



FLORA XIE (SHE/HER) & NAOMII SEAH (SHE/HER) EDITORS IN CHIEF
editor@craccum.co.nz

JESSICA HOPKINS (SHE/HER) NEWS EDITOR
news@craccum.co.nz

CHARLOTTE PARKER (SHE/HER) CHIEF REPORTER
chiefreporter@craccum.co.nz

OMNI ARONA (HE/HIM) TE AO MĀORI EDITOR
maori@craccum.co.nz

GRACE BURTON-MCKEICH (SHE/HER) FEATURES EDITOR
features@craccum.co.nz

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY (SHE/HER) ARTS EDITOR
arts@craccum.co.nz

NANCY GUO (SHE/HER) LIFESTYLE EDITOR
lifestyle@craccum.co.nz

ARELA JIANG (HE/HIM) STAFF WRITER
staffwriter@craccum.co.nz

GABBIE DE BARON (SHE/HER) VISUAL ARTS EDITOR
visualarts@craccum.co.nz

MICHELLE TIANG (SHE/HER) SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
socials@craccum.co.nz

NICK WITHERS (HE/THEY) DESIGNER
design@ausa.org.nz

AARON HAUGH (HE/HIM) ADVERTISING
marketing@ausa.org.nz

EDITORIAL OFFICE
TOP LEVEL
STUDENT UNION
BUILDING
34 PRINCES STREET

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Nancy Guo, Grace Burton-McKeich, Omni Arona,
Madeleine Crutchley, Flora Xie, Jessica Hopkins,
Polly Prophet, Naomii Seah, Charlie Parker

COVER **AIMEE LEW**

CENTREFOLD **SHERKAHN MAZARI**

ARTISTS

Kiki Hall, Gabbie De Baron, Lewis Creed,
Nancy Guo, Naomii Seah, Flora Xie, Doyoung Koh,
Sherkahn Mazari, Aimee Lew, Lucy Baldwin

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Asian Heritage is More Than Intergenerational Trauma

As another May rolls around, we celebrate another Asian Heritage Month and all of the bullshit and joy that comes with it. Not that we shouldn't usually celebrate our Asian heritage and culture, it's just that most of the time we're too caught up with living it to celebrate it.

As we've learned through Google, our zodiacs represent a harmony between yin and yang. Flora, the dragon, and Naomii, the tiger. Not to read too much into Chinese zodiacs or be too superstitious, but our zodiacs apparently have very high compatibility—to no one's surprise. We've always said we're essentially the same person but in different fonts. Of course, it doesn't literally mean we're the same person—God knows we've encountered the racist “all Asians look the same” attitude too many times.

What we mean is that being of the diaspora often comes with shared experiences. There are nuances, but there are also a lot of similarities. We come from different parts of Asia, for example. But both of our families have brought our culture and identity to a new place, and both of our families have had to navigate the line between survival and tradition, assimilation and heritage. Often, we exist between two worlds, and it's hard to tell which one is

our home and which one we belong to. Maybe it's both. Maybe it's neither.

And maybe we exist in a new space, one that's hard to define. One made up of red undies on Chinese New Year and drinking beersies on Crate Day. One where we watch *Sex and the City* on repeat while acknowledging its Eurocentricity. One where we switch between English and (sometimes broken) Shanghainese, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Hokkien. One where bubble tea is embraced but chicken feet are still derided. One where we have to come up with another list item so that the paragraph doesn't end after unlucky number four.

It's hard to trace the exact paths that got us here. There's a long, complicated history of violence, colonialism, and unrest between Asia and the West. And then there's more local context: exclusionary immigration policies based on ethnicity were only abolished in 1987.

As teenagers, we couldn't tell you why we disavowed our culture so avidly and argued with our parents. Maybe it's intergenerational trauma, maybe it's internalised racism. But as adults, we recognise the centuries of geopolitics that enable us to call Aotearoa New Zealand our home. Our past shapes the

present, but we shape the future.

Our heritage is one of loss and hardship, but it's also one of determination, strength, and bravery. We're migrants. And those generations of adaptation and struggle only compound to create something new. Diamonds are created under pressure, after all. Decolonisation is a verb, not a noun. And acknowledging, unpicking—and yes—celebrating our heritage is only the first step. In Aotearoa, the next is acknowledging our role as tangata tiriti, and supporting tino rangatiratanga.

So, in this issue, among the articles that will hopefully make you laugh or feel some kinda way, we: celebrate success, talent, and self-acceptance; explore different aspects of uni life and student culture; and question the representation of marginalised groups and the beliefs we held as children.

Because our shared heritage is more than intergenerational trauma: it's a chance at a new beginning.

XOXO

Arohanui, 万事如意
Flora Xie (she/her) and Naomii Seah (she/her)



Is This a Game to you?: UoA's Arcade Mania



CHARLIE PARKER (SHE/HER)

The University of Auckland has moved more arcade game machines onto campus.

The driving-style machines have been placed around the central campus; some in the Humanities Building were initially placed barely a few meters from the lecture theater's door. *Craccum* has been made aware that significant noise disruption was made to at least one lecture in that building. These two machines have now been moved due to a lecturer's request; however, they haven't been removed altogether.

The machines are run as part of an orientation initiative every year at the beginning of each semester. They're organised by AUSA and run by Campus Life. AUSA Marketing Manager Aaron Haugh, says that the machines have

been met with great reception, and departments will often have competitions.

With many students using gaming in general as a relaxation outlet, there are positive reasons for this; faster decision making, problem solving skills, and improving cognitive function. However, as an on-campus machine, is it really there for relaxation? Using the machines can also be a way of avoiding social interaction, a controversial topic after coming back to campus after an eight-month hiatus. Some studies suggest that gaming can also decrease mental and physical health. Although one game round won't impact you too negatively in the long-run, replacing a quick walk around Albert Park with a virtual track may shift your mindset for the day.

Alexandra, an Undegraduate Arts student, says, "To be blunt, they're stupid. I get why people like them, but what purpose does it really serve at a university? I came to campus to have a nice place to study, and it's sad to see my fees being spent on a game".

Paul, an Undergraduate Science student, has a different view, stating "we've had random little machines pop up around the Science Building for a while, so it's not new, there's just more of them. It gives students a nice break, if people are respectful I don't really see the issue".

Then begs the question, is this an issue of the machines itself? Or, do UoA students just not know how to be quiet?

Drug Bust? No, Myth Bust: Drug Checking is Here to Help



CHARLIE PARKER (SHE/HER)

The New Zealand Drug Foundation and Know Your Stuff NZ have found their drug checking events since January have been greeted with positive feedback and open-minded students.

During the off-season last month, the four clinics tested 59 drug samples. Of these samples, 74.6% contained the expected substance. However, 22% of the samples only partially contained the expected substance, and 3.4% of drugs were something else entirely. From January to March; only 43% of 44 samples were the expected substance, 39% only partially contained the expected substance, 16% were not the expected substance, and 2% were inconclusive. Emily Hughes from the NZ Drug Foundation says "for us, one of the most dangerous drugs that there is, is a drug you don't know you have".

Despite receiving positive feedback, there are still a few misconceptions around how the drug checking system works. The clinics can test more than just powders and pills, they are able to test liquids, resins, and plant material, although the latter is slightly more challenging to test. "Even if it's something you're not sure whether drug checkers can check", Emily says, "students can come in and have a chat. This is a service for everyone who wants it. We don't only check drugs, we're here to offer support and non-judgemental information".

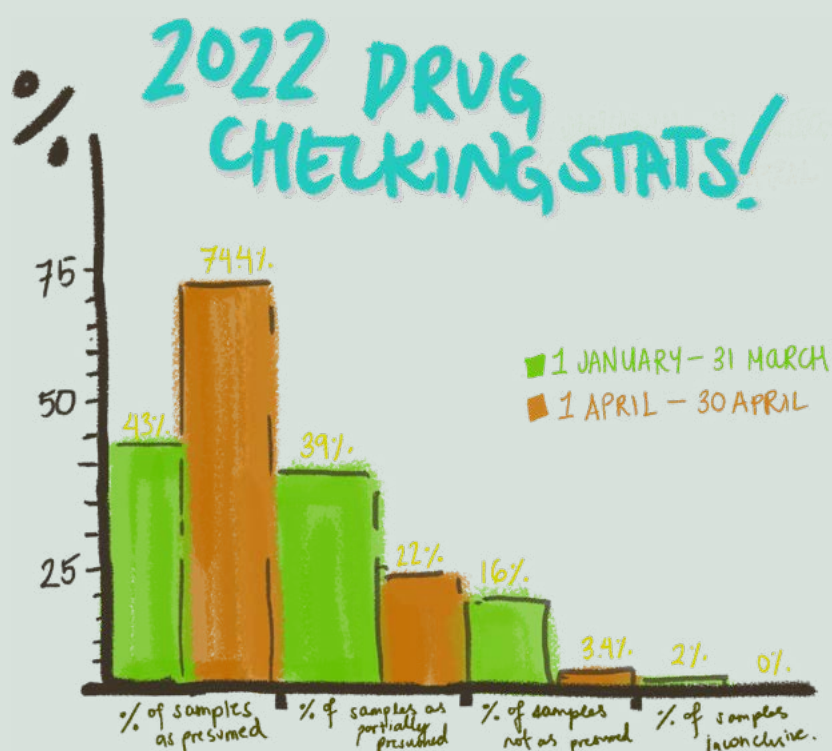
The clinics use FTIR spectrometers, which can identify materials inside the substance. The clinic only needs an amount equivalent to a matchstick head to test a substance, and often you will get some back. If you would like to get a pill tested, it's recommended you bring in the whole pill to gather material from, as different parts of the pill may contain different materials.

Another misconception about drug checking is that it's an undercover drug bust; however, the NZ Drug Foundation confidently confirms that both their Foundation and the police are pro harm-reduction. It is also illegal for the clinic to collect any personal information from people who come in, making the experience entirely confidential.

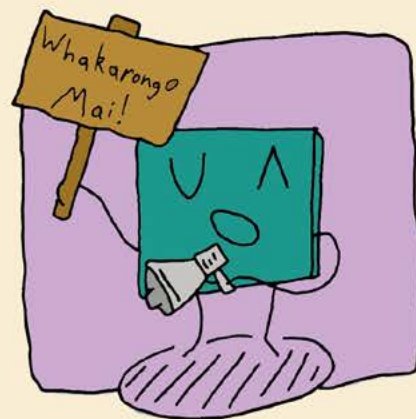
A common misconception is that even if your drug is what you expected, the clinic will tell you to destroy it, which is never the case. If it's something you don't want to keep, however, the team can destroy it safely for you on the spot. Throughout the January to April clinics, the staff spoke to many members of the public about harm-reduction when taking their substance. *Craccum* counted 24 harm-reduction strategies listed on the Quarterly Reports, ranging from avoiding mixing a drug with alcohol or other drugs, weighing dosages, organising a trip sitter, and using a nasal rinse after snorting a substance.

The original O-Week drug checking event covered by *Craccum* is not an isolated event, and the clinics have become available almost every weekend around Auckland. On Thursday 26 May, another clinic will be run out of the Caretakers Cottage in Albert Park, and other events can be found on The Level's clinic list. Emily from Drug Foundation NZ also said they would welcome working with the University of Auckland more in the future, and will be looking into another big clinic event during Re O-Week.

Everyone is welcome to visit the clinic, even to ask questions without using the service. Students and staff alike are encouraged to visit, especially those who are from out of Auckland as the drugs that are available in Auckland may be different from the ones from their hometown, giving a different experience to their trip. Any additional questions about drug checking in general can be sent to The Level's website or Instagram.



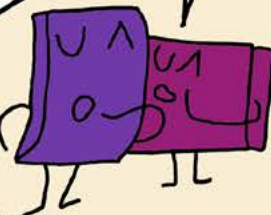
I can't stress enough that joining clubs makes the uni experience so much better. Academics are important but don't keep yourself from being a part of clubs because you're afraid it'll affect your grades.



It was honestly a pretty toxic environment at times, and I was expected to volunteer eight hours a week for one club. People can be really rude and demanding, even though you're volunteering your time.



Joining exec teams at uni has been a highlight of my university experience because it was a way for me to make genuine friendships. Just be careful of shitty people who take advantage of you!



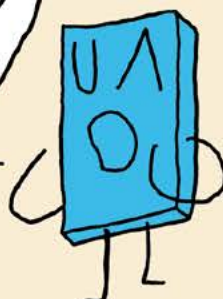
I'd love to join a club when I don't have as much work as I do now to make friends and try something new.

I looked at the list of clubs but I didn't find something I wanted to do. I'm very introverted, so I was kind of intimidated.



Whakarongo

MAI



Is there really a club for everyone?



JESSICA HOPKINS (SHE HER)

Hi there, unsuspecting-first-year-student-trying-to-find-your-Communications-tutorial-that-for-some-reason-is-in-the-Engineering-building. Come join our club! If you sign up now, we'll give you a t-shirt and some plastic shit.

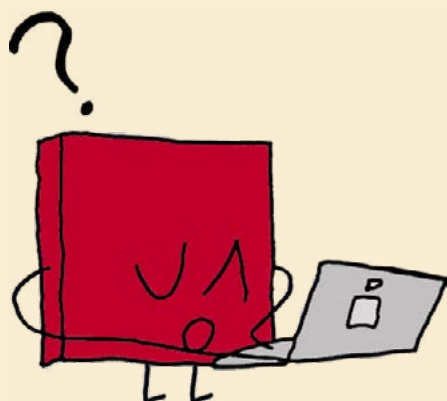
If you're on campus during O-Week, chances are you'll be approached by a group of students in matching t-shirts, trying to convince you why you should join their cult—I mean club. The University of Auckland has over 200 clubs, societies, and associations, and they claim “there's a club for everyone.”

Making friends at uni can be hard, and joining a club is a common suggestion to expand your social circle. But being involved in some clubs is a significant commitment that not everyone can afford to take on, with some voluntary roles expecting as much as eight hours a week from students.

Craccum asked students and recent graduates what clubs, if any, they have been involved in on campus and what their experience was, so that you don't have to pay the \$10 joining fee only to go to one event.

Iven, Arts

“Joining exec teams at uni has been a highlight of my university experience because it was a way for me to make genuine friendships. Just be careful of shitty people who take advantage of you! It can give bad group project vibes sometimes, but it is good most of the



time! It's honestly 50/50! I've had the good and the bad. It comes down to who leads the club. If they're onto it and have everything organised, it will be a fun environment.”

Divya, Engineering

“I joined Women in Engineering at UoA because there are so many barriers to overcome and hoops to jump through that are a lot easier with a community of support. I wanted to encourage more women to pursue engineering because it's such a cool degree, and I didn't want something as silly (and systemic haha) as sexism to be the barrier to entry. I can't stress enough that joining clubs makes the uni experience so much better. Academics are important but don't keep yourself from being a part of clubs because you're afraid it'll affect your grades.”

Simone, Arts

“I looked at the list of clubs but I didn't find something I wanted to do. I'm very introverted, so I was kind of intimidated. First-year is already overwhelming, but in Semester Two, I think I'll be more used to this kind of environment. I've made a few friends in my classes, but it's quite hard to connect with people unless you have the same tutorial.”

Sam, Commerce

“I was on the leadership team for a few clubs. It was honestly a pretty toxic environment at times, and I was expected to volunteer eight hours a week for one club. People can be really rude and demanding, even though you're volunteering your time. So, don't be afraid to stand up for yourself and leave if things go to shit.”

Ahmed, Law

“I've been part of quite a few clubs over the years. I did more fun/social ones like sports clubs, dessert clubs, and the Debating Society in my first year. Overall everyone was always super



welcoming, and my experience was great, which led me to join heaps more in my next few years.”

Lucy, Health Science

“I don't have the time. I'm balancing two jobs. I'm a swim instructor, and I work at a food truck. I'd love to join a club when I don't have as much work as I do now to make friends and try something new. But I did make friends with lab partners and by going to the open day at the beginning of the year.”

Emma, Commerce and Computer Science

“If you want to get a bigger social circle and have fun at social events, clubs are great. I'm on the Auckland University Dance Association (AUDA) marketing executive team. I saw them advertise the role on Instagram, and I jumped at the opportunity to gain more experience because I want to go into marketing, and leadership roles look good on your CV. The club president is really organised and delegates tasks reasonably, so I've had a good experience.”

Gemma, Health Science

“I joined the tramping club to make friends, get outdoors, and take a break from studying. It's quite niche, and a lot of people are really into the hardcore bush tramping. But I'd say it's beginner-friendly.”

Where's My \$5 Vegan Lunch?



NANCY GUO (SHE/HER)

The Veda Club, in partnership with The Sustainability Network, have reduced their \$5 vegan lunch schedule down to two days a week following a University request.

The vegan lunch initiative has traditionally run four days a week. The reduction in services is reportedly aimed at reducing pressure on campus food vendors, who are still recovering from the financial impacts of COVID-19.

Veda Club President Kalindi says that their organisation completely understands the University's decision, expressing that "we do feel for the food vendors around campus and 100% respect the University's wishes to prioritise those businesses that have suffered."

Nevertheless, a reduction in their services has put the club in "a weird position". While they are very "grateful that the University allows us to hold these lunches on campus for so many years", Kalindi says that "we're seeing on the ground how disappointed the students are that most days of the week they won't have a lunch option that is as affordable and healthy as our vegan lunches".

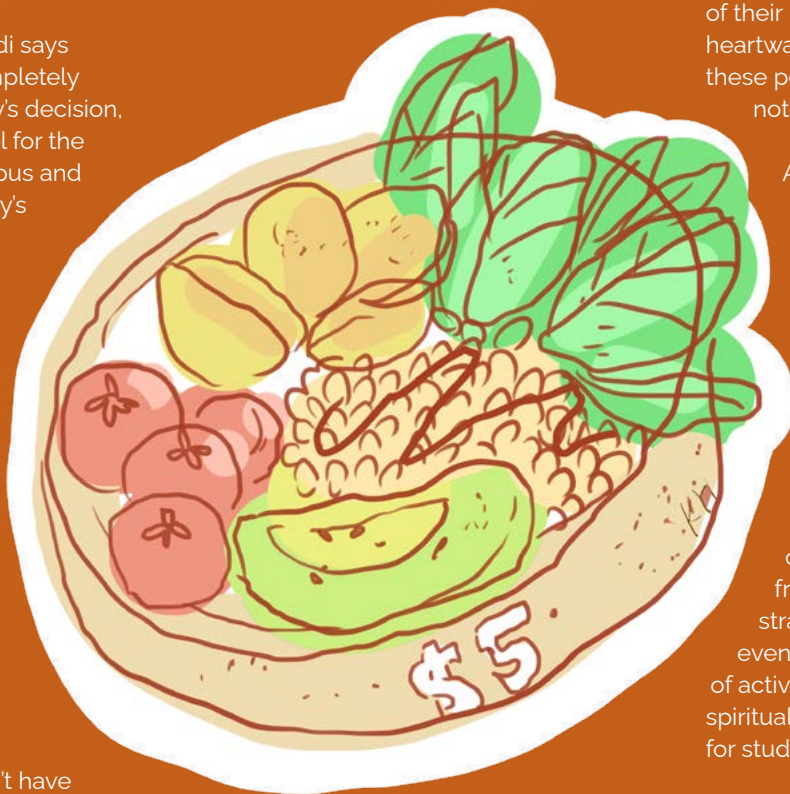
The vegan lunch is an affordable, nutritious, and environmentally-friendly food option for students.

They are fantastic value for money. A serving of fresh curry, salad, and rice costs just \$5. And for an extra \$1.50, students can also add a side of dessert and poppadoms. The meal is also packed full of fresh and healthy ingredients, making it a nourishing and sustaining pick.

The food is sustainable and eco-friendly too. The club prioritises the

purchasing of in-season vegetables, actively encourages students to bring their own containers, and offers plastic-free and compostable options to those who need a takeaway container. They also reduce their waste by distributing any leftover food they may have by offering free refills to students before pack-up.

Kalindi believes that students should



not have to break the bank to access healthy and sustainable food on campus. They say that "being a student is hard enough as it is. We hate the idea that students are trying to write their dissertations on a diet of two-minute noodles and crisps because that's all they can afford. If we want students to really excel in their studies, we have to make sure they have the right fuel on campus for them to do it."

The lunches are also suitable for students with dietary needs, especially for vegans, vegetarians, or those who follow a plant-based diet. They're also

"usually a great option for our Muslim brothers and sisters, Hare Krishnas, Hindus, Seventh Day Adventists, Jews etc."

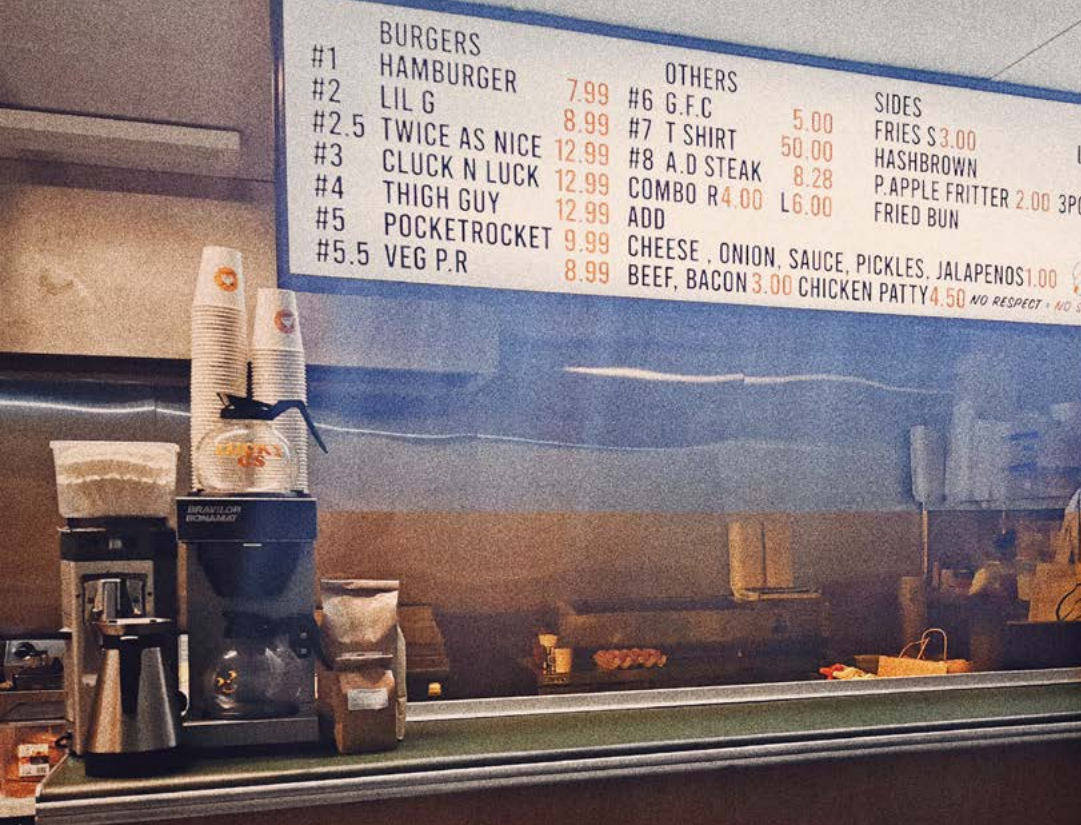
Moreover, the vegan student lunch initiative has positively impacted student culture. The Veda Club has received feedback that students often come to campus just for their lunches, or that graduates remember the lunches as a fond part of their university experience. "It's so heartwarming that we are making these people's days a little easier", notes Kalindi.

As the lunches are powered by a team of student volunteers, the clubs provide unique leadership and volunteering experience for students to add to their CV. Scaling down their lunch schedule has unfortunately reduced the amount of these opportunities available.

The Veda Club is a non-profit organisation. Any profit made from the vegan lunches goes straight back into the Veda Club's events, which includes a variety of activities like meditation retreats, spirituality seminars, and music parties for students to attend.

To purchase a vegan lunch, head down to the Barrack's Lawn on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:30a.m.-2p.m.

If we want students to really excel in their studies, we have to make sure they have the right fuel on campus for them to do it.



Lucked out, Locked in, Lucky G's.



GABBIE DE BARON (SHE/HER)

It's not just another chip-shop but a movement too: sustainable hospitality, community-driven, student-friendly pricing, and food that hits the spot. I sat down with owner, Stan Lee G, and asked him a few questions about the things that make *Lucky G's*.

If you haven't heard about them, then you haven't had a good feed. That's a fact, not an opinion. Lucky G's is a West Auckland-based burger, chip—sometimes, if you're lucky—sandwich, but most importantly, mean meals joint. They're constantly expanding and trying new things. They've got a secret addy, so *ikykyk* "winks". They *do* have vegetarian options, and the fact that it's out West works well for students, given this area is flat-city. I also love that they're fellow 20-somethings who just grind it out, whilst upholding values and beliefs that represent our generation—whether that's about

business or even respect. And don't get me started on the food, because it's fucking good.

How did Lucky G's start and what's up with the secret addy?

It started in 2020, during the pandemic. During the first lockdown I was craving an *In 'N' Out* cheeseburger and started cooking skillet burgers at home and they were absolutely mouthwatering, delicious, and super fun to make. I'd always dreamed of owning a badass fast food shop, but Southern fried chicken was my first vision. I wasn't even a big burger fan 'til my ex took me to have *In 'N' Out* when I was living in Cali, the three-burgers-on-the-menu-thing blew my mind! I really appreciated the brand, history, and balance of flavours. I was bored of my day job, it was starting to get hard to get out of bed and I knew it was time.

[...] I had a mate, who was back in NZ from Aus [...] bumming around and I hit him up, to see if he was keen to be a part of a biz I was starting: **Lucky G's**. I knew I couldn't do it on my own, so I gave him 50% [...], in return, for him to put in the mahi. Rest is history there.

The secret addy started because I didn't have 100% confidence in my product yet. I wanted to gauge it based on how busy it got [...] before I put the brand name out there. Plus, I really wanted to renovate the shop and drop *Lucky G's* as a full package... but that never eventuated, as we just got swarmed. The locals found us; they told their friends, that told their friends, and we never had to drop the addy since. I just wanted us to grow organically—we didn't have enough staff or cooking gear to handle the volume. The quality and service was my priority. Anyone can force-feed their products via paid

advertising these days, too much catfishing. You know you can trust word of mouth, that's how it works when it comes to a good mechanic.

How did you know you wanted to start a business?

I always knew I was gonna start a business, I had a 'lil clothing hustle with my best mate in high school, my last project was a car part I sold worldwide [...]. So, I've always had little run ups, and just started gaining confidence more and more [...], but my passion's really in building a cool, timeless brand with good product and history. Like for our logo, I drew that and the name has multiple meanings: like 'G' is my last name, everyone knows me as *Stan Lee G*, it's also something that relates to us growing up in Aotearoa, we call each other "G's" not 'cause we're about that gangsta life, it's just what we call our homies—but then when something's good, growing up, we said that something was gangsta. Some people have been making assumptions that we are ex-reformed gangsters or criminals, which cracks me up... but there's many meanings behind our name and that's what it's about at the end of the day.

My favourite part was the sign: "No respect = No service".

Yeah, we don't baby our customers, we do hospo differently here. Hospo staff are some of the hardest working and underpaid; we make chump change



and cop everyone's moods. We keep that saying: "No respect, no service." to remind people to treat others how you'd like to be treated. Like I've always been bothered when, let's say you're with friends and you rock up to a shop, and they close at 9:00 p.m., you go in at like 8:50 p.m., like you know the people in there are about ready to go, they've packed up and they've cleaned... they've got lives too.

Everyone here is so young, how did you all find each other?

Ah, yeah, the team! Yeah. So, they were all customers [...] and I was like "what do you do?" and just approached them [...]. Yeah. we are young, we get that a lot. We work really hard aye, people love that... And actions speak a lot louder than words, we've gained a lot of respect, just from working so hard and treating people nicely. People will see our page on Insta and think we're all professional, and then you come in and you'll see the same faces day in day out, talk to us and realise that we're actually a super small operation. Sometimes people show up and expect a corporate franchise and then there's some that are just genuinely blown away by this whole operation, being run by the team we have, with the budget we've got, making the products we make.

How do you manage to give such student-friendly prices, whilst maintaining the quality?



Basically, I just wanted to create something that I wanted to go to myself, but honestly, we've actually had to raise the prices many times, as I continue to learn how to run a business. Like there's so many factors and costs that I wasn't even aware of that are so important aye, like emptying the trash, getting filters changed, power, rates, taxes, public holidays, leave, repairs—all that shit, you know? And I used to think like 'oh, you know, raise the price by like a dollar that should cover it,' but nah there's a lot of things... and honestly we're just learning as we go on [...], but you know, if I were to just do it like everyone else we wouldn't be where we are now. Ultimately, businesses determine the price but you as a customer determine the value. We prioritise quality but have to balance it with the cost of goods, which determine the recommended retail price. We rely on skill and care to really make our products shine. We do make mistakes, so not all are created equal, but we do try and continue to work on making our products better, more consistent, and more affordable.

All in all, it's safe to say that home is where the good eating is, where the workers are respected, and where the humility remains. I've never come across a business like Lucky G's. When we 'support small businesses', we root for the underdogs, we support small bizzies like Lucky G's.

Follow them on instagram: @luckygggggggg

If you want to know more about the addy, ask a friend who knows or DM me at @gabbiedebaron on IG.





Dora the Exploring UoA's Epsom and South Auckland Campuses

Come on, vamanos! Everybody let's go!



NANCY GUO (SHE/HER)

This week, we're leaving the bad vibes of the city campus behind to explore the mythical and uncharted landscapes of the Epsom and South Auckland campuses. After years of being overlooked and underappreciated, it's time we acknowledged the existence of these campuses and their students...

In preparation for the treacherous journey ahead, we made sure to pack enough \$8 iced oat lattes and Glassons claw clips in our Stolen Girlfriend tote bags. How else could city girls, who are accustomed to the overpriced, overcrowded, and toxic environment of the city central, survive in unknown territory?

Here are the findings from our expedition:

Epsom Campus

What's the best and worst thing about your campus?

Hayley: "The best thing is that you actually know the person's name who sits next to you. You're more than likely gonna spend your whole degree with

the same people, which is good or bad depending on how much you like your cohort. Especially when it comes to group projects, you already know ahead of time who is gonna let you down."

Selena: "Free parking. It's pretty easy to find your classes. Everyone knows each other so it's super easy to make friends. The campus isn't crowded because Education students are always on practicum."

Hayley: "The worst thing is being surrounded by five local schools and spending more time in traffic than in my actual classes because the lecturers love gam starts."

Selena: "The campus itself is quite old... she lookin' a bit crusty... Lecture rooms are cold as fuck in winter because they don't have heat pumps. Classrooms are hot as fuck in summer because they haven't got aircon, just shitty fans that move hot air around. The desks are so uneven that the fear of your laptop sliding off the little tables is enough to keep you awake during lectures. I can confirm that I have seen several laptops fly off desks."

How would you describe your campus community?

Hayley: "The lecturers at Epsom campus genuinely want you to succeed and will use their own personal time to help you out. We had lecturers give out their phone numbers and students were allowed to text them—not only for help but to talk about their well-being too. Everyone seems friendly and presumably has somewhat of a will to live in comparison to city campus students."

Selena: "You know no one is going to steal your shit if you leave it unattended because everyone is nice and looks out for one another. Lecturers and tutors are passionate about their jobs and generally quite helpful. They actually care about you."

How does the city campus compare to Epsom?

Hayley: "City campus makes me feel like I'm a student studying abroad using grandad's will money. You'll see at least two people from your old high school. Everything is so boujee and I lowkey feel like people can work out I'm a



stinky Epsom student. The campus is so huge that me and my friends will literally have a little lunch date hunting down where the fuck our classes are. Somehow we always get lost in the lower engineering building levels."

Selena: "I frequently go to Gen Lib and OGGB to study because it feels like a real uni experience. Epsom feels like you're in high school, moving between periods. Y'all have the Quad, Munchy Mart, Gong Cha—Epsom has one overpriced fucking cafe on campus. The food is average and I can't believe they're still in business."

Much like how social workers and teachers don't get paid enough, UoA seems to neglect our campus. Maintenance is clearly a priority for the city campus. OGGB gets a bidet and Epsom gets a rubbish bin to collect rainwater coming from the roof so the floor doesn't flood. Special shoutout to the Sylvia Ashton Warner library!

City campus always has cool events on and free shit being given away. But no hate to Epsom or ESSA because I know they try. Epsom gave away yogurt once, that was nice!"

Does your campus pass the vibe check?

Hayley: "Since Epsom campus is moving in 2024, a year after I graduate, it's a no from me."

Selena: "Yes and no? It's a flex to say that we have our own campus with free

parking, even if it's not the prettiest to look at."

South Auckland Campus—Te Papa Ako o Tai Tonga

What's the best and worst thing about your campus?

Omni: "Best? The random good music that plays when you're studying."

Abby: "The closeness of everything and the fact that Breaktime sells countless instant noodle options for cheap."

Omni: "The worst? Probably the size. Looking forward to them expanding this place."

Abby: "Parking. For four hour classes, you either run between classes and leave your car at the mall with the risk of being ticketed, or you be one of those ones who pays \$8 for a whole day of parking."

How would you describe your campus community?

Omni: "Everyone passes the vibe check. We're all brown people achieving excellence and should be proud that we've made it this far. They are also funny asf. Very few of us though. Less rules out South, we lawless. I see groups playing Frank Ocean and Lomez Brown out loud and it just brings good vibes."

Abby: "The community is really friendly. It's busy but you can pass people and say hi, which is cute. There's these security guards I pass every week on my way to classes and no matter who it is they greet you and ask how your day is going."

How does the city campus compare to the South Auckland campus?

Omni: "Years of going to city campus during undergrad have destroyed any joy I once had. Getting rid of the music library, the best spot for studying, was a red flag. Then building a whole new engineering building when they already had a flash one SMFH. City campus is carried by the fact that we can go to town after. South campus may not have the resources but we got the vibes."

Abby: "I have never been to the city for classes, but going for orientation a couple years ago I was hella lost and the coffee I had was gross and overpriced."

Does your campus pass the vibe check?

Omni: "The people pass the vibe check; I just wish the campus was bigger and had more resources."

Abby: "I reckon it passes the vibe check, I would highly recommend it to students who are not keen on city life and want a bit more community. If you go there, I guarantee you will be looked after 100%."



Tonight, on *Police Ten 7*

On our third case today, we need your help to find this Mawre teenage hoodlum, he was last seen in the *Craccum* Office, attempting to be a writer



OMNI ARONA NGĀPUHI, NGĀTI WAI (HE/HIM)

The portrayal of Māori/Pasifika in media has always been problematic. For someone who is Māori and PI, it's easy to notice. BIPOC (Black, indigenous, people of colour) man steals food to feed his family? Dangerous thug/crim aggressively robs Munchy Mart. White man kills his whole family? A loving husband/father lets family into heaven's gates. It influences how our country views my people. It speaks to a national sentiment that Māori are threatening a social order and burdening our

***Police Ten 7* builds its entire foundation on the trauma of vulnerable communities and provides a privileged platform for police while removing the dignity of people facing some of the worst moments of their lives.**

society. We are continually portrayed as poor and aggressive individuals who threaten the comfortable and familiar pakeha dominance.

Last year, Mayoral candidate Efeso Collins expressed the same sentiment leading to massive changes. Efeso tweeted, "Hey @TVNZ it's time u dropped *Police Ten 7*. A couple of days ago I was watching tv & your ad cut promoting the program showed young brown ppl. This stuff is low level chewing gum tv that feeds on racial stereotypes & it's time u acted as a responsible broadcaster & cut it". While on *The Hui*, Collins stated that "the show doesn't reflect New Zealand or our community". These comments sparked an online conversation that caused the series to be reviewed and initiated discourse on BIPOC interactions with police. A review of the show was conducted and concluded that Māori were portrayed "fairly". A classic case of "we've investigated ourselves and found no wrongdoing".

Good old *Police Ten 7* is one of the main perpetrators of negative media portrayals. While I can have a laugh at certain situations in the show, it is not lost on me that it can have a formative effect on discourse and sentiments

A lot of New Zealanders fail to realise that their interactions with police differ from POC interactions with police.

surrounding BIPOC. The show feeds racial stereotypes to mainstream New Zealand and does not afford an accurate representation of its people and citizens. *Police Ten 7* builds its entire foundation on the trauma of vulnerable communities and provides a privileged platform for police while removing the dignity of people facing some of the worst moments of their lives. This is all done with purpose and intentionality. In 2007, TVNZ boss Rick Ellis included *Police Ten 7* in a list of programmes that included Māori representation when speaking to the Māori Affairs Select Committee.

Shows like these reinforce colonial structures and the mamae/whakama of our people. It generates a certain uneasiness when our people have



interactions with the police. It's the feeling of a police car directly behind you x100. A lot of New Zealanders fail to realise that their interactions with police differ from POC interactions with police. Stories of anxiety among my POC friends in anticipation of police contact do not surprise me. David, a Samoan UoA Arts student, tells us of the negative interactions he has had with the police:

"Me and my island friends were walking down Albert Park behind some of our white mates when two police officers asked what we were doing. 'Walking?' I thought in my head. One of my more drunk activisty comrades called them out for walking past our palangi friends ahead and coming straight to us brown boys. He ended up getting put to the ground and handcuffed. I look back now and crack up at him screaming

Police Ten 7 is not the vehicle for accountability nor the product that promotes healing that Mr. Bell thinks it is. There is no doubt that the show uses my people as entertainment and proceeds to feign ignorance when held accountable.

that "this is a violation!" of some Act or Treaty that I do not remember, but at the time, it wasn't so funny."

Former *Police Ten 7* host Graham Bell came to the show's defence. In a conversation with Newstalk ZB (red flag), the former host said that "it's very difficult not to develop a slight attitude to a group of people that are constantly offending," and that "I would argue that Mr. Collins is approaching this from the wrong end. Perhaps he should be looking at why we've got this problem in our society". REALLY BRO? We fucking know why, brown people know why, and if anyone knows why, it's Efeso Collins. When asked whether police have an inherent mistrust towards Māori and Pasifika, the host replied, "I don't have the answer for that, but cancelling a show like *Police Ten 7* is not going to help". But it might? *Police Ten 7* is not the vehicle for accountability nor the product that promotes healing that Mr. Bell thinks it is. There is no doubt that the show uses my people as entertainment and proceeds to feign ignorance when held accountable.

The effect of negative Māori media portrayals profoundly affects our collective health and well-being, ultimately undermining the fundamentals of equity and union. With all the negative sentiments of our culture, there becomes a struggle to embrace our identities. Our portrayal as savage, aggressive, dirty, and lazy creates subconscious ideas of who we are, stereotypes us, and reinforces Pākehā as the norm. For those older and lucky enough to know better, we don't let it get to us. But for a younger generation, identity issues can manifest from these

No young person should have to be ashamed of their own culture, who they are, and where they come from.

portrayals and sentiments. An aspect of shame exists in many of my people. We become ashamed of our own culture, especially at a young age. I have felt this before. During intermediate and early high school, the sentiments my friends held towards Māori, and Pacific Island people made me feel insecure when I just wanted to be accepted. I can say with a little radicalisation and healing, I have and continue to work through this whakama on my reconnecting journey. But I will not get over the fact that the youth of my people have to work through this in the first place. It is underserved, heart-breaking, and infuriating. No young person should have to be ashamed of their own culture, who they are, and where they come from.

With *Police Ten 7* rebranding as *Ten 7 Aotearoa*, questions arise as to whether anything has changed. Only using Māori words when it suits your rebrand, aye? It would be nice to see an episode start with "Tonight, on *Police Ten 7*: Police investigate reports of recurrent theft of land in the area and expose an elaborate organised crime ring operating since the 1800s with deep foreign ties, a gang so sophisticated it has its own police force."



Santa Claus is Real and Other Childhood Theories

Out of the mouths of babes comes a lot of bullshit.



ARELA JIANG (HE/HIM), *CRACCUM* EDITORIAL TEAM

Once upon a time I was behind Whitney Houston when she prophesied “I believe the children are the future”. But the girl had obviously never met one, because kids are unhinged. And the shit they come up with is insane—simultaneously genius and stupid. This week, the *Craccum* Editorial Team decided to share what dumb shit we used to think growing up (and let me tell you, it explains a lot). We also asked you guys what shit you believed in back in the day and damn, some of y’all were way smarter than us (or just real dumb).

Kids come up with better world conspiracy theories than Reddit ever could

If they think what we were thinking, our world is not safe with the next generation.

Grace

I used to think the world was black and white. I didn’t believe my mum when she tried to convince me that the world has always been in colour—I thought she was just trying to mess

with me to see what outlandish stories I would believe. To me, my reasoning was sound. All the photos of me were in colour, but all the photos of my grandparents and their parents were black and white. So, if photos captured real life, then surely real life in the past was in black and white. Without full development of my frontal lobe, how was I supposed to know about the history of cameras? I can’t remember exactly when I realised my mum was right, but I was probably way too old.

Arela

Until I was about seven, I used to think

that when you died you would be reincarnated as a person back in time. Like your mind would take over the body of somebody else at that point in time. I was really excited to see Michael Jackson perform live if I died, and I would be a reckless little shit. I don't even like Michael Jackson. There wasn't really any reasoning for it, I just thought it made sense. How else would people know what things were like back in the day? Eventually, someone told me it was impossible and I gave that idea up, but I still think I'm a smart cunt ngl. Maybe I should start a new religion?

Naomii

I thought it always *had* to rain overnight and I was really confused when I woke up one day in summer and the grass was dry. I was even more confused when I learned about dew and condensation.

Flora

When I was like six years old before I moved to New Zealand, I genuinely thought NZ was a tiny ass island. Like, it was literally just a strip of sand and you could see all of the country's borders just by standing in the centre of the island. I had this vivid imagery that there was sand everywhere, a small straw hut in the middle for my family, palm trees by the water, sheep roaming around freely, and blue skies all around. I think my parents gave me the idea after they told me NZ was a tiny island with sheep and blue skies lmao. It's not a totally unrealistic depiction though; real life just has a bit more greenery. Idk where I could go to actually live in a place like that but six-year-old me was dreaming up some good vacation spots.

Also, I thought time zones were just having a few minutes of difference between areas/countries. I distinctly remember explaining to my friends at kindergarten that when I'd be brushing my teeth and getting ready for bed, they'd be doing the same right after I hopped into bed for the night. No clue why I believed this, but at least I had some sense of how time worked in different countries?

You guys thought that...

"The world's richest people (e.g., the Royals for some reason) never reused their plates because they were so rich they would just have new plates every time they ate."

"The moon was following me wherever I went and watched over me. I guess I naturally grew out of it as I got older but it still comforts me sometimes."

"When people died in movies they actually died and would sacrifice themselves for the film."

Thank God for Year 9 Biology

If you still believe what follows, we need a serious chat with the Ministry of Education.

Nancy

Unlike every other six-year-old, I was not psyched to lose my baby teeth. I thought the term "losing your teeth" literally meant losing all of your teeth at once. Left to my own (intellectual) devices to understand how this perplexing process worked, I came up with a theory. Since my parents still ate dinner, used their toothbrush, and talked, all tasks requiring their chompers must magically whoosh back when they needed to use them. But if they were just breathing there would be no teeth chilling in their mouth, unlike small children who had their teeth intact 24/7.

You might think the Tooth Fairy story, which clearly depicts children placing a singular tooth underneath their pillows, would debunk my own nonsensical theory. Yeah no. It just reaffirmed my hypothesis. My six year old brain thought that you had to ration your teeth by only putting a single tooth under your pillow for the Tooth Fairy to carry away. Obviously, the tiny Tooth Fairy couldn't carry all twenty of your baby teeth at once. Luckily, after asking my very confused parents where everyone's teeth hung out in between use times, I stopped believing in my whack ass physics-defying theory.

Omni

I thought cis boys could get pregnant too. My aunt lied to me because I was being a little shit. I cried because I thought I was pregnant and didn't want a kid. Do I look back now and think I was smart for coming up with something so wacky? No, I was just a dumbass.

You guys thought that...

"You could run out of tears. I believed my dad until I was about 13."

"During a C-section the belly came off like a lid."

"Eating seeds from a fruit makes the fruit grow inside you."

Honestly, pretty smart if you think about it

But you REALLY have to think about it.

Jess

When I was five, I took the proverb "Slow and steady wins the race" from the *Tortoise and the Hare* a bit too literally. So, I ran my entire cross country race in dramatic slow motion. Everyone thought I was taking the piss, but I was genuinely shocked when I didn't win. I guess I thought all the other kids would get tired and take a nap mid-100-meter race. It's even funnier because I was actually a pretty fast sprinter and probably would have done well otherwise.

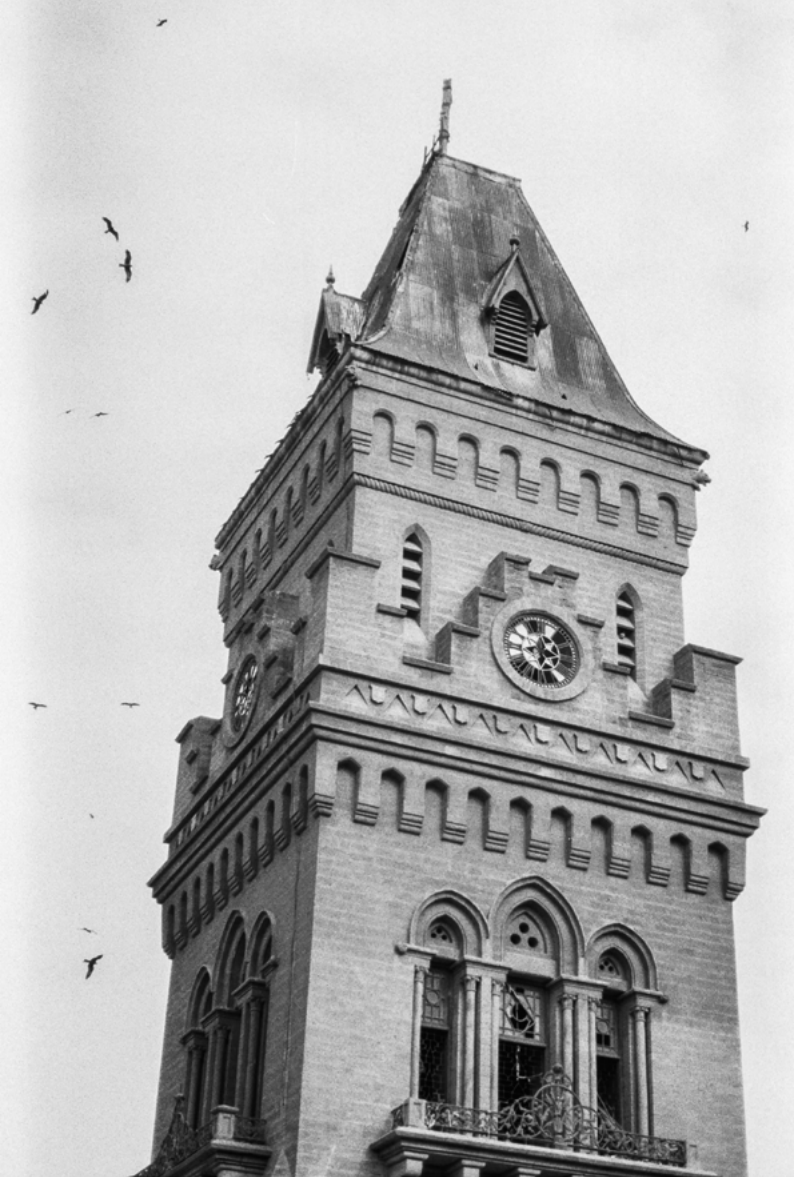
You guys thought that...

"The car would only turn left or right if your indicator was on, if it wasn't on it the car wouldn't turn."

"There was a man watching all the intersections and controlling all the traffic lights. I think I just figured it was totally impractical."

"If you used the dish soap in the kitchen to wash your hands, it would never come off."







Sherkhan Mazari

UoA Artist Spotlight



MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY (SHE/HER)

In this week's UoA Artist Spotlight, we showcase a photo series from Sherkhan Mazari, a fourth year Architecture student, and member of UoA PhotoSoc's exec team. Sherkhan takes photos on film, usually black and white, and captures a wide range of subjects in this striking collection.

When did photography first spark your interest?

It's kinda funny, my sister was more into photography growing up... When I was going into first year, I was at home in Pakistan for a bit, and I saw some YouTube videos about Pentax cameras and thought it looked pretty cool. I thought I'd use my Dad's... it was broken, so I took it to the market and I saw a Pentax ME. It looked really cool, but also absolutely tortured. That was my first film camera. I basically started in my first year of uni, just taking photos of friends and things like that. I started up with PhotoSoc and that's where I learned quite a bit.

I remember being so excited to get my photos back, every week. I must have been a nuisance for The Black and White Box because I called them every Friday, asking them if there were photos on the roll, or "did it stuff up?"

So, it's kind of a family thing passed on?

Sort of, yeah. My Dad stopped doing it when things switched over to digital. He had some pretty cool photos he used to take.

What is it about film specifically that you enjoy shooting on?

I think the nice thing for an amateur is that you don't know what you're going to get—you have to make

those 36 shots really count. If you have a bad shot then that's it, that shot is out, and it costs money so the stakes are a bit higher. The results, when you get the photos back... there's this feeling that you get. You captured this amazing moment, and you didn't expect it to come out this good.

In first and second-year I developed my own black and white film, after being taught through [PhotoSoc]. I learned a lot through there... and got to share a lot, and get more insight.

And what is it that you enjoy about shooting black and white film?

With black and white, I feel I'm focused on the subject more, capturing the memories. For me, black and white allows me to capture the emotion, it's a bit more raw, a bit less distracting... It makes you really focus on the little details.

In this collection there are photos from both Pakistan and Auckland... What's the experience travelling between these places with your camera?

I think in New Zealand I feel I get a bit more raw and cool, whereas [in Pakistan] it's a bit more warm, which I guess is like the climate [laughs].

In terms of history, in Karachi, the colonial architecture is not treated that well—it's really forgotten and quite decrepted. It's interesting to capture those things as you go around the streets... There's so many things people take for granted in a city like that, especially because it's quite class divided.

A lot of the photos I had taken over there were on a Super Safari, which a lot of tourists do. They have a look around Karachi on a Pakistani

bus that's all decked out in amazing patterns and people take what they see for granted—lots of people from Karachi never see those types of things.

I try to take my camera wherever I go, but I only take a few pictures these days.

Sign up for PhotoSoc at UoA [here!](#)

PHOTO CREDITS

Cozy Goats

Description: Goats dressed in warm covers in the streets of Karachi

Medium: Ilford Ortho+, Shot using a Pentax ME with a 50mm lens

Colonial remains in Karachi

Description: The old decrepit remnants of the colonial past of the city

Medium: Ilford Ortho+ , Shot using a Pentax ME with a 50mm lens

Muriwai 4

Description: An image of the Gannet colony on a nice sunny day

Medium: Ilford HP5+, Shot using a Pentax ME with a 50mm lens

Scale of the Empress

Description: Colonial past of Karachi stuck in time, image of the Empress Market Tower which has a violent history.

Medium: Ilford Ortho+, Shot using a Pentax ME with a 50mm lens

Humble Hospitality

Description: Conductor of a Karachi bus, taken from the roof.

Medium: Ilford Ortho+, Shot using a Pentax ME with a 50mm lens

The manager of lands (Rhemat)

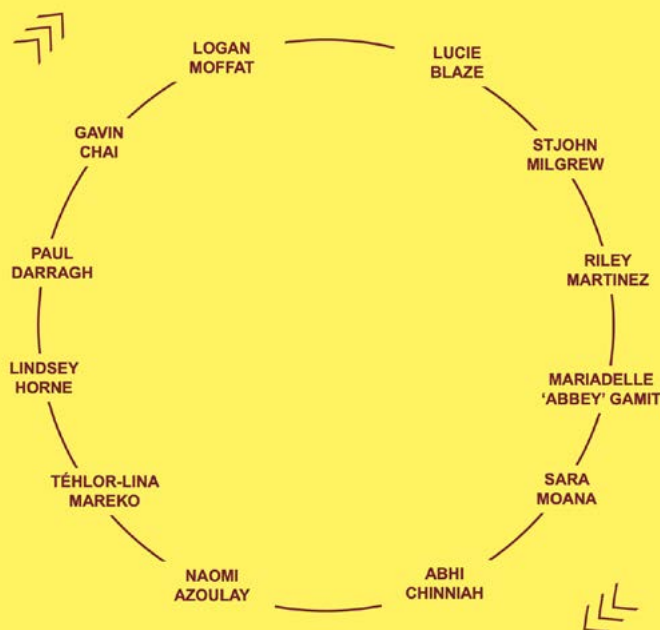
Description: The manager of my family farm standing in front of his hard work

Medium: Kodak Portra 400, Shot using a Mamiya RB67 with a 127mm lens

Studio One Toi Tū
12-21 May, 2022

ARTISTS ARTISTS

A group exhibition featuring 12 emerging and established Aotearoa New Zealand artists



EXHIBITION REVIEW

ARTISTS ON ARTISTS STUDIO ONE TOI TŪ



MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY
(SHE/HER)

Upon stepping into *Artists on Artists*, there's immediate excitement to be found in the wide range of aesthetic styles and techniques on display. In this group exhibition, twelve artists create and become subjects for portrait pieces, working with each other in a unique creative process. The result is so playful, and the sense of connection between the artists is clear—it's a hopeful and warm display of community as we emerge from a more isolated period in our social lives.

Lindsey Horne, a painter based in Auckland who initiated the exhibition, talks about the wide range of artists and techniques; "It's such a diverse crew of artists, not only in terms of the medium they use, but who they are as people... it's a portrait exhibition obviously, but there's so much variation within that. We're laying it out in the chain link so you follow who [captured] who."

The varying artistic processes are so engaging. Logan Moffat uses oil on

a shaped canvas panel, Mariadelle 'Abbey' Gamit creates a digital 3D Model, and Lucie Blaze applies mixed media to a skateboard deck. There are also photographs, digital prints, and acrylic paintings within the collection, and it's exciting to move between each approach, and imagine the differences in creation for all of these different artists. Though the exhibition is all portraiture, there's little similarity to be found in the pieces, and each artist's likeness is captured in completely different ways.

The interaction between the artists in the creation for the exhibition creates an exciting sense of connection between each piece. In real time, you track as the subject becomes the artist, and start to feel a sense of momentum from each piece to the next. There are interesting ties between the pieces, as each artist captures the character of their subject. Some, like UoA alumna Sara Moana and Naomi Azoulay utilise vibrant colours, while others like Horne and Paul Darragh play with creative shading. Some pieces are cheeky, some are more intimate, but the result of this ongoing collaboration is always warming.

The aim of centering artists as subjects provides further insight into the creative process, and each piece is given more depth and context by the one that

comes before. Horne explains that this is what was initially interesting about the project; "I thought artists would make the best subjects. They're not often in the frame, they're behind the camera or behind the canvas, and I thought shining a spotlight on them and having them as subjects would be so interesting."

Though, Horne expresses feelings of nervousness and excitement with this process, saying "It's kind of spooky having an image of yourself that isn't 100 percent photorealistic. An interpretation of yourself is confronting, especially so if you're used to being in the control seat."

Artists on Artist is an intimate exercise of empathy and care. It's an exciting exhibition to visit, as the creative process is clear and encourages you to think further about the artist who has carefully brought each piece to life. To see the artist as both subject and author in one room is unusual, and this first annual exhibition offers a satiating peek into an artistic approach we'll be hungry to see more of.

Artists on Artists is on display in the Upstairs Gallery of Studio One Toi Tū until the 21st of May. This exhibition also partnered with Āhua Collective.



TV SERIES

DANCING WITH THE STARS NZ

JESSICA HOPKINS
(SHE/HER)

If you also consciously avoid David Seymour, you might have tuned out of *Dancing with the Stars NZ* since his 'performance' of Snoop Dog's 'Sweat'.

But after a three-year hiatus, the competition show Aotearoa loves to hate is back. There are more TikTok dances than ever, along with a new cast of MediaWorks and TVNZ employees. Seriously, was no one else available?

One thing the show gets right is the judging panel. Their feedback is a good balance of constructive, encouraging, and entertaining: "You went absolutely hundies. But now you need to lower your shoulders."

James Luck's appearances as Electra Shock are a highlight. I can only describe it as a drag queen impersonating Samatha Jones. The only problem with the judging is that it doesn't matter if two of the highest-scoring performers are eliminated. First Sonia Gray, and then Aotearoa's first DWTS same-sex couple, featuring comedian Eli Matthewson.

They introduced a dance-off between the bottom two couples in the third week, but the damage was already done. And does it really matter? No, it's a charity dance competition. But it isn't enjoyable as a viewer to see someone, who could have gone all the way, go home too soon.

My score: 6-6-6.



TV SERIES

MOON KNIGHT
DIR. MOHAMED DIABFLORA XIE
(SHE/HER)

Timing its release with Ramadan, Marvel's latest TV series *Moon Knight* goes down a different route from its usual material. The show starts us fresh with the introduction of a brand new character and is seemingly devoid of the usual Marvel Cinematic Universe references—it's almost refreshing in a way.

Based on Egyptian mythology, the show is a captivating take on the Egyptian deities and how they fit into the modern day superhero world through using human avatars. The star of the show really is **Oscar Isaac**. He pulls off a stunning physical performance and is emotionally mesmerising—it almost feels like his talent was underutilised in some of the episodes. **Ethan Hawke** delivers a chillingly charming performance as the villain—something that I honestly had not seen coming.

I was impressed with the unreliable narration in the series from the titular character for the most part. However, this narrative style was seemingly lost after a couple of episodes when it became a lot less 'show' and much more 'tell', before being revived again near the end. Definitely was disappointed to see the unreliable narration come and go—I was really intrigued to see where Marvel would take such an interesting character.

A show that keeps you guessing.



- 1. Dream Of Me**
Wiri Donna
- 2. Day Job**
Soft Plastics
- 3. My Boy**
Marlon Williams
- 4. Choo Choo Train Feat. Baby Zionov**
Memory Foam
- 5. Roman Holiday**
Fontaines D.C.
- 6. SKINCARE**
P.H.F.
- 7. Holy Fury**
Jang
- 8. Lycra Cyclor Feat. The Bard**
Dead Famous People
- 9. Pai Maarire**
Te Kaahu
- 10. Hovering At Home**
Ben Woods



Declaration: A Pacific Feminist Agenda



OMNI ARONA NGĀPUHI, NGĀTI WAI (HE/HIM)

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki brings new breadth to Pacific feminism. *Declaration: A Pacific Feminist Agenda* brings together 12 artists from across the Pacific who give back a radical base to the most pressing issues of our time: Climate change and resilience, tino rangatiratanga (sovereignty) activism and social justice.

The collection is curated by **Ane Tonga**, the first Curator of Pacific Art at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, Tuākana mentor, and UoA alumni. The exhibition reignites a certain radical base brought on by the Pacific feminist movements of the 1970s. Before this, feminist movements within New Zealand focused mostly on issues that affected Pākehā women. Some within these groups noticed that the movement had lost its radical edge. This was brought back by the Pacific feminist movement of the 1970s. *Declaration* captures this same radical edge.

The exhibit is a mix of commissioned and pre-existing artworks, some being shown for the first time. These pieces offer an opportunity to learn about indigenous frameworks that have been hidden from mainstream New Zealand. They speak to the potential within

Pacific wāhine who have been and continue to be at the intersections of so much adversity. Beautiful decolonising imagery with a feminine aspect that displays the resilience of Pacific and indigenous wāhine.

These artists draw upon the power of matrilineal knowledge, their identities, and cultural collectivism to amplify the voices of Pacific women, but in a way that empowers the agency of all genders who decide to visit the exhibit. During my visit to the exhibition with my partner, we related to the pieces' indigenous and Pacific aspects. The feminine aspect of the art was not lost on me, but it was through my partner that I was truly able to grasp how powerful and influential those Pacific feminist movements were and how indigenous Pacific women continue to be.

A Pacific Feminist Agenda offers a cultural and feminine collection of artists. Something that contributes to the exhibit's uniform strength. The way all pieces are given the space to operate together makes for a proudly Pacific exhibition.

A relevance exists in the exhibit with the release of the IPCC reports on

carbon emissions and their effects on our Pacific Islands. Many Pacific female rangatahi are at the forefront of this movement, such as India Logan-Riley and Brianna Fruean. Climate change is a "threat multiplier", which escalates social, political, and economic tensions in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Climate change drives conflict and increases the vulnerabilities of women and girls, especially in the form of gender-based violence. Through the lens of intersection feminism, climate change risks are acute for indigenous, elder, and LGBTIQ+ women. Therefore, we must listen to female voices in this crisis, and this exhibition is a great opportunity for that.

The exhibition includes works by **Jasmine Togo-Brisby**, **Marti Friedlander**, **Jessicoco Hansell**, **Taloi Havini**, **Lonnie Hutchinson**, **Ioane Ioane**, **Sione Monū**, **Suzanne Tamaki**, **Latai Taumoepeau**, **Molly Rangiwai-McHale** and **Luisa Tora**, and **Kalisolaite' Uhila**.

***Declaration: A Pacific Feminist Agenda* can be seen at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki's until Sunday 31 July 2022.**



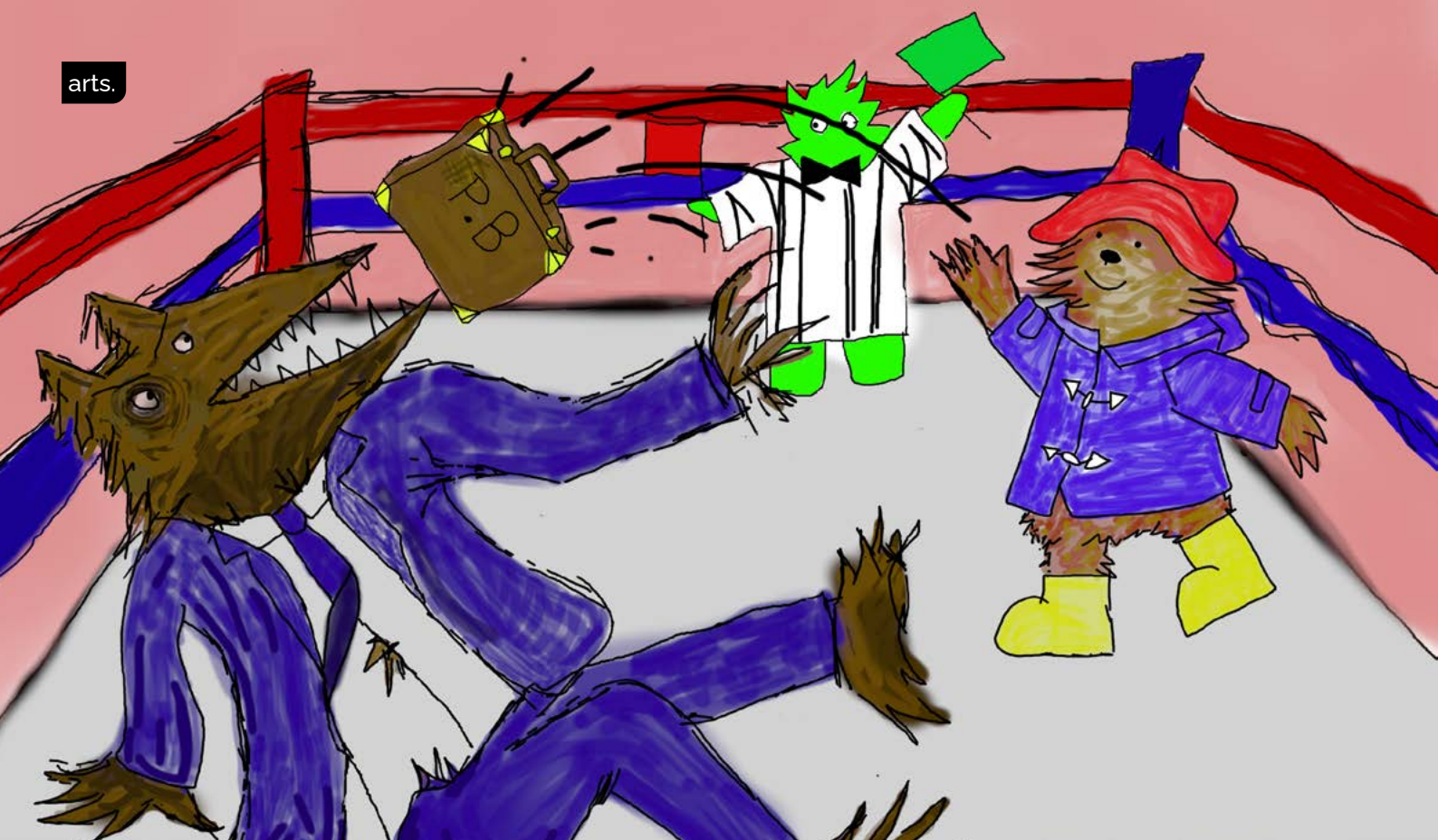
PHOTOS COURTESY OF AUCKLAND ART GALLERY TOI O TĀMAKI

TOP LEFT: MARTI FRIEDLANDER, *UNITED WOMEN'S CONVENTION*, HAMILTON 1979. E H MCCORMICK RESEARCH LIBRARY, AUCKLAND ART GALLERY TOI O TĀMAKI, ON LOAN FROM THE GERRARD AND MARTI FRIEDLANDER CHARITABLE TRUST, 2002.

TOP RIGHT: LUISA TORA, MOLLY RANGIWAI-MCHALE; *DECOLONISE YOUR TONGUE*, COMMISSIONED BY AUCKLAND ART GALLERY TOI O TĀMAKI, 2022

OPPOSITE PAGE: TALOI HAVINI; REKI PARAHA AND NAKAS: *STILL* INSTALLATION COMMISSIONED BY AUCKLAND ART GALLERY TOI O TĀMAKI, 2022

BOTTOM: JESSICOCO HANSELL, *AUNTY FM: TO BE OF SECRET SERVICE (PSYCHIC FREQUENCY UNKNOWN)*. INSTALLATION. COMMISSIONED BY AUCKLAND ART GALLERY TOI O TĀMAKI, 2022.



Green Flag vs Red Flag Movies

Movies that tell you whether to trust someone forever or run for the hills (full on sprint)



OMNI ARONA NGĀPUHI, NGĀTI WAI (HE/HIM), CRACCUM EDITORIAL TEAM

Green Flag Films

Craccum is here to supply you with some green flag movies to brighten your personality. People's top five favourite movies or songs are a reflection of their characters and personalities, so it's best not to signpost yourself as a *Joker* fan. The *Craccum* team recommends some green flag movies that might help you out or tell you if someone is a good person.

Coraline (2009)

Omni: Big green flag. Delightfully creepy, original, and quite magical honestly. Liking this gets you +5 personality points imo.

Flora: I've only read the book. Read it when I was eight. Too scared to watch the movie.

Naomii: Green flag because this movie definitely gave you trust issues and you need those to date in 2022.

Little Women (2019)

Omni: Green Flag. We've got to pay attention to female perspectives and stories. Most media is made for the male gaze and that's why most of you get no bitches.

Flora: I have two words. Timothee Chalamet. That's all.

Naomii: I'm gonna have to disagree that this movie was made for the female gaze because when they walk in the snow some of these girls wear *uggs*.
UGGS?!

Paddington (2014) & *Paddington 2* (2017)

Maddy: If someone says they love these films, you should instantly fall in love with them. They're cosy as fuck, and find the fun and joy in every moment they can. Anyone who can't get on board with a sweet talking bear, and finding the best in everyone,

deserves a hard stare.

Omni: Both movies are so wholesome, *Winnie the Pooh* vs. *Paddington* would be a good fight.

Naomii: These movies will make you want marmalade, and they feature some wholesome healthy masculinity. I just want to be treated like Aunt Lucy in *Paddington 2* okay.

The Hunger Games (2012-2015)

Nancy: Name one film series that exposes the exploitation and violence of capitalism, while also featuring a shirtless Sam Claflin. My mockingjay necklace and I will wait.

Arela: I too, had a mockingjay pin when I was 12 and yes I unapologetic wore it when my Year 7 English class went to go see the first one at the cinema. The *Hunger Games* is better now than the jarring mess of cinematography I thought it was at the time and

Catching Fire has always held up. Sorry *Mockingjay*, but you weren't great and I'll always see you as a Hollywood cash-grab ploy.

Maddy: What Katniss represented for this Gen Z is very important. However, if someone asks you about Peeta vs. Gale, they fully missed the point of everything. Double green flag if they mention the Tumblr fandom.

Red Flag Films

As a reformed film bro, I understand the intrigue of a problematic character. Problematic characters can be relatable, but oftentimes, become idolised for all the wrong reasons. Movies containing these characters do not make the movie bad but red flags usually arise when people take up an affinity with certain icky characters, sometimes centring their whole personality around them (you're not the protagonist from *Drive* so stop wearing that scorpion jacket my man). These red flag movies are often misunderstood by problematic men and even though they may be great movies, many can fall into the trap.

Navigating what these say about you can be tricky (Studio Ghibli? Green Flag. Anime? Not so much). Luckily, we at *Craccum* provide you with a list of red flag films that our team have fallen for, will defend to their death, and recommend not putting in your Tinder profiles.

The Wolf of Wall Street (2013)

Omni: Ah yes, the coin essential red flag movie. Especially if you're a business major. You can find these fans in OGGB.

Flora: Not gonna lie, this movie is fun to watch. Leo is hot, Margot is hot, Jon Bernthal is hot. Or maybe I'm exposing my inner film bro.

Nancy: Even as "eat the rich" as I am, this is arguably a good film. But if you're a finance bro who also claims this as your favourite movie, stop being greedy and commit to one evil please.

Naomii: Did you know this movie was made with embezzled Malaysian money? Now you do.

Tarantino Films

Omni: Honestly, love his movies, *Reservoir Dogs* is a red flag tho. If all his movies are your favourite, might want to show some diversity.

Flora: I watch *Pulp Fiction* purely for Mia Wallace. The opening sequence of *Inglorious Basterds* is also a masterpiece and you can't change my mind.

Omni: Flora is really suspect at this point.

Naomii: Okay I fucking love *Kill Bill* which is potentially my own red flag. But if I have to listen to one more dude talk about *Pulp Fiction* I will go Bride on them. Do you really love all 2 hours and 30 minutes of this film? Do you even know what's going on, or do you just like that one scene where you can see Mia Wallace's tits?

Anime

Flora: Red flag for boys. If I see that shit in any dating app bio, goodbye. First and last encounter I'm having with a man.

Naomii: I agree with Flora. No, I'm not Japanese just because my name is Naomii, and you can shove your "ni-hao" up your ass.

Arela: Red flag for anyone—why are their eyes so big if they're Asian??? Poor representation.

Omni: This is so sad, I have to throw away my *Demon Slayer* t-shirts now.

Joker (2019)

Omni: Gross.

Flora: Genuinely hate this movie. The film bro in me also hates this movie. Joaquin Phoenix slayed, but the movie is just a no. If people tell me they like this movie I'm taking that as a signpost that they're not to be trusted.

Maddy: Todd Philips made this terrible movie because of 'PC culture' ruining his ability to make terrible comedy movies. Isn't it a shame that people

don't want to see *The Hangover III*? Don't worry Mr. Philips—I'm still laughing at this travesty.

American Psycho (2000)

Flora: The scene where they exchange their business cards is so fucking funny. If you idolise Patrick Bateman though... I think it's time you reevaluate your life. Yes, I'm talking to you, the person I saw on Tinder with the Patrick Bateman profile.

Omni: Haven't seen this but everyone that's told me to watch it wasn't quite right.

Maddy: This movie is directed and written by women, and is clearly a clever comedy and satire. However, way too many people get the wrong end of the stick here. If it's clear someone finds the violence here cathartic, then yeah, leave that date/work meeting/family gathering immediately.

Superhero Movies

Flora: If you like the Marvel movies by Joss Wheldon, red flag. I will talk shit about *Age of Ultron* until the day I die. Marvel is mostly green flags otherwise though. The DCEU movies however, are a major red flag. Christopher Nolan's ones are thankfully excluded from that universe.

Omni: DC movies aren't red flags, they're just shit.

Gabbie: I am a strong believer that just because a movie is a superhero movie it's not a red flag. Do they pass the Bechdel test?! Maybe not, but we've gone centuries without feminism! What's one more.

Arela: I can't remember any of their names (movies or characters), and I won't try to. Besides, they're all played by white Chrises. I think that speaks for itself.

Nancy: Might be outing myself as a red flag here but I genuinely cannot name one superhero film where I haven't power napped. The pew pew pew and lack of character depth work better than any melatonin gummy on the market.

Maybe it's Maybelline, Maybe it's Doxycycline

I'm a feminist but I can't love my pimples



GRACE BURTON-MCKEICH (SHE/HER)

Believe me when I tell you that I love myself—well, for the most part. What's my secret? A sprinkling of positive affirmations. A dash of supportive friends and family... And 100 mg of doxycycline a day. I wouldn't go so far as to say this acne-causing-bacteria-killer changed my life, but it certainly made it easier to look in the mirror every day and not crucify my appearance.

I've managed to unlearn and reject many of the patriarchy's beauty standards in my time. Hairy bodies, hairless bodies, small bodies, large bodies, frizzy hair, dead-straight hair, etc., they're all beautiful. I could lie and say that I wanted to get rid of my pimples because they were painful, but at the end of the day, I've never been able to believe that I was beautiful with a pimple on my face. It's probably worse that I've never been diagnosed

with cystic acne or any other sort of skin condition, just your run-of-the-mill persistent pimples. The fact is, the patriarchy is insidious. No magazine ever published a model with a pimple on their face. Superheroes don't have to cleanse, exfoliate, moisturise, or tone their skin before they save Earth, and you don't see the kids in *Stranger Things* smothering any spot with toothpaste before they go to bed. If you're a woman who has pimples and manages to not give a shit about them, please teach me your ways. Obviously, the world has much bigger problems than the oiliness of my skin, but it's hard to dismantle toxic shit when you don't feel your best.

so hard that I readily cast aside some of my values in an effort to conform. SUE ME for willingly contributing to the

No magazine ever published a model with a pimple on their face. Superheroes don't have to cleanse, exfoliate, moisturise, or tone their skin before they save Earth, and you don't see the kids in *Stranger Things* smothering any spot with toothpaste before they go to bed.

It's not that I think acne takes away from other people's appearances. When I'm around others, I don't notice their blemishes and think 'ew', like I do when I see my own. Plenty of people have told me that just like I don't notice other people's blackheads, they don't notice mine. Sure, this classic, nobody cares sort of thinking helps me in other areas of my life, like wearing whatever clothes I want or star-jumping in the weights section of the gym (I was following a HIIT workout, okay!), but I've evidently internalised that my pimples are ugly



I've evidently internalised that my pimples are ugly so hard that I readily cast aside some of my values in an effort to conform. SUE ME for willingly contributing to the antibiotic resistance crisis, so I don't have to have something on my face.

antibiotic resistance crisis, so I don't have to have something on my face.

Most people who have experienced acne have tried countless things to eradicate their pimples. Since I was 14, I've done everything: cutting out dairy, avoiding sugar, drinking litres of green tea, eating berries (for the antioxidants), homemade Mānuka honey face masks, using only natural skincare products, and using rabbits-were-definitely-harmed-in-the-making-of-this skincare products. All to no avail. Sure, puberty and hormones have some effect on your skin, but whoever told me that by the time I was 18 my pimples would disappear, is a liar. It's well-known among researchers now that acne is caused by bacteria. Therefore, no amount of facials or fighting chocolate cravings will lead to flawless skin. If I

had known that I could have just gone to the GP and asked for doxycycline or something like it, I definitely would not have spent two years on Zoom calls cringing at how red parts of my face looked.

Some might say that I've let the patriarchy win. Sometimes I also believe that by failing to accept myself with pimples, I'm breaking the

cardinal rule of self-love—to appreciate yourself despite your imperfections.

Granted, in terms of crimes against feminism, it's a pretty small

one. And it's not like having a skin tone so even that photoshop is jealous of it has magicked away my other anxieties. The person who said "confidence comes from within" was speaking the truth. However, I do feel less like a catfish and am happy that I don't see face masks as a good way to hide my face anymore.

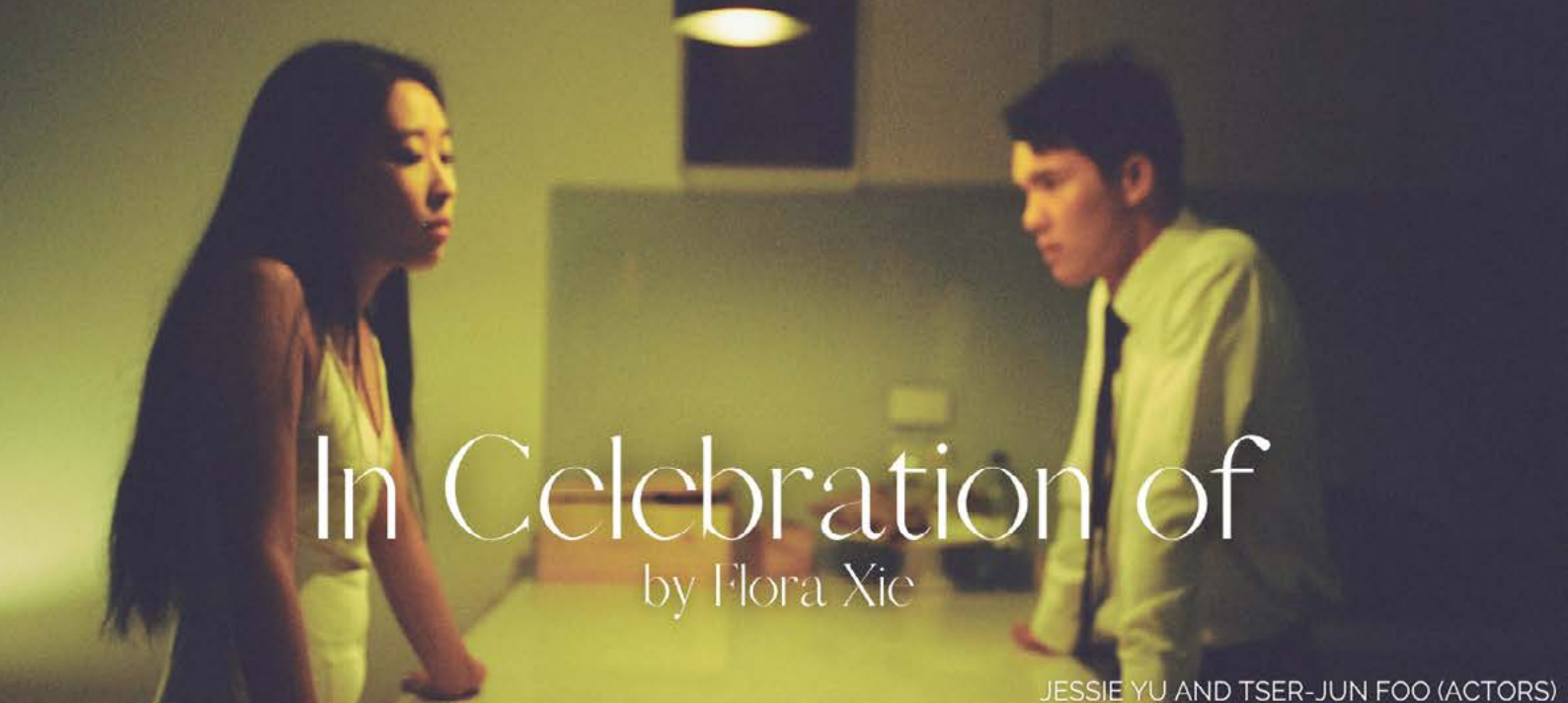
Yes, it's fucked up that to feel like the things I have to say are valid, I need to look a certain way. But I'm not sure that exterminating face bacteria makes me complicit in perpetuating problematic beauty ideals. In some ways, it makes me a better feminist. First, I spend way less time (needlessly) worrying about what other people think of me. This means I have more time to think about stuff I actually care about. Relatedly, having clearer skin makes me feel like I can put myself out there more. It's way less anxiety-provoking to introduce myself to new people or share my ideas. Third, I'm not throwing money at the capitalists in charge of Johnson & Johnson or L'Oréal in fruitless attempts to rid myself of pimples. Now all I need is an oil-free cleanser, moisturiser, and SPF (vital since doxycycline can make you more sensitive to the sun).

While it's absolutely important to try and love yourself as best you can, imperfections and all, it's not wrong to want to look or feel a certain way. For the longest time, clear skin seemed like a superpower that no amount of superfood would bestow upon me. Even though I might be helping to create the next superbug just so I can feel more confident, I'd like to think that in the end, I can use my power to do more good than harm.

Yes, it's fucked up that to feel like the things I have to say are valid, I need to look a certain way.

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In Celebration of

by Flora Xie

JESSIE YU AND TSER-JUN FOO (ACTORS)



JESSIE YU



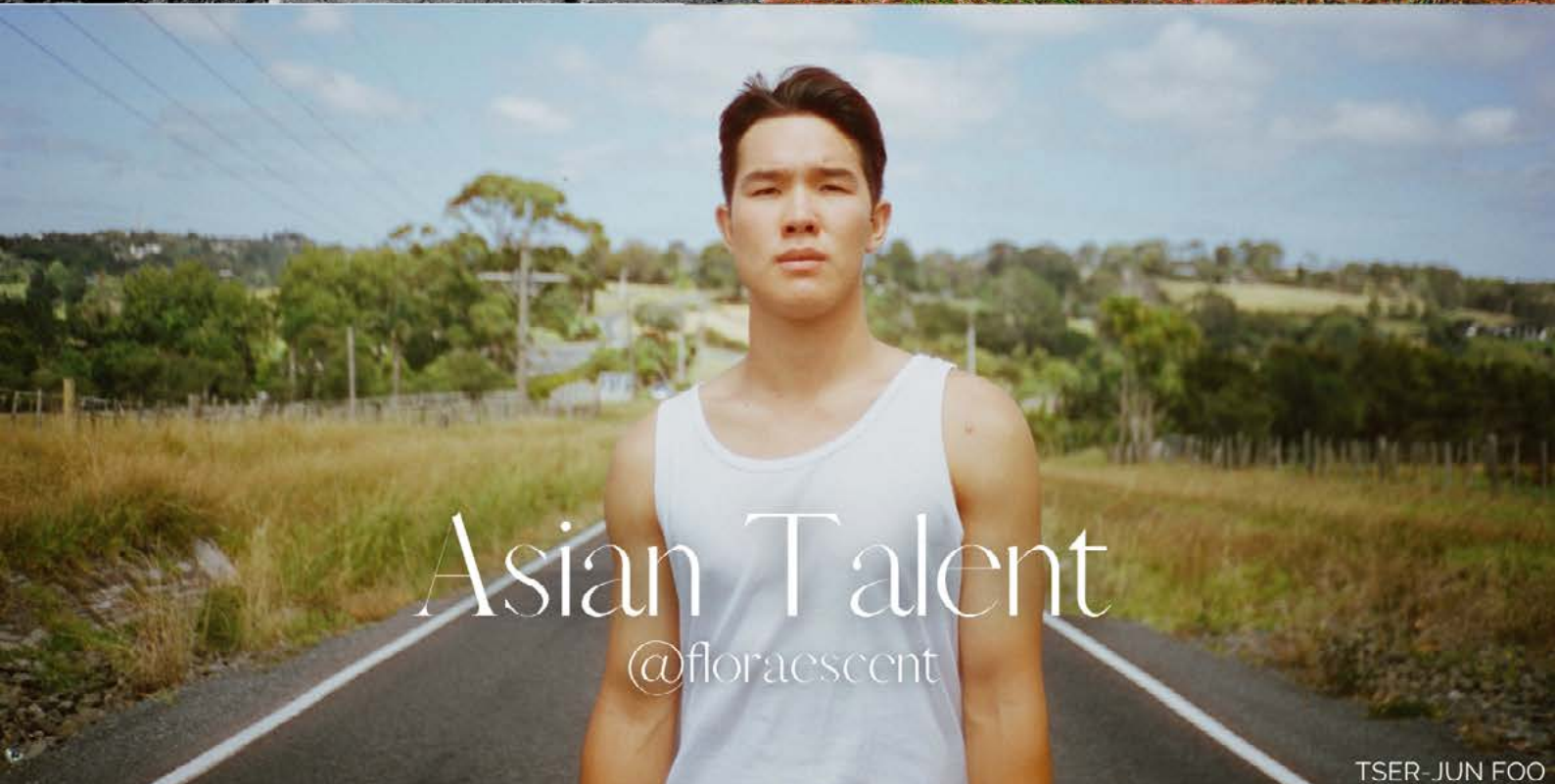
SALLY HAN (MUSICIAN)



JESSIE YU



CELINE DAM (ACTRESS & POET)



Asian Talent
@floraescent

Getting Back onto the Hobby-horse

Dan Nicky your hobbies



GABBIE DE BARON (SHE/HER) AND ARELA JIANG (HE/HIM)

Hobby is such a weird word. Good ole Oxford Dictionary says it's an "activity done regularly in one's leisure time for pleasure" (its other meaning is "a small horse or pony"—stunning work, English language). Even weirder is having a hobby. We do our silly little activities, rinse and repeat, for nothing but pure enjoyment. What a cool concept! So, why do we wreck ourselves with things like studying, working, and waiting in rush hour traffic that don't leave us with time to ourselves? But being serious, it's hard having a hobby these days that isn't co-opted by opportunism or devalued because it's not "useful", that's affordable and convenient. *That's just modern living, so suck it up*, you might rationalise. But that's not good enough. There's something liberating about recognising a hobby as a thing of pure enjoyment, all for you. It's too fucking rare these days to reclaim a hobby and dedicate yourself to something other than the grind, but we it's something we all need.

Gabbie

Why even have hobbies?! I have like a million things on my plate! like this job, Uni, my small business, managing relationships, and just trying to live my life; self-care-the-fuck-outta-my-day!! It's hard balancing it all, and I'm cracking, truly, so that's why I have hobbies. But I like hobbies that are

It's hard balancing it all, and I'm cracking, truly, so that's why I have hobbies.

concentrated on me-time and ones that help me hone in and exercise my focus. I tend to get distracted very easily, and allowing my mind to focus on one thing at a time, makes me feel like I have more control over my brain; hence, bettering my decision-making, time-management, and overall gives me time to unwind!

I am obsessed with kinesthetic-stimulational hobbies, specifically, drawing and crocheting. Firstly, drawing, it's my job here. I can't complain, I'm given a vague prompt and I let my imagination run wild which is super super, great, because I get

paid for it. It's tough because even if my degree is a Fine Arts degree, I don't get to enjoy and delve into illustration the way I would like to. Illustrating helps me unlock my inner child, and honestly, doing it as a job, where my work is so—shockingly—loved, makes my inner child feel safe and welcomed, even in a professional setting. And, I guess the more that we tackle that inner child in us, the better, right? I don't know how to explain it, but everytime I illustrate I become more... me?

But crocheting on the other hand, admittedly I haven't had much time for it these days but it definitely helps me reduce my anxiety—caused by OCD. I have THE WORST anxiety tick of peeling the skin off my fingers.

And, I guess the more that we tackle that inner child in us, the better, right? I don't know how to explain it, but everytime I illustrate I become more... me?

It is disgusting and hurts a lot but I can't fucking stop? But last summer, when I started crocheting (because I had ample time to), I stopped picking my fingers. Like, huh? Really Gabbie, that easy? RIGHT! Yeah, *that* easy. I was so shocked too, but crocheting really helped me unknot the tension in my head. It's crazy how it can be so devalued sometimes, because of its 'domestic-female' origin, but I've never found a solution to my bloody fingers like crocheting, and aside from that, I can just make myself a hot girl skirt, so fuck you Chad for telling me I'm like

your nan, because guess what, your nan knows a thing or two more than you!!



Arela

Hobbies are something that I've let slide since starting Uni. I think of them in terms of their usefulness: Do I get a tangible benefit from it? Does it look good on a CV? I hate that I have this mentality around things I used to enjoy that were just fun, but honestly I can't help it. I'm way too stressed about my employee marketability to invest time into activities I actually enjoy.

As students with little spare time and the pressures of getting A Job with our too expensive degrees, hobbies for ourselves are something we let go. At the very least, we chuck these cute hobbies on our CVs as a formality to show that we're real people. We feel the pressure to make room for more important things, like carrying a group assignment or a 5% quiz, and hobbies are the first to go. But hobbies with transferable skills can stay in the hopes that potential employers can look at it and go, "This cunt can write? See him draft up paperwork in an hour then". The amount of friends I know who put down 'reading' as a hobby on their CVs, but lament not having picked up a book in years due to life getting in the way makes me sad, man.

I experienced something really jarring in a job interview recently. I went into

the interview feeling quietly confident—I'd done my prep: researched the firm, practiced my delivery, made sure I was looking corporate hot. It was smooth sailing until the interviewer was bold enough to ask me a question. It was a curveball I did not expect: "What's your go-to hobby that helps you unwind from the stress of hard work?" When I tell you I blanked—caucasity. I ended up rambling about how advocacy is my passion cause I get to be social while trying to change the world. Cringe

bootlicker answer?
Absolutely.
Transparent and

inauthentic? Someone's actually gone to Specsavers 'cause they were seeing right through me. Instead of being upfront about my hobbies and what I actually do to kickback, I tried to look employable and embarrassed myself in the process. At the very least, I came off boring and weird because who the fuck with an actual personality claims advocacy is their hobby? I left that interview thinking how much I hate being HR's whore.

This is what I should have said to my interviewers: I do have hobbies. Even if I don't do them as much as I like, they're my go-to outlet. I play music, and that's what gives me a break from the bullshit of the grind. I'm honestly pretty shit at my instruments and I start more pieces than I finish. But I get to be loud for a good reason and it's almost like I'm venting—that's something I desperately need when things go wrong or the Uni stress is peaking. That same relationship is what I'm trying to rebuild with writing. I love it, except that passion dies every time the multiple 1500-word essays due in two days of each other start rolling in. But I'm trying to reclaim this hobby of mine—and I pushed myself into student journalism with its deadlines and issue

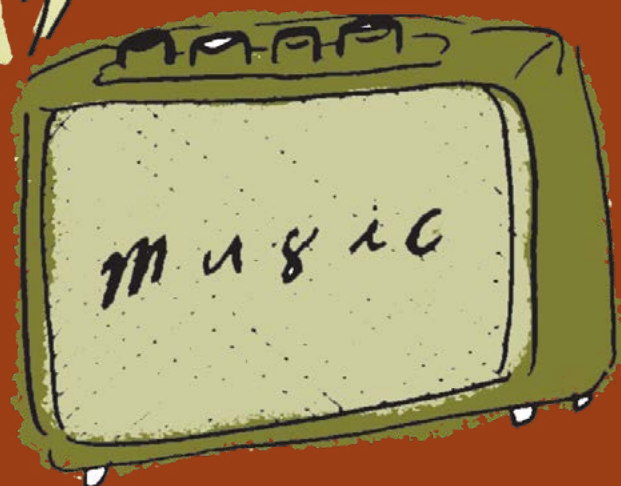


themes to give me the kick up the ass to keep me accountable.

Sure, you can find some desirable skill in these hobbies of mine, but fuck it. They're for me, myself, and I. Not every activity has to be *for something*—it's enough for you to just enjoy something for the sake of it. That's something you won't find on LinkedIn.

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Dinner & A movie

Vegan Butternut Squash Risotto



XZADIA JOHNSON

The weather is cooling, which means meals are getting hotter and movies are getting cosier. There's a very good chance you were forced to watch and analyse this in Year 10 English. *Pride and Prejudice* (2005) is everything you could want in a film. It is the OG enemies-to-lovers trope, a peak period piece comedy filled with romantic tension, and it gave us the beauty that is Mr. Darcy's hand flex. If I haven't sold you just from the flex alone, then allow me to convince you with my sixty word synopsis of *Pride and Prejudice*.

Elizabeth is one of five Bennet daughters who must marry well to secure her future. Elizabeth meets the wealthy Darcy at a ball, but he slights her and she is repulsed. Various family intrigues either reinforce or counter her opinion of him. When Darcy first proposes, she refuses angrily, but her opinion improves and she eventually falls in love. They marry.

This wholesome film is paired with an equally heartwarming vegan butternut squash risotto.



Ingredients:

Butternut Purée

1/4 squash, diced
2 garlic cloves
1 tbsp of dried sage
2 tbsp non-dairy butter
3/4 cup veg stock
Salt

Butternut Squash Topping

1/4 squash diced small
1 tbsp oil
Salt

Browned Sage Butter

1/2 cup non-dairy butter
2 tbsp dried sage

Risotto

4-5 cups stock
1/2 cup diced onion 2 cloves garlic
1 cup risotto rice
2 tbsp oil
1/4 cup white wine 2 cups rocket
Salt and pepper

Sage Butter: Place the butter into a small pan over medium heat. Stir occasionally to make sure that the butter does not burn. Add sage and continue to cook until the butter browns evenly. If using fresh sage, remove the leaves. Put in a small bowl and let cool.

Risotto: In a large pan or pot, on a low heat, add oil and sweat the onions until soft and translucent. Add salt to taste. Then add 1/4 cup of the stock liquid to further soften onions. Once the liquid has evaporated, turn the heat up to medium-high and add the rice all at once. Stir to coat the rice in the oil. Toast the rice for a few minutes. Once toasted, add the garlic. Deglaze the rice with the wine and stir until the wine evaporates. Add one cup of the stock and once it is almost absorbed, add 1 to 2 cups of the butternut squash puree and mix well.

When the puree thickens and reduces, continue to add stock only after the previous cup of stock has been absorbed. Stir frequently. Continue to add liquid and cook the risotto until it reaches the al dente stage (or to your preference). Once cooked, add salt and pepper to your desired taste. Fold in the roasted butternut squash and rocket. Mix well to warm and soften. Just before serving, add a bit of stock or leftover purée to loosen the consistency, if necessary.

To serve, top with fresh rocket and drizzle with browned sage butter.

Enjoy! (@ChefXzadz for more recipes)

Recipe

Purée: In a pot, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the diced squash, garlic, and the sage. Pour in the stock and add salt to taste. Boil the squash until fork tender. Once the squash is cooked, transfer the squash mixture to a blender (let it cool first, if necessary for your blender) and puree until completely smooth. Set aside.

Butternut Topping: Coat diced squash in oil, salt, and pepper. Roast in the oven for approx 10-15 minutes or until golden brown.

PUZZLES

WORD search!!

R	N	S	N	A	G	E	V	E	P	S	O	M	H
N	O	A	H	O	R	E	D	F	L	A	G	M	D
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DANCING
 DECLARATION
 CLUBS
 DERMATOLOGY
 CROCHET
 LIGHTRAIL
 GAMES
 EPSOM
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 PACMAN
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 PACIFIC
 REDFLAG
 VEGAN
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 FEMINISM

SUDOKU!

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HOROSCOPES

With the arrival of Mercury retrograde, Polly Prophet has officially gone into hiding. She sent this week's horoscopes by Albert Park pigeon to the Craccum office, along with a teddy bear in a graduation cap as an apology gift for disappearing (once again) without notice. Sources say Polly has found a new side hustle reselling stolen graduation bouquets, caps, and gowns on Facebook Marketplace.

ARIES

Stomp, stomp, stomp. A new and hotter you has arrived in town. She's bold, she's confident, and above all she's ready to take this week head on! However, be wary of making rash decisions. There's no harm in pressing the "phone a friend" button every now and then.



TAURUS

As you're still riding the birthday bitch wave, the universe has got more fun things up its sleeve for you! You might have noticed your schedule is filling up, your phone notifications are popping off, and even strangers on the street are smiling more at you than they did before. But don't take this favoritism for granted, be sure to pay the good energy forward too.



GEMINI

Surprise, surprise, Mercury retrograde is in the planet of Gemini. THANKS A LOT RACHEL, THANKS A LOT. On behalf of all the other astrological signs, we hope your hairdresser fucks up your bangs and you miss all your buses this week.



CANCER

For some mysterious reason, your ability to give a fuck has been zapped out of you by the planets above. My crystal ball and I are relishing the stone cold bitch energy you'll be channeling all month long.



LEO

You guys are the perfect stars for the next *Bring It On* film. Leos really are the best and only cheerleaders of themselves, never failing to hype themselves up in every situation. It's a skill that should definitely be endorsed on your LinkedIn.



VIRGO

Virgos always radiate Elle Woods from *Legally Blonde* vibes. You're put together, independent, and always win the argument. The universe loves that you don't take no for an answer, so get ready this week to receive whatever you've asked for.



LIBRA

This is hardly breaking news but remember your New Year's resolution to stop people pleasing? How's that going babes? Whatever it is that you're doing, it's not working. The world will not end if you tell people how you really feel.



SCORPIO

Your words may be as buttery as a croissant, but damn y'all are flakey. Quit the smooth talk, take ownership of your actions, and get over your fear of commitment. The universe has limited patience my friends.



SAGITTARIUS

As the days are getting shorter and the nights are longer, it's easy to feel like you're running out of steam. Instead of pushing yourself to work harder, take a step back and reflect on everything you've accomplished so far. You've got this!



CAPRICORN

Nostalgia has come knocking at your door my Capricorns! Whether this is in the form of rediscovering childhood hobbies, opening up repressed memories, or bumping into people from high school you forgot existed, this week memory lane is calling your name!



AQUARIUS

This month has been pretty turbulent with many ups and downs. While the foreseeable future remains blurry, this uncertainty will pass. In the meantime, embrace the thrill of closing old doors and opening new ones.



PISCES

The break you've been desperate to get your hands on is finally here! Slowly but surely you're starting to feel like your old self again. Make sure to celebrate your efforts in triumphing adversity, it has not been an easy feat...





4TH BDAY



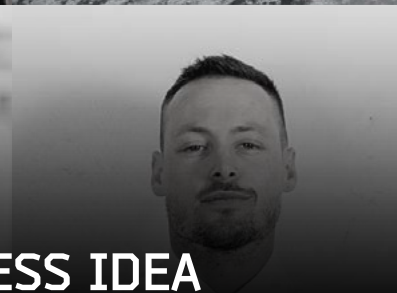
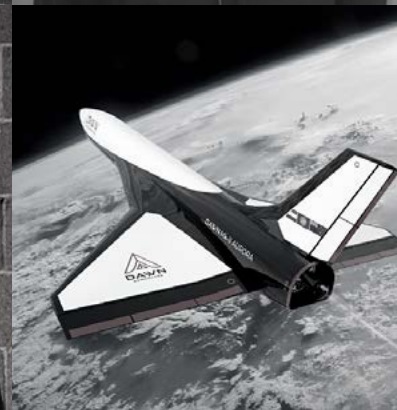
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