - A comment on @endlesslyloveclub's IG post 'Glowing with @frankiesbikinis'***

On the likely chance you've checked your email in the last few weeks, you've probably noticed an endless stream of companies sliding into your inbox, expressing empathy for this "very hard time the world is going through." You've probably also received a dozen others from the same brand, promoting 'essential items' for staying in, such as face masks (the slipper skin care kind) loungewear, activewear, novelty socks and slippers. Everything advertised is easy and cosy, great for those lazy days spent on the couch watching Netflix. This sensibility is slipping into the material of our everyday scroll, with influencers pushing sponsored content onto our Instagram feeds. Cotton On Body just gets us - time to grab another pair of sweats to #stayhome in! 40% off!

With so much of our attention turned online during the pandemic, cyberspace is a valuable tool for advertisers. To make up for the lack of buyers heading in store, companies turn to inboxes, paid ads in news feeds and (often insensitive) influencer collaborations. The narrative and image spun by so many revolves around home life 'essentials' (pastel colours and cotton textures), with every new email providing a hit of déjà vu. The allure of

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*feature.*

online shopping is strong. A nice distraction from work and normal practice in our everyday lives. But it seems the public has noticed the flow of ads, swapping jokes about the weirdest COVID-19 email they've received. Does Glassons really care how we're doing?

We talked to Alex, a marketing associate in a NZ owned and manufactured company currently supplying our supermarket stores. They got briefed to double the marketing expenditure. At first they were surprised, reflecting the sentiment we're all thinking, isn't this all a bit insensitive? But the advice given was that consumers are still buying things, just differently. And they had to stay relevant and hold presence as a brand, or they weren't going to 'survive' the pandemic.

***"Stay home, stay comfortable, stay cozy: SHOP ESSENTIALS" - Number One Shoes***

Loungewear and pyjama sales have more than doubled, nail polish sales rose by 24% and luxury brands followed suit. This is the 'lipstick effect,' as consumers spend on small luxuries (since when is Chanel a small luxury?), rather than spending big in times of economic crisis. Mecca Cosmetics gave no fucks, and emailed us: "To say we're in a wierd, stressful time is an understatement. If that stress is starting to show on your skin, here's what to do," and for just \$131 we can heal all our problems with a Dr Dennis Gross B3Adaptive Super-Foods Stress Rescue Super Serum.

It's worth noting who the implied customers are when we discuss the 'lipstick effect.' Self-care has become a heavily gendered term, and corporate ideas of beau-

ty-based maintenance generally target young women. It's soft pink loungewear, facemasks and slippers. Beauty brands tell women that a stressful lockdown caused by a global pandemic infecting over 2 million people is the perfect opportunity to practice self-care and watch a rom-com.

***"Lead with kindness and compassion for all" - Ruby***

Hats off to Ruby who convinced one of us to buy sewing patterns, even though soft tech in intermediate school was a shit show and a half. And even if a PR company wrote the sweet 'authentic' messages from the RUBY CEO about empathy, supporting our essential workers, community, learning new skills and looking after our loved ones, it worked. However, other companies have really missed the mark. Shout out to DICK SMITH who sent us big yellow emails informing us "IN HIGH DE-

***" This is the 'lipstick effect,' as consumers spend on small luxuries (since when is Chanel a small luxury?), rather than spending big in times of economic crisis."***



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feature.

MAND, trending now!" with pictures of Dettol, thermometers, face masks and disposable gloves. Really Dick? We thought all the health professionals and community workers were just throwing a hissy fit about the issues of distribution with PPE gear. We thought China, Italy, the US were just being babies. Thanks for the reminder!

Alex tells us that they are encouraged to push narratives of helping and inspiring the community, especially looking into charity initiatives. But it's a fine balance of doing good, and not looking like you are using the pandemic to "toot your own horn." Grin Natural, an NZ oral hygiene brand, has been helping to make care packages for essential workers. Alex says, even with genuine considerations, Grin would only ever post content by reposting a story if, for example, a nurse shared it themselves on their own personal social media. Because "man, it could land really badly. Even us, we are checking all our captions, and write-ups ten times for tone."

### ***Viral Marketing (literally)***

***I mean, marketers really ain't letting this stop them.***

Marketers aren't necessarily evil, they're kinda just storytellers who make a lot more money than us writers. But Alex is pretty exasperated at Corona Beer's exploitation of the situation. The name similarity is pretty unfortunate but "pictures of people on holiday? And #thisisliving, that's just tone deaf. It's honestly a slap in the face."

The question rises then, is there even a change in marketing techniques? The core process of selling a prod-

***"Marketers aren't necessarily evil, they're kinda just storytellers who make a lot more money than us writers."***

uct stands strong. Find a customer, project a lifestyle they might want to live, associate it with the product and then, SELL! Sure, some brands are adapting smarter during this very weird time, but terrible things are always happening in the world. We've both lived most of our lives post-9/11, so a general state of crisis is very familiar. COVID-19 is unique in the way it has affected us globally, pushing so many people into their homes and drastically altering work-driven lifestyles. Perhaps the limitations on our movement through a capitalist space has created a very specific and popular niche for brands to fill, making their techniques increasingly similar to each other. It's very likely that as our internet use and financial awareness increases during COVID, we've become ultra aware of marketing trends and seeing the process for what it has always been.

***"I don't need the ICONIC telling me to #stayhome." - Alex, marketing mole at unnamed NZ FMCG company.***

Fair enough, we've got a generally robust government that's taking the lockdown seriously. Iconic is an Australian

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feature.

based company, so the context they are working in is different, with Scott Morrison taking some solid heat for his slower response to COVID-19. But is it really helpful when brands are pushing messages of self-iso to sell things? What does it mean when Iconic.com has reappropriated #stayhome, so the whole experience is summed up to links to item lists of WFH (Working from home) footwear, Obsession: Blue Light Filters, and Boredom Busters.

#stayhome is a hashtag utilised by those allied to the immunosuppressed and other people vulnerable to the virus. The hashtag has found immense popularity in communities of essential workers, like supermarket workers, who are trying to protect themselves as they carry out their important work. In the USA, the phrase is being used by doctors and health workers standing up against people who continue to ignore warnings. To reappropriate #stayhome into a mass marketing statement or use it as a quick add to the caption for a sponsored Instagram post means the phrase becomes a rake for profits. It's up to the consumer to decide how they might feel about that.

***"The premise that influencer marketing is largely based on — aspiration — is now fundamentally flawed. No one can aspire to a perfect life anymore." - Sarah Baumann, managing director of marketing agency VaynerMedia in London***

It's disconcerting seeing an influencer flash wealth and luxury during this time. However, the concept of a perfect life has always been flawed. If you are from a privileged group, this might have been a confronting wake up

call. But being trapped at home, having limited resources, and a heightened risk to physical health, have always been a realities for many vulnerable communities.

In a recent article with Newsroom, Dr Ian Hyslop writes of "scenes of privileged families locked down with their designer kitchens and overflowing pantries obscuring some serious social suffering from those less well-off." Before we threw a global pandemic into the mix, 1 in 5 children in New Zealand already lived in poverty. While some are out there panic buying supplies to feed a small village of 4, other families have lost their primary source of income when the weekly shop was already tight. Even with a wage subsidy from the government, the country's financial situation is uncertain. The image pushed forward in many different marketing campaigns presents #workfromhome as a leisurely activity, sup-

***"To reappropriate #stayhome into a mass marketing statement or use it as a quick add to the caption for a sponsored Instagram post means the phrase becomes a rake for profits."***

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feature.

ported by a certain amount of wealth.

Some of us aren't able to jump into lockdown with shiny laptops, fast wi-fi and insulated homes. Hospitality, retail and tourism are taking a massive hit. As students, some of us are graduating into a global economic recession. Some of us may have taken some time off from uni to look after whānau. Others are still studying, preparing for exams online despite the disruption. Xenophobia and racism is bubbling to become more visible at the surface. Families are being disrupted and lives are still being lost every day from the pandemic. To be bombarded with the image of relaxing influencers, white, wealthy and #woke, leaves a pretty bad taste in the mouth.

***“It is easier to imagine an end to the world than an end to capitalism.” - Jameson/Žižek***

This world, as of right now, is run by money and competition. We understand many of these bigger brands are trying their best and have families they are supporting through jobs. Marketing is an integral part of business, but there are campaigns that are certain to be disruptive and troubling during a heightened time of crisis. Fast fashion and beauty brands co-opting #stayathome are particularly off-putting but, unfortunately, effective in their techniques. The Instagram influencers and corporate giants might be the last ones standing amongst the post-COVID rubble. As a particularly vulnerable group at the moment, students don't exactly have the power to disrupt and challenge raging late capitalism. We got an extra \$1000 (pay it back though!) which isn't quite enough to protect business on the home front. However,

***“The image pushed forward in many different marketing campaigns presents #workfromhome as a leisurely activity, supported by a certain amount of wealth.”***

some action online is providing us with a bit of hope.

Small businesses in NZ are certain to face a major hit in the coming months. Communities online are already rallying support for local business, with cries to avoid the use of Uber Eats, due to the 30% commission rates taken by the app. This is an exciting call, as it means larger groups within our communities are rejecting convenience with a moral interest. Perhaps if people were to carry forward that support and reinvest in small businesses during level 3, we could help keep each other afloat. From a distance, of course.



LIVE

*Music*



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feature.

# An Army of Helping Hands

BRIAN GU

*Brian Gu talks to Isabella Fanselow of the Student Volunteer Army about the rallying of student volunteers nationwide to service aid to those unable to shop for necessities during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. If you want to volunteer or know of someone who can benefit from their nationwide grocery delivery service, please head to [sva.org.nz](http://sva.org.nz) or continue reading this article for more information.*

During a time where the nation is up against one of its toughest challenges in our lifetime, I am proud to be reporting on fellow students who have voluntarily rallied together to make a difference. Through their kindness, selflessness, and responsibility to take action, they have emerged onto the frontline through their grocery delivery service for those unable to leave home. They have been sponsored by the nation's biggest brands, partnered with New World, and even been lauded by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern – they are the Student Volunteer Army.

It was only last summer that I was introduced to the Student Volunteer Army (SVA); a time where, only mere months away, no-one could have guessed this group would find themselves having such a large role to play in New Zealand's efforts against COVID-19. However, jumping into action when times are hard is what this group are used to, and it's the foundation they were established on, having first formed as a student collective down in Canterbury following the earthquakes. The premise of their volunteer work is simple, but what

astonishes most is when you learn of

their operations.

"We have approximately 2500 registrations of volunteers," SVA student president Isabella Fanselow tells me. "Of those, 786 are in Auckland." Isabella is a student from the University of Canterbury in her final year of Chemical Process Engineering and heads the student executive team. "I'm not doing a whole lot of studying I must say," she jokingly admits. "It's definitely very SVA heavy at the moment!"

***"The premise of their volunteer work is simple, but what astonishes most is when you learn of the sheer scale of their operations."***

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feature.

As the country continues to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic, Isabella describes watching the rapid growth of her team to achieve national mobilization of volunteers. "Normally, we have 30 students who run the club and then three to four full-time staff," she tells me. "But in the last month, we've got around 100 students working on things from an organizational sense and 40 people working full-time, whether that be in our call-centre, on the tech that has gone into making the grocery system, or just generally leading comms to the media."

With their recent New World partnership, SVA have expanded their grocery delivery service across Aotearoa, including up here in Auckland. Isabella tells me this is the first nationwide volunteer mobilization SVA have done for a specific cause. "We're certainly learning a lot," she admits, "but it's very exciting." I ask her how the original idea came to fruition.

"So, it started with a somewhat naïve conversation on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March," Isabella recalls, "which is now five weeks ago-ish. We were starting to realise that things did not look so good, and there was probably scope where we could help. We started talking to people in the community, and realized that the grocery area was somewhere that people were really struggling, and that if we could build a really safe and robust system, we could help a lot of people across the country. So since we've had this realization, we've focused most of our attention on this grocery delivery service."

Isabella walks me through the responsibilities of a grocery delivery volunteer. "The lead picker will send them their orders, then they go to the supermarket. That [volunteer] will then go fill that order, go to the till and then it gets charged to the SVA account which

***"With their recent New World partnership, SVA have expanded their grocery delivery service across Aotearoa, including up here in Auckland."***

the customer has paid into. The order is then delivered contactlessly to the person who made it."

"To ensure that our volunteers are safe," Isabella adds, "the supermarkets open their doors early for us so that our volunteers are the only ones in there. They also get given masks, gloves and hand sanitizer to use." She is confident the system that SVA have set up protects the safety of its volunteers and beneficiaries. "The volunteer picks and then delivers that order, so there's no changing hands of orders."

The robustness of their service, with appreciation of scale, is no doubt tribute to the tireless work the operational team has done behind the scenes in setting this up, from website to volunteer roster. "That was a personal highlight for me," Isabella recounts as she reflects on this recent journey. "Seeing my team rise to the challenge of this where it's completely, you know, not what they signed up for. Seeing a lot of them step up into leadership positions has been really rewarding."

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feature.

While dealing with SVA from an operational standpoint consumes most of Isabella's time, she tells me she does get to hear the positive stories of students making a difference on the front line. "It's super rewarding hearing the feedback from people who've gotten the first grocery delivery they've had in weeks, and they don't have to go out to the supermarket and feel so safe. We've had lots of people who write a little note and leave it in the window for the volunteer to see."

And for the icing on the cake, there was of course the almighty name-drop from Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern during her daily press conference, where she thanked the SVA for their tireless work. "We had no idea that she was going to say anything to us," Isabella tells me with a proud beaming smile. "She had perfect messaging, said exactly what we're doing in the perfect way, and it was very exciting."

For now, the plans of the SVA are to continue making this grocery service available for those who need it across the nation. "We will be doing this for the long run," Isabella insists. "Even once we're down to Alert Level 1, people who are medically vulnerable and elderly should still not be leaving their houses, so we'll be operating at all levels." As the restrictions become looser over time, Isabella suggests she would like to see the organization expand to assist people who are alone during these difficult times. "Once we are able to have more contact with people, it would be really cool to explore how we can work to help combat social isolation."

Perhaps what surprises me most of all, and serves as best reflecting the selflessness of student volunteers, is when Isabella tells me the service isn't at a shortage of volunteers but rather beneficiaries. "We've just got so many volunteers who are keen to help," Isabella

tells me. "So we've 100% got the capability to provide the help. People shouldn't feel like they're going to be making life difficult for us by putting an order through; they're actually enabling people who want to get out there and help to help, and in a safe way."

"I really encourage anybody if they know someone who is in need of the service, whether that be single parents who can't leave the house because they can't leave children behind, medically vulnerable, elderly – just anyone who needs it. Send [this service] through to parents, grandparents, neighbours and friends."

For shoppers and volunteers, simply head to **sva.org.nz** to be connected with all the information you need or contact the SVA helpline 0800 005 902 for phone assistance. *If you enjoyed this piece, please share it with your friends – let's spread the word about SVA!*

***"As the restrictions become looser over time, Isabella suggests she would like to see the organization expand to assist people who are alone during these difficult times."***



feature.





# MARVEL

*PUB QUIZ*

28.04.20 - YOUR PLACE



## HEALTH BITES

# To Keep or Kick the Coffee Habit?

PATRICK MACASKILL-WEBB.

*I bet most of you have thought a lot about what coffee does to your body during your time at University. I want to add to that daily deliberation - should you keep or kick that coffee habit? There are effects on the body I'd like to share, and ultimately I'm a little scared that I may talk myself out of drinking coffee. I hope not. But I am committed to following the truth for this Health Bites column.*

The truth is coffee may be more intoxicating than we realise. European cultures in the centuries before our time would regularly drink alcohol in the morning as a way to enter the day with rigour and a stirred spirit. Italian espresso culture was highly ritualised in the beginning. It was a far cry from morning grabs of caffeine that are important for our everyday culture. Speaking about coffee, the poet Dale Pendell said: "it is the very pervasiveness of the intoxication that makes it so invisible, it blends completely with the landscape - it is the landscape." Has coffee filled the space left by morning alcohol as we live amongst a culture of productivity, excellence, and capitalism? I'll leave it to the writers at Salient Magazine of Victoria University of Wellington to debate the finer details of capitalism in our lives. For now, it's safe to say; you could be suspicious of an invisible hold coffee has over our patterns of life.

At a smaller scale - social and personal habits aside - coffee blocks the breaks of our cells. Muscle jitters and runaway neuron excitability is caused when inhibitory adenosine receptors are blocked by caffeine. The downstream effects of this are increased dopamine and increased adrenaline leading to mood improvements and endurance increases. Placebo double-blind

trials have shown that coffee improves selective and sustained attention in both simple and complex tasks. And I'm sure many of you are already aware of this effect for yourself! I want to draw attention to some other scientific detail that could also help with our daily coffee decisions.

Antioxidants produced from the coffee roasting process reduce the stress on the liver produced by high-fat diets, and significantly reduce oxidation of fats. This

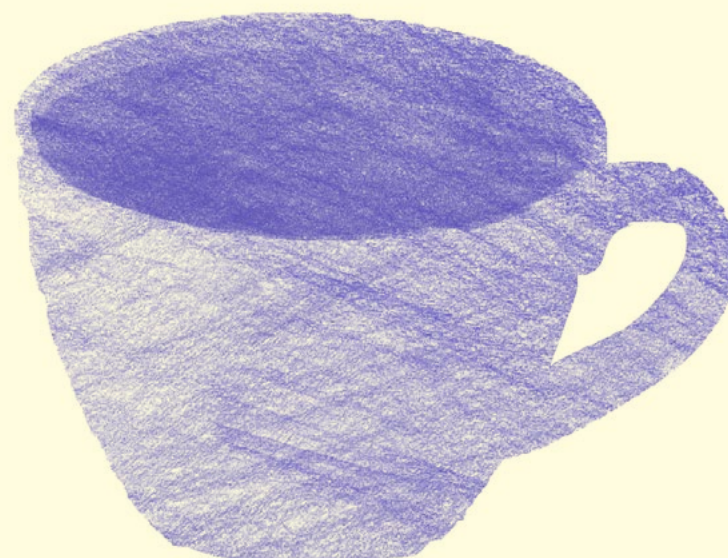


ILLUSTRATIONS BY YOUNGI KIM

keeps your body's molecules clean and offers a protective factor against the filthy KFC habits we're about to leap back into. Population health studies have suggested coffee reduces your risk of liver disease, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease, among many others. Minerals and antioxidants like chlorogenic acid in coffee can help reduce blood pressure over the long term - it's an effect that randomised control trials have failed to show for consistent coffee drinkers - but which regularly shows up in population health studies. Let's not forget that coffee is a luxury item in our lives. And for those conspiracy fiends, coffee intake may also be associated with a successful intoxication in capitalist ambition. It is not easy to tell whether coffee compounds are actually reducing long term health conditions, or the socioeconomic privilege needed to purchase luxury items is the underlying reason coffee drinkers seem healthier. The lack of randomised control trials could convince you of the latter - but one does not simply walk into long-term health outcome trials. The evidence shows you're more likely to be better off in the long-term if you're drinking coffee, and many of these positive effects are dose-dependent, i.e. more coffee = more health benefit. Good news, cuppa-chuggers!

There's something more important than all this wakeful excitement over coffee, and that's sleep. The half-life of caffeine is about 5 hours. Which may explain afternoon grumpiness and tiredness, but the maths also painfully suggests afternoon coffee consumption will still interfere with sleep. The beauty of sleep and its health benefits is a whole topic in itself for another day...

Interestingly, until 2004 the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) banned the consumption of coffee before Olympic events. I mentioned endurance earlier, and coffee



has indeed been shown in scientific trials to lengthen the amount of time you can endure physical stress. But in 2020 the WADA has chosen again not to include caffeine in its list of prohibited drugs. Instead, they are testing caffeine to monitor its consumption amongst athletes. This is because it's probably too hard to enforce coffee restrictions on normal diets. Also, a ban could put caffeine-supplemented sporting-sponsored energy drinks into a very awkward position.

If you are drinking coffee, you could be ahead in the game of life and you may be less at risk of developing long term health conditions. Although you're potentially behind on sleep, you could have an edge in terms of sporting performance. It really seems like there's a lot to be proud of for drinking coffee! Give yourself a jittering pat on the back for drinking and reading this far. For those of you that skimmed to the conclusion and missed the fat of this article, I hope you can still make the right call about kicking or keeping your coffee habits this week.





## MONEY HEIST: PART 4

BRIAN GU

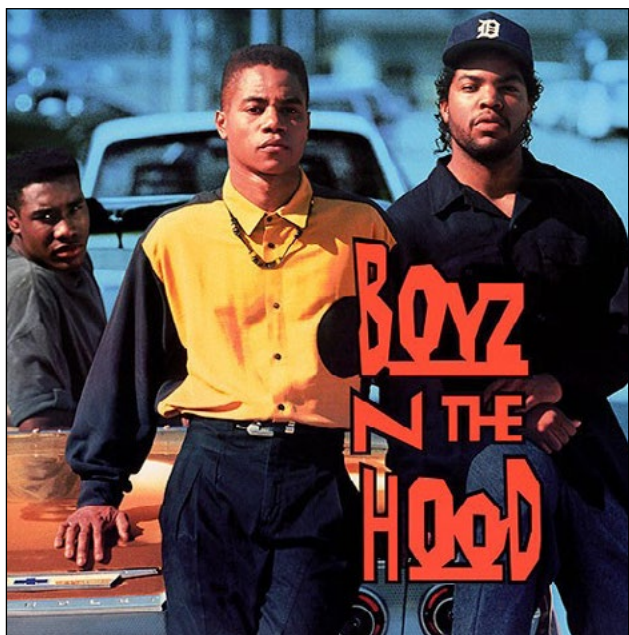
**8/10:** Those Dalí masks are kinda hot ngl

NETFLIX

Perhaps Netflix's favourite adopted child right now, international Spanish hit *Money Heist* (or *La Casa de Papel* for the mildly sophisticated) returns for a lightning-paced, blink-and-you'll-miss fourth season. Undaunted by its rising global fame and expectations, the English-dubbed show sticks to its original formulas and pulls off extravagance without losing sight of its limitations, and crafts new narratives without dropping its charm. Having ended last season with the crew seeming all but defeated, we see the Professor and his gang try to wrestle the heist back into control as the odds appear stacked against them with Inspector Sierra in charge.

What I love about this show, or rather whom I love, are the characters. The show has benefitted from having ample time to establish rich backstories for the crew, and as a result they make the audience emotionally invested in their journey. Of course, there are downsides which I would be remiss not to mention. As with any other heist film or show, the crew manage to wriggle their way out of whatever trouble they find themselves in, which at times makes for predictable viewing. However, praise should be extended for keeping antagonists fresh, and devising fun and clever plots for the crew to enact.

While Part 4 did end on quite a predictable (and frankly implausible) cliffhanger, it does mean fresh and interesting implications for seasons ahead, which seems a certain delivery from this sleeper hit. This is one you'll want to catch before Netflix condemns it to the cruel fate of a poorly produced Joel McHale aftershow.



## BOYZ N THE HOOD, DIR. JOHN SINGLETON

SETH ADAMSON

NETFLIX

Undoubtedly the best movie I've watched during this 'break' is the surprisingly old classic *Boyz n the Hood* - probably known to a lot of people as the movie that *GTA: San Andreas* wholesale borrowed its plot and aesthetic from, even if that's not necessarily a bad thing. The movie was a tense experience I didn't expect; I knew it would be a powerful ride, as the emotional bulk of the movie is carried by Cuba Gooding Jr. in his star-making role, but I didn't expect to have my heart trying to escape my chest during this journey through growing up black in LA.

You go in with the historical knowledge that this movie came out a year before the LA Riots, and you know people are going to die, and that tenseness over the fates of these young men weighs over your head throughout the movie. But never does it interfere with the tenderness inherent in every scene in this masterpiece. Laurence Fishburne portrays a father that is hyper-aware of what he wants as a black man, what he wants to be as a black father, as a black role model. What comes across as severity proves itself to be the love his son needed to keep himself alive. Never once does John Singleton drop the ball; despite this movie being almost 30 years old, it's an essential viewing that I wish I got around to sooner.





## CONFESSIONS ON A DANCE FLOOR MADONNA

LACHLAN MITCHELL

**8.5/10:** Lockdown goes by... so slowly...



With little else to do during this lockdown, I've had the opportunity to properly revisit one of my favourite albums of all time, *Confessions On A Dance Floor*. Look, arts content has been fucking starved during the quarantine - there isn't shit happening outside of Netflix and I'm trying my best to not delve into yet another piece about *Showgirls* before the one I have planned for September. So either help me, or pray for me :(

*Confessions* is the last truly great Madonna album, before *Baba Yaga* kinda lost it and became more filler than human being, even if she could bench press a mountain. However, I hadn't listened to it in full in probably two or three years, even if it is pretty short at just 13 tracks. I think the last time I listened to this masterpiece in full was when I sincerely tried to learn the mirror choreography from the "Hung Up" music video, and I pulled a muscle during the part where she drags her cooch on the gym floor. It is what it is.

That's the power of the song - it & "Sorry" tap into the ABBA Renaissance well before *Mamma Mia*, and they still hold up. "Isaac" is what Lady Gaga's "Aura" wishes it could be. However, it's the album tracks where the club bangers really come into prominence; "Forbidden Love" and "Let It Will Be" are the same drink at Tallulah's, just at different stages of the sip. One's when the shared gigantic glass first hits, and the other is when you're totally feeling the pineapple atmosphere.



## ATLANTA MILLIONAIRES CLUB FAYE WEBSTER

KATE



Faye Webster is completely herself on her 2019 album *Atlanta Millionaires Club*. The album is a work of duality, fusing alt-country and R&B. Webster is Atlanta born and raised, and has been writing her woozy, wicked tracks since 14. 21 now, and her dreamy, hazy album is gooey for a grey Sunday afternoon. Well, every afternoon at this point feels like a scary Sunday one, so you should throw this on your iso playlist. Alongside releasing this great steel-pedal built album, Webster is a well-known photographer on the Atlanta hip-hop scene.

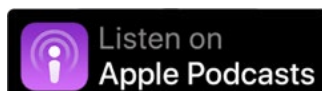
My favourite track off of the sleepy album is "Kingston". It's lovestruck and dewy, caught up in the daze of humid summer love. "Right Side Of My Neck" is a close second, capturing the lingering tip-toeing scent of a new but uncertain lover. And finally, "Room Temperature", is an ode to the introverted. In the current social climate this track is a lovely gawky reminder that sometimes it is just nice to be alone with the company of yourself.

Faye Webster is weird, witty and self-deprecating all in the same breath. *Atlanta Millionaires Club* is a fruit salad of lonesome heartbreak and delightful new romance, and is definitely worth the listen, especially with all this free time on your hands.



## SCP ARCHIVES

LACHLAN MITCHELL



After finally finishing MBMBAM, I've been lost as to what to fill my empty hours with. Reading is for losers/people with the ability to concentrate for more than 30 seconds at a time, so the Richard Nixon book I dragged back from Pegasus Books in Wellington will continue to gain dust for now. But in my interest in finding some dead air to satisfy me, I delved into an internet treasure I've only peripherally heard about for years, the collaborative wiki project *SCP Foundation*. Standing for Secure/Contain/Protect, it is a community-organised sci-fi/horror website praised for being able to creep the fuck out of readers with their stories that evoke the best and worst feelings of, say, *Silent Hill*. But over thousands of different entries, most of them meticulously kept to high standards, and all of them able to weave wonderfully dark tales about this fictional shithole universe.

Through this search, I found out about the *SCP Archives*, a podcast dedicated to livening up the entries with professional voice actors and amazing background music reminiscent of a late-era PS1 game. I'm totally new to the community, but even without any context to what 'SCP' could mean, any listener could be thoroughly entertained by the quality of these episodes; each one contains two to three different segments of worldbuilding the horror of the project, and maybe this is just the sort of person I am, but I'm completely fine with going to sleep listening to their stories about, say, being trapped in an endless IKEA, and fighting off the humanoids inside it. Sure beats falling asleep to *Family Guy* again.



## CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS, DIR. PHIL LORD & CHRISTOPHER MILLER

MADDY CRUTCHLEY



Before the world began to fall apart, I had planned my mid-sem break as an intense and labouring movie marathon. As a known Film Thot, I constantly get chastised for not having seen many 'classic' and 'important' movies. Going into the break I didn't exactly want to jump into watching those gritty and harrowing films, I was getting enough of that from the hourly news updates.

I started to desperately seek out some light and fun to fill up my days inside. *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* popped up on my list of Netflix recommendations, and gifted me that sublime lightness for an hour and a half. Bill Hader's voice acting is expressive and emotional, the visuals are gorgeous (and silly) and the impressive comedy comes from a range of techniques. No story threads are dropped and the pace is perfect, with so much squished into the small run time.

Animation tends to slip by general audiences, especially if they don't bear the name of Pixar or Studio Ghibli. However, the writers and directors of this film, Phil Lord and Chris Miller, have pumped out some really fun animations with heartfelt moments in between hilarious gags. They are probably best known for *21 Jump Street*, but the duo also worked on *The Lego Movie*, the Oscar winning *Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse* and the upcoming *Connected*. If you're in need of fun or some great food puns, give *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* a shot. It's a much more amusing dystopia than ours.

ausa's **SCHOOL**



**DISTANCE**

Brought to you by AUSA







ILLUSTRATION BY EDA TANG.

# How to Watch Porn Without Watching Porn

ROBBIE DELANY

WHAT IF PORNHUB WENT DOWN? ROBBIE DELANEY LISTS THE SAUCIEST SCENES FROM YOUR FAVOURITE MOVIES.

*At this stage in the quarantine many students will have clocked Pornhub. Exhausted. Self-loathing. But hungry for more. A choice thus remains. Do you restart that brave campaign, closing the doors of your bathroom followed by exasperated screaming of “I’ll be out in a fucking minute!”. Or do you traverse into more educational and artsy hobbies to spend your remaining isolated days? I beg the question, is it too much to ask for both?*

In 2013, *The Wolf of Wall Street* emerged as a three-hour marathon, detailing the excessive lifestyle of New York financial guru Jordan Belfort. Aside from the drugs and motherfucking swearing, the levels of nudity were outlandishly noteworthy. The plane scene sketched into my skull like marble rock. Naked people running in hotel lobbies and callously fucking in public bathrooms. Yet, what struck me about this masterpiece is that it was an outstanding piece of cinema, scripted and directed with neurosurgery-esque precision. Letting *Wall Street* be my springboard, I decided to search for like-mind-

ed, but far more exotic, pictures one could watch in their living room with full volume, whilst also getting aroused. Although not to watch with parents, they are movies which will certainly precipitate boners. Above all, they are quality pieces of cinema with hard-hitting social commentary. Hence these films are the perfect mediums to watch porn, without really watching porn.

We’ll start with 2011’s *Shame*. Save it for your 14<sup>th</sup> date, rather than the first. It follows Brandon (Michael Fassbender), a New York executive who is plagued with a



sex-addiction. Besides the banking career, his days are consumed by online porn, masturbating and sex with prostitutes. The film comments on the highly neurotic addiction of sex. Unlike the needle punctures and rotting teeth of class A obsessions, the scars of sex-addiction linger in the mind, consuming thought and action. The film is icy, propelled by compelling performances which are as realistic as they are shocking. Sex and nudity are aplenty, but your libido may not reach its tingling threshold. On the contrary, the disturbing scenes of domestic violence between Brandon and his sister (Carey Mulligan) in the shower will loiter in your mind like a war siren. A solidly crafted film, yet stirs at the heart, allowing us to question our own relationships and possible addictions with unforgiving veracity.

Ok, let's turn up the heat, blurring the lines between cinema and pool-cleaner documentary. Stepping into this category with relentless passion is 2013's *Blue is the Warmest Colour*. The film charts the high school years of Adèle (Adèle Exarchopoulos), a teenager whose freedoms and desires are fully expressed when Emma (Léa Seydoux) enters her life. Buckle up, because this film makes *Wall Street* look like an art history documentary. *Colour* boasts some of the most explicit lesbian sex scenes seen on film. Nothing is suggested. The action is raw and sustained, with some scenes lasting minutes at a time. If you're caught watching this feature, your explanation will have more leaks than the Iraqi navy. Yet, if this picture were just a series of sex scenes it would be problematic and lazy filmmaking. Thankfully, director Abdellatif Kechiche has more on his mind. Through the eyes of Adèle we experience the breathless excitement of first love and first physical contact, and inevitably, all the other experiences that make life

the way it is. Sex is their dialogue, mediating the characters anger, despair and happiness. Life is beautifully documented in this film, but your parents may have difficulty in accepting that excuse. (**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Many involved with the film disavow this movie, in part due to accusations made against the director for varying kinds of abuse.*)

Finally, we arrive at la crème de la crème. "Oh for fucks sake" will be shrieked by flatmates passing by your bedroom door. 2013's *Nymphomaniac* is designed around sex. It draws you into the libido of the characters, feeling their excitement and perspiring sweat. The sex in *Shame* or *Colour* has an emotive function, channelling the characters hatred, lust and despair. While conventional films use dialogue as an expression for characters feelings, these films use sex. *Nymphomaniac* has no such function. Whatever message the film is trying to convey, it is washed away by the explicit, misogynistic and violent images delivered. If complex ideas and themes were a precursor to the film's development, they are lost memories in the final product. Such scenes include young girls lap dancing older men, spanking, explicit blow jobs on trains, rape and full on penetrative sex. Is this art? Well I suppose art is subjective. Is this porn? Defenders of this film will have a hard time making distinctions.

If you need porn with a bit of characterization and story arc, these films may deliver. But they are hard hitting and emotionally draining. They do not comment on the beauty of sex, but instead on addiction and prejudice. They accentuate our animalistic and pervasive nature. Buckle up, good luck and Godspeed.



LACHLAN MITCHELL

LACHLAN MITCHELL SINKS HIS TEETH INTO THE FINAL FANTASY VII REMAKE.

*Quarantine has been hard. All I know is McDonald's, charge my phone, twerk, be bi-sexual, eat hot chip, and lie. I'm not equipped to do many things. So I've needed a distraction during these trying times, and I've found myself pulled back towards that most legendary of gaming franchises, Final Fantasy. In part due to nostalgia, and partly due to slowly preparing myself for the inevitability of my caving and getting a copy of Final Fantasy VII Remake once EB allows physical delivery again. The economy is gonna collapse right as I graduate, might as well go get my eggs cracked at Wall Market.*

It's a franchise that we all know about, and it helped build gaming as we know it, even if a significant proportion of the shared fondness for the franchise comes from a faint recollection of FF7 - however, the inability to move past that fondness is a big issue for Square

Enix's reputation, and these new remakes are also the ones that serve to make or break the future of the franchise.

Some history, to explain how we got to where we are

today. Final Fantasy first rose to global prominence with *Final Fantasy VI*, one of the most admired examples of story and atmosphere in an era where story was often reduced to a single black screen telling you that demons had opened a portal on Mars or some shit. It weaved together fantasy and futurism, pessimism and hope, cultures past and cultures to come. It's possibly the most critically acclaimed game in the franchise. But this game is something typically only remembered by diehard fans and gaming journalists, because its immediate successor quite literally changed the face of video games; *Final Fantasy VII* became a cultural touchstone for the earliest millennials in a way that's hard to imagine nowadays, due to the sheer variety of options in consuming media. Think of it how *Harry Potter* used to be treated, before we knew that J.K Rowling had terf bangs in her soul, and that wizards used to magic away they shite 'cause sittin' on the loo and wiping they arse was ah proper struggle. Two years before the first *Matrix* movie redefined how sci-fi saw itself on the cinema screen, *Final Fantasy VII* had led the way on the gaming front. It was the first massively successful product to sell gaming's possibilities of telling stories in a fun way; it was part of the rise of sci-fi anxiety pre-Y2K, a surprisingly unappreciated selling point in today's world; it was part of the late '90s perception of the Japanese cultural march around the globe; it was a massively successful merchandising behemoth, due to the game's graphics being 'advanced' enough (it was 1997) to turn those polygons into recognisable brands, and Tifa had PS1-era polygon triangle titties. Looking back, it's almost predictable to see how huge the game's following became, but back in that time, it was a bigger meteor surprise than... well, #gamers know.

In the years that followed, Square (now Square Enix) released games that never quite equaled the critical and commercial success of FF7; one was a critical success but not a commercial hit, for vice versa. *Final Fantasy X* being the sole exception in the decade following FF7's release, beloved by all. This hit its height in what many consider to be the tipping point towards mediocrity in the franchise, *Final Fantasy XII*. While I personally love that game, it's often cited as the game that brought the franchise down a few pegs in terms of its ability to be marketed to people that weren't already leaning a bit too close to weeaboo. Combined with the fan realisation that Square Enix was never going to stop trying to emulate FF7, plugging failed sequel after sequel to that sub-franchise, the floor was beginning to slip out from under their feet. Supposedly lifelong fans were shunning the future of the franchise. While they had solved their finance issues of years past, the jewel in SE's crown was beginning to lose its long-term viability.

***"Looking back, it's almost predictable to see how huge the game's following became, but back in that time, it was a bigger meteor surprise than... well, #gamers know."***



Enter *Final Fantasy 13*. Marketed as the rebirth of *Final Fantasy* for a new era of #gamers, it is now seen as maybe the biggest critical dud across the entire franchise; while it sold well, and its central character became a Louis Vuitton model in real life (right????), the attempt to repackage all that made FF7 interesting in 1997 came off as out of touch in 2009. Lightning, its main protagonist, was seen as yet another attempt to sell Cloud; yet another edgy, emotionally repressed soldier, without the nostalgia filter to cover up the flaws. The linearity of the game itself caused many to try sell it for \$10 in a desperate attempt to get some level of money back, and while Square Enix made off like pirates, there was a solid seven year period where it was generally accepted that *Final Fantasy* had become a polished turd, unable to move beyond its past. At the same time, however, it was remarked upon that the same people who claimed this issue were the ones financially sending the message that perpetually emulating FF7 was Good Shit, Man!

Enter *Final Fantasy XV* in 2016, once again marketed as a rebirth of the franchise. This was more successful, if not critically so, due to its emphasis on Dudes Being Sexy Bros: Two Feet Apart 'Cause They're Not Gay!. I got a PS4 for this game, lol. And I enjoyed it, playing it for a month straight. However, there was an inescapable feeling that, for all their emphasis on doing something new, they just wanted to remake FF7 again; around every corner was yet another reference to it, yet another plot element or aesthetic lifted from it, so on. Like Season 5 of *Community* in reference to Season 2. But for all the complaining over this reference overdosing, the money consistently flowed one way. This was the final bit of messaging Square Enix needed. They gave

up on trying to work around their decades-old problem; rather, they decided to go straight through it.

*Final Fantasy 7 Remake* represents a culmination of what gamers think they want from *Final Fantasy* versus what they have done; for all the desperation about trying to avoid it, the money has shown that consumers consistently love FF7's balls being sucked across spacetime. It's the game that has perhaps topped all lists of 'most desired games that will never be made' for 20 years, with the exception of *Half-Life 3*, and yet the clinging to FF7 is simultaneously cited as the reason for *Final Fantasy*'s decline over time. Square Enix consistently avoided questioning over whether a remake would ever come to pass, but faced with a reality where despite all the messaging from the fanbase about letting go of their most famous game, their wallets say otherwise, Square Enix have decided to not pretend any longer. You want this behemoth again? You can have it. And you're going to keep having it, and this episodic revival will become our primary focus over the next decade. Choke on the width of our plans, the girth of our download sizes.

And the thing is, all signs point to Stage 1 of this multiple game remake becoming one of the biggest hits of the year, financially and critically; for all the reasonable complaints over Square Enix becoming overly reliant on a hit from two decades past, Square Enix seem to have realised that simply giving the people what their hearts have clamoured for all this time may be their best chance to break out of the timewarp and give Cloud and Sephiroth's balls a chance to dry off. Cast Holy, and let us pray.



**AUSA's**

# Daily Challenge

Brought to you by AUSA







# How to Maintain our Mermaid Hair

CALLIA DRINKWATER. ILLUSTRATION BY JULIA ZHU.

*It's June 2018 and we're out on the town, it's freezing but we're ready to take on Bar 101 for all it's worth. One of the girls arrives, graceful curls replacing her typically wavy, slightly frizzy hair. She gushes about a system she's recently incorporated, a way to enhance and define natural curl patterns without using heat.*

This is how I am introduced to the Curly Girl Method, an entire regime dedicated to restoring curls by removing silicone and sulfates from the hair-washing cycle. After a little research it is evident that this is more than simply a hair washing regimen: from the dedicated



'Curly Girls NZ' Facebook group to silk pillow covers, this quickly develops into a lifestyle – and certainly not one restricted to a female following. For years baby hairs have plagued my head, creating somewhat of a halo around already untamed hair, and I was more than ready to end this legacy.

Before embarking on this journey I was added to the Facebook group, taken in by the before and after photos that would put Jenny Craig to shame. I delved into experience after experience of those using the CG method, each person with a slight variation on how they liked to do things. After raiding the Chemist Warehouse, set up costs amounted to around \$40 for a variety of silicone and sulfate free hair care products. Legend has it there are people who can drop \$50 on a bottle of conditioner so this number is totally arbitrary.

The first two weeks after the final wash were tragic for my hair – oily here, dry there and unsexy all over. This was to be expected, but some symptoms only lessened instead of vanishing. My bathroom quickly became akin to goldilocks and the three bears; each conditioner proving to be wrong in one way or another. Two months into the process I met my match; Garnier conditioner, Maui shampoo (although shampoo is typically discouraged), and Garnier hair food. At the moment my hair feels healthier, with evenly distributed oils, and most importantly – the baby hairs have subsided! I'm sure if my hair wasn't in a Jojo Siwa level ponytail the curls would flourish, but that will come another day.

For any fellow curly or wavy person looking to embark on this hair care experiment, be ready to put in the research and remember it's in no way an overnight trip.

It's important to know your curl type and consider trying anything from 'pineappling' to leaving your shower on a cold note. To quote author of the book *Curly Girl*, Lorraine Massey:

"I often have the fantasy that curly girls are mermaids who have had to adapt to life on dry land. We come from the sea. The ocean is in our blood... Both ocean waves and curly hair are forces of nature that can't be tamed. We can only accept and admire their power and beauty."

***"For any fellow curly or wavy person looking to embark on this hair care experiment, be ready to put in the research and remember it's in no way an overnight trip. It's important to know your curl type and consider trying anything from 'pineappling' to leaving your shower on a cold note."***

SELF-TORTURE

# How To Run Through The Apocalypse

GABRIELLE MCCULLOCH

*This isn't a 'How To' guide. That was a question. Someone help me. I've googled it only to receive cheesy, over optimistic blogs that were in no way helpful. I'm running more regularly than before, but when I leave the house I find myself circling back sooner than I intended. I'll run six kilometres – then five – six again – and, if lucky, I'll follow it with a seven. I haven't really been building my distance, I've only been... continuing.*

It feels static, but then again, everything feels a little static now. Running down streets with no cars is strange. An elderly couple came walking from ahead and, courteously giving them their two metres space, I ran down the middle of the empty main road.

I ran through the Warehouse car park (empty). I ran past my local café (not a chair in sight), past the foreclosed Four Square (which shut its doors well before lockdown).

Two teenagers stood on the other side of the field, kicking a rugby ball between them, their jumpers screwed up and thrown beneath the goalposts. I almost leapt when a bike appeared around the corner of the estuary. I hadn't seen anyone else on the track, hadn't heard them coming. We exchanged nods and 'good afternoons' and kept our distance.

Even the pathways feel different, I found myself noticing cracks in the concrete as if they were new when they'd been there for years. My town is still my town, it's just sparse.

Maybe I can forgive myself for taking a week to simply continue. It's harder now, with no impending race deadline, to barrel forward with high ambitions.

I've been stacking up excuses for my inertia:

1. My headphones ran out of battery on my last run, and what monster would expect me to run those extra kilometres without music ???
2. Running is hard, and I deserve a break.
3. In my haste to flee the city, I left my running shoes at my flat. Running in my mum's old pair is giving me blisters which, despite layers of plasters and socks, keep reopening.
4. Did I mention the part about running being hard?
5. Staying home, staying in my 'bubble', not being about to see, in person, the people who matter to me just isn't give me a whole lot of motivation to get out there.

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column.

Yes, it's a hella weird time. And yes, I've got to be kind to myself during it, but, keeping training will only going to do good things for my physical and mental health. Maybe building my running can wake me from the static-ness of everything else (queue Evanescence's 'Bring Me To Life'). The above excuses are, just that, excuses. And even though it feels like my town has folded in on itself, I need to do it anyway.

I bumped into an old friend on the beach, metres apart we ask how each other's families were. Running, I found fences with chalk messages to our 'essential workers', decorated in laminated hearts, and words like 'Support', 'Kindness' and 'Thank You'. It made me smile. And, I kid you not, a boy biked by, wearing a two-dollar-shop lei, yodelling. I'm holding on to the thing that that beautiful lei-wearing, yodelling boy gave me: the strength to keep going. Hopefully next time you read me, you'll see my list of kilometres. And you'll see that despite it all, they've moved up.

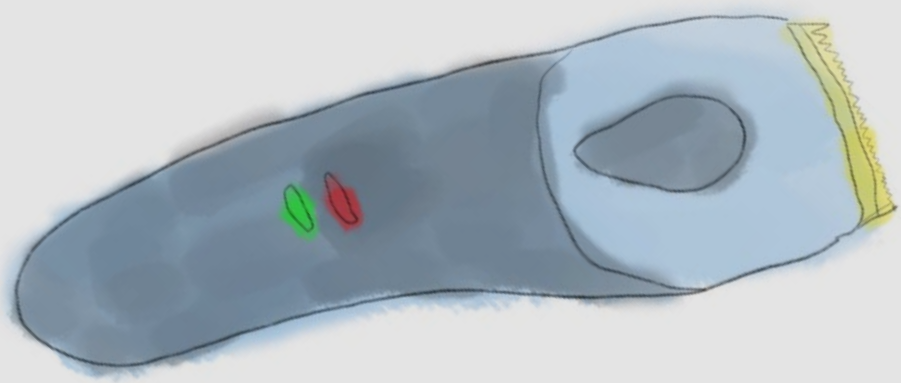
***"Even the pathways feel different, I found myself noticing cracks in the concrete as if they were new when they'd been there for years. My town is still my town, it's just sparse."***



**KEEP DANCING | KEEP SINGING  
KEEP LISTENING | KEEP SAFE**

**Join the JBL LIVE LOUNGE group by tagging #JBLLIVELOUNGE  
& show us how you are staying occupied at home.**





# Quarantine Haircuts

*We rounded up some brave souls who were willing to share their adventures into the wonderful world of DIY hair jobs. So dive in. Be inspired to take up your scissors. Craccum shall not be responsible or liable, whether directly or indirectly, for any damages or loss caused or sustained by the reader.*

*"I mentioned to my hairdresser at my last haircut about maybe doing bangs one day. I was meant to get a trim very soon but then lockdown was announced and I couldn't get to my hairdresser in time. So since I didn't want her to have to cut heaps off when I next saw her because I've been trying so hard to grow it out, I gave myself a trim. Then I thought f\*ck it, why not bangs as well. I was originally going to do curtain bangs but I'm already here so let's go full bang."* - Sav Wallis



ILLUSTRATIONS BY YOUNGI KIM.





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*lifestyle.*



Kia ora gang,  
*"It was with dog clippers because that's all i had."*  
Cheers,  
Sean Dugdale-Martin



They said they did it to get big on tiktok. - The boys @thealexanderz (tiktok stars)

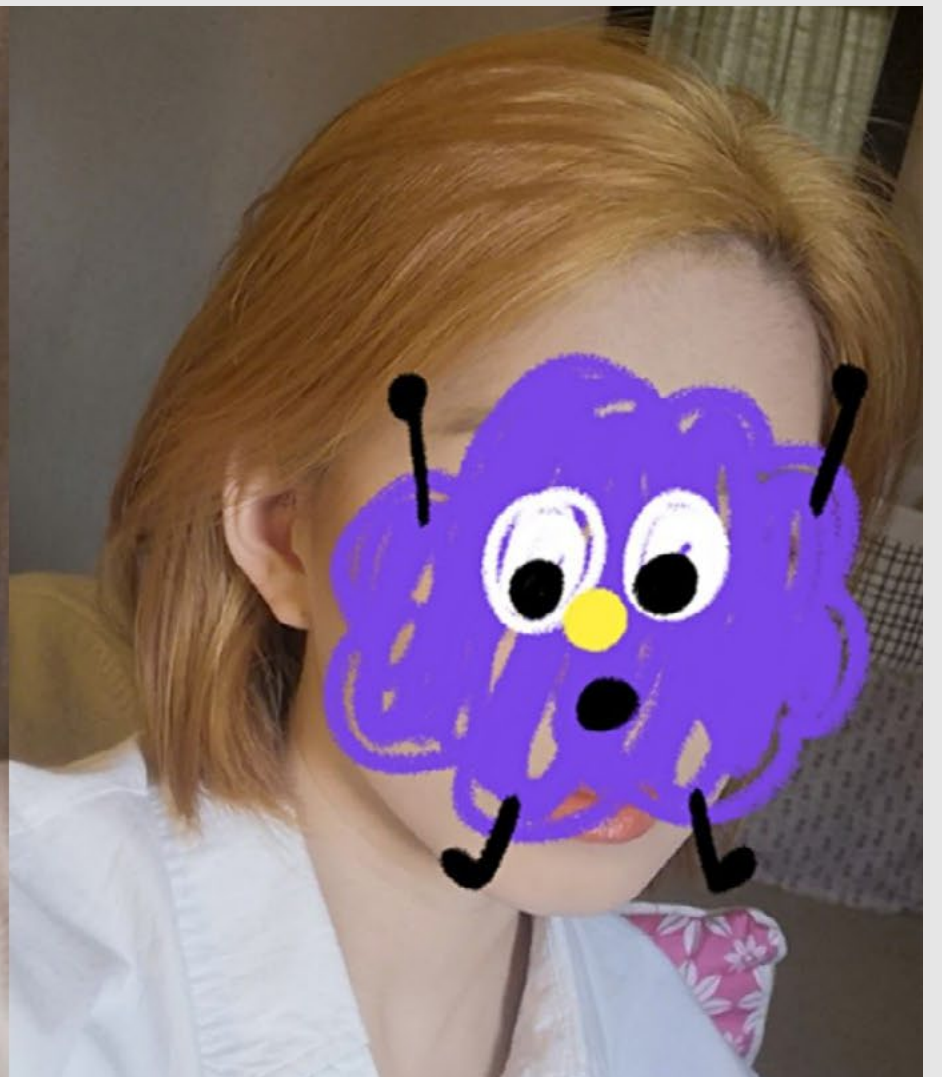


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*lifestyle.*



*"Three colors (and counting) I've sported during this lockdown" - Tara Mok*



*"If only bleaching always went as smoothly as Jen's"*





Great at teaching Public Law and talking about NZ constitutional questions. Even better at keeping it slick. – Dr Edward Willis



# ~~YOUR BIG CIG GUIDE~~

FOR 28TH-3RD (FOR UOA & BEYOND)

## ALBUM REVIEWS

HUGO MIDDELDORP

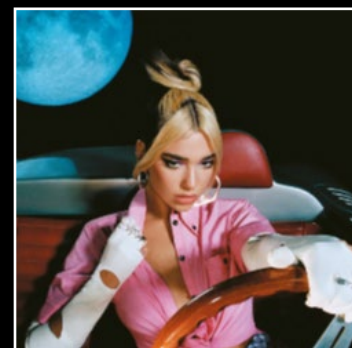
### *World's Fair – Julian Lage*

Julian Lage's 2015 album *World's Fair* is the perfect blend of catchy melodies and driving rhythms, all played on solo acoustic guitar. This album reminds me of evening bus rides back from university, and all the feelings that come associated with it – maybe that's why it holds such an important place in this nostalgia list. While the places referred to in these songs might not elicit any particular reaction from us, the songs themselves undoubtedly will. My favourite tracks include 40's, Gardens and Missouri. There are no real standout bad tracks on this one, go for a walk at dusk with the album playing. If you like acoustic guitar – you'll love this album. Even if you don't think you do, this album might change your mind.



### *Future Nostalgia – Dua Lipa*

While this is one of the newer releases on this list – it ticks all the boxes. It's got the synths, the beats, the hooks – what more do we need? Not only is the production great overall – the songwriting is also solid with great structure and memorable lyrics. This album is pulling from a lot of different influences – I'm hearing some Daft Punk, Lady Gaga, The Weekend, and even some K-pop. There's definitely a few favourites here: Physical, Hallucinate and Break My Heart – they're all strong tracks with not much to complain about. It pains me to not put the title track in that category but the verses aren't good. Only the track Good In Bed is a definite skipper, the hook is unbelievably annoying. With some ups and downs, it's solid album that should be checked out.





**Apresenta – Antonio Carlos Jobim**

Now we're really going back in time with some lovely 60s bossa nova. Antonio Carlos Jobim is a titan of the genre and one of its best composers. While this album doesn't feature any of his best hits (Corcovado, Once I Loved, Girl From Ipanema) it's a hidden gem for any fans of the genre or the composer. It blends passionate string arrangements with playful melodies and rich harmony. Some suggested lockdown activities to accompany this album include cooking, drawing or having a bath. It's a relatively short album with a runtime of about 30 mins, most the songs are around 2mins. I wish these musical ideas were fleshed out for longer – it's a shame to move on from one to the next so quickly. The melody for Morer de Amor is the reason I keep coming back to that album, but I'm constantly reminded of how great the whole thing is. Listen to it!



**Telluric – Matt Corby**

Telluric is Australian singer-songwriter Matt Corby's debut album. Featuring a great vocal performance, dreamy soundscapes and lazy backbeats, this album is another great one for evening driving. Reverb heavy electric pianos and guitars give a lot of depth to the mixes while the top end is used for added textures and effects which pull you further in to Corby's dreamy world. If there's any album that should be appreciated on headphones, this is the one. For me, the first half of the album is so strong that the rest of it feels weak in comparison. Overall it's a great listen, and I wouldn't be mad if you only listened to the first half – but give it a go, it's a good one.



**Top Ten**

1	<b>Chop!</b> Dick Move (NZ)
2	<b>Pull Up Hit That Shit [Acid Mix]</b> Jerry Tompkins (NZ)
3	<b>Manuka Money</b> Wiri Donna (NZ)
4	<b>Rosa Venus</b> gg.mothra (NZ)
5	<b>Stunt 151</b> Totems (NZ)
6	<b>Heavy Balloon</b> Fiona Apple
7	<b>Used to Be</b> Womb (NZ)
8	<b>Dying To Believe</b> The Beths (NZ)
9	<b>In Heaven We Are</b> Vanessa Worm (NZ)
10	<b>WASHED</b> feat. lui tui christoph el' truento (NZ)





ILLUSTRATION BY JULIA ZHU.

## EROTICA

# Ashley bloom me up

@ASHLEYBLOOMFANS

In spite of the open windows, the air is still, the neighbourhood quiet, the sounds of children playing on the streets long forgotten. It is the 20th of April 2020, and Aotearoa is on lockdown.

Nobody knows this better than I. Since the beginning of the nation's Covid-induced quarantine, I have completely abandoned myself to civil obedience; I wash my hands thoroughly multiple times a day, I don an N-51 mask if I am forced to leave the house (essential errands only), and, of course, most importantly of all - I tune in to Ashley Bloomfield's national health updates with almost religious ardour.

I am watching the man himself on television as we speak, his virile, concerned expression broadcast in high definition on my 50 inch screen. My eyes are fixed on his strong jaw, primed and ready to warn New Zealanders of the dangers of this global pandemic. His steely gaze seems to infect me like the virus he warns me against; his dirty blond hair is tousled, perhaps from the knowledge flowing through the brilliant mind beneath...or perhaps from something else entirely.

I hear a rustle from behind me as my sexy, sanitary little secret emerges from the hallway. A thrill travels down my spine at infectious speed as I listen to his footsteps shuffling ever closer, while simultaneously keeping my gaze fixed to the screen. That's right - I am part of Ashley Bloomfield's bubble, and we are about to play doctor like never before.

I turn slowly and there he is, a vision in hazmat. His feet are protected by blue plastic booties (single use), his handsome features hidden behind a state-of-the-art respiratory mask, but aside from these and a pair of nitrile gloves (size XL), there is nothing standing between my hungry eyes and the naked body of Aotearoa's Director-General of Health.

"Miss [REDACTED]", he murmurs in a soft yet commanding baritone, "in spite of our previous meetings, I still don't think you quite understand the gravity of the coronavirus pandemic. Please, allow me to explain a few basic health and safety parameters to you again."

The tingles in my spine begin to branch off, setting my

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*erotica.*

whole body ablaze with lust. "Oh, doctor," I reply meekly, "please, show me the way."

Ashley steps forward, reducing the distance between us to well under the recommended two metres. "Miss [REDACTED]," he purrs, "do you think this is a suitable distance to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus?"

"I - I don't know," I whisper, hoping this will lead to the conclusion I've been yearning for all afternoon.

My prayers are answered as Ashley swoops me into his arms, depositing me with surgical precision onto the sofa. "Oh, Miss [REDACTED]," he breathes, "I see you are still a few handy informational memes away from fully grasping just how important physical distancing is."

With that, my medicinal man-beast arms himself with the proper prophylactic equipment (also size XL), and plunges into me like a deeply satisfying syringe. While the fear of coronavirus rages on outside, here, with Ashley, I know I am about to receive the only cure for what ails me.

CHECK OUT MORE ART (G AND M+ RATED) ON IG @ASHLEYBLOOMFANS



# Interview with @Ashleybloomfans

## ***How did this instagram come about?***

For a while, there was a mystery as to who Ashley Bloomfield was, I kept hearing the name referenced and was like lol who's this Ashley woman and if she's the queen of the MoH why is she never on tv. Then I realised it was the guy talking at 1pm and became absolutely obsessed with him. We decided to do some research seemed like he was woke as we loved his manner and thought we'd make a fan account as a fun joke. Also my flat has set a goal to try to achieve fame of some sort on one social media platform. I was going to go for tik tok but ashleybloomfans was more fun. We quickly got the whole flat and a couple of friends in other bubbles to get in on the page. Originally we painted the fan art ourselves and pretended it had been submitted by like small children in rural towns but then to our surprise real people started sending stuff in and we ended up having a backlog of fan art. People were gagging to paint the big guy. That's essentially what happened its been lots of fun and we've amassed a few followers much more than our original goal of around 10.

## ***Why Ashley? Why him?***

Jacinda is frankly overdone. Ashley is so unassuming, he's almost handsome, he's like a very generic looking middle aged man with a weirdly bland sexiness. He reminds people of who they want their dads to have been and who they want their husbands to be sometimes too, very Freudian really. He's nice, he's respectful, he's calm, he's humble and he's doing his job well and he's patient answering questions. Yeah I think it's the humility competence combo that does it for me personally. There are also like a fuckload of middle-aged women who want to

fuck him, this is become evident as we have run the Instagram. He's a good bloke! wholesome kiwi masculinity! he's great!

## ***There is quite a variety of fan art sent in about him: What have been some favs? What is the community like?***

We will always really enjoy the nude, a lot of work went into it. We've loved the songs that have been written too; they've been awesome. Honestly the variety has really impressed us. We've had cross-stitch, pixel art, paintings, drawings all sorts of things. Its all been awesome. I'd like to see some poetry though.

## ***Top tips for keeping well during lockdown <3***

Lockdown is going to be different for everyone. We are incredibly lucky to be students in non-essential work in a flat of close friends. For us lockdown has been doing lots of fun stupid things that you can't do during normal times like fucking up your hair, doing a pub crawl through differently decorated rooms in your house, going on Omegle etc. We've been trying to maintain a routine, our bubble has been doing exercise every morning together, eating together, doing activities every night. It's important to stay social, stay connected and pull in your social supports where possible I guess. These are not easy times at all. We are lucky to be able to make something fun out of it.

## ***Anything you'd like to add?***

Up the essential workers we love you!



**MAY THE FOURTH  
BE WITH YOU**

**STAR  
WARS**  
*PUB QUIZ*

04.05.12 - YOUR PLACE



# 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.**

**Blocked 2 friends cuz they resembled my ex too much (told them the reason beforehand and apologised).  
Can't forget the 2nd one, who was an absolute SNACC.  
Therapy aside, how can I work through this shit (projection and flashbacks) on my own so I don't have to distance myself from future friends or love interests resembling my ex?**

Okay, wow. I mean...wow. I just...uh...I have a friend who's a psychology major, I can give you her number? Otherwise...er...try jogging?

**My friend's mum has been looking kinda thicc recently - I haven't seen her in a week but I'm thinking bout her all the time. What should I do?**

GOOD CHRIST. You lot are going to send me to an early grave. Go to church because God's the only one who can help you. Literally just pick any god because something has to help you, and I sure as hell can't.

**How to cope when you're in love with your best friend?**

Hey there Craccum readers, we're gonna have ourselves a little competition.

Below is a list of the ways that movie and TV characters have coped with being in love with their best friends. If you can name every character from this list, then I will personally come to your house and kick you in the face

(once lockdown is over, of course, I'm not a criminal.)  
Submit your answers to [whoaskedyoustupidcontest@gmail.com](mailto:whoaskedyoustupidcontest@gmail.com) (real address) and be in to win.

- Play pranks on your self-important, beet farming co-worker and then transfer to Stamford and start dating Rashida Jones
- Learn about philosophical ethics from him and then reinvent the entire afterlife for the benefit of all humanity whilst learning to be a good person
- Go on a quest to find seven pieces of a snake-faced guy's soul, somehow win her over even though she is vastly superior to you in every way, make out in the chamber of a giant snake (just basically a lot of snake stuff)
- Be in a six-strong band of improbably attractive pals and pair off with the sarcastic, least-horrible man in the cohort
- Be told by your obscenely positive boss that government employees are not allowed to date each other, but date him anyway because you are a strong woman who loves waffles and he is a huge nerd who loves Game of Thrones
- Have what she's having.

# What You're Getting From Wish This Week

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SOPHIE SUN.

## CAPRICORN

### A Giant Bread Pillow



*It's time for comfort, Capricorn. You're looking for stability. Settling down is the name of the game and you're in it to win it. If anyone asks you to go out, remind them we're at alert level three and snitch on them.*

## AQUARIUS

### A Cat Blindfold



*Things aren't quite what they seem this week. You think you see things as they are but look again, is this all real? Are we human... or are we dancer? With regard to your love life, spice things to protect against lockdown lover boredom.*

## PISCES

### A Shrek Blankey



*It's time to protect what's yours, Pisces. You're under siege and you need to retreat. Take time to diffuse situations, release tension and if all gets too much, cocoon yourself in the comfort of your own emotions.*

## ARIES

### Plastic Wrapped Nothing



*It's not all about you for once, Aries. Please just settle down and have one week without a drama. Now is the time to do nothing, literally, don't make plans, don't go out. Have a week off.*

## TAURUS

### Cats???



*Things appear confusing this week, Taurus, and they really are. There isn't any way around this, you just need to allow that confusion to fester. Tears are a release, embrace them.*

## GEMINI

### A Bag of Random Pills



*You're looking for adventure this week. It's time to take risks and seize new opportunities, be impulsive and reckless. Just make sure to have good friends on call in case your new decisions lead you astray.*



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horoscopes.

## CANCER

### Six Pack Cream



*It's easy to cut corners, Cancer. But good things come with hard work. That being said, don't work too hard, C's actually do get degrees. On Friday, an old friend will call, hang up on them.*

## LEO

### Penis Enlarging Massage Oil (10ml)



*Stop wishing for better things to come. You're not ready to commit to big change and it's time to take stock of what you have and the joy life brings you. Leave big decisions to the experts and focus on what you can do to make yourself feel better.*

## VIRGO

### Meat Socks



*You have a habit of desiring what isn't tangible. You need to keep grounded. Focus on what you can do now at this time. It's not what you are, but who you are.*

## LIBRA

### Any Novelty Duvet Cover



*For fucks sake, why did you have to do that, Libra? Fucking unnecessary - everyone told you not to. Just spend your week thinking about what you did.*

## SCORPIO

### A 'Pleasure' Toy



*How much are you willing to sacrifice for your own satisfaction? How much can you handle? This week, Scorpio, it's time for you to make what you want a priority. Focus on your desires and don't let them go. The time to act is now.*

## SAGITTARIUS

### See Through Underwear



*It's time for issues in your world to become transparent. Stop seeing challenges as obstacles to overcome, but as milestones in your development. Focus this week on enlightenment: eat, pray, and then eventually, love.*

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# the people to blame.

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