

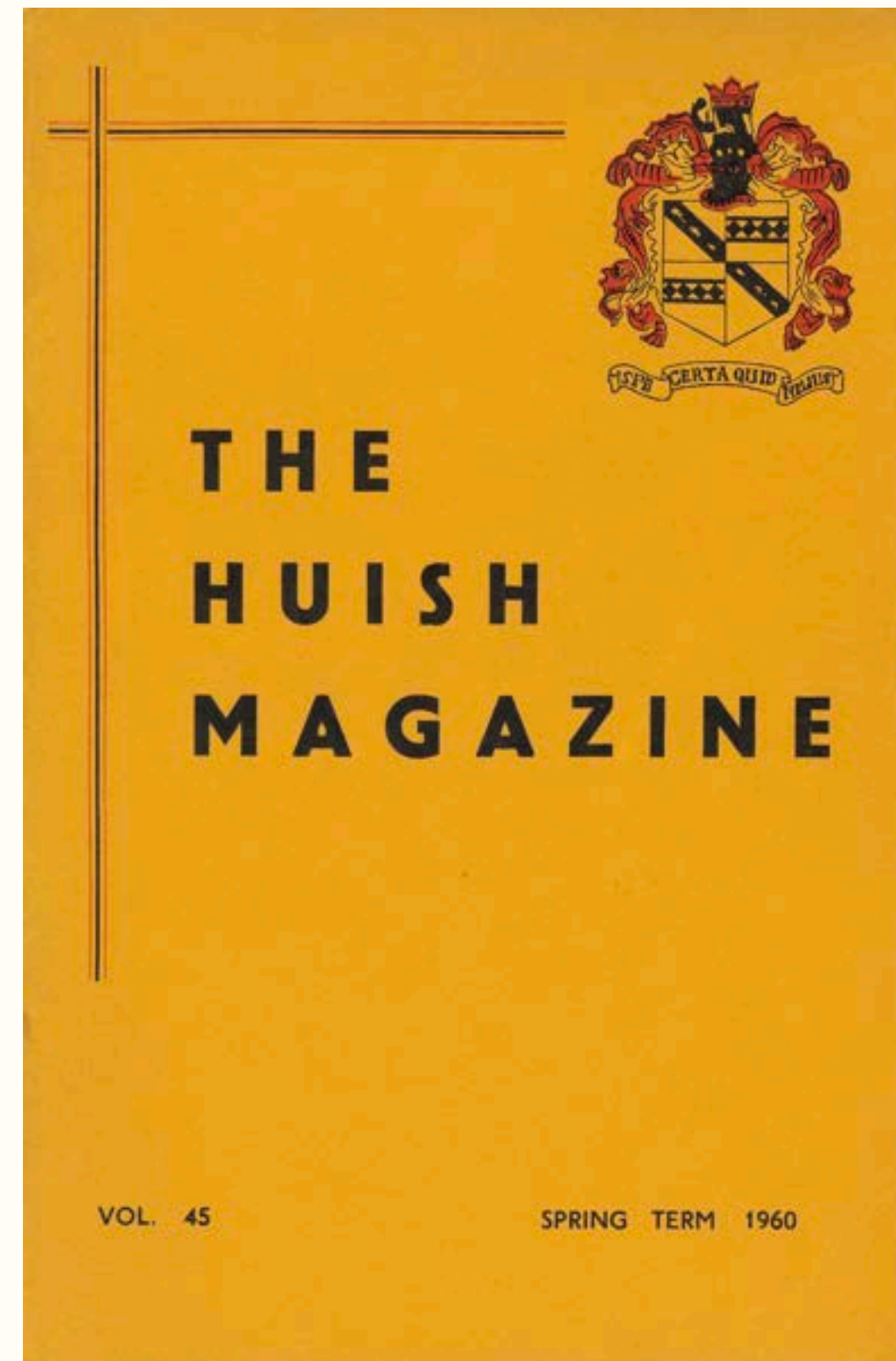
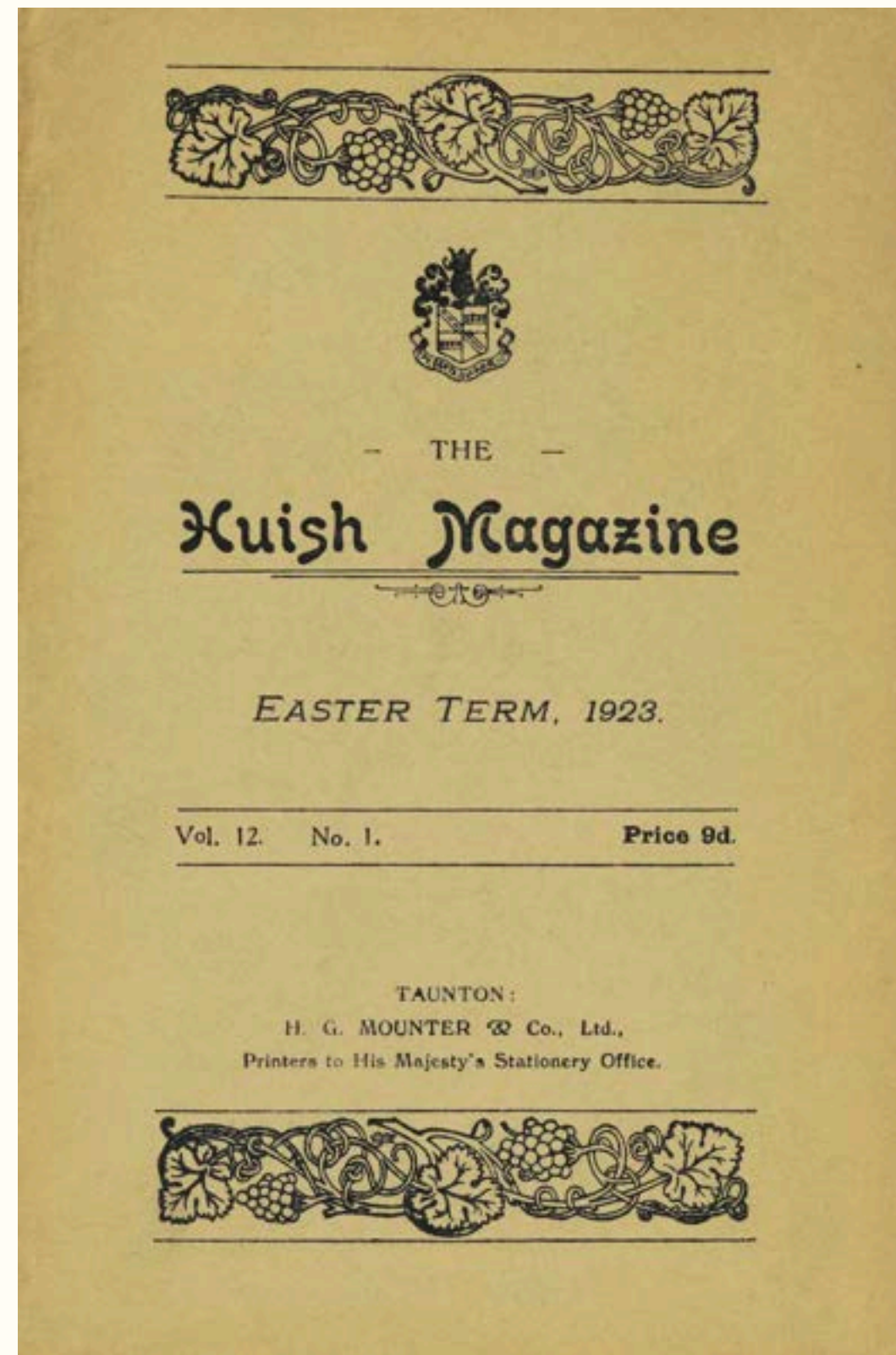
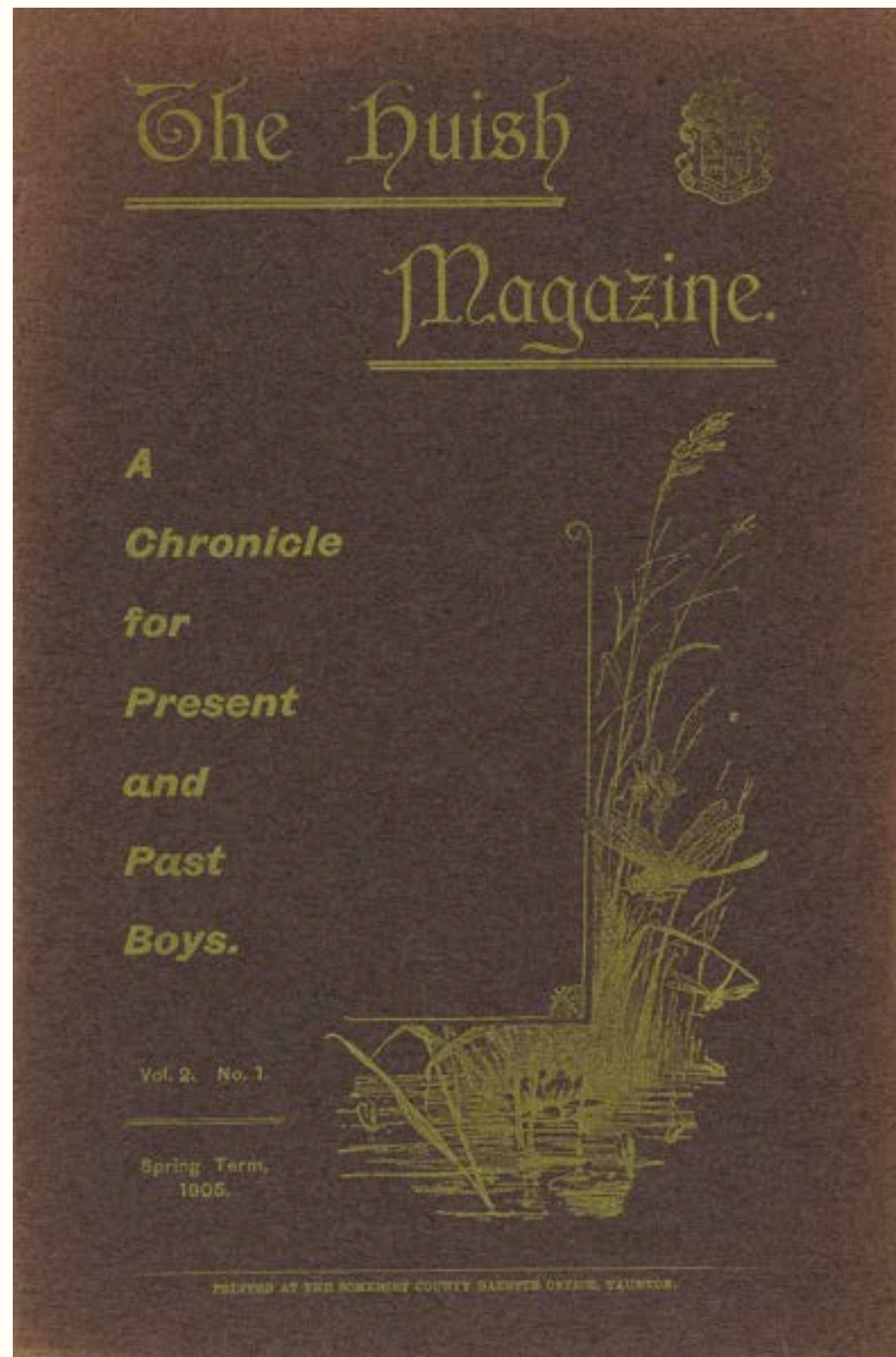
THE HUIISH



ISSUE 01
JAN 2026

WELCOME TO

THE HUISH HERALD



**THE COLLEGE
NEWSPAPER AT
RICHARD HUISH
TOOK MANY FORMS
OVER THE 110
YEARS IT RAN,
FROM 1905 - 2015 .**



**MEET THE TEAM
WHO IS BRINGING
IT BACK !**



EDITOR IN CHEIF:

GEORGE BELL

SUB-EDITORS:

MOLLY ASHLEY

JACK NICHOLAS

SOFIA SARTAIN-WALKER

TOBY WHITE

WRITERS:

EMILY CREW, MARIA GILROY-TOSCANO, DARCY

BISHOP, JOSIE COHEN, GEORGE KHAN DAVIS, ERIN

TUCKER, JACK FLEMMING, JAMES LAWSON, RIAN

REGAN, ALISHA LEE, TOBY WHITE, CERY'S WRIGHT,

LEXI BOWDITCH

GRAPHICS: EMILY CREW, MARIA GILROY-TOSCANO

THIS ISSUE

Lifestyle 5-10

Politics 11-14

Culture 15-19

Sport & Life at Huish 20-24

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello and a happy new year!

Welcome to the first edition of the new Huish Herald; college finally has its newspaper back after 11 years. In the creation of this paper, our team found previous newspapers dating from as far back as 1905, with articles discussing effect of the world wars and even tuberculosis outbreaks, our history is rich, and we hope we do it justice.

This issue focuses on areas our writers wish to discuss, giving them complete freedom with topics and style. For an informative read, culture and lifestyle offer a glance into more familiar areas, such as book recommendations and the place of AI in a working and learning environment. We also host the thriving politics section showcasing what it means to be politically aware from a variety of standpoints. These are just a few examples of what this newspaper contains, and hopefully in the future, this will expand even more.

Last term we welcomed the new first years, who have already made their mark around college with political advocations, music qualifications, art pieces and countless academic pursuits. We also saw the beginning of preparations for the upcoming musical Dear Evan Hansen, leads George Willaims and Cyanne Ellis making significant headway to create a truly iconic show. Good luck to everyone involved! Music has also seen a change with the emergence of new first year bands like Thorne, Trenches and Ultraviolet. Keep an eye out for upcoming gig dates, especially the long-awaited January 16th gig; a 4-band showcase hosted by Bar 61 showing a range in genre from the rock/metal vibe of Chip Shop Massacre to the pop/ dance-punk of Proper Proper. There's a song for everyone and an atmosphere that never fails to miss. The art department saw a truly historic piece sculpted recently, the collective time capsule made from small tiles from students across college. We've also seen academic success in completion of AS levels and debating events. MUN have strived to put up a brilliant fight arguing international political struggles, with some frontrunners receiving commemoration for their excellent oration.

This has shaped up to be a brilliant newspaper with much more in the works for our next issue. We are always looking for new members, so if you're interested, please join us Wednesday lunchtime in C4, or even submit your articles to 0059014@richuish.ac.uk. Get your voice heard!

Everyone in the newspaper team wish you a happy new year and hope you enjoy the paper. A final special thank you to Thom, our graphics team and you the reader!

- GEORGE BELL, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Keep up with with us on Instagram
@huishherald for updates, sneak peeks,
behind the scenes and more!

HUIISH EVENTS

20/1/26

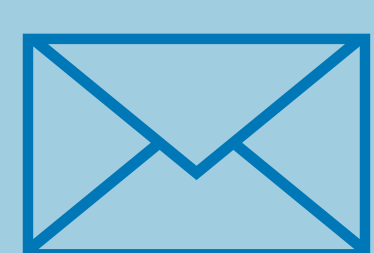
Calisthenics RICHtalk: Modern popularity and changes (student talk)

3/2/26 - 6/2/26

Dear Evan Hansen



**Would you like to give a talk
on a topic that interests you?
Sign up for a RICHtalk now!**



josephb@richuish.ac.uk



Huish's resident agony aunt is here!
If you have any questions about life as a college student, want advice or just someone to talk to - send Haven a message using the QR code and we'll respond next issue!

LIFESTYLE

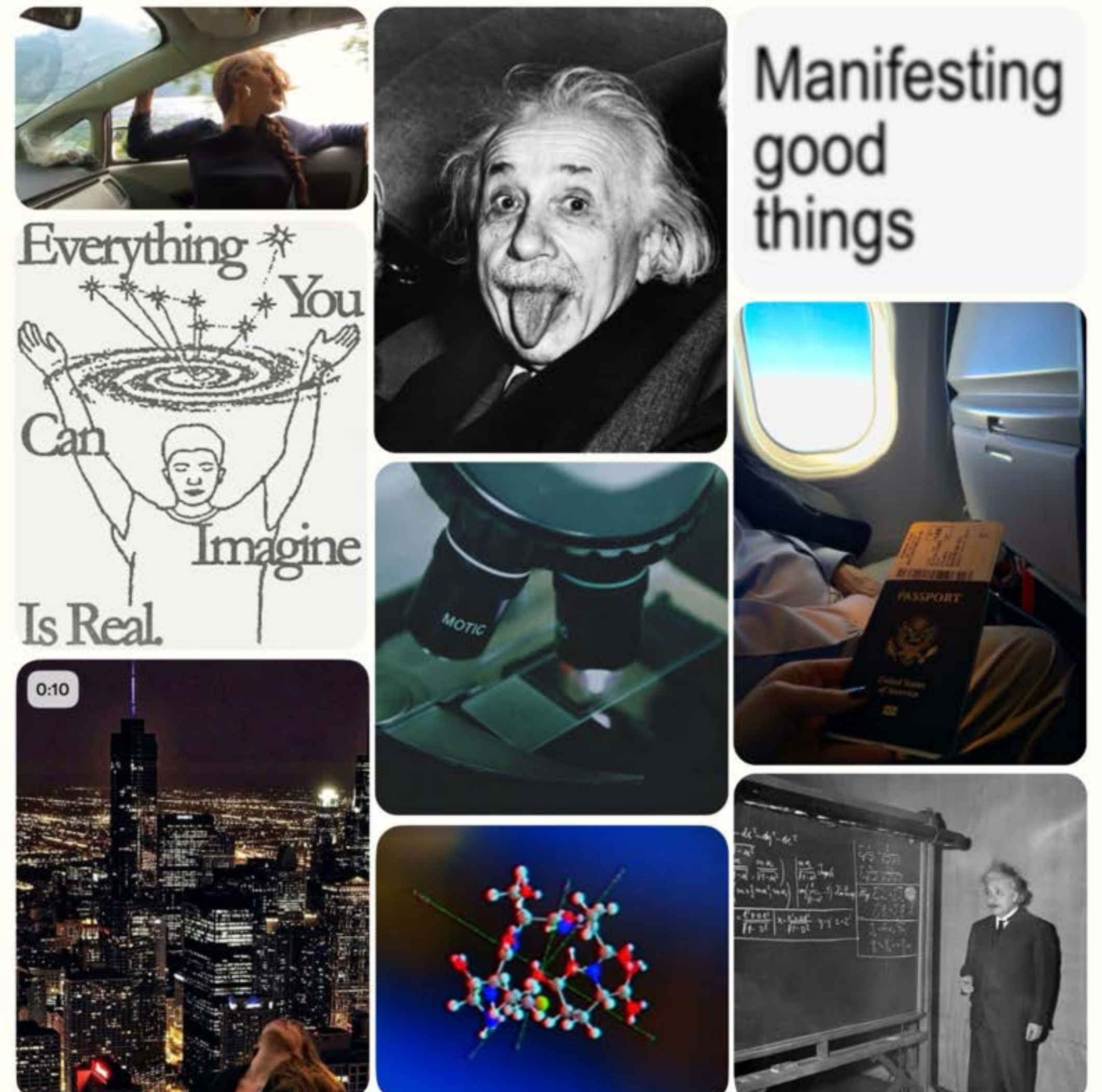
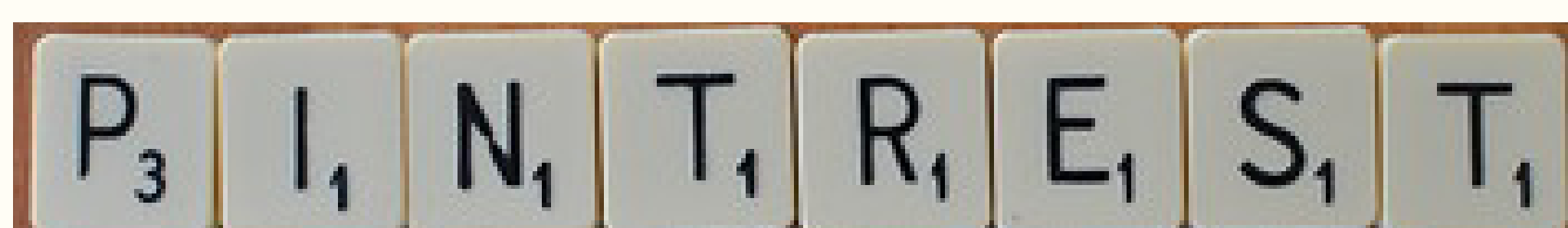
Make it, Fake it, Make it

By Maria Gilroy-Toscano and Emily Crew

The power of Pinterest (and quantum physics?)

Pinterest - the holy grail of the modern teenage girl. The American social media service and self-proclaimed 'place of endless possibilities' allows the approximately 600 million monthly active users worldwide to make collections of photos ('boards' and 'pins') for motivation, inspiration and aesthetics. The app functions as a virtual pinboard to organise ideas, while also allowing users to create their own pins to share their ideas and creativity while engaging with like-minded people, creating a community through shared interests. Generation Z are the fastest growing audience on Pinterest, making up 42% of the global user base, searching and saving more than any other generation (especially with females - making up approximately 70% of Pinterest users). But could the benefits of Pinterest go beyond just teenage girls generating ideas and planning events, and what could it possibly have to do with quantum physics?

To understand how Pinterest can be linked to science, another key function of Pinterest must be understood - Manifestation. Before its digital presence, the idea that thoughts can shape reality has roots in spiritual traditions. For example, a sacred 3500-year-old Sanskrit Hindu text 'Rigveda', contains hymns that suggest thoughts and actions influence personal destiny. In more modern terms, manifesting has a positive thinking and self-improvement focus which has gone viral worldwide. As the 2024 Cambridge Dictionary word of the year, "manifesting" is the subject of over 110 million posts on TikTok alone. Through this recent surge, Pinterest has become a widely recognised tool for manifestation by creating 'vision boards'.



"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world."
- Albert Einstein

Now here's the science behind why this may be beneficial: in quantum physics the 'Observer Theory' (first developed by Werner Heisenberg), suggests that through simply observing a particle you can change its behaviour. This was identified in the Double Slit experiment where particles like electrons act as waves with an interference pattern when unobserved but produce no interference pattern when their path is measured. Although Pinterest boards aren't particles, this theory offers an insight into manifestation culture: when focussing on aspirations and visualising them through pictures, quotes and colours, perhaps we subconsciously change our actions and attitudes resulting in those goals becoming reality (similar to the saying 'Fake it till you make it'). Simply put; by creating vision boards we can 'observe' the life we want and gently push ourselves towards those goals.

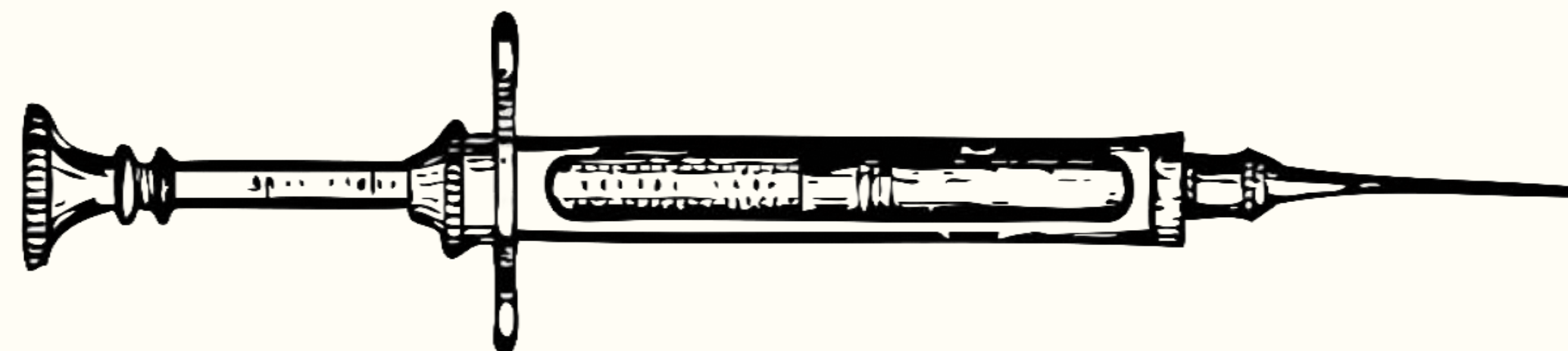
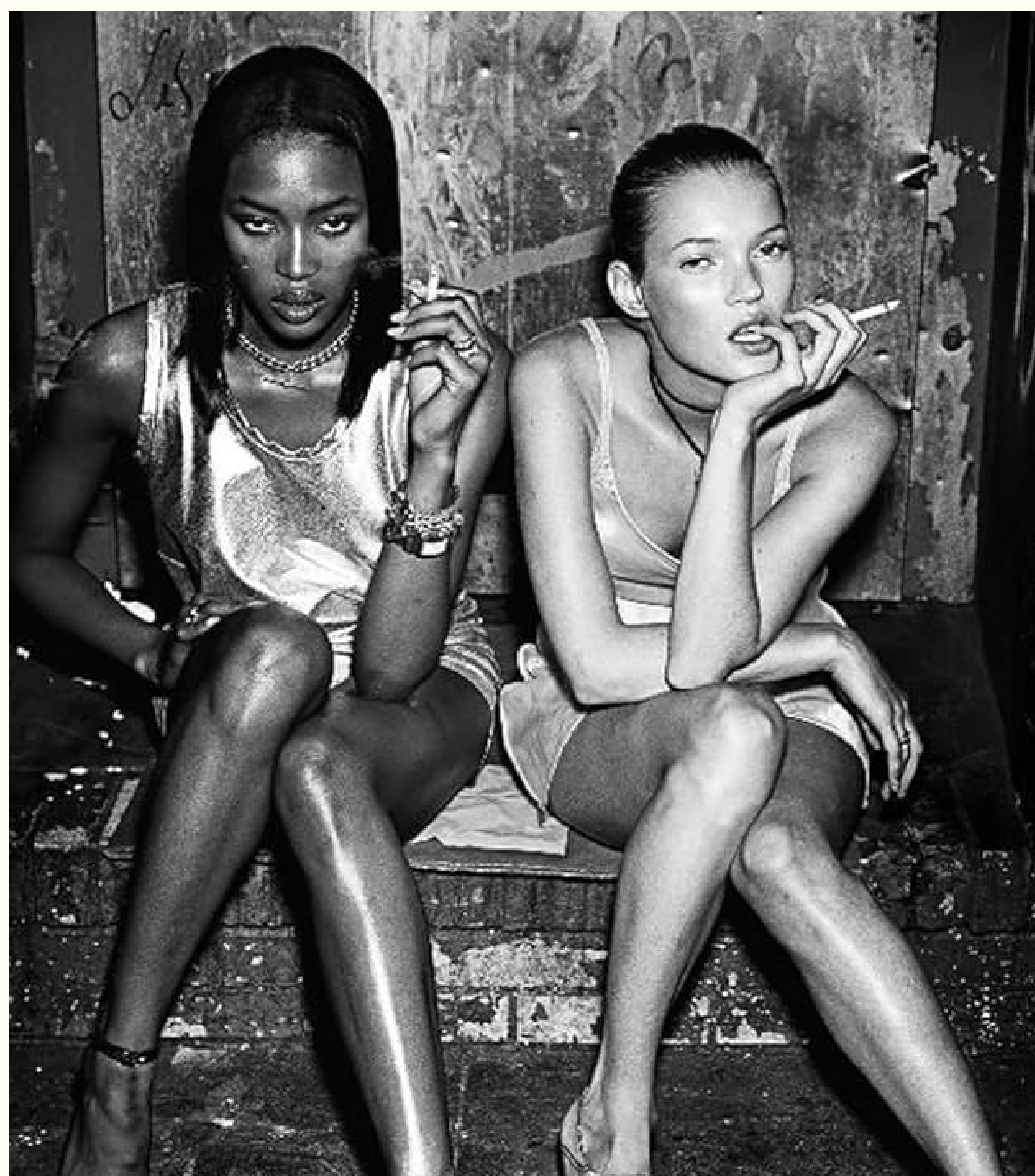
Skinny 2.0

By Darcy Bishop

There seems to be a new and improved version of skinny - with the help of ozempic - however what archaic ideals have been recycled?

Heroin Chic as popularised in the late 90's through popular models such as Kate Moss and Jaime King is the look of an 'unhealthy appearance'. Features such as pale skin, dark circles and stringy hair were associated, however the most noticeable feature was the stick thin bodies of those following the trend. The movement died down in the 2010's after the rise of the Kardashians and the surge of curvy bodies. This left a generation of people with damaged perceptions of body image and defined the 90's as an unhealthy and regressive era. Skinny was out and BBLs were in.

With this a new wave of body positivity was brought in as curves which had been rejected were now embraced. But there seems to be a regression as in the past couple years skinny figures have been brought back as the new 'trendy' body shape. The rise of popularity regarding low rise jeans has certainly ushered this trend along with the inseams becoming increasingly short. Is this new body trend a byproduct of fashion or changing ideals?



Now people have started noticing the size of models and becoming concerned as they look dangerously thin. Zara adverts were even banned for their 'unhealthily thin' models previously this year. Is this reflecting the resurgence of heroin chic?

Ozempic is now becoming recognised as a weight loss drug and is becoming widely used among both celebrities and the public alike. However, while this can prove health benefits, is it once again bringing back the pressure of skinny culture. Famous celebrities such as Elon Musk and Rebel Wilson have admitted to using the drug, though these are part of the minority. Many celebrities continue to deny the allegations of Ozempic use claiming their quick paced weight-loss results were all due to hard work and diets often promoting a new green tea or gut healthy food which achieved their results.

What this does create is a toxic diet culture. We question how people are achieving such quick weight loss results when in reality many are on Ozempic and refusing to admit it. It's similar to cases when male body-builders with the 'perfect' physique deny the use of steroids and leads others to question their own results, when in reality they rely on steroids to achieve the look.

Diet culture is a prominent part of society and new body trends cause people to aspire to a new shape which in the next 10 years will be seen as out of style. However, the question of whether this new resurgence of heroin chic and introduction of weight loss drugs will cause irreversible damage is becoming a question that needs to be addressed. Are we as a society regressing back to the outdated trends of the 90s?

Eating disorders although always prominent have had a 90% rise in the last 5 years and over 1.25 million people in the UK having eating disorders. The majority of these being young people is especially worrying, showing the impact these trends are having on youth. It seems to be this is a worldwide issue not a mere social trend. Obviously, multiple factors are contributing to this but what role are weight loss drugs and heroin chic playing and how worried should we be about the rebirth of skinny culture?

If you, or someone you know is being affected by an eating disorder, don't be afraid to contact the wellbeing team: wellbeing@richuish.ac.uk

Every Little Helps when Shopping Consciously

Molly Ashley for Hush Herald explores how to navigate the rocky road of boycott grocery shopping.

In an age where every major corporation seems to be a double agent, you may find yourself in a moral conundrum while simply nipping out to get milk. So how do you get your weekly shop in without feeling like a war criminal?

We all want to do the right thing. But, as simple as we might want being a good person to be, it's not as easy as it sounds. There will always be a conflict between the quick personal win and the greater good; when it comes to boycotting - protesting by abstaining from a product, organisation or country - you may find yourself asking: do I get what I really want, for the price of being part of the problem, or do I sacrifice a favourite for a second-best in the name of activism?

In my experience, my choice tends to lean in my family's favour. My mother has always been a person who opts for - and promotes - the sacrifice. She has toiled relentlessly to be a vegan, despite loving meat, after watching the documentaries such as 'Cow' about the horrific scenes behind the meat trade. Continuing to shop for change, in the shadow of new light shed on the Israel-Palestine conflict, my mum and I set out to complete our weekly shop - avoiding any and all products that fund arms to the powers involved.

Using an app called 'No Thanks' we scaled the aisles, grabbing items, scanning barcodes, shaking our heads, returning them to the shelves. Suddenly, almost everything was off the market. We couldn't buy any wet wipes. We had to completely change our milk brand. (I won't say which one, but it was a very popular brand of oat milk - yes, she's still taking the vegan approach.)



It soon became apparent that in order to do the right thing, we'd have to change our grocery list completely. At first, this felt demotivating; why waste time and money rewriting our diets and daily routines? But some simple research into boycotting overturned my pessimism.

Even though it can feel pointless, boycotting is far from ineffective. In the 1980s, boycotts against companies that supported the apartheid government of South Africa made the country a global pariah and eventually forced the demolition of the apartheid regime in 1994. More recently, boycotting against Starbucks due to claims of the company's support of Israel's military campaign have caused a drop in sales and share prices - proving to the world that it is us, the people, who have the power to make change.

Of course, we can't always do the right thing. Often, the "better" products are more expensive, or less easily accessible. Although it is important to be in tune with our social responsibility, we must also remember that being the consumers does not make us at fault; the companies must be held accountable.

"We all want to do the right thing. But, as simple as we might want being a good person to be, it's not as easy as it sounds."

So, how can you navigate boycotting?

Firstly, I recommend downloading the apps 'No Thanks' and/or 'Boycott for Peace' to explore your impact, because movement starts with learning. Scout around in your local supermarket. Scan your favourite snacks - you might find out you've been buying right all along. Then, if what you find out shocks you as much as it did me, try making the extra trip to an independent shop, or research brands that promote peace (one example is Ben & Jerry's ice cream - despite pushback from parent company Unilever, the brand remains vocal about Palestine and other global injustices on their social media pages).

And remember, activism has never been a stroll through the shops, but we have to bite the hand that feeds us before the hand bites us

AI Ate My Homework (and my future career)

By Josie Cohen

What happens when your biggest competitor isn't even human? ✕

We love to complain about artificial intelligence. How it's destroying any sense of personal creativity, turning us into individuals who can't write a single sentence without external assistance. Yet here we are, tapping away on our phones with AI-powered autocorrect and letting Spotify's algorithms handpick our entire playlists.

The irony is outstanding. We're simultaneously terrified of AI and yet utterly dependent on it.

Walk through any building in our college and you'll overhear the same contradictions. Students protest against AI's infiltration into education whilst scrolling through TikTok feeds perfectly curated by machine learning. We tease our parents for asking Alexa basic questions, but then open ChatGPT to give us the answers for a photosynthesis exam. The hypocrisy is staggering.

What's particularly fascinating is how ingrained AI has seemingly become. When Netflix recommends a new show for us to watch, that's AI. When Instagram shows you that dress in your favourite colour, that's AI. When Google Maps reroutes you around traffic in real time? You guessed it, AI. We've normalised these tools so greatly that we barely register them as artificial intelligence anymore. It's simply how things operate.

But the stakes are rising. Several departments here at college are already considering—or have quietly begun—incorporating AI into coursework and assignments. Teachers are experimenting with AI-driven grading assistants, and some programs are exploring adaptive, AI-generated problem sets tailored to individual student abilities. It's framed as innovation, as efficiency, as the inevitable march of progress in modern education.

And perhaps it is. But it's also training us to accept AI's presence in every corner of our own education. We're being actively conditioned to see algorithmic assistance not as an option, but instead as purely fundamental to our survival.

Anxiety surrounding employment isn't misguided either. Every week brings new headlines about AI replacing graphic designers, writers, and even basic admin roles. The jobs we're working towards might not exist in their current form by the time we gain a degree. Yet we continue feeding data into these systems, training them to be more skilled and competitive with human workers.

However, AI isn't regarded as 100% perfect. Even excluding the detrimental impacts on the environment, these institutions have no way to distinguish between fact and fiction as they have no literal representation of truth. We can ask a friend over lunch what the capital of France is and trust their answer as we share a common reality. Yet AI doesn't experience this world with us, it is simply relying on frequencies and statistics in text alone.

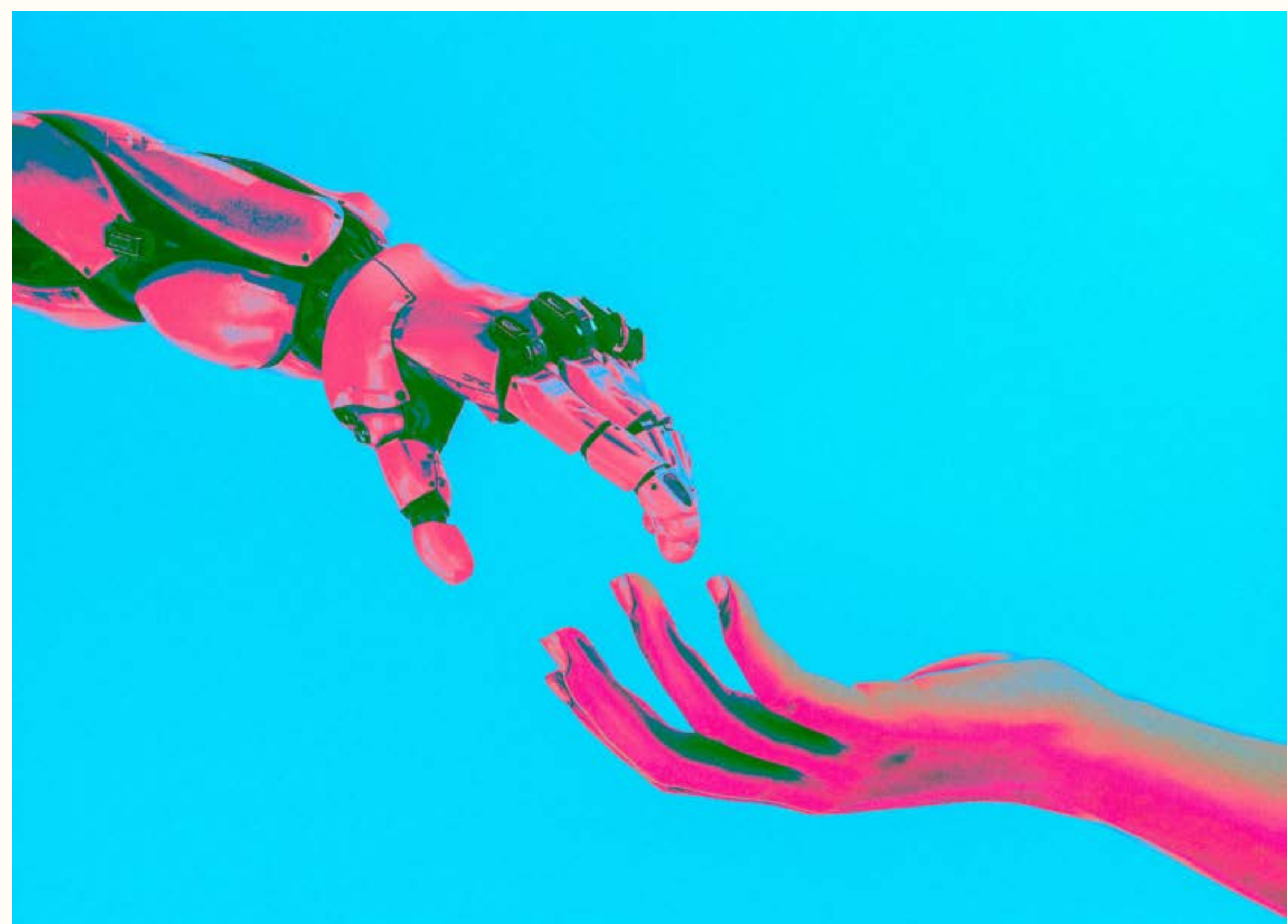
It seems like we're caught in an impossible position. Refusing to use AI feels like bringing a pencil to a keyboard fight. But embracing it wholeheartedly means potentially accelerating the future we just so claim to fear. So, we exist in this strange middle ground, criticising AI whilst simultaneously clicking "generate" and hoping the result is good enough to hand in.

But perhaps the real question isn't whether AI will take all of our jobs, but whether we're willing to draw any significant boundaries around its use. Right now, we're not. As a society, we're too busy enjoying the convenience and ease of letting algorithms do our thinking for us.

AI didn't just eat our homework, we fed it bite by bite.

(For the irony, one paragraph is 100% AI. Could you tell which one?)

"The irony is outstanding. We're simultaneously terrified of AI and yet utterly dependent on it."





PHOTOS BY PHOEBE LEWIS,
JACQUELINE CROWHURST
& GEORGE BELL



POLITICS

COP 30: A phase out of ambition instead of fossil fuels

By George Khan Davis

In case you overlooked it, the world gathered in Belém for its thirtieth annual climate emergency meeting. You'd be forgiven for not noticing: the biggest climate summit of the year isn't exactly known for its suspense. But this year, the stakes felt higher...

Held this year in Brazil, deep in the Amazon rainforest, COP30 aimed to bring the international community together; to ramp up their climate commitments and prove the Paris Goals still mean something. However, the build-up to this prestigious conference had made these dreams... doubtful.

Firstly, Brazil had hoped to claim the title as a climate leader by defending the Amazon and the environment but was met with sharp criticism because of its state-run energy giant that was expanding its oil projects and exploration along the coast. Also, the USA was completely absent from the conference, sparking worry whether progress would be halted when the most influential country wasn't prepared to commit nor negotiate climate promises. And internationally, the world was already drifting further away from the course to keep global warming below 1.5°C Celsius which was the main pledge of the Paris Agreement nearly ten years ago. So, while world leaders met to promise eventual action (again), the real question was not what they had to promise, but whether any of it would really combat the climate crisis.



On paper, hosting COP30 in Belem, the gateway to the Amazon Rainforest, sends a distinctive message – protect the environment around us. Its location most likely emphasises this as the Amazon Rainforest is known to be one of the most famous natural phenomena that Planet Earth has to offer. In practice, the build-up to the summit was met with logistical struggles - delegates competed for the minimal accommodation as hotel prices skyrocketed, transport failed and climate groups, as well as smaller nations, questioned whether they could afford attendance. For a convention aimed at climate security and international participation, it wasn't exactly optimal.

Despite the shaky start, COP30 had made some progress so there was still hope for possible change. Over eighty countries had publicly endorsed an idea for a roadmap to phase out fossil fuels - whether the momentum continued remained unclear through the conference, but it was surely noticeable.

However, the biggest fight was over the finances - again. Developing countries demanded financial commitments for their support in the transition away from fossil fuels, whereas wealthier countries were reluctant to offer contributions at all. In addition, similarly to previous COP conferences, COP30 had a significant presence from the fossil fuel industry, and many said that their lobbying was a visible concern within the conference.

When the summit finally closed in Belém, the world looked at the results and sighed. The negotiations went past schedule, resulting in the final “Mutirão” deal to be adopted well into extended overtime.

Furthermore, the most important issue of the conference - a clear decision to phase out fossil fuels - was completely omitted from the text altogether. Instead, the deal included vague promises to scale up support for vulnerable nations and a reaffirmation to stay under the 1.5°C goal. However, these promises did not come with any binding commitments or timelines which many argued are required for real change. Yet again, diplomacy chose compromise over confrontation. Belem left the world waiting, waiting for meaningless words to turn into inevitable action.

The Rise of Zacktivism

By Erin Tucker

Recent political polls have for the first time placed the Green Party above Labour. But does Zack Polanski's party have the means to keep this up?

Their membership numbers have skyrocketed ever since Polanski won the party's leadership election by a landslide in September. As of November, membership stood at over 175,000 people and counting, marking far over an 80% increase since Zack was elected.

So how does the Left's fresh face link back to our community and us as students? Polanski's policies inspired a few Year 2 Politics students, Will and Thomas, to attend their Green Party conference in Bournemouth at the start of October – I asked them what the Green Party had to offer that was relevant to us as young people, students at Huish, residents of Taunton, and the wider South West.

Young people in politics have been feeling shunned by the parties that are meant to represent us – being told by their representatives that they're wanted in politics, that they'll be the future of our country, but then not being listened to when their voice counts. Thomas felt that “the difference of the Green Party was that we felt like we were actually wanted”, and that in their time at the conference they had the chance to be heard out, “weighing in on policies [and] having discussions with MPs”.

Will built on his point by saying how “other parties are even neglectful of young people”, with the Young Conservative movement especially losing a lot of members when Rishi Sunak was championing the policy of young people being compelled by law to complete a 12 month ‘community service program’ or ‘military training scheme’ when they turned 18. He also described how “the main Tories don't promote it at all” and that it's “disconnected from the actual party”, which contrasts with the Green Party's accessibility for students to join with a £6-a-year membership fee.

“The Green Party are coming up with great alternatives and I think that's why they're polling so high.”

They described an atmosphere that fostered inclusion of young people, since most people attending the conference were older, with Will saying how “they were super enthusiastic to try to get us to join [the Green Party]”. This is a stark distinction from Sir Keir Starmer, the current Prime Minister, slamming ‘student politics’ and ‘A-level politics’, even implying that such a thing was impractical or unserious and ignored diplomacy.

Thomas and Will also met Zack Polanski in their time at the conference, and I asked them about their impression of him away from the cameras and interviewers, to which they said he seemed transparent and that he was consistent with the genuineness he shows on camera. For example, Thomas said how he talked about Welsh and Scottish independence off the record, and then came out publicly with the same stance just a few weeks later, showing that he sticks to what he says.



Not only is Polanski a fresh face, but he's giving the Greens more media attention, particularly alongside the bout of coverage that Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana's ‘Your Party’ received – when they tried to form their own party but succumbed to infighting before it was even properly named. Will said that “everything ‘Your Party’ was offering the Green Party also offered with Zack, but as part of an established party.”, with Thomas going on to add that “they are the most established left-wing party”.

It has also been said that the Green Party are spreading ‘politics of hope’, that instead of spending their time on negative campaigning and berating the ideas of other parties, instead they put forward how they could make the country better instead of focusing on why it's bad - “The Green Party are coming up with great alternatives and I think that's why they're polling so high.”

The Right Perspective: A Conversation That's Not Leaning Left

By Jack Flemming

What about a party would be enough to join as a paying member? What kind of policies do people support? What values do they believe in? I talked to a young member of the Conservative Party, Alex Peach, to get some answers.

The biggest question was why someone would join as a paying member. I asked him why, and his answer was very clear; “Well, I support mainly the economic and social policies, such as the basic Conservative ethos of lowering taxes. I believe in low tax, high growth, and a small government”. The Conservatives evidently offer policies that appeal to our generation; by lowering the amount of money we will have to pay in tax (doesn't that seem like a great idea?) and promoting social growth. He also wants “a future in politics” and so wants to show dedication to the party and start making decisions early on – something you can do too! Pay the fee, get the membership, and be a part of YOUR desired party, whether that be Conservative or not. We might be young, but it's time to make an actual change in our country.



We continued the conversation by diving into the specific policies he likes. He explained how he strongly believed in the removal of the stamp duty on houses, the scrapping of the European convention of Human Rights and scrapping the sentencing council. But what does that all mean? The long and short of it is that Alex wants to reduce tax for people who own houses, and to reduce the restrictions on the UK of foreign laws on migration.

A large part of any party is its core values. What does the party itself believe in, not just its members? Alex was very adamant that the Conservatives' main priority is to help people help themselves. Much like his reasoning for joining the party, it's clear to see that he believes, like so many of the Conservatives members, “low taxes and pushing large economic policies come as a welcome benefit to the public”. Does this, and will this, affect us as students and young people? Well to put it lightly, yes. The Conservatives, as previously stated, aim to remove the stamp duty on houses – this reduces prices of houses by removing the tax, making it easier for younger generations to afford accommodation. As Alex stated, “Lower taxes mean everybody has more money”. The Conservatives also pushed for the new expansion of Musgrove Hospital, increasing patient capacity and helping the people of Taunton live better, healthier and happier lives. And the people in question are us!

Thank you to Alex Peach for talking to me about his views, and we hope this article gives you a snippet of what belonging to a party means and how your voice can make an impact.

“The conservatives' main priority is to help people help themselves”

HAVE YOUR SAY!

If you want to talk to our politics team, have a discussion about our articles or ask a politics related question feel free to email our politics editor Jack - 0060246@richuish.ac.uk and we'll see what we can do!

The House of Commons and Those Who Debate There

By James Lawson

A view on the commons from an inside perspective.

On Thursday 6th November, the UK Youth Parliament held its annual debate in the beating heart of our democracy- the House of Commons. Millions of eyes have seen the Elizabeth Tower, glanced at the Great Hall and taken selfies on the bridge opposite. But very few have taken a seat on the famous benches, but as a member of Youth Parliament, I joined a debate there.

Perhaps the largest room in the Parliament building, is the Great Hall. Originally built in 1097, the Gothic architecture looms over the heads of those who stand below. One can only admire the work of the several architects and thousands of builders who meticulously carved out every engraving and built every piece of stonework that the House of Commons has to offer. This room has seen every stage of the UK's path to democracy; from the Magna Carta to the English Civil War and will continue to bear witness to more events in the future.

However, despite its long history, Westminster Hall cannot compete with the fame of the House of Commons. When moving from the hall to the chamber, the temperature difference is extreme, especially after debates regarding controversial topics! The house is well known for its approval of freedom of speech, and it's been known that many MPs passionately voice their opinion of what they think is right for the people of Britain. And what better way to do so than in such an iconic part of British architecture!



Inside the Chamber, many people other than MPs play significant roles in keeping order. The doorkeepers work tirelessly to ensure security; the speaker organizes the debate alongside his assistants and the Serjeant at Arms maintains order and reinforces security. All these people were present during the UK Youth Parliament debate, which was watched from above by a small crowd.

One detail never to be missed from a person's perception of this place, are the iconic green seats. Surprisingly comfortable, it is no wonder that, most unforgettably, Jacob Rees-Mogg nearly fell asleep on the front benches! Aside from a few slight tears, the furnishings are in remarkably good condition. Wooden engravings and a painted coat of arms adorn the walls, but nothing compares to the golden shine of the dispatch box. Hundreds of hands have leaned against this small box, each with an ambition to fulfil change.

650 MPs currently sit in the House of Commons, each with a different story of how they got there. This includes Carla Denyer, the ex-leader of the Green Party. I was lucky enough to ask her some questions...

I asked her about how environmental action can create opportunities. In response, she told me about her "private members bill" (a bill that a backbencher suggests and the Chamber votes on). She said that "it pushed the government to have an energy jobs plan". She also mentioned that she wants "jobs in the fossil fuels sector to be transferred to green industries. For example, oil rig workers could staff wind turbines". Finally, she commented that "the Green Party is less attached to the idea of growth. We care more about quality of life".

Returning to my original question regarding environmental actions creating opportunities, she stated that "the green sector needs to grow faster. The government needs to have a clean energy workforce strategy, and an offshore wind strategy should be established".

Afterwards, she talked about how education can encourage young people to work in green sectors. Awareness of green jobs, work experience and other opportunities are only a few ideas that she mentioned regarding this. She believes that "there is a long way to go, and the public must understand that sustainability isn't just about science. It's about education and social wellbeing".

CULTURE

Gift ideas for your literature-loving friends

By Sofia Sartain-Walker

As a bibliophile, I would love a nice cozy read for this winter season so here are a few literate gifts, for others or yourself to enjoy over the winter months.

1. Six of Crows- Leigh Bardugo:

Firstly, let's start with one of my favourites: Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo. Part of the Grishaverse, this book has everything you could possibly want- relatable characters who you will undoubtedly fall in love with, an effortless found family trope, and a plot that will leave you in awe. This book would be perfect for anyone with an appreciation for heists and a desire for adventure. When criminal mastermind Kaz Brekker is offered a chance at pulling off a deadly mission that could bring riches beyond his wildest dreams, he gathers an unlikely band of outcasts from the bottom of the barrel to attempt a heist which could save the world... but only if they survive.

2. The Picture of Dorian Gray- Oscar Wilde:

Next up, a classic renowned for its gothic and twisted themes; The Picture of Dorian Gray is the perfect novel for those of you who desire to delve into the descent of an elegant man from respectable society into a dark and twisted beast masked by an eternally beautiful face. When the artist, Basil, becomes enraptured by our main character Dorian Gray, he introduces him to Lord Henry Wotton, who enthralls him with the hedonistic aristocratic world. This leads to Dorian's obsession with staying young forever, even going to the extent of selling his own soul to do so.



3. The Secret History- Donna Tartt:

If a novel with dark academia vibes and the breakdown of a tight-knit elitist group grabs your attention, then The Secret History by Donna Tartt is the perfect book. With flawed characters, plot twists, and the slow corruption of so-called cultured individuals, this novel will draw you in and not let you go until the bitter end. We follow the narrator, Richard Pape, who reflects back upon the events leading up to the murder of one of the members of their isolated class of six studying classics at Hampden college, and how the long-lasting effects of their guilt grew over time until one, final conclusion.

4. The Song of Achilles- Madeline Miller:

The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller; an LGBTQIA+ retelling of a well-known tale of Ancient Greece. This book has themes of warfare and passion which navigates the cannon text with a little artistic flair (brief synopsis). Enraptured in Miller's masterful storytelling, we see the hero Achilles growing into his legacy as the greatest warrior of his time, and the growing relationship between him and Patroclus, his closest companion. From their first meeting to the events of the Trojan War, we watch as they fall in love in the midst of one of the greatest battles in history. A beautifully devastating but satisfying novel, with an ending that will leave you breathless in grief, like any good novel, this will be perfect for anyone with a love for reshaping history and a story of true love.

5. Days at the Morisaki Bookshop- Satoshi Yagishawa:

Finally, Days at the Morisaki Bookshop by Satoshi Yagishawa is a cosy and gentle read, following Takako, a young woman, as she rebuilds her life working in her eccentric uncle's bookshop after discovering that her boyfriend is marrying another woman. As the time passes and Autumn settles in, she falls in love, finds joy, and discovers the healing powers of literature and words. Written like warm hug, this is the perfect book to read during the cold winter months.

Singing between Semitones

By Rian Regan

Micro-tonality in popular music is a fascinating concept to work with, but is often under explored. Rian Regan talks about one particular song that gets it right.

To write a piece of music with micro-tonality - the division of an octave-based scale smaller than a semitone - is a complex beast that depends on one's actual confidence in composing. For Western artists in general, to write music effectively in anything apart from our favourite 12-EDO (Equal Divisions of the Octave) requires a completely new mindset, which makes it all the more impressive when a successful work is achieved - as, yes, can be seen with some of the recent output of King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard.

Listening to micro-tonality is very audience dependent; both people who are very accustomed to micro-tonality, and people who aren't, can hear it and find it nice and funky, while music scholars unaccustomed to it will proceed to tear their hair out over how wrong and out of tune it appears. But don't worry! It's just a matter of getting used to it and once that is achieved you can listen to some true bangers.

Which brings me to Brendan Byrnes's 'Hysteria': an artist and a song I discovered rather by accident thanks to a Spotify playlist near the beginning of this term and have not been able to stop thinking about since. For me, micro-tonal music scratches an itch of adventure that a lot of other, more conventional music can't satisfy - it pushes forward experimentation with every new beat and chord. It also helps that this song is vaguely electronic, wrapped up in a driving rock beat, making it already tuned to my existing listening sensibilities.



The song is composed in 22-EDO (twenty-two equal octave divisions) of which Byrnes' voice is both neatly tuned to this and incredibly adept at delivering the pulsing, slightly desperate drive that runs throughout this song, paired with ambiguous subjects in lyrics which stray from the usual radio pop mundane. The harmony is rich in similarly styled 8-bit-like synth arpeggios, replicating the semi-conflicted mood those listening not used to this genre feel listening to this micro-tonal complexity. Due to the genre's nature the exact chord progression can be hard to pin down, there's something strange within it that's just invigorating, especially in the switch from the minor-intoned verses to the neutral/ major-themed choruses - I find it easy to imagine a high speed car chase scene set to this piece; or something as similarly convoluted.

The song is simple, but it's powerful, it's fresh, pulsing and is definitely the highlight of its home album *Neutral Paradise* (a very fitting slightly mystical, off-kilter name for this album).

This song provides complex emotion and challenges many popular songs. It's an eyepiece into complexity in music and if it's the first song to expose a whole new dimension of music for you, then that's even better!

Musical Musings

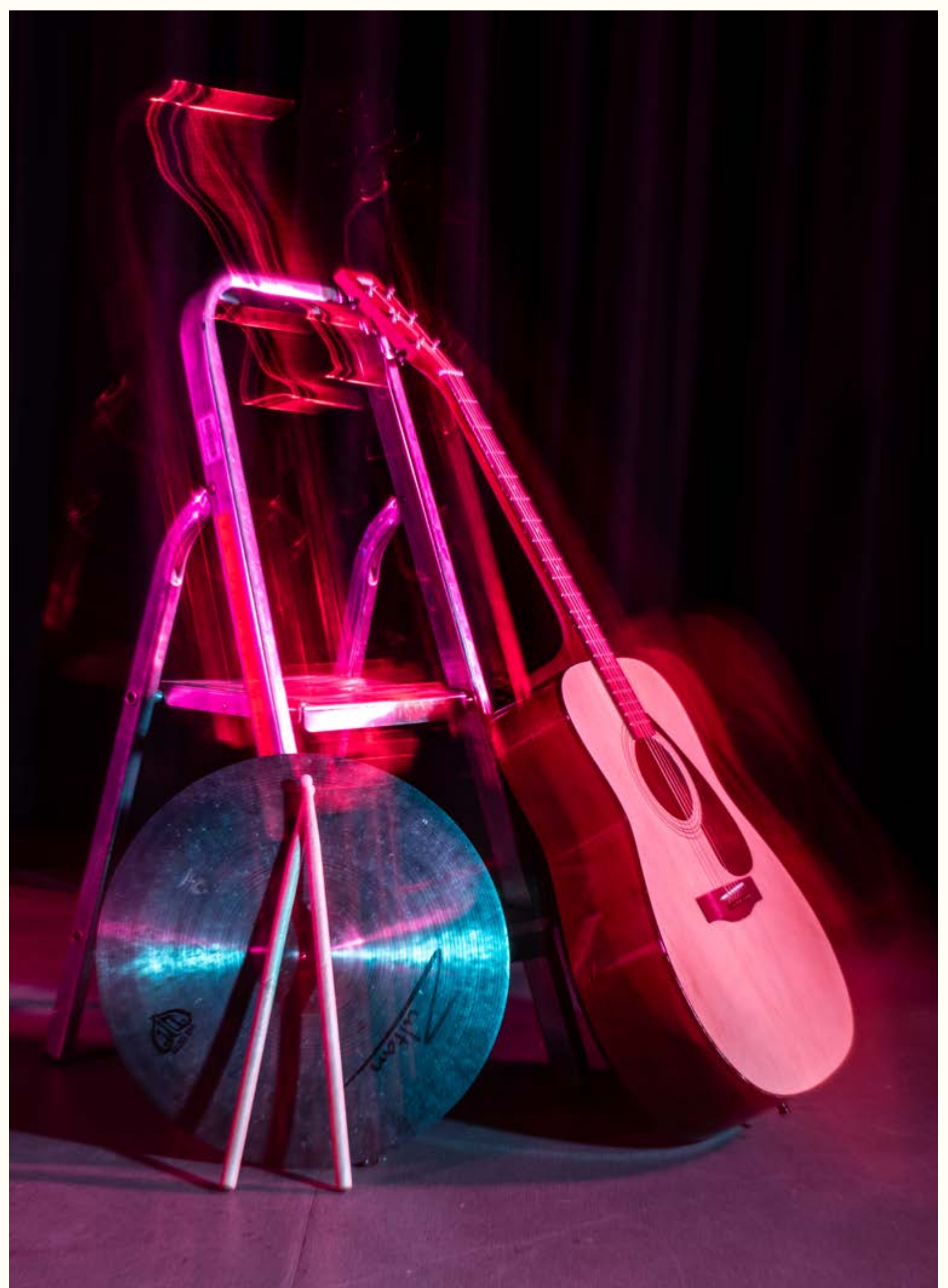
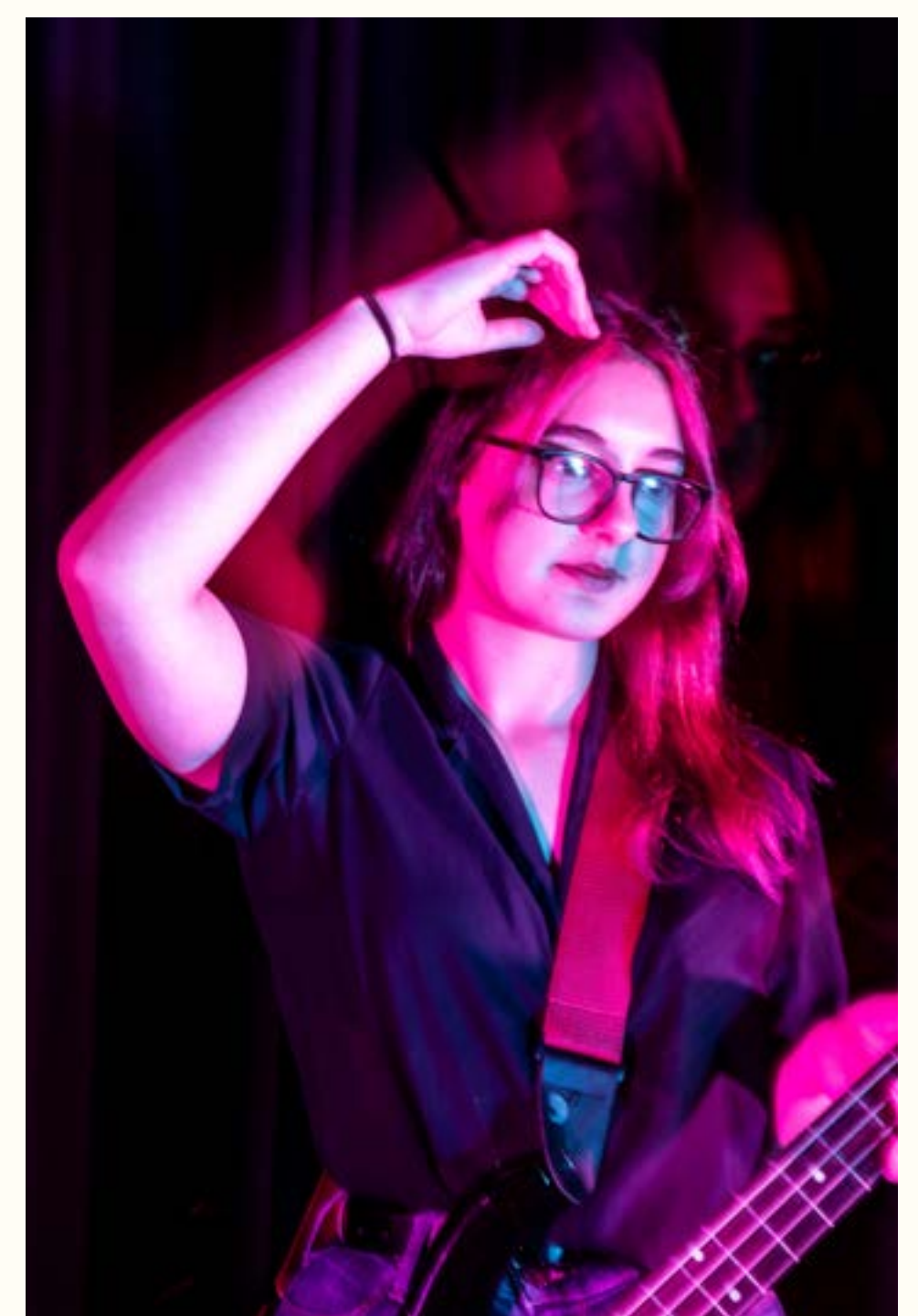
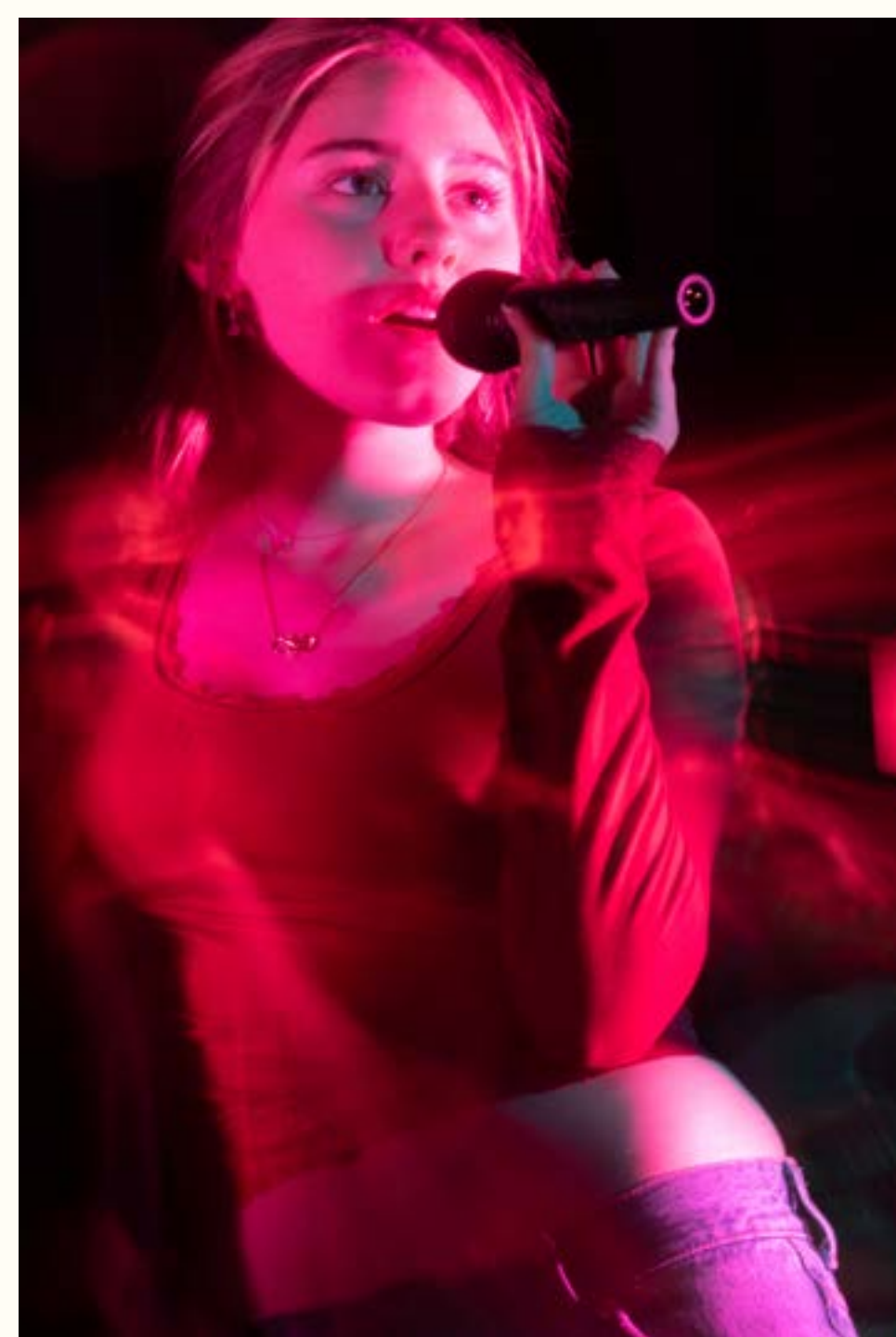
By Alisha Lee

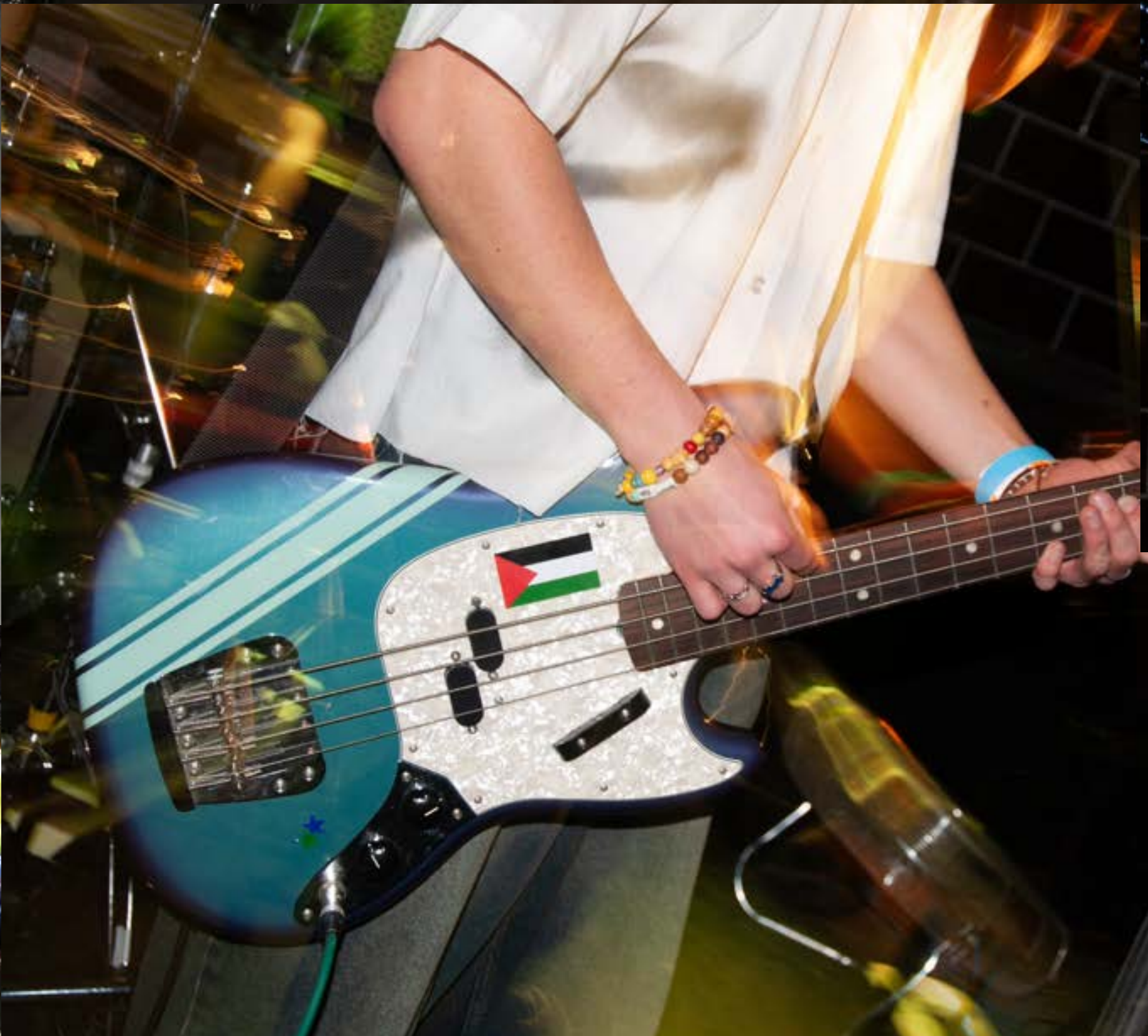
The music department has become one of the college's most vibrant creative hubs, drawing in students with big ideas and even bigger passion. It's a space where beginners and seasoned performers work side by side, united by curiosity and community spirit.

At Huish, music isn't just taught; it's lived, it's a culture where creativity feels shared rather than competitive. The atmosphere is one of permission to fail, to try again, to reinvent, to imagine. This is a department where future producers, composers, performers, and sound designers begin their journey—with confidence, support, and a community that believes in them.

Among those adding to the department's bright atmosphere is Jay Thomas, a student whose enthusiasm embodies the hope and innovation in a new artist. Jay works instinctively, describing himself as someone who doesn't always plan every step. He explains he'll often just "chuck an idea down" and shape it from there. For him, creativity drives everything: the emotion, the melody, even the technical choices behind the scenes. He talks with admiration about how learning the tools of music production has opened his ears: "I find it easier to dissect music... especially in movie soundtracks," he says. Understanding the craft has deepened his appreciation for the art—and strengthened his desire to blend genres, especially mixing orchestral elements with modern styles like hip-hop.

As the winter term unfolds, the Huish Music Department continues to be a place where hearts and minds stay warm—no matter how cold it gets outside.





BIGGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

4 BANDS 4 DIFFERENT STYLES

Say No More

16th
Jan
2026

61
Bar &
Venue

Resonance

Proper Proper

Doors - 6:30pm
Say No More
- 7:00pm
Resonance
- 7:40pm
Proper Proper
- 8:20 pm
Chipshop Massacre
- 9:00pm



Chipshop Massacre

DONT MISS THIS!

SPORT

Somerset County Cricket Club – Season Summary

by Toby White

For many young cricket followers 2025 will be (another) year to remember in the West Country. Somerset men's teams put up many compelling competitive results and women's cricketers donned Somerset kit for the first time. As the fans chase the sun across the globe to Australia, we look back on a fantastic season at the CAGC.

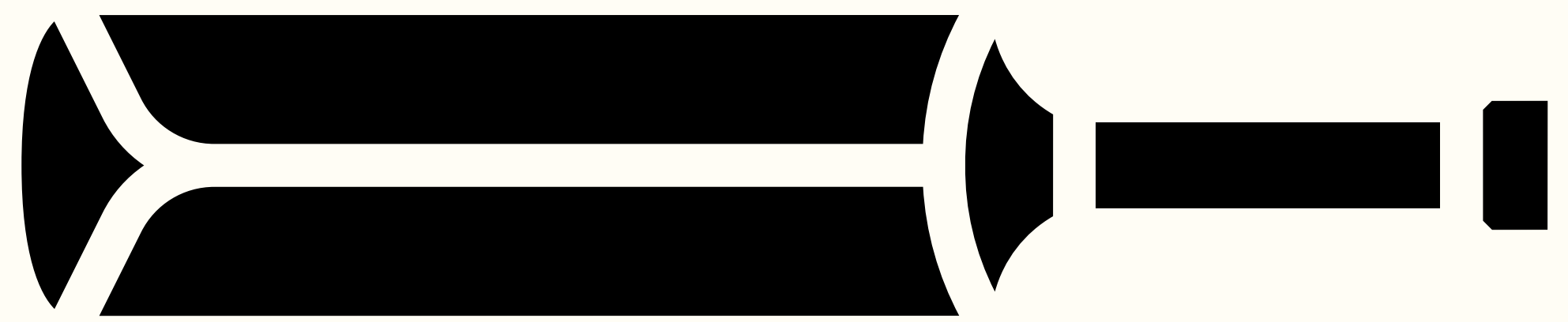
The Women's Team

The season was always going to be remembered as the first year of Somerset's women's team as the previous Taunton-based women's team, Western Storm, morphed itself into Somerset women's team. Although the team proved unsuccessful in both the Vitality Blast (10th) and One Day Cup (5th) the success was always going to be hosting a non-Hundred, county-run women's team and the subsequent boost to the development of the sport that will surely bring.

The Men's Team

The men's side managed 3rd place in the County Championship for the second season in a row, an impressive feat for club used to playing at a ground perhaps better suited to T20 than multi-day matches. It was during this campaign, during a match against Warwickshire, that the club celebrated its 150th anniversary prompting national news stories.

Whilst many premier short-form players began their Hundred campaigns, Taunton spectators turned to the One Day cup. Somerset made it to the Semi-Finals of the competition where they fell to a Worcestershire side that had managed to retain a large proportion of their 1st XI. Despite thinner crowds, the One Day Cup can provide playing time for 1st team prospects. For example, Jake Ball's performances managed to earn him a place in the T20 team for the knockout rounds.



The standout for the season, however, was always likely to be the team's performance in the T20 Vitality Blast, where success now seems an expectation. They have made their way to finals day in the last 5 consecutive seasons plus a win in 2023. Somerset cruised their way to second place even on points as leaders Surrey, culminating in a Quarter-Final against Warwickshire at a tense Taunton. Bears batted first, making 190. The majority of the chasing innings were dreary as the target slipped away, until, requiring 19 off 6 balls, Dickson (71*) put away the boundaries to take Somerset to Edgbaston. After comprehensively beating Anderson's Lancashire, a Smeed masterclass of 94 lasting 18 overs guided A Dickson-Gregory partnership to the first ever 2 Finals Day wins in 3 years.

Dickson's excellent innings in the quarter-final was to be his last home match at Taunton as he leaves for Glamorgan. Also to leave are Aldridge (Durham), Green and Davey (both Leicestershire). Shaw is to join from Gloucestershire, as is South African Pretorius returning for a third stint at the club. Many club favourites have signed extensions including Leach, Kohler-Cadmore and Gregory.



Lights Out

by Emily Crew

The changing world of Formula 1 and what you need to know before the 2026 season.

76 years after the inaugural Formula 1 season, the sport looks very different. The landscape has shifted from the heavily male place it once was, now drawing in millions of fans worldwide with the fastest growing demographic being 16-24 year old women.

2026 particularly is a year of major change - every year there are minor rule adjustments but this year there will be a major overhaul of the regulations. The fundamental design of the cars is changing, leading to an entirely new generation of racing. This also means there's an opportunity to mix up the competitive order, with teams that weren't in top championship battles the previous year having more time for development. This season will also see the return of an 11th team to the grid after 10 years. The iconic American brand Cadillac will make its F1 debut capitalising on the booming popularity of F1 in the USA.

In simple terms, the new regulations aim to make racing more competitive. This means smaller, lighter cars, narrower tyres, less downforce / drag, a new 'overtake mode', as well as 100% sustainable fuel. It has also been speculated that these changes will reward 'cleverer' drivers with the ability to manage the increased complexity of hybrid systems, active aerodynamics and strategic energy deployment, effectively meaning drivers have to process complex data and make tactical split second decisions (while driving at 200mph!). They will have to blend more traditional wheel to wheel racing skill with advanced technological and tactical thinking.

"In simple terms, the new regulations aim to make racing more competitive."



So who will this benefit?

Last time there was a major change of regulations was the 2022 ground-effect era, in which Red Bull achieved almost total domination for 2 seasons due to their excellent conceptual design paired with continuous development and adaptation in comparison to competitors. However, this year it is relatively unknown who will benefit under these new regulations. Rumours suggest power unit changes may benefit Mercedes and their customer teams McLaren, Williams and Alpine due to their strong engine development as well new engine manufacturers Audi and Red Bull / Ford. However, predictions at this stage are largely guesswork.

When will we know for sure?

To definitively know the true pace of these new cars we'll have to wait until the first qualifying session of the season in Australia, and to know the true standard of racing we'll have to wait until - you guessed it - the first race. However, before then, the die hard fans will be waiting patiently for the annual collection of grainy videos shot through fences and low quality audio clips of the roar of the new engines recorded in the private pre-season testing in Barcelona around late January. After that, the televised official pre-season testing will take place in Bahrain on February 11th-13th and 18th-20th. This will help fans, drivers and teams alike gain a better understanding of the cars. Although, teams frequently 'sandbag' in these sessions - deliberately hiding their true pace from their rivals.

Essentially, the 2026 F1 season is one of mystery at this point. How will the new regulations affect racing and who will capitalise on them? How will having 11 teams change the sport? How will drivers returning to the sport perform? How will rookie Arvid Lindblad perform? How will team dynamics change from previous seasons? Finally, the ultimate question - Who will be World Champion?

These questions will start to be answered in the season opener in Australia. For us in the UK the first qualifying session is on Saturday 7th March at 5:00 am with the race the following day at 4:00 am - an early start for what should be a historic season.

LIFE AT HUISH

By Cerys Wright and Lexi Bowditch

A brief summary of life at Huish, and students' thoughts on Richard Huish College, itself.

Our college is widely recognised across Somerset with its 'outstanding' provision for 16+ education, but what makes this college so special? Its combination of on campus educational support and extracurricular activities forms a supportive and enriching environment. The strong sense of community that develops quickly despite our limited time here can be seen across campus, with supportive teachers who encourage our welcoming and open-minded student body. From enrichment activities and clubs to excellent facilities and a vibrant social scene, life at Huish offers a balance of academic challenge and personal growth that prepares them well for their future paths.

To gain a different perspective into what everyday life is really like here, we spoke with a year 1 about their experiences studying A-level History (Late Modern), Photography, and Classical Civilisation. They also volunteer with ARC as part of their enrichment. "I chose Huish because I wanted to learn in a calm, welcoming, and clean environment. My favourite subject is Photography because it allows me to be creative, and I really enjoy the digital side of the work. A typical day for me starts with a 45-minute drive...the most challenging part of Huish life". We spoke to them further about the community at Huish: "I've made a few new friends in lessons and found it surprisingly easy to talk to people." among other spaces they've made use of our much-loved Willow Café, "seeing friends, doing homework, and using free periods productively.". After Huish, this student wishes to "get an apprenticeship, possibly in something creative and social like hairdressing... [their] advice to future students...take your time and plan...so the workload feels more manageable."

Overall, life at Huish is shaped by a strong sense of community, supportive teaching, and opportunities that allow us as students to grow both academically and personally. The college provides a welcoming environment: where we can pursue our interests; manage our responsibilities; and prepare confidently for our next steps. Whether through enrichment, friendships, or the day-to-day rhythm of college life, Huish offers a foundation that sets us up for a successful future.



What do you think about studying at Huish? Let us know through the Huish Haven QR code!

The Showcase of Dear Evan Hansen

An overview of Dear Evan Hansen including cast interviews, by Alexi Bowditch and Cerys Wright

Social media often glosses over our deepest struggles, but Dear Evan Hansen pierces through the noise with a profound and compelling story. Centred on a high school student, wrestling with mental health, anxiety, and grief, the musical handles its themes with remarkable sensitivity and emotional truth, crafting a narrative that is both deeply raw and powerfully resonant.

Richard Huish College has embraced the ambitious challenge of bringing this nuanced production to the stage. Yet, this is far more than a standard college musical; it is a reflective lens on the hopes, fears, and pressures that define our modern society. To honour the heart of Dear Evan Hansen, the students must deliver performances marked by authenticity, vulnerability, and emotional depth, breathing new life into a story that demands both courage and compass.

To truly understand the heart and hard work behind this production, it's important to hear from the students themselves- the performers who are bringing Dear Evan Hansen to life from the inside out. Their perspectives offer a glimpse into the dedication, challenges, and personal connections that shape this ambitious project. Whether they were members of the ensemble, leads, costume designers, or stage crew, we have been offered multiple perspectives on just how rewarding the Dear Evan Hansen experience has been for them so far.

The production, which started at the beginning of the college year, has proved to be an extremely gratifying experience, with all members involved agreeing with one thing: that the musical has expanded social circles and provided the cast with an 'opportunity to meet new people' from across the college. This has been especially beneficial for students to socialise between year groups, with 1st years fully immersing themselves into Huish life and connecting with like-minded people and, 2nd years spending their last year at Huish, enjoying their experience here and taking any exciting opportunities given to them.

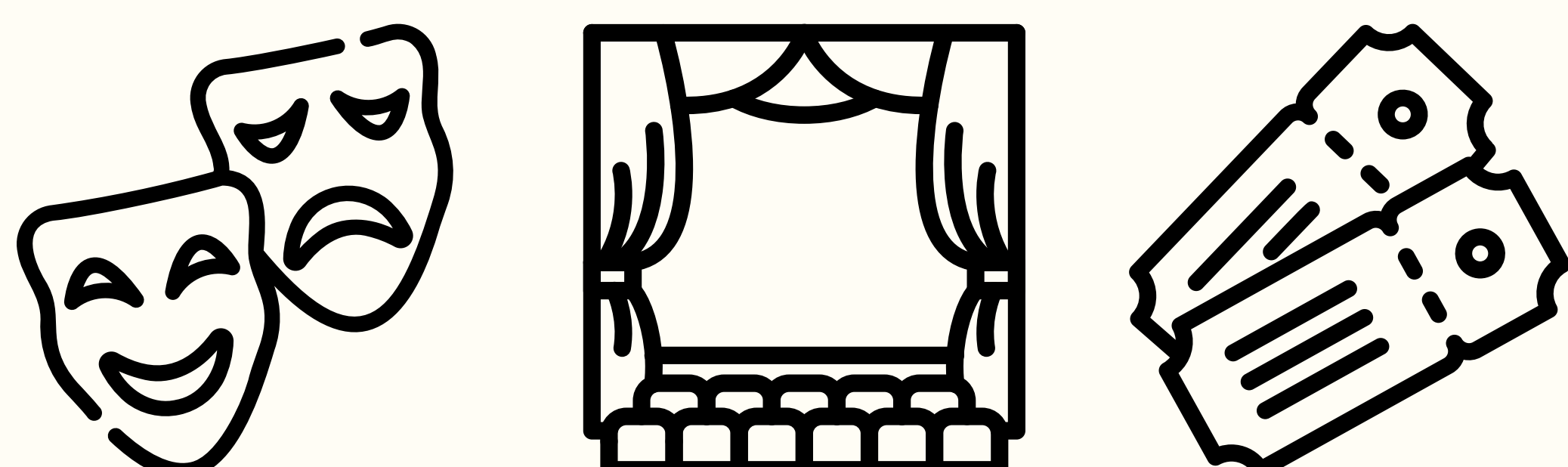
DEAR EVAN HANSEN

Ensemble cast members Ella de Warren Penny, Martha Vile and Grace Smith speak on the Dear Evan Hansen experience as a brilliant opportunity, allowing them to progress through musical theatre and meet people with similar interests: 'I've always liked Dear Evan Hansen. it's one of my favourite shows, especially because it's my last year of being here, I kind of wanted to make some friends in the show.' For Ella and Martha, the production has 'easily' had a positive impact on their college experience, providing a stress relief from homework and exams. These cast members enjoy scenes like 'Waving through a window' for the 'beautiful' and 'fun' choreography and 'You'll be found' for how 'emotionally moving' it is. Grace, a first year in the ensemble, has experience with musical theatre outside of college so this opportunity has allowed her to bond with people all from different backgrounds which enhances the production into something truly incredible.

Additionally, the cast of the production believe that the play has enabled them to elevate their skills and has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience to work in theatre, particularly for those who hadn't done many musicals before. For some, musicals were a newer project, forcing them to 'step out of their comfort zone' and 'try new things'.

Dawn Soames, playing Heidi Handsen, said they had been 'singing since [they] were conscious' so the production has proved to be 'a really good opportunity to show what [they] can do'. The choreography has been very 'fun' for cast members, as well as 'learning songs', 'dance moves' and 'acting with other people'.

Cynthia Murphy, played by Ava Larcombe, and Larry Murphy, played by Evan Hall, are the emotionally distant and, at times, neglecting parents of Connor and Zoe Murphy. We asked what it's like to play this dynamic in these characters, Ava says 'it has been really fun acting like a mum and telling people off and bossing people about'. For Evan, he found it 'easy to get into the role' as he has played the 'dad character' quite a lot. In addition, they state that 'everyone is so lovely and welcoming' which aids them in how they make the character both comfortably and quickly. For people 'apprehensive' about doing the musical at first, it appears it has proved to be a rewarding experience with the great songs and a kind cast.





The leads of the story, Evan Hansen, played by George Williams, Zoe Murphy, played by Cyanne Ellis spoke about their experience with a somewhat different vibe to what they've done in the past, 'I have been in musicals outside of college... and have always wanted to do a performance of [Dear Evan Hansen]' said George whereas Cyanne "hasn't done musicals before. Except when [she] was very young'. The chemistry between these two friends is genuinely hilarious to be around. Also interviewed with them, Cole Cousins, playing Connor Murphy, described the experience as like 'forming a second family... [with an] enjoyable audition process' that has given him confidence on and off stage. Cole and George also showed their chemistry in this interview with friendly jabs left, right and centre.

However, not only the cast are involved in the makings of this production, with many students and staff working behind the scenes to help the running of this musical go as smoothly as possible, and to create the environment this story is set in. This includes the costume designers and the stage crew, who deserve to be commemorated just as much as everyone else.

Erin Wood, a member of the prop department, says that she has 'really enjoyed working as a team' and loves the 'physical aspects' of setting the scene. Seb Langford, part of the stage management team, said 'working with all the people that I've met over [their] 2 years in college' has been the best part of the project, but time-management between stage and college has proven difficult.

In addition, the costume department also plays a vital role in the inner workings of the production. We interviewed Evie Stead and Caitlin Rogers, who were straightening hair extensions for the character of Zoe. 'A definite bonus of this role is that on occasion, [we] can watch the rehearsals of the production; getting to see the musical first.' Both recommended stage craft but emphasised the need to stay organised.

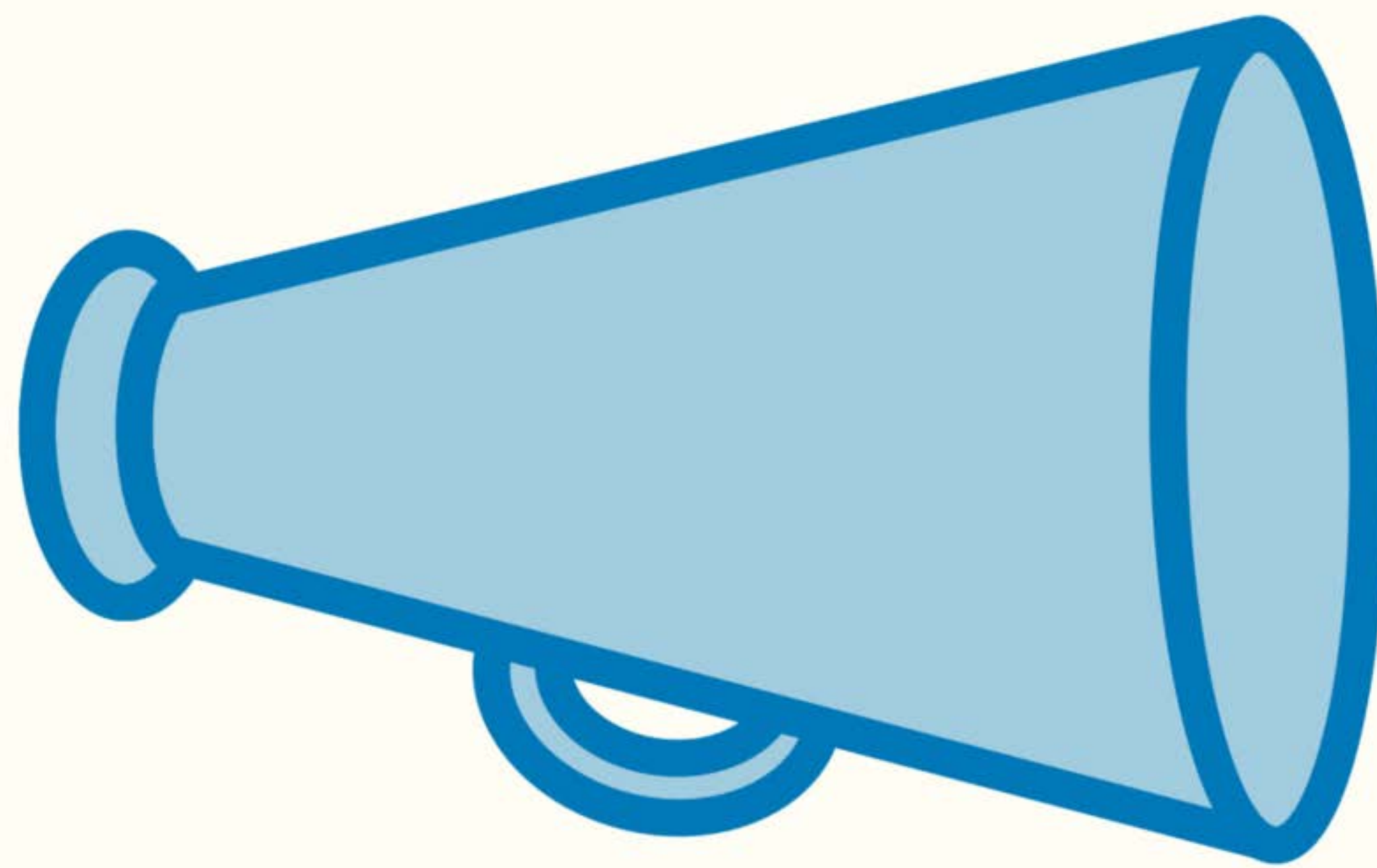
Another aspect of the production explored by cast members, like Latika Bhandari, Elizabeth Beale and Grace Smith, were the overriding themes of anxiety, grief, and desire for connection. Mental health is incredibly significant in this musical and the struggles these characters face is interweaved with the plot as a problem so many teens face. '[The musical] has very heavy themes that some of us may not have [acted] before.' They both found it interesting exploring, 'heavy themes with such young characters, especially those within our own age range'. For the actors, it has been 'different [to portray] someone so young experiencing these things... [they] hope the audience will be moved by the production and inspire [them] to be kind to people because you never know what someone is going through'.

Many of the college staff have helped with this production, with Gemma Thompson, the course manager of A level Drama and Theatre Studies, leading the way and showing immense commitment to these students and teams, helping everyone to create the Huish's Dear Evan Hansen musical what it is today: 'we love you Gemma!'

The production will take place between the 3rd and 6th of February, and tickets can be bought online through the Huish website, from all the cast: 'come to see the show'!



**THE HUISSH HERALD 2026
ISSUE 01**



THANK YOU FOR READING