

Pracuum

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ISSUE 3: ENVIRONMENT

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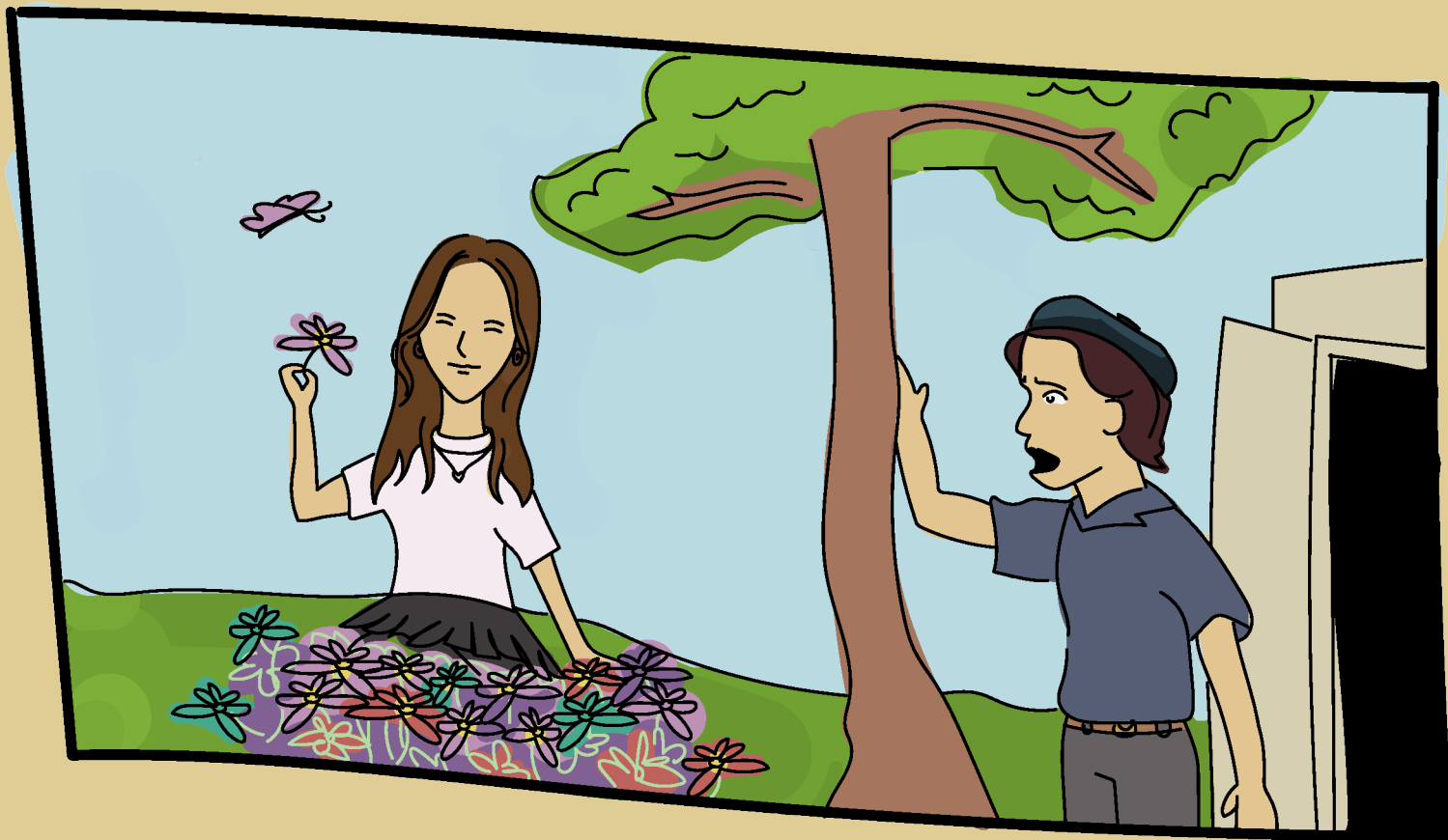
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Craccum Touches Grass!



KIERAN PANUI, MIKE CROSS, AND KALA BURGESS

It's been quite the journey getting to this point over the last week or so, many ideas and articles have fallen by the wayside half finished (much like many green and eco-centric initiatives under the new government) as we couldn't do them justice with such a short turnaround time.

We're sure they'll eventually make it into the magazine given time in some form or another, but there has also been a stark realisation of how little any of us actually know. However, knowledge is a journey -not a destination- which is also the case for humanity when it comes to the

environment and more specifically climate change, this will be a problem we will still be dealing with in centuries to come even if by some miracle all the nations on Earth can stop beating around the bush and agree on which path to take which to be honest whos lack of inaction and endless debate has exacerbated this issue to the point where mitigation is no longer possible and all that is left is deciding which kind of dystopian hellscape we find least offensive.

This week, we shine a spotlight on the existential menace of our era: climate change and the relentless march of

environmental degradation. From dismantling the absurdities of climate change denial to a tête-à-tête with the eco-conscious fashion mavens at Crushers, and even a scrutinising dissection of the repugnant Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, our latest issue promises to stir the pot, poke some proverbial bears, and quench the burning curiosity that keeps the youth of today awake at night. After all, what's life without a game of "Environmental Mad Libs" where the only constant is the impending doom of our planet?

To whom it *will* concern,

I come before you today with a somber heart, compelled to share a truth that can no longer be ignored. Our journey has led us to a crossroads, where the specter of a 2-degree Celsius rise in global temperatures and a looming 40-foot sea-level increase paints a dire portrait of our shared future¹.

In the face of these challenges, optimism wanes. Our best minds, armed with their most advanced models, find themselves falling short in predicting the severity of the impending storm². We are no longer spectators; the storm is upon us, and we must confront the reality of our self-made apocalypse.

The road ahead is fraught with mass migrations, resource conflicts, and global instability³ - consequences of our collective shortsightedness and insatiable greed. It is tempting to succumb to despair, to accept our fate as witnesses to the unraveling of our world.

Yet, in acknowledging the harshness of our reality, we must find the strength to adapt. Adaptation becomes our shield, but let us not forget our shared responsibility to navigate the waves that follow. Our systems, built on excess and disregard, threaten to crumble under the weight of our actions.

This is not a call for false hope but a plea for introspection. As we witness the first ripples of this self-inflicted storm, let us not forget the opportunity that lies within - an opportunity to redefine our relationship with the planet and with each other.

We stand at a crossroads, and the choices we make now will reverberate through the chapters of our species. May this address serve as a solemn reminder of the path we tread and a rallying cry for a collective effort to steer our course towards a more sustainable and harmonious existence.

In solidarity,

A concerned citizen of Earth

[1] STATE OF THE CRYOSPHERE REPORT 2023 - <https://iccinet.org/statecryo23/>

[2] https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-05876-1.epdf?sharing_token=rxagl4MRCU2riMtN8J6okdRgN0jAjWel9jnR3ZoT-v0NFKsVTFA8v6CuXyBr_cVSGgzWk4XXUHHfzkxA8946CDT9neqa-5dmlGo83XRFILlIFoC5llWwi2jplhQ1X_cx_xCYxLs_sNJHL-Nlg22TxASOApVcXN6b2il4EpalEIJofsenWNVrYo2qPQdPv1Oq6hzNTbplA8BP7-UetXc2D_maCBL71xvdplUnnDJjxFs%3D&tracking_referrer=www.washingtonpost.com

[3] <https://www.defence.govt.nz/assets/publication/file/Defence-Assessment-2021.pdf>



Armageddon... or I'mma Getting Outta Here?



ALAN WU

New Zealand recently won an award at the end of 2023, though not something you would have heard of. Our new government's campaign promise to revoke previous bans on offshore oil exploration has led to the reception of the "Fossil of the Day" award at the COP28 climate negotiations. Curiously, this Climate Negotiations conference was also hosted by the UAE, the second-largest economy in the Arab world, with a third of its GDP built on oil exports.

The chair of the congregation, Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber, is the chief executive of ADNOC, the state oil company. He claimed that there was "no science" in reducing fossil fuel emissions and the rise in global temperatures.

This award was in respect to the potential reopening of Marsden Point, New Zealand's only refinery. Shortly after, Shane Jones, the Resource Minister, sought advice to offer oil and gas companies "bonds" to protect against 'lost' income if a future government cancels their drilling rights. It sounds increasingly apparent that oil companies are making a return to New Zealand, here to stay for a while. I don't think I'd be the first person to say that many climate change movements are merely rooted in political ideology now and an ulterior agenda rather than preserving our natural environment and safeguarding it for future generations.

Corporate influence suspected in New Zealand's national policy-making is the headline today.

Recently, I stumbled upon a research article titled "The Politicization of Climate Change Governance". Professor Frank Wendler is the author of this paper, and he sets out a straightforward message: climate change is no longer about saving the environment. It's unsurprising for some of us to hear that scientific research and genuine environmental concerns were replaced with political agendas. Various political actors, interest

groups and entities have begun utilising climate change as a blanket movement to further their own interests. Of course, this varies to a degree depending on who is using it.

All of New Zealand's political parties unanimously supported protecting New Zealand's environment and advancing our country's progress with our international climate targets. As we can see, no one voted for the present government for their promises of protecting the environment. But what about some of the other players on the field?

One of the most significant announcements during the election campaign of political parties is the partnership between the Labour Party and BlackRock, who were willing to provide a \$2 billion fund to assist New Zealand's climate action.

Some of us who have spent some time observing the financial markets will recognise this name. Not only is BlackRock an asset-management company with over 10 trillion USD in assets, but it also has investments in various anti-humanitarian companies and industries: fossil fuels and weapons-manufacturing companies such as Lockheed Martin are regular holdings within BlackRock's portfolio.

Upon hearing this and researching about the other political parties and their supporters, many people would feel deflated about our representatives. So can we genuinely continue to rely on the old "the other guy does it better" argument? Can we genuinely be sure that none of our other political parties are fronting the interests of hedge funds and corporations? Especially interests that dissuade from what our population genuinely intends to put into action. The short and simple answer is this: "...actors who established policy subsystems cling to the stability of policy instruments if they benefit from such structures."

New Zealanders seem entirely comfortable with being lied to our faces. Many pieces of the information I have referred to, like BlackRock's portfolio holdings, are publicly accessible (<https://fintel.io/i/blackrock>). Yet politicians and corporate bodies will continue to use words you've grown accustomed to, like 'saving the Earth' and 'saving the bees,' to

deceive you of your vote. They will blatantly lie to you and do whatever it takes to gain from you what is useful for them. We come forward to the voting ballot after every term with fascinating hope that the next government will be different. Doesn't that get old for some of you?

But what do I know? I'm just the news guy.

I try to find student-relevant news and do my best to report the truth of what's going on. I implore every student to seek an objective understanding of the topic they are interested in learning, whether you are concerned with climate change or any other major world issue. Only then will we start to right ourselves against the polarising waves of (mis) information. Being truly informed only begins when we recognise that our beliefs and understanding of the world are constructed from the influence and propaganda around us.

Every decision we make, conscious or unconscious, is inherently affected into action by someone else.

Domorenok, E and Trein, P. (2023). Policy integration and the eco-social debate in political analysis. *European Political Science*, 23 (2). https://www.researchgate.net/publication/376554281_Policy_integration_and_the_eco-social_debate_in_political_analysis

Dr Wendler, F. (2022). The politicization of climate change governance: Building blocks for a theoretical framework and research agenda. *Universität Hamburg*. <https://www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/en/forschung/forschungszentren/css/working-paper-series/wp6-wendler-2022-politicization-of-climate-change.pdf>

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RUBBISH CYCLING

IS THE UNIVERSITY PROPERLY RECYCLING?



OLIVER COCKER

When I was but a first-year, and all the toddlers of the world today were not yet born, I lived in a cosy hovel in the O'Rorke Tower. There weren't many amenities. Indeed, the hot water would randomly go out for days at a time, there was no air conditioning, and they served a strange sauce thrice weekly. People will tell you that the atmosphere made the place; forward-thinking builders did not. But, to its credit, every day, cleaners would comb the floors, collect the rubbish and recycling, and take them on their way.

Of course, they would dump both refuse sets into the same black bag. Equally, there are suspicions across the other halls that the recycling program this University offers is more for the sake of the people than the environment.

This is not to say that recycling itself is a perfect process. 90% of glass is broken down to colour our roads and is slowly dispersed by rubber into the ground. Tens of thousands of tonnes are disavowed by the government, which ships plastic waste to low-income countries to dump in their rivers and preserve our clean, green image. Most electronic waste never sees the light of recycling and instead contributes to the

growing electrical bomb storage below our landfills.

But that does not mean it's useless. It still saves carbon emissions and saves the planet while also lowering overall costs for the creation of new items. For some reason, recycling clothing never seems to reflect the lower cost of production. And it makes you feel good. It gives you a purpose.

So why is the University (allegedly) not recycling? I put this question to them and received no answer in time for printing. In their defence, it was a quick turnaround, and it has been a busy week for student journalism. But that won't stop me from speculating. The threat of defamation does that.

Instead, what are my solutions? The simplest and equally most complicated is the need to recycle correctly. I doubt the lack of sorting is done because it would be too much effort. According to the last bin I checked in a Carlaw shared area, the following can be recycled as paper: Cans, bottles, plastic wrapping, and a whole muffin. You can get to University with a range of understanding of materials, but just because the muffin is wrapped in paper does not mean the entire thing is paper. We

are not supposed to recycle it at all, due to the food waste.

The rules have changed, and there are some mistakes that you can be forgiven for making. Aluminium foil is no longer recyclable, and neither are items smaller than five centimeters in length. For the former, it is probably due to trace food waste, and for the latter, some engineer might not have built their conveyor belts large enough. For reparations, the school of engineering should take up a collection of tiny metal objects and donate them to the art school for a new piece.

For whatever reason, you and the University may choose not to recycle, but we have to remember that this is a reciprocal relationship. Whatever we want to take to the University, we must give in kind. Often, that is a quick ten thousand in exchange for a goat-hide scroll, but in this case, we put our metal coins in the right basket, and they ship it off. No one loses, and maybe no one really benefits. But some polar bears will thank you for the extra seconds of life you buy them.



CLIMATE CHANGE DENIAL

THE EPIDEMIC OF ANTI-SCIENCE RHETORIC



REEMA ARSILAN

On a recent voyage into Antarctic waters, scientists found worrying evidence of rapid ice melt, with substantial changes to the area, and record lows of ice cover. Clear, distinct evidence for climate change is being produced all the time, from ocean temperature rise, to observable changes in ecosystems, to an increase in extreme weather events. Despite this, there are still a large proportion of New Zealanders that don't believe in climate change.

There are always going to be some dissenters because complete consensus in any society is rare, but surveys show that as many as 17-20% of New Zealanders don't believe in climate change. This is a large chunk of the population who persistently dodge all sense of reason and stubbornly refute scientific evidence despite having no background in or understanding of science. In fact, lack of scientific education contributes directly to mistrust of and scepticism towards scientific evidence; more and more people aren't just concerned with details, but outright deny sound evidence and observation.

The increase in anti-science sentiment is not just confined to the climate change issue, but the same kind of people were very vocal about Covid-19 and vaccinations. It should come as no surprise that there is a significant overlap between climate change deniers and anti-vaxxers as the rhetoric

and ideology behind both are essentially the same. While people who hold these extreme views do make up a disturbingly large proportion of the population, they are still in fact just a very vocal minority. Brian Tamaki claims that the suggestion by "liberals" that extreme weather is indicative of climate change is all a "convenient lie that aids their liberal agenda", and while he's very loud he hardly represents the views of the majority of New Zealanders.

Brian Tamaki is not exactly the pinnacle of expertise on anything really, but the extreme views that he consistently vomits are shared by many, albeit with some variation. We can laugh at fundamentalists; it's slightly harder to laugh at people who make the same arguments with a credible enough facade to be extremely influential. An example of this is Jordan Peterson, a right-wing Canadian psychologist whose YouTube channel has as of right now more than 7.7 million subscribers. Peterson spouts rhetoric in a very intellectual sounding way which lends him credibility despite the fact that all of his arguments are based on pseudofacts, cherry picked data, and the knowledge that none of his audience know the first thing about climate science. His loyal fanbase believes every carefully chosen word that he says, and so he has an incredible amount of influence among certain people worldwide.

In Aotearoa, some of our leaders don't

so much carefully choose their words as have words fall out when they open their mouths to breathe. A member of the National Party backtracked on her sceptical comments about human induced climate change in February of last year. In August, David Seymour was insisting that one of his senior MPs no longer believed that climate change is a hoax, and that only nutjobs believe that the planet is warming. Seymour also claimed that the ACT Party never contributed to climate change denial, and that policy on their website from the ancient past of a few years ago doesn't impact their credibility. Meanwhile, Winston Peters spent the election spreading misleading information at public meetings. Commitment to climate action doesn't ring true with such rhetoric floating around, nor does it when the coalition Government's plans include reversing the ban on oil and gas exploration.

I grew up in rural areas, and I've heard pretty much every argument against climate change that you can imagine. We are well past the point where this should even be a debate. The facts are clear, and denying that the climate is changing at this point is akin to denying that the Earth is round, or that dinosaurs were real, or that there is an ethnic cleansing happening in Gaza. The climate crisis is one of the biggest issues we face, and there is no room to accommodate the feelings of conspiracy theorists in finding solutions.

Environmental critique of Yuki Kihara's work "Fonofono o le nuanua" (Patches of the Rainbow)

Fonofono o le nuanua is a memorabilia of what used to be.



IATUA FELAGAI TAITO

When I see this I am inspired by the words of American author Jacob Anderson-Minshall: "How Queer Islanders Are Taking Back Paradise... Disrupting the colonial visions and marketing imaginations of untouched islands".

This work was inspired by Postimpressionist French painter Paul Gauguin as in his art pieces he arguably had Samoan people and Samoan fa'afafine in his paintings. Fa'afafine simply means 'in the manner of a woman' for someone who is born a male at birth. It is a nuanced identity as it sits in a gender-liminal and cultural space, where in Samoan culture it is a classified third gender.

Ultimately a Samoan Japanese fa'afafine artist Yuki Kihara created her Paradise Camp exhibit around being inspired and critical of Gauguin. In which Fonofono o le nuanua was one imagery from her Paradise Camp exhibit.

This is a huge accomplishment for Aotearoa as she represented her artistic work Paradise Camp for NZ to be a part of the 59th Venice Biennale 2022. Venice Biennale is the most prestigious visual arts occasion internationally and it's usually known for being the Olympics of the Artworld. It is held every 2 years in Venice, Italy.

Kihara's goal in her art is to amplify Fa'afafine voices and to draw attention to issues like colonisation and climate change.

Kihara explains her work, "I'm looking at the

intersectionality between identity politics, decolonization, and environmental crisis – it's a very, very nuanced space. I think that it's best that people are taken through a journey of the universe".

She states that it is Samoan queer focussed in this imagery. And emphasises this in her many creative works in the past. Relevantly in this imagery of Fonofono o le nuanua, it features a group of fa'afafine near the river. When I view this, I see an untouched Samoa, where the environment complimented the binaries of identities of Fa'afafine, Tauatāne, Fa'afatama, gender non-conforming peoples and gender and queer diversities before colonisation came into Samoa.

Being a queer Samoan I know when I saw this I saw beauty, but also I see the deeper implications of 'living in island paradise'. Implying notions of Fa'afafine authentically not having these sensationalised lives that media and anthropologists state when thinking of the islands and its people. And when you add queerness in the equation, in relation to the environment people tend to think it is immoral or wrong.

But in Samoan culture and history before Christianity we valued the environment in such a special way. Where spiritually in Samoan history we believed in animism. And many Samoans still believe in that concept around all beings in the universe, including animals, plants, rocks, lands, and waters, have agency and a spirit.

Through this context, if I had to environmentally critique Fonofono o le nuanua. I would say that it restores Samoan queerness being a beautiful aspect of Samoan culture, and the environment encompassing cultural ways of animism and spirituality. Having that connotation around championing indigeneity in all its forms before the 3 C's came into Samoa. The 3 C's being: Colonisation, Christianity and Capitalism. As I learnt this from Honorary Associate Professor and Polynesian Panther Melani Anae in her Pacific Studies class in 2018.

As a result, this epically changed the way we viewed our environment, socio-cultural relevance, gender and sex, cultural norms, as well as faith and spirituality.

This imagery shows the resilience of climate change affecting Pacific communities at the forefront first, yet a lot of climate activists are not being heard and then shunned. This in a creative sense allows us to reconnect with what was lost (so other forms of indigenous knowledge) and to continue to fight despite the intergenerational trauma of colonisation and climate change.

Fonofono o le nuanua is a memorabilia of what used to be, holding nuances so deep that you need to look at it and study it, and be inspired by it to make a difference. A creative difference where it speaks louder than words can ever do.



Whenua & Hauora; Land & Well-being

The benefits of environment for Māori students



BLAZE WEBSTER

Everyone knows Aotearoa for its greenery and people. Turns out, many elegant and attractive environments are on iwi land. My favourite iwi-owned natural attraction is the Waiomio Glowworm Caves, about a 5 minute drive from Kawakawa, Northland. Here, I learnt about the rich past and kōrero nehe that encompassed a beautiful scenery I saw right in front of me, close enough to touch with my own hands and feet. I was told about the roots of my ancestors and how they came to be in the land that was. To me, it suddenly enhanced how important it is to preserve these incredible places and the stories of our local iwi and hāpu, being vital to keeping many lessons to pass on to future generations.

For everyone alike, going out into nature everyday is proven to be beneficial for physical, emotional, spiritual, and mental health (Hauora). Nature supports our hauora by calming the mind, and giving us a chance to reset from the deeply-embedded technological world we live in day by day. Just an hour a day in nature could help reduce anxiety and stress. However, long exhausting walks are not needed to feel the tranquillity of the environment. Going for a stroll to the museum can also do wonders. I.e., after a long day of lectures, go touch some grass!

For us Auckland Uni students, there are over 600 routes to walk around in Tāmaki Makaurau, and 9 of them are wheelchair accessible. For example, the Māngere maunga has an option to have a guided Māori tour to learn about the history of the maunga and the community built around it!

A different walk I know is the Cascade Kauri/ Te Piringa in the Waitākere Ranges. The walk's distance varies depending on which route you take, but it can be a choose your own adventure! Watch out though, times of completion can range between 20 minutes and up to 4.5 hours. Te Piringa also has some of the oldest Kauri trees in the Waitākeres, and, lucky for us, is finally open after a long 6 years of fighting Kauri dieback. Rangitoto Island is another place I have adventured in, and can also be a great place to go with a bunch of mates. The Rangitoto Summit Track is a decent track that is 7 km long and takes approximately 2 hours return. On this track, you will pass lava fields and the country's largest Pōhutukawa forest! Just be sure to take the right friends.

It should be noted that the majority of Māori tours are family and/or iwi-owed. For many of these people, sharing their land to onlookers

and telling their kōrero nehe is the only way they can get an income. Furthermore, entertaining tourists is a fantastic way for Māori people to strive and aim for tino rangatiratanga. Regardless, I believe it will always be important that we all go to our local whanau, so you too can see for yourself what kōrero nehe there is to find...

Glossary

Aotearoa = New Zealand

Whenua = Land

Hauora = Well-being

Tāmaki Makaurau = Auckland

Maunga = Mountain and/or Volcano

Whanau = Family and Kin

Kōrero nehe = Ancient History or Text

Tino rangatiratanga = Self-determination and/ or Sovereignty

GIVING A

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOEL WOODS OF HOLIDAY RECORDS

A Kiwi business leading the world towards sustainable vinyl record pressing



LEWIS MATHESON CREED



Last week, I sat down for drinks with Joel Woods, co-founder of our country's only vinyl record pressing plant. Previously, Joel studied Law and Commerce at Otago and spent some time living in the Netherlands. His company, Holiday Records, opened its doors in 2018 and is run alongside his business partner, Ben Wallace. Together, they broke a 31-year hiatus, where all music from Aotearoa had to be put to wax off-shore. Their factory couldn't be more local, just minutes away from campus on the other side of Wellesley Street. They recently made headlines for introducing BioVinyl, a natural oil-based replacement for fossil fuel-based PVC, which reduces the carbon footprint of the material records are made of by 92%. But this isn't just a greenwashing PR scam. Giving a *DAMN.* about the environment is part of Holiday Record's *DNA.* (yes, they have actually made Kendrick Lamar's records there). While they might be *HUMBLE.* (okay, I'll stop) about their achievements, Ben and Joel are fast becoming local legends with their generosity, such as pressing up-coming local artists' music for free and sponsoring UOA's BYO Music Club.

Holiday Record's sustainability efforts

Joel and Ben have made a real effort to ensure every aspect of their manufacturing process is as green as can be. This starts with the base ingredients. The regular PVC they use doesn't contain any toxic heavy metal stabilisers like lead or cadmium, and their recent adoption of BioVinyl takes this a step further by moving away from fossil fuels altogether. The cardboard packaging they use to make those iconic vinyl sleeves is made of 50% recycled paper (the other half is FSC-sourced, and of course, they use eco-friendly inks). Remarkably, they also use 100% recyclable shrink wrap to seal their records. From there, their pressing machine is energy efficient,

using 35% less power to heat the plastic. Then, once the grooves are pressed into it, they cool their records using a closed-loop water system. Any mis-pressings are cored of their label (the center label of records sadly can't be recycled) and sent to Marley NZ to be remade into pipes. Btw, they had the machine they use to recycle their records, especially made; this isn't off the rack or a standard practice by any means. They also offer a free vinyl recycling service, so if you have used records you want to dispose of sustainably, bring them down to Holiday! Now, onto the interview!

How would you describe your business in one word?

Ambitious.

What colour are you feeling today?

A forest green.

What was the last album you listened to?

Chloë and the Next 20th Century by Father John Misty. I was listening to it in the shop earlier this morning. I really recommend it; I don't think it got the attention it deserved.

Favorite restaurant?

Odettes Eatery. It's the one I come to the most for sure; we even have an account here. Ahahaha.

What inspired you two to found Holiday Records?

Ben was in a folk band, and he wanted to get a record pressed for his band, but he realised there was only one record plant in

Australia that could get it done, so we went down a rabbit hole looking into the feasibility of starting a plant here. Conveniently, there were a couple companies building brand new automated machines at the time that inexperienced people could operate, like us.

What inspired the name "Holiday Records"?

Everyone loves a holiday for one; it just has a good ring to it and positive energy.

To give our readers an idea of your global reach and the range of music you press, what are some artists you've pressed vinyl records for?

Tash Sultana was one of our first big ones, but we've made stuff for Lana Del Rey, Kendrick Lamar, Post Malone, Johnny Cash, Dire Straits, Billie Eilish, Ocean Alley, Denzel Curry, and even Jack Johnson. We've also pressed plenty of local artists, like Lorde, Fat Freddy's Drop, Avantdale Bowling Club, etc.

What is the most challenging aspect of running a pressing plant? How many records do you make on an average day?

At the start, it was learning the craft, but now it would be dealing with so many different parties, suppliers, and clients and coordinating it all. We also have set a really high bar and standard for the quality of our records. Right now, we turn out around 800 records a day.

Since you run the business as a duo, is there a particular area you and Ben specialise in?

Ben is more on the sales side of things; it's

a big job dealing with smaller indie artists reaching out and bigger artists, too. I'm more on the operations side, taking care of making stuff.

What's a memorable encounter you've had over the years? A meeting with an artist or band that left an impression?

We don't meet the artists often, although many local artists come through to see their records being pressed. We have had a few international artists visit when touring. Like we had Ocean Alley come by. Oh, and Denzel Curry came in one time by complete accident; he was just walking by! This was years before we pressed his records, too.

For sceptics, why do you think music on vinyl is still relevant compared to streaming?

I think customers always want a physical item and format to hold, buy, and have in their collection. I feel like vinyl has really solidified its place in that chosen format because it's the biggest and most visually appealing. You can also have different coloured vinyl, and it has a distinct sound.

What are each of your favourite "holiday" records you've made so far?

Mine would be Dire Straits, their self-titled album, which was quite cool. Ben's would be the Johnny Cash stuff.

What drives your ambition to make vinyl more sustainable?

In two words: climate change. I think everyone is aware they need to do their bit, and as manufacturing, it's even more important. When you're dealing with suppliers and making huge amounts of things, changing your processes to be more sustainable will have a much bigger impact than any one person could have. In my opinion, it's also good business, as artists and labels generally prefer more sustainable

manufacturers. We're always developing new ways to be more sustainable and make our impact as low as possible.

What would you say to our environmentally conscious readers, stuck between wanting to support the musicians they love by buying records and not wanting to hurt the planet?

Look out for BioVinyl. The only challenge right now is you might not be able to tell if a record is made of BioVinyl. Steaming and digital is not clean and has its own environmental impacts.

What's something you're both looking forward to in the future with Holiday Records?

Rolling out the bio vinyl. We only have black right now, so doing colours would be cool, and phasing out standard vinyl completely. Our ultimate goal would be to make a carbon-neutral product. The most exciting space is the sustainability space.

Lastly, is there anything you want to plug or shout out to our readers?

Thanks to everyone who is buying vinyl and supporting independent local artists! Buying vinyl records for artists is a great way to support them and their revenue.

Cleaning polluted streams

One of Joel's closing points about the environmental impact of streaming touches on a dilemma I face daily as a consumer of both digital and physical music. To help our readers reduce their impact, I recommend these four easy ways to reduce your musical carbon footprint.

Stream lower-resolution audio

The most popular audio streaming apps, such as Apple Music and Spotify, have settings to reduce audio quality. Smaller files require less energy to transmit. And realistically, you aren't gonna notice the difference, as that 16-bit 44.1kHz Lossless FLAC file will always sound bad over the sound of the engine at the back of the bus.

Download your playlists

Not only does this save you money and data (if you're like me and aren't on an unlimited plan). But it will save your phone's battery, as playing an already downloaded track uses a fifth of the power required to play a streamed one. An hour of streamed music = 55 grams of CO₂! Server farms don't power themselves.

Avoid repressings. Shop used Vinyl, CD and Cassette :)

You might want that new pressing of *Dark Side of the Moon* or Queen's *Greatest Hits*. But there are already trillions of pre-loved pressings, so do the environment a solid and first go to a record store's secondhand bin, TradeMe or (if you're lucky) an op shop.

Only buy your absolute favourite albums on vinyl!

As a rule of thumb, a new CD has a lower carbon footprint if you listen to an album for more than 5 hours. A new vinyl record has a lower carbon footprint if you listen to an album for more than 17 hours. So, you might want to limit your physical music purchases to music which tops your Spotify-wrapped.

Sources and further reading:

<https://holidayrecords.com/pages/sustainability>

<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/earth-day-climate-change-streaming-downloading-ajr-1339228/>

<https://www.newstatesman.com/environment/2021/11/how-environmentally-damaging-is-music-streaming>



Herald of the Oil Spill

ANYA JOHN FRANCKE

Trickle out of pores of rusted vessels.
Swim across imagined borders.
Parade viscous in the gills of their food,
The arms of their attraction,
The lungs of their world,
Their home,
Their factory.

Harvest the sea as they harvest you,
Blind to power until power is not enough.
Splinter the ribs of containment,
A waiting room for the machine,
The labour,
The man.

Rest upon waters,
A testament to their work.
Glisten for all to see,
Plaster every ripple purple orange black,
Drown oceans in their mistakes,
Their freedom,
Their God.

Gold of the earth,
This is a crusade.
Breathe foul on winds that infect shores,
Cease only when extinction is imminent.
Be what they call 'An accident',
'A punishment',
'My plan'.

Self-Destruction

EMMA PHILIPS

I don't think we'll have to worry about the next ice age
We won't be frozen remnants of humanity in glaciers

Perfectly preserved
Unmoving
Run your fingers along the rock face

Feel each layer
Other eras at your fingertips disintegrating into dust and sand in
your hands
And you could bury yourself in labyrinthine caves in the un-
knowing dark
But you don't emerge transformed
There is never a great metamorphosis into something better
Just the same old caterpillars
Frozen in a Milankovitch cycle without the eccentricities and
nuances
And we've offset cooling just enough to burn ourselves alive
No we won't move in slow-motion inside hunks of cracking
sliding ice
Refrigerated corpses to be discovered by alien archaeologists
Dust blows fast across deserts
Solar systems
Dead galaxies

WAYS YOU



CAN GET INVOLVED

EVENTS, VOLUNTEER,
PROTEST OPPORTUNITIES



KALA BURGESS



For a month, Auckland City is running EcoFest, where you may host an event, volunteer, or just be there and join in the fun. EcoFest 2024 is the perfect opportunity to connect with others regarding climate action and join in on creating a better future. There are so many different events happening during EcoFest located all across Auckland, which you can access through the link: <https://www.ecofest.org.nz/>

AUCKLAND BEACH CLEANUP, TE ATATU PENINSULA

23 MARCH 2024 11:30AM - 14:00PM

WAITEMATĀ HARBOUR AT HARBOUR VIEW BEACH RESERVE.

Have you always wanted to join a beach cleanup but never knew when or where they were happening? Well, here is the perfect opportunity for you to do so! Not only do you get to help clean up the beach, but you will also get the chance to learn about the significance of the area for bird biodiversity and the importance of pest control. There will also be a little celebration towards the end with music, games and drinks.

<https://sustainablecoastlines.org/event/auckland-beach-clean-up-te-atatu/>

CLUBS

CHECK OUT THESE THREE COOL CLUBS ON CAMPUS, COME BACK FOR NEW CLUBS EACH ISSUE.



PHOTOSOC

Discover the magic of photography with PhotoSoc at UoA! Whether you're a pro or a novice, join us for workshops, field trips, gear rentals, and exhibitions. Elevate your skills and connect with fellow enthusiasts. Mark your calendars for our Annual General Meeting on 12th March, 5-7 PM, at the Student Union.



TAIWANESE AND NEW ZEALAND STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION (TANSA)

Celebrating our 30th anniversary, TANSA has 90+ sponsors offering exclusive discounts/deals to you! Our 'Taste of TANSA' event is an upcoming highlight in our busy social-cultural club's calendar on March 16th. Join our CBD culinary journey, savour delicious Asian flavours from our sponsors, enjoy fun games, and meet new friends!



UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Our club is an open and inviting space which welcomes all Christians and those who are curious to come together and share in fellowship through Christ. We host social weekly meetings as well as retreats and social events throughout the year.

AUCKLAND: SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORKING EVENT

16/03/2024 4:30 PM - & 17 MAY 2024 7:00 PM NZST

BREW ON QUAY QUAY STREET, AUCKLAND CBD, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Do you want to learn more about sustainability and connect with others? The Auckland Sustainability & Environmental Networking Event brings together experts and or anyone interested in sustainability and the environment. You will get to meet with individuals and explore ideas, experiences, and knowledge in sustainability. This is a great way to network and indulge deeper into the world of sustainability.

TE ARA AWATAHA: COMMUNITY REGENERATION EVENT

20/04/2024 10AM-12PM

TE KAITAKA | GREENSLADE RESERVE, NORTHCOTE

Help grow the new greenway in Northcote, Auckland. It is a wonderful way to bring people together, foster community spirit, and work towards positive change.

<https://kaipatiki.org.nz/whats-on/te-ara-awataha-community-regeneration-event/>



NATIONWIDE CLIMATE STRIKE

05/04/2024

ACROSS AOTEAROA

Join the nationwide climate strike organised by School Strike 4 Climate in collaboration with other environmental and social justice groups across Aotearoa. The strike aims to address climate change and social inequalities, welcoming participants of all ages for an intergenerational movement. For more information, head to the link below.

<https://www.nzsee.org.nz/events/intergenerational-school-strike-for-climate?fbclid=IwAR3rN9mJAq5u-Tz4ih1zt2aNY4uSBocGmqSdXc1mF-gYKKhZEtmqzPSuKMIM>



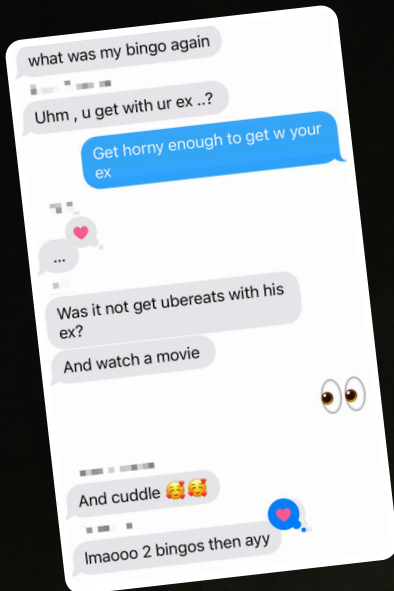


DORMCOM

FLOOR BINGO



KAAVYA GHOSHAL



At halls, you get close *really* fast. From strangers to best friends, from knowing absolutely nothing about each other to creating the most outrageous bingo card, we thought we'd never tick off... spoiler alert! We ticked it off.

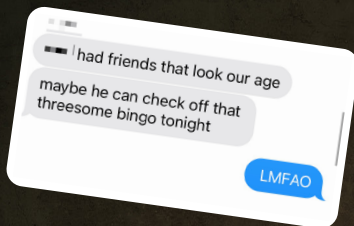
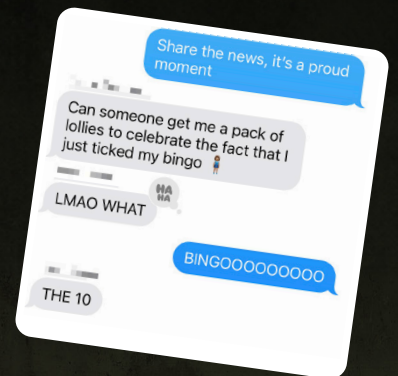
Two weeks into knowing each other, our floor decided to create the Untickable Bingo. We pretty much put down the most unrealistic things that we thought each person would never do, and the goal was to maybe, *maybe* have someone tick off theirs. Here are a few of the highlights.

- Someone who's only been with one person goes through 10 condoms.
- Someone gets caught with weed in their room.
- Someone's Indian accent comes out in bed
- Someone gets back with their ex within three months of university
- Someone yaks in the common room
- Someone has a threesome (in which case, the RA has to forfeit their double bed to said person for the night)

And many more! What we didn't account for, however, was how quickly your character develops throughout university. For the better or for the worst, that's for you to decide, but no denying that we get wayyyyy more interesting.

Within the first three months, every bingo had been ticked off. Over 30 condoms, and then got a UTI (they would like me to clarify that a UTI is in fact not an STD, potato, potato), weed and bongs found, the Indian accent was definitely present more than once, the ex re-entered their life about two months in, the common room definitely had way more than just puke in it... unfortunately, and much to our collective disappointment, the threesome was not had—our thoughts and prayers are forever with them (hopefully in year 2?).

The point is, when it comes to Halls, you will *never* be able to predict what the year will bring you—so savour every moment of it!



BINGO

BUILDING REVIEW

THE RENOVATED SOCIAL SCIENCES BUILDING (B201)

THE 6-STAR SUSTAINABLE BACKROOMS OF UOA



LEWIS MATHESON CREED

Unless you're a geriatric student like me, you probably don't remember the old Social Science Building. Even when I gaze back through my plaque-addled brain, I can only remember glimpses of it, such as the extreme temperature of the upper floor tutorial rooms in the afternoon sun with no ventilation. For the longest time (3 years), the building was slowly gutted back to its skeleton and then, piece by piece, re-assembled. Walking around the halls, the only piece of the original building I could find was the staircases; everything else was brand-new. If you want to hear about how it's an international award-winning green building, you're in the wrong place, bud. Here at Craccum, I'm told we do real journalism: reposting press releases isn't it. This week, your Arts Editor comes out of early retirement as a room surveyor (*yes, that's a real job at the uni I've had*) to chart the unknown frontier of B201.

FLOOR 1 - END OF JOURNEY

The first floor greets you with a dark, ominous corridor labelled "End of Journey", reminiscent of Dante's gates of hell. As such, I was nervous to enter as I felt my life's journey may have ended inside. You see, most rooms and corridors have sensor lights that save the planet but flicker on step by step as you walk around. Once the corridor was lit, I realised it was a showering room, perhaps for people with bikes. Pro-tip: save your water bill by showering in B201; the place has at least one shower on every floor, so there will always be room. The rest of the floor consisted of dance studios and cosy study spaces. Oddly, they have a public piano down there for no one to listen.

FLOOR 2 - CULT OF THE BROKEN PRINTER

It was named because one of its rooms had just a single broken printer and nothing else. Like every floor, it has an eerie quietness or hum, which sets the atmosphere nicely for a haunted jaunt around the halls. This floor consists of more dance studios and a few odd meeting rooms, one of which has a PS4 and VR headset in it. One subtle detail I liked is that the new staircases have Te Reo names, although the old staircases still have sawdust coatings. Embarrassingly, while

peeking into a pitch-black lecture theatre, I let out a yelp of terror when a lecturer jumped-scared me, opening the door and emerging from the darkness. Also, someone karate-chopped one of the men's toilet seats on this floor.

FLOOR 3 - THE TUTORIAL ZONE

This is one of two floors, alongside the ground floor (confusingly labelled floor 4) most students will likely visit. Because the building is also the new home of the Faculty of Education & Social Work, many rooms have oddly specific and curious-sounding names. My favourite is the Macintosh Computer Room. Why does this exist? The floor is quite lovely, though, providing much-needed locker and study space for the city campus, and it's decorated nicely with tufted walls and has a student kitchen, too.

FLOOR 4 - "DISHWATER AND DIABETES"

That was how my girlfriend described the food served at the new B2 cafe to the left of the central atrium occupying this floor. Although I enjoyed the meal as they made an excellent Jackfruit roll, albeit a bit pricey, with a serving of chips setting you back a whole Kate Sheppard. The rest of the floor has study spaces (à la Science B301), a few lecture theatres, and some Arts support spaces, with some comfy beanbags. One thing I have always been passionate about is a good drink fountain. However, every fountain in B201 fails to meet my standards. As such, B405 will remain my oasis.

FLOORS 5-9 - OFFICE ENDLESS

The remaining floors consist of a labyrinth of offices for lecturers to hide away during office hours. Although they host stunning views, it was disturbing to note that a binocular-wielding perv could probably watch me utilise the urinals from the northeastern men's toilets on these floors. On a nicer note: the Archaeology and Anthropology departments have returned from their extended exodus at Grafton campus, as their new lab's corridors were lined with boxes of artefacts waiting to be stored and examined. The whole building also has sick artwork everywhere, so it's worth a look around if you're feeling nosy. And you didn't hear it from us, but these office floors have dozens of loose cushions, dying to be used for pillow fights or forts.

FLOOR 10 - DESTINATION HEAVEN

Who knows what's up there? You need a key card to access it :(What is The Dawn keeping hidden from us?! In the meantime, you might find me studying there occasionally.

I'm feeling a light eight to strong seven on this one. What were your thoughts?
Email me at arts@craccum.co.nz



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WAKE UP AND SMELL THE ASHES



MIKE CROSS

Our world is teetering on the edge of multiple crises, humanity's propensity to view problems as solvable has led us down a dangerous path of complacency and denial. From the looming threat of climate change to the pressing issues of housing, cost of living, and water scarcity, it seems that we are engulfed in a multitude of unending crisis, yet we cannot muster the collective will to confront them head-on. The dominance of positivism in our societal discourse has fostered a culture of naivety, blinding us to the severity of the challenges we face. We prefer to turn a blind eye to uncomfortable truths, choosing instead to maintain the illusion of stability and normalcy. But as the cracks in our systems widen and the consequences of our inaction become increasingly dire, it is clear that we can no longer afford to bury our heads in the sand.

At the heart of this crisis of consciousness lies our inability to have a direct conversation about the kind of world we want to live in. The concept of sustainability, while widely embraced, is little more than a hollow buzzword, masking deeper questions about systemic change and societal transformation. We pay lip service to sustainability without truly grappling with the fundamental questions about how we organize ourselves to create a world that is equitable, just, and livable for all. In this context, I am reminded of Hanlon's Razor "never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity," reminding us that our behavior is often driven by ignorance and shortsightedness rather than malice. But acknowledging our shortcomings and failures is only the first step; we must also muster

the courage and determination to enact a plan and take action. Creating the world we desire will require nothing short of a radical reimagining of our social, economic, and political systems. It means challenging entrenched power structures, rethinking our patterns of consumption and production, and prioritizing the well-being of future generations over short-term gains.

As students, we have a unique role to play in our collective destiny. Our generation will bear the brunt of the consequences of their inaction, but you also possess the energy, creativity, and idealism to drive meaningful change. The path ahead is daunting. It is time to come together and create the world we most desire. The stakes could not be higher, our world is burning. It's time to wake up, wake up and smell the ashes.



"Make your actions on climate change reflect your words" Link to Ted.com



"Climate change is happening. Here's how we adapt" link to Ted.com

The 95bFM Top 10
6 March 2024

FAMILY BAND
LARGE DIRT PILES

top ten
with **Big J**
6 March 2024

1. Family Band - Large Dirt Piles [NZ]
2. Earth Tongue - Bodies Dissolve Tonight! [NZ]
3. Lilly Carron - Wild For Change [NZ]
4. Les Big Byrd - Diamonds, Rhinestones and Hard Rain
5. Grecco Romank - 2 Hot 2 Hunt [NZ]
6. VIDA - Time Wars [NZ]
7. Geneva AM - T(M)²l [NZ]
8. Church & AP (ft. deadForest) - Nightmare [NZ]
9. Fraser Ross - Cards [NZ]
10. christoph el' truento - wednesday afternoon cooking special [NZ]

Text VOTE with your favourite song to 5395 or visit 95bfm.com/vote
The 95bFM Top Ten, every Wednesday from 7pm

ABHORRENT INVADERS

THE BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG



MIKE CROSS

Last week Friday, I was quietly feeding my alcoholic tendencies when the relative calm was shattered by a blood-curdling shriek—the kind that can only mean one thing: my lovely girlfriend had encountered some kind of creepy-crawly. I was expecting a black soldier fly or perhaps a Huhu beetle. However, I was quite shocked to discover what looked suspiciously like enemy number one according to MPI: The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (aka. *Halyomorpha halys* or BMSB). Armed with a few empty paper cups and a power bill far past due,

they were quickly scooped up and isolated to my freezer, and off I went, cellphone in hand, to place a call to MPI's report-a-pest hotline to do my civic duty. A quick phone call and an email with attached photos later, my due diligence was done... And I was left with a freezer full of pests.

As it turns out, my keen eyes had deceived me; it wasn't BMSB but rather *Cermatulus nasalis* - the Brown Soldier Bug, another introduced species that looks very similar but poses little to no risk to our primary industries.

My mistaken encounter with what I feared was a BMSB invasion served as an unexpected introduction to the complicated, often misunderstood world of agricultural pests

So, what's the deal with BMSB?

BMSB concerns farmers as it feeds on a large number of high-value crops and ornamental plants during both its juvenile and adult life stages. This makes it a serious agricultural pest and has been observed feeding on numerous fruit and vegetable



BROWN SOLDIER BUG



BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG

crops, including apples, apricots, pears, cherries, grapes, nectarines, peaches, kiwi fruit, and tomatoes. Physical damage to fruit includes pitting and scarring, sometimes leading to a crumbly texture. Thus making the fruit unmarketable as a product and, in severe cases, can even render the crop unusable for processed products. BMSB also feeds on leaves, and a characteristic symptom of leaf injury is stippled areas approximately 3 mm in diameter around feeding sites. In addition to physical damage, wounds caused by feeding can provide an entryway for disease to attack the host fruit or plant. Managing these little bug-ers is challenging because there are currently few effective pesticides that are labelled for use against them, and research is underway looking into additional ways to effectively control this stink bug species. One control measure to combat their potential invasion is the release of the "samurai wasp" *Trissolcus japonicus*, which has evolved to parasitize BMSB by injecting its own eggs into the eggs of BMSB. Research from Michigan State University has shown that "In the laboratory, it was able to attack native stink bugs when given no other choice; however, it shows a strong preference for BMSB." Anybody with even a cursory knowledge of introduced predators to Aotearoa should be able to see this is a dubious prospect at best.

As early autumn beckons, adult BMSB look for shelter from the winter; they can often be found on the outsides of buildings or inside near doors, windows, and other entry points. They can also be found in

leaf litter and vegetation outdoors. In areas where they are established, they can enter structures by the hundreds or thousands. Once inside, they may congregate almost anywhere, including bookcases; under beds and sofas; in cracks under or behind baseboards, window and door trim; and in crawl spaces. BMSB does not bite people and animals, cause structural damage, or reproduce in homes. They will, however, release a foul-smelling liquid when threatened or squashed. Some describe it as sweaty socks, burnt tires, and even coriander. This poses an extra concern for those in the wine industry.

Internationally, the spread and impact of BMSB illustrate a global challenge, and the interconnected nature of our ecosystems and economies. BMSB probably first arrived in the U.S. by hitching a ride with a shipment of imported products from Asia in the late 1990s on the East Coast; today, they have spread to 47 states; the last places free from BMSB in the US are Alaska, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

In 2010, the insects caused \$37 million in damage just to apple crops in the mid-Atlantic region. (Leskey et al., 2012) some growers have reported that they have lost over 90% of their crops, and they have moved from spraying them twice a year to twice a week, and still lose around 30% of production annually, for New Zealand this could prove disastrous to our fruits which are highly sought after in Europe due to their currently low use of artificial sprays.

In Italy, BMSB has caused over €350 Million worth of damages to agricultural crops during the 2020 growing season

It appears that our most robust defences against these foreign invaders lie within our stringent biosecurity regulations and the diligent efforts of our hardworking customs officers. However, with proposed budget cuts under the new government, the future of Aotearoa's protection against such threats remains uncertain.

Image credits; <https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/>, <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/>

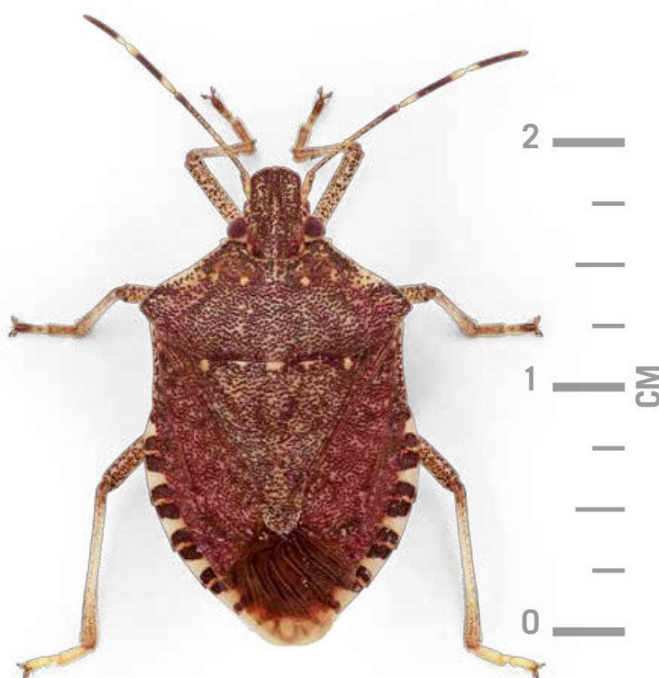
Information sources

<https://www.stopbmsb.org/where-is-bmsb/state-by-state/>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/7-things-to-know-about-samurai-wasps-a-natural-enemy-of-brown-marmorated-stink-bugs>

<https://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol/brown-marmorated-stink-bug#:~:text=The%20brown%20marmorated%20stink%20bug,away%20in%20a%20shipping%20container.>

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IF YOU FIND ONE OF THESE:

**CATCH IT.
CALL US.**

**EXOTIC PEST & DISEASE
HOTLINE 0800 80 99 66**

Exotic pests like the brown marmorated stink bug are a threat to our primary industries and environment. If you've been overseas, or received parcels/shipments from overseas, check your luggage or parcels indoors for insects.

Spotlight on Ethical Concept Store Crushes, Shaping Our Sustainable Future

Interview with Crushes, an ethical concept store at 225 Karangahape Road.



KALA BURGESS

Crushes curates products from jewellery, vintage clothing, homeware, stationary, and more. Literary is a store filled with the most aesthetic pieces you have ever seen. Crushes are the place to be if you want to be shopping mindfully and support small businesses.

Crushes not only supports local, small businesses but also has an in-house brand, where they make their own candles, journals, and many more. These items are all ethical and environmentally friendly. Check out the Crushes website to find more goodies suited for you. <https://www.crushes.co.nz>.

So, how does Crushes sustain its ethical brand, and what does that mean for customers like us? Rose Hope, the co-founder of Crushes, has kindly answered the following questions below regarding Crushes and the store's environment stance.

What measures does your concept store take to ensure that its products are environmentally friendly?

When one compares our local manufacturing to what is made offshore, it is entirely different! We slowly make our goods, often by hand. We only make small quantities, without overproducing, and make the amount that meets actual demand. We make our goods locally from central Auckland, without the emissions from import and freight.



PRE-LOVED

Do you offer any products made from recycled or upcycled materials? If so, could you provide examples?

We do! In fact, our in-house clothing range is completely upcycled, and our bags are made entirely from repurposed fabric, trims, and hardware!

Our merchandise is always made from deadstock vintage, so we aren't contributing to any new products being made but instead reusing

products that already exist. Because we are strict with our kaupapa, which means that even the smallest choices are considered. For example, our packaging is made from handmade paper filled with wildflower seeds, and when choosing paper stock for our stationery line, we always choose recycled paper, etc.



MADE IN AOTEAROA

Can you provide information about the sustainability standards you follow in sourcing materials for your products?

There is a nuance when people say "New Zealand-made" that I don't think most people understand, which is that almost nothing is entirely NZ-made anymore. When our country deregulated import controls and opened up to a free global market, we couldn't compete with the prices of what was being made offshore, so we, in turn, lost almost all of our manufacturing from all kinds of industries. So, for a lot of products, we rely on parts that are made



SMALL BUSINESS

elsewhere to be brought in. For example, butterflies to an earring.

That means that when we are procuring all the parts it takes to finish a product, we are strict about choosing responsible and certified businesses and factories and always choose local if we still have the industry!

Like the glass we use for our candles comes from a Wellington company, and our printing is entirely made and bound in an Auckland company, etc. It is fantastic when you find a local manufacturer who is also strict with who they work with and the parts they make. Take DOUG's, our embroiderer; we feel safe knowing that he is fanatic about even the smallest choices, like his thread, which is made from wood pulp, is non-toxic, and has the certification to prove these things.

How would shopping at crushes help the environment?

When goods are produced, by the time an item ends up in your hands, it could have been made in Asia, shipped to a warehouse in the US, then shipped to a distributor in Australia, and then shipped again to a retail store in New Zealand. When choosing who to shop from and choosing a business that is locally made, you're cutting out all the unnecessary freight! But the best thing you can do to help the environment is not buy anything at all. The world has produced enough! Let's instead look after what we buy, reuse it, and fix it when it breaks.

And *if* you need to buy something, that is when you can come to a safe place like Crushes! Where we have curated and created locally made goods and preloved clothing for your guilt-free shopping pleasure!



SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS



SUSTAINABLE

CROSS' CINEMATIC CLASSICS

BLOOD CAR



TREVOR PRONOSO

Being the self-mandated movie masochist of Craccum, I would have thought I was the only one within the team who maintained a persisting proclivity to engulf every form of audiovisual media that came my way. However, emanating from the exasperated encephalic organs of Environment Editor Mike Cross emerges an engrossing encyclopaedic knowledge of shitty B-movies, of which he has habitually hoovered throughout his high school years (Mike's in his 30s, by the way. Don't remind him.) Within the cordial camaraderie of comparing our collective kino knowledge elucidated an edgy, ecologically-conscious entry into the canon of Cross' Cinematic Classics: *Blood Car* (2007).

I had never seen *Blood Car* before his recommendation, but it was novel to carry expectations of some form of environmental exegesis colouring the movie. That exegesis immediately imploded into chicken scratch ideology as the opening scene introduces our 20-something white male narrator smugly foreshadowing our impending automobile apocalypse due to astronomically high gas prices.

The film follows our lanky, sheepish protagonist, Archie, a kindergarten teacher and ardent vegan/environmentalist whose latest science project involves making the first wheatgrass-fuelled motor engine. He also frequents his favourite "Veg-table" stand, run by the ditzzy girl-next-door Lorraine. Opposite the vegetable stand lies the rival "Meat" stand run by the voluptuous sex-haver Denise, who salaciously seduces Archie with corny sexual innuendos alongside the occasional 'rapey' hand caresses. After accidentally cutting his finger and spilling blood into the wheatgrass solution, Archie's motor engine successfully runs smoothly, giving him new impetus: FINDING MORE BLOOD 🩸

At this point, you can tell where Archie (and the movie) finally devolves into campy carnage. He starts his scrupulous search for sanguine by initially hunting animals, then dead people conveniently

lying around, to then picking off minorities and the marginalised (a black man, a cripple, a homeless man). How a shy twig like Archie can go from awkwardly nerdy to batshit bloodthirsty is revealed to be motivated by his unmitigated hormonal desire to bang "Meat girl" Denise. That's right, mans will renounce becoming a vegan and working on sustainable fuel alternatives just to hit that... sexually. There's also a scene where Archie hallucinates a sex dream wherein he engages in "piss play" with Denise (details have been redacted for your sanity's sake).



I also forgot to mention the FBI/CIA subplot where a bunch of G-men follow Archie around and capture him, presenting him with the ultimate Faustian bargain: side with the federal agents and share his newfangled "Blood Car" technology in exchange for becoming "President" (whatever that means).

Whether you find Archie to be emblematic of the moral hypocrisy of Millennials, the human blood = oil metaphor, the least incoherent political commentary on US imperialism or are just into vulgar sex comedies, me and Mike have got you covered for your next movie night recommendation. Practise safe sex, please?

You can watch *Blood Car*, for free, on YouTube (no distributor is going to renew the rights for this film lmao)

Pre-Loved Perfection

The Art of Second-Hand Shopping



KAAVYA GHOSHAL

If you're a climate change denier, that's okay! Because this article is for you, too—it's time to tap into that narcissistic mind of yours and step up your wardrobe with unique pieces that only you will possess. If you don't care about the planet, at the *very least*, care about your appearance.

I'm not going to overload you with stores that you'll probably never visit. So, here are 4 *actually* affordable thrift stores (and one vintage book store, because I HAD to) that will change your life, amp up your wardrobe, and help the planet.

People Being People (K Road): Not only does this store have the best playlists I have ever encountered, it will be your one-stop shop for finding the best vintage pieces you could ask for. They also have a 2 dollar sale rack every day, so if you're on a budget (and very lucky), you might find yourself with a thrifting triumph that you can brag about for the rest of your life. If you're looking for an excuse to visit K-Road in the daylight, this is it.

Paper Bag Princess (K Road): Welcome to the op shop with mannequins better dressed than 80% of the people I bump into at university. That's because every item in this store is hand-picked by the staff, from retro hoodies you'll never want to take off to suit jackets that would put our editor-in-chief to shame.

Recycle Boutique (City/ Newmarket/ Takapuna): Founded 15 years ago, this NZ-owned chain allows you to sell your own second-hand clothes, shoes and accessories, as well as shop! You can visit the stores around Auckland or even browse online to find their carefully curated staff-picked choices. If you're in the mood to treat yourself to some designer items but are on a budget, this is the place to go!

Kilo (K Road): Okay, I might be partial to this store—but somehow, every time I've gone to Kilo, I've managed to walk away with at least two pieces that have become staples in my wardrobe. I'm of the opinion that it takes one piece to make your outfit stand out—whether it be a vintage jacket or jersey, Kilo will be the best visit you're going to make.

The Open Book (Ponsonby): Bookstores, to me, are museums. When I visited this bookstore, I found my version of Picasso—Vintage Enid Blyton. Nestled in the heart of Ponsonby, The Open Book has a collection of second-hand books so vast that there's simply no way you won't find one to your taste. From the tiny cafe inside it, to the backyard and vintage aesthetic, this place is straight out of an old 70's film. If you like to read but refuse to spend money on insanely overpriced books, this store is your dream come true.

I'm not going to lie; thrifting is a commitment. You can't just sift through clothes and know that you will find *the* piece you were looking for. But the beauty of sustainable couture is that when someone asks you where you got your outfit, you'll never have to deal with the embarrassment of muttering "Shein" under your breath.



Islands in the stream... is that what we are?

Why you should give a fark about
a few sinking islands or something...

FANIA KAPAO

Let's take a moment to ✦ meditate ✦

(Deep breath in. Hold for 4 seconds.
Release.)

Imagine getting off of a plane on a beautiful Pacific island of your choice, where the air is warm and the smiles are even warmer. Imagine the fragrance of the flowers which adorn the greenery like a natural garland. Hear the music that plays and the language of the locals. Feel the clean air fill your lungs as you sigh and think to yourself: "damn, that cramped five-hour flight with six crying babies was worth it!" Imagine pulling your phone out, taking pictures and videos of your temporary slice of paradise just to make your Instagram followers jealous for the next two months. Imagine this all, this picturesque vision, while having *Islands in the Stream* by Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers play in the background of this, your guided meditation.

It's just the thing we need aye? As concrete-

jungle animals, every few months we deem our corporate lives too demanding! We pull an "Eat, Pray, Love" moment, book flights to an island where its population is less than that of those in our own cities, and then feel the need to spend hours crafting the perfect caption for the perfect post that no one will remember. Its the epitome of the human experience in 2024. Amongst the best that our privilege has to offer.

But you know what isn't?

✦ WATCHING ✦ OUR ✦ ISLANDS ✦ SINK ✦

If you haven't guessed by my name, I am a daughter of the Pacific. My ancestors could find their way across the ocean with the stars, while I can't even follow Google Maps directions to save my life. But you know what I can do? I can school y'all on why you should give a fark about the sinking of our Pacific islands. If you're going to share and post stories about its beauty, if you're going to go there and ask locals to teach you how

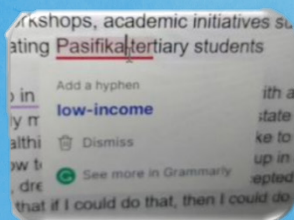
to say bad words, heck, IF YOU'RE GOING TO GO THERE AND COME BACK WITH A PARTNER OR ARE WITH A PERSON WHO IDENTIFIES AS ANY TYPE OF "NESIAN" you might as well take part in conserving it too!

Shout out to all my complacent peeps, but if confrontation ain't for you, then skip past my article, because both these points hit the fatu hard. But someones gotta do it. I volunteer as tribute.

Reason No. Tasi: WE ARE THE PROBLEM

As per the only Taylor Swift lyric I've ever related to: "It's me, hi, I'm the problem it's me."

You should give a fark, most simply because their sinking IS our problem.



Developed nations have always been the highest contributors of products and waste that negatively affect our environment. And yet we indulge. We sit here in our lectures and discuss their impending erasure in stats and figures as if it is a situation that is so far removed from us. As if our city isn't the largest city in the world that Polynesians decide to call home. As if it isn't our streets in which bicycles with sirens and subwoofers blast *Fangai Lupe* by Spawnbreezie at full volume in the middle of a Saturday night. From what my therapist says, the first step to recovery is admitting we have a problem. Our problem surrounding climate justice in the Pacific is that we aren't doing enough. We are the red flag. No amount of delulu can change that. We repost reels of Tuvalu's Foreign Minister, Simon Kofe, giving a speech while dressed up in a suit and tie, standing in the middle of the seas of which his home is sinking in, thinking that our reposting will give us a pass as climate activists. But we won't donate. We laugh at people who cry over the impending doom but avoid signing the petitions. We don't write to our ministers and our government because those simple gestures are just "too hard" and yet going back to that situation is just way too easy??? We should care because we promote the attitude of distancing ourselves from the heart of the problem while reaping the benefits of all the beauty our islands have to offer. We're just creatures of convenience...don't you think? #ExploitationMuch

Reason No. Lua: BASIC HUMAN DECENCY

"Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou ka ora ai te iwi"

This Maori Proverb translates to "With your

food basket and my food basket, the people will thrive." The idea of community is the holy grail of indigenous communities. That is no different for our Pacific neighbors. For us to thrive, they too must thrive. Without these nations, our own culture and vibrancy suffers on a global scale. It is heartbreaking to watch them suffer through cyclones, hurricanes and other natural disasters that are caused by our climate change problem. It is heartbreaking to read about how Kiribati and Tuvalu have already purchased land in Fiji in the inevitable event that their islands sink in the next few decades, reducing them to being "Climate refugees". A sobering label that should never exist. Climate change affects all areas of life for our neighbours. Their agriculture, their politics, their economy. How absolutely terrible is it that greenhouse gas emissions are absorbed by the ocean thus slowly making it acidic??? How detrimental is it that because of the gas absorption, seafood will eventually be made inedible and untradeable? Who will help to fill their basket and make sure they thrive? I don't know about you, but points like these keep me up at night, especially with the ease of which we, on the developed side of the world, live. I don't want to wake up one morning and have my children nonchalantly say that their ancestral homes have gone underwater. It is basic human decency to care about one another, but it is our duty to ensure that we help each other as members of the Pacific to survive and thrive.

Go and do your homework kiddos

Now in all honesty I could have made this article a super formal piece that would have been an absolute snooze fest only a handful of people would read. It could have been full of numbers and graphs that make zero sense to the average person. But that isn't

what this is about. It's about making this topic accessible and generating interest around diving deeper into the subject on your own. It's about confronting you over what is happening about a four-ish hour flight away because although you never asked for this article, they never asked to have their homes go extinct. It's about you knowing that there is a cause, a movement, thousands of lives in the world, which would forever be grateful for your attention and help.

**My islands
are sinking.
YOUR
islands are
sinking.
There are no
reasons as
to why you
shouldn't
give a fark.**

This Week on the Climate Conscious Craccum Podcast

BENEDICT WEST & ANOUSHKA COULTER

For anyone who still listens, this week we interviewed Environmental Editor and Environmental Science Student Michael Cross (he/him). Some say he once convinced a school of dolphins to recycle and that his sustainable lifestyle tips can be heard in the whispers of the wind. Legend has it that his carbon footprint is actually a carbon fingerprint, unique and light. All we know is he's our environmental editor Mike Cross.

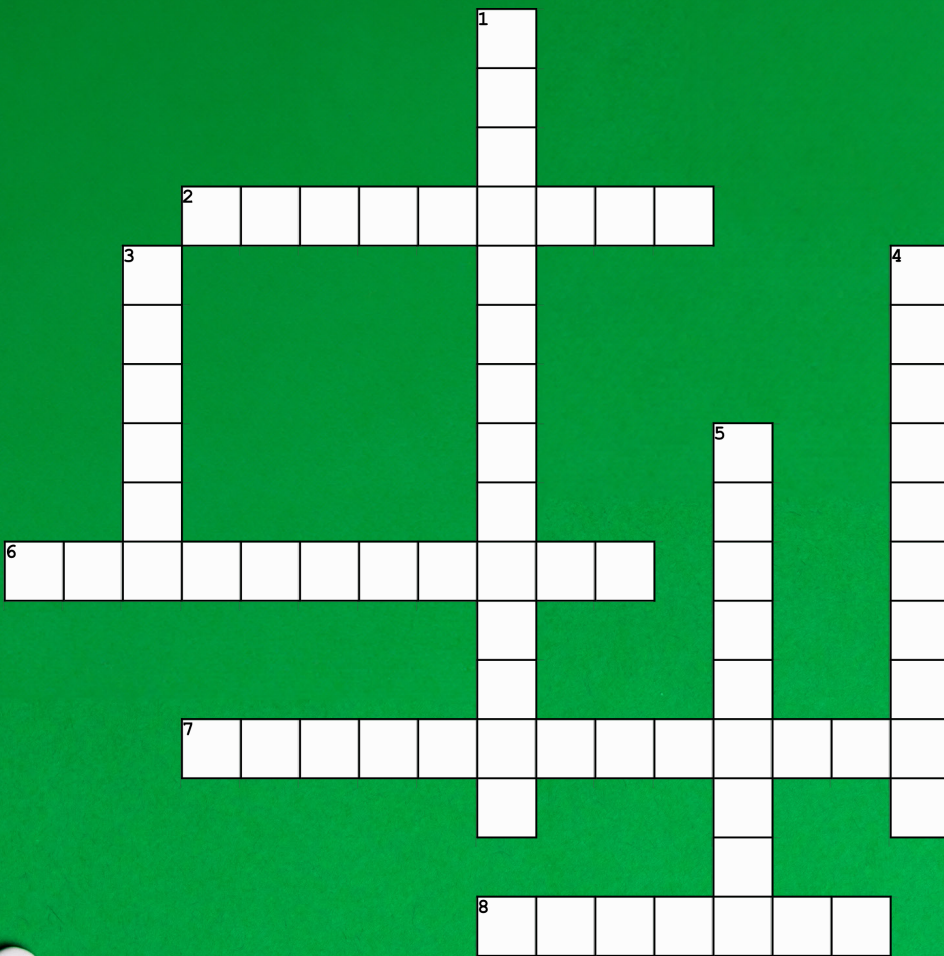
Also interviewed is the fabulous fine arts student Alice Stevenson (She/They). She is currently studying her third year of a BFA at Elam and their practise is heavily influenced by their whakapapa and the knowledge passed down by her tupuna. Alice's current making is central to natural fibers, weaving and the co-mingling of Māori with Māori with Māori Pakeha, especially in the realm of painting.

Cross will be taking a deep dive into the articles

he wrote in this week's issue as well as the accompanying "Zine" Rise up, and plant, a beginners guide Guerrilla Gardening. The climate conversation will affect all areas of our lives.

Join us this week for a collective climate guilt trip, debasing micro-consumerist bollocks and Taylor Swift's private jet, lampooning the world's hypocrisies, stop your crying and rub some dirt in it.

CROSSWORD



Across

2. The art of second hand shopping
6. The reason we always want more; the idea that a person's well-being and happiness depends on obtaining consumer goods
7. The deniers of this phenomenon believe that global warming is a hoax
8. The kind of farming we should actually invest in

Down

1. We hear this word around us all the time, but rarely end up practicing it on the daily
3. We seem to care more about our digital footprint than our _____ footprint
4. The largest source of renewable energy in the electricity sector
5. These sources of energy are what we should aim to shift towards

WORD CIRCLE



HOROSCOPES



CLARICE DE TOLEDO

Great news ! This week, Venus will enter Pisces. Think— Stevie Nicks casting spells. Nina Simone singing to an audience. Venus in Pisces brings mystery, an appreciation for beauty, and a better capacity of being more compassionate towards others. There will also be a New Moon in Pisces making conjunction with Neptune, the planet of illusions. Pisces excels at dreaming big, idealising and wholeheartedly believing in the goodness of people. It's a beautiful energy to be connected to but it can also have the tendency to fantasise too much and not see things for what they actually are. We can indulge as long as we give ourselves reality checks when needed.

Please **READ** your **RISING** sign :)

ARIES



You can be feeling a lot more compassionate to yourself as you learn to embrace change. You might find yourself spending more time alone, nurturing your own energy. Putting energy towards artistic hobbies and spiritual practices. This is a quiet period before what will be pretty major for you — the eclipses at the end of March are approaching.

TAURUS



You could have learned a really important lesson, which is not to give all your energy away to other people. If you've been experiencing tension within your friendships, there can be some soothing and attempts of understanding during this Venus in Pisces period. If you've been wanting to launch a project, this is definitely the week to do it. Catch this new moon wave.

GEMINI



This week, try to be realistic about the amount of time and energy you have on hand to accomplish tasks. You could be having realisations about your career decisions or feel the need for more emotional connection to what you're putting your energy into. If things seem uncertain right now, just remind yourself that it's part of the process.

CANCER



You may be feeling more motivated to get to class, and actually enjoy tasks like writing, speaking and learning in general. You may be feeling a little lighter in relationship to things. Maybe you're feeling more connected to the world around you and learning more about spirituality or manifestation laws. You may feel uncertain about what you exactly believe in, but you're open to hear different perspectives on life.

LEO



You could be feeling more relaxed this week when it comes to your finances. You could've received some clarity around an issue and feel motivated to invest your energy back into yourself. You could be prioritising, therapy, your mental health or saving money to invest something really soon. Or it's possible that you're feeling more emotionally vulnerable and opening up your walls again.

VIRGO



You could be feeling more giving and compassionate to other people. If you're in a relationship, you may be reaching a new chapter together or if things haven't been working out for a while, you might feel the urge to start fresh. There can also be a tendency to overlook red flags within romantic or platonic relationships in your life. So it's important to distinguish these two polar energies and make decisions aligned with your current situation.

LIBRA



If you have been experiencing the first signs of burnout or extreme stress with your workload, you may find some relief this week. You might focus on practising more mindful activities, like yoga and walks to calm your mind down about your school work and other projects. Your energy may be more centred around taking care of your body and being compassionate to yourself.

SCORPIO



This is a great week to just have fun! Schedule pleasurable activities like going to the arcade, having a game night with friends or trying a new dessert. It's possible that you have been putting effort into recognising your own worth and building self-confidence. If you haven't seen a lot of activity when it comes to romance and dating in your life — things may take a turn this week!

SAGITTARIUS



You may be feeling more like staying at home and being with family, attending family events or seeking to restore peace and balance in your home life. Generally, you may feel more introverted and interested in practising self-care, getting comfy, maybe making some tea and watching a good movie.

CAPRICORN



This week may be feeling quite busy for you, perhaps you're running some errands, meeting up with people, going from class to class, making trips nearby... Your mind could be very stimulated from all these different commitments. It could be a good time to recommit to practices like journaling, or putting time aside to be learning something each day.

AQUARIUS



If you've been feeling stressed about money and work, you might notice things easing up this week. You may be receiving your paycheck, land a new freelance opportunity or you might've decided to pick up some extra shifts and now things are starting to pick back up. You may be feeling more motivated to develop some new skills and getting through some self-doubts when it comes to your abilities.

PISCES



If you've been feeling stressed about handling some new responsibilities, you might feel more compassionate toward yourself around this week. You can be seeing some newfound confidence and be feeling the need to change up your personal style. If you're wanting to overall take better care of yourself or start a new habit, it is likely to stick in the long term if you start this week, since it will be a new moon.



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GAIA ABNOBA

In the grand, often inexplicably odd saga of the Universe—a place where the laws of physics occasionally like to take a tea break and the fundamental constants enjoy a good laugh now and then—there existed a rather peculiar blue-green planet, third from its star, known (to those who lived there, at least) as Earth. This planet, for a time, played host to a species that called themselves “humans.” Now, humans were an interesting experiment in evolution, displaying a knack for creating both profound art and profoundly unnecessary problems.

In a universe where the birth of a star is greeted with less fanfare than a supernova event at the Galactic Centre, humanity managed to make quite the impression, mainly on themselves. They built machines that could calculate the age of the universe but struggled to work out how to live peacefully with their neighbours or how to properly recycle a pizza box.

Humanity, O humanity. You were a species with so much potential, if only for the briefest of cosmic moments. You, who looked upon the vastness of space and wondered if there was a restaurant out there. You, who spent considerable time and resources inventing things like the digital watch, social media, and the concept of ‘diet water.’ You showed remarkable ingenuity in finding new and innovative ways to avoid talking to each other at parties, developing technology that could send people to the moon but somehow made it awkward to exit a conversation without looking at your phone.

You were a curious bunch, always poking your noses into the mechanics of the universe, asking questions like ‘What’s out there?’ ‘Why are we here?’ and ‘Can we make this into an app?’ Your passion for exploration was matched only by your capacity for ignoring simple instructions, like ‘Please recycle’ or ‘Don’t blow up the planet.’

And so, as you depart from this cosmic stage, leaving behind the plastic bottles, the internet memes, and the curious invention of the squatty potty, remember this: In a universe filled with wonders beyond comprehension, you managed to carve out a little niche where you could laugh, love, and ponder the absurdity of existence.

Earth, your once blue and green home, spins on, a tad quieter, a bit cleaner, and much less confused by its own inhabitants. It watches as the universe continues its unfathomable dance through space-time, a dance that you, for all your quirks and quibbles, added a unique step to. So long, and thanks for all the trash.”

MARCH 11-17

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