



WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU?
WHY ARE YOU *HERE?*

guai

issue 01



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written and published by sarah hoang



thank you for reading my zine
your support means the world :]

write to me: guaizine@gmail.com
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huge thanks to the spew zine creators
for their diy tutorial <3

ARE YOU A SISTA GRRRL?

riot grrrl is back! but let's not forget how exclusive the movement really was. riot grrrl was created in response to the misogyny and overall girl-hate in the punk scene, and although it was indeed a feminist movement, it was not an intersectional one. catered for cis white women, these kinds of riot grrrls put in time and effort to exclude anyone that was "other". if you were black, indigineous, a person of color, and/or trans, you were not welcome. unless you were a cis white girl, riot grrrl was not for you.

but then, there was sista grrrl. SISTA GRRRL!!!!

sista grrrl was an alternate movement in response to the exclusivity of riot grrrl. created by tamar-kali brown, maya glick, simi stone, and honeychild coleman, the sista grrrl movement aimed for representation and visibility. this powerful group of 4 created a truly inclusive safe space for women who felt unwelcome by the riot grrrl cliques, emphasizing and reminding those white women that rock music was and still is, black music. today, they continue creating and promoting inclusive safe spaces, supporting young girls and women in their pursuits in the music industry.

and if you ask me, i'd say they paved the way for modern-day riot grrrls. the sista grrrls are badass.



PUT ON THE FUCKING PANTS

MY CULTURE IS NOT AN ACCESSORY. IT'S NOT SOMETHING FOR YOU TO PICK APART AND CATER TO YOUR DESIRES. MY CULTURE IS NOT A TREND. IT IS NOT TO BE SEXUALIZED. MY CULTURE IS NOT YOUR DAMN PLAYGROUND.

Reach out the car
window trying to hold
the wind
You tell me you love
her, I give you a grin
Oh, all I ever wanted
was a life in your shape
So I follow the white
lines, follow the white
lines
Keep my eyes on the
road as I ache.....mitski forever



boy, I love it **when you
look my way**

boy, I love it when you
call my name

do you still look my way?

NOT ALL ASIANS



ARE PALE-SKINNED

IN THE PROCESS OF FIGURING OUT EXACTLY WHO I AM AND WHO I WANT TO BE, I AM TRYING TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO LIVE AT THE SAME TIME. BEING AN ASIAN IMMIGRANT IS ONE THING, BEING A DESCENDANT OF ONE IS ANOTHER. AND IT DOESN'T MAKE IT BETTER WHEN MY FACE MAKES ME A TARGET. I WAS BORN HERE BUT I AM NOT WELCOME HERE. I DRESS LIKE THEM AND



CAN SPEAK LIKE THEM, BUT I AM STILL NOT A PART OF THEM.



DON'T I BELONG? IF SO, WHERE DO I BELONG? AM I ASIAN? OR

AM I AMERICAN? CAN'T I BE BOTH OR AM I JUST NEITHER? I FIND SOLACE IN LOOKING THROUGH OLD FAMILY PHOTOS, REMINDING MYSELF OF THE COMFORT IN THE IGNORANCE OF MY PAST YOUTH.

★ AAPI BANDS AND ★
 ♥ ARTISTS TO ♥
 ★ LISTEN TO: ★
 - LUSH
 - ELEPHANT GYM
 - CHAI
 - JAY SOM
 - EMILYS SASSY ~~LINE~~ LINE
 - REALITY CLUB
 - HANA VU
 - MITSKI
 - OTOBOKE BEAVER
 - JAPANESE BREAKFAST
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

the spectacle of asian businesses

surely im not the only one who is weirded out by all those video montages and photoshoots of white people prancing around asian supermarkets to make a spectacle of our food. they go into hmart or ranch 99 or any other asian supermarket and marvel at the "exotic" produce and snacks and drinks, treating us as some sort of spectacle, as if our markets operate as zoos. they walk aisle to aisle filming our "foreign" foods, and claiming to have an appreciation for asian culture because this is how they are "supporting asian businesses". it's embarrassing seeing them put so much effort in defending their racism.

i don't think it's that hard to romanticize such a mundane aspect of our everyday lives. it's so weird, because we're treated as if everything about ourselves only exists purely for their entertainment.

western vs. non western veganism

<u>WESTERN</u>	VS.	<u>NON-WESTERN</u>
- PRICEY & FOR THE WEALTHY UPPER-MIDDLE CLASSES		- MADE ACCESSIBLE TO THE MASSES
- REPLICATION OF DAIRY & MEAT PRODUCTS (WHY?) ↳ ie. "TOFURKEY?"		- SUSTAINABLE & CHEAP
- CLASSIST AND ELITIST		- THEY LITERALLY JUST MAKE THE SAME DISHES (OR NGW ONES) w/o MEAT & DAIRY... AND IT TASTES GREAT

CHÁU YÊU BÀ

i love my bà ngoại
and she loves me
rarely do we say i love you
and rarely do we ever speak

but she always cooks me food
and i always buy her tea
she knows that i love her
regardless of my broken vietnamese



"YOUR MOTHER WOULDN'T APPROVE OF HOW MY MOTHER RAISED ME... BUT I DO, I FINALLY DO."

mitski's your best american girl is a song about a couple that doesn't work.

while she is the night, he is the sun. but she is not the moon nor the stars. he is everything she has been looking for, but they are not meant to be, for the sun is not meant to light the night sky.

this is a great metaphor in describing how cultural divides work. as much as two people can love each other, cultural clashes can make it difficult for lovers to stay together, and can separate them completely. in this song, this issue manifests itself through a relationship between an asian american woman and a white american man.

he is an all-american boy, so she wants to be his best american girl (despite being also asian). susceptible to his world, she is taught to doubt the way she was raised. misunderstandings of our culture can paint our mothers as abusive "tiger moms" who are goal oriented but narcissistic and emotionally detached. this is generally never the case with our mothers, but racist stereotypes and assumptions fuel these misunderstandings and we are manipulated into thinking that our mothers are bad mothers. and so, his mother disapproves of the way her mother raised her.

at first, she is hesitant to say that she approves of the way she was brought up. she wants to be his best american girl for him, especially because she sees him as "the one". but, she slowly realizes that it is all an idealized fantasy, for she can never truly be all-american, and steps back in regret because of all the turmoil she has put herself through just to be with a white boy.

she doesn't blame herself for wanting to blend in his world, as she may have realized that this is something that happens so often to many other asian american girls who are trying to find love in an all-american white boy.

once she separates herself from his world, she is finally able to see that her mother did the best she could, fully accepting the way she was raised.

god, what a great song.



A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

SIMPLE RECIPE FOR 乾麵

(DRY NOODLES ☺)

INGREDIENTS: ANY PACK OF PACKAGED RAMEN

(RECS: GORJENG OR NISSEN DEMAE),
1 EGG, GREEN ONIONS

① COOK NOODLES AS INSTRUCTED AND ADD THE DRIED VEGGIES (IF THERE IS ONE)

≡ DO NOT ADD THE SOUP BASE ≡

② STRAIN THE NOODLES (LEAVE A BIT OF WATER FOR MOISTURE IF NEEDED)

③ ADD SOUP BASE AND MIX UNTIL WELL COMBINED

④ (OPTIONAL) ADD SHALLOT OIL!

⑤ SERVE WITH A PAN FRIED EGG + CHOPPED GREEN ONIONS ON TOP

♥♥♥ ENJOY ♥♥♥

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, I STILL REMEMBER HOW MY PRESCHOOL TEACHERS WOULD HAVE ME AND MY FRIENDS/CLASSMATES DO THE "CHINESE EYES" AS A JOKE. I DIDN'T EVER QUITE UNDERSTAND IT- WE WERE CHINESE, AND THEY WERE CHINESE, TOO. I WONDER IF IT WAS AN ATTEMPT TO "RECLAIM" A RACIST GESTURE DIRECTED TOWARDS US...IF IT WAS, WHAT A WEIRD THING TO TRY AND RECLAIM. I DON'T SEE THE HUMOR IN NORMALIZING SUCH A RACIST DEHUMANIZING AND HUMILIATING ACT. MAYBE THEY WERE TRYING TO PROTECT US- LIKE IF WE WERE TO ENCOUNTER THIS FROM IRL BIGOTS, REFRAMING IT AS SOMETHING FUNNY WOULD DECREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF US EVEN SEEING IT AS AN ACT OF HATRED, AND THEREFORE WOULD LESSEN THE TRAUMATIC IMPACT ON US AT A YOUNG AGE... EITHER WAY, WHY WOULD WE WANT TO CONTINUE PERPETUATING SUCH A HARMFUL ACT?

IT'S CRAZY TO ME BECAUSE I'D EXPECT TO HAVE THESE THINGS HAPPEN TO ME IN FRONT OF MY FACE, BUT RACISTS HAVE EVOLVED. FOR INSTANCE, THESE BLATANT IN-YOUR-FACE CHINESE EYES HAVE TURNED INTO MAKEUP TRENDS. HONESTLY, YOU GOTTA ADMIRE THE EFFORT THAT THESE WHITE PEOPLE WILL DO JUST TO BE RACIST. IT'S IMPRESSIVE REALLY.

SO MANY WHITE PEOPLE HAVE MADE IT A TREND TO ALTER THEIR FACES AND APPEAR AS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT RACE. THEY DO THEIR MAKEUP IN A WAY THAT MAKES THEIR EYES BIG AND SLANTED, EXTENDING IT WAY PAST THEIR WATER LINE. THEY SQUISH THEIR CHEEKS SO HARD JUST TO GET AEGYO SAL. THEY POUT AND DO THAT WAR-CRIMINAL-BELLA-POARCH-ESQUE EXPRESSIONS...YOU CALL THEM OUT, AND IT'S ALWAYS "IT'S JUST EYELINER!".

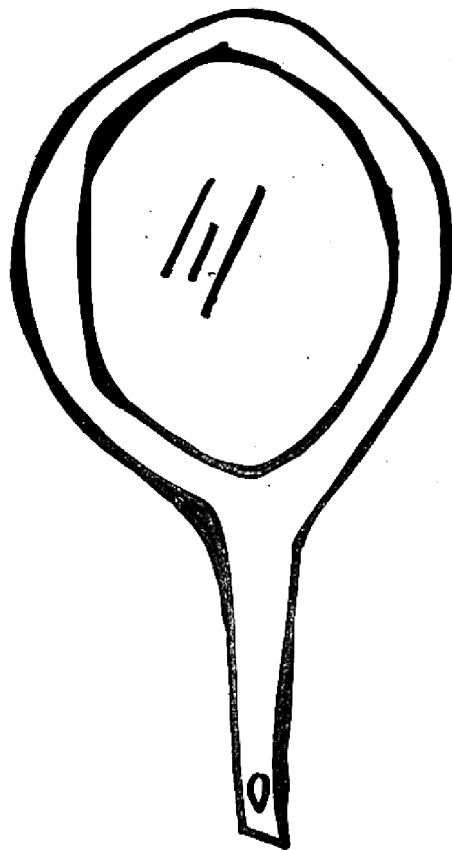
IT FRUSTRATES ME BECAUSE IT'S NOT THAT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND. IT'S THAT THEY CHOOSE NOT TO. THESE WHITE PEOPLE WAKE UP AND PAINT A NEW FACE ON THEM, KNOWING THAT THEY CAN TAKE IT OFF WHENEVER THEY WANT. THOSE WHITE GIRLS WHO PROFIT OFF VIDEOS OF THEM DANCING AROUND IN CHILDRENS CLOTHING (WHICH IS A WHOLE OTHER THING...) WITH MAKEUP THAT MAKES THEM LOOK ASIAN, ARE ABLE TO TAKE OFF ALL OF THAT SHIT AND CONTINUE REAPING THE PRIVILEGES AND BENEFITS OF BEING A WHITE PERSON. THEY KNOW THAT. THEY JUST REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT.

AND SOME OF THESE ASIAN FISHING ASS GIRLS WOULD LOOK MORE ASIAN THAN ME! HOW THE HELL DOES THAT WORK?

I WOULD BE LYING IF I SAID IT DIDN'T BOTHER ME. CLEARLY, IT DOES. IT'S TRULY FRUSTRATING TO SEE THESE WHITE PEOPLE PROFIT SO MUCH FOR PRETENDING TO BE US, WHEN WE ASIANS BARELY MAKE A DIME COMPARED TO THEM FOR HAVING THESE FEATURES NATURALLY. AND SHIT, WE GET MURDERED FOR IT TOO!



YOU ARE NOT UGLY.



WE ALL HAVE BEEN BRAINWASHED
INTO BELIEVING THAT HAVING EURO-
CENTRIC FEATURES IS WHAT MAKES
US BEAUTIFUL. THAT IS NOT OUR FAULT.
YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL AS IS.
UNLEARN THE WHITE BULLSHIT.

[not all riot grrrls are white]

as asians, our struggles and experiences with oppression can quite often be overlooked because of the model minority myth. *apparently*, our close proximity to whites means we don't face racism and oppression at all. or that us being able to reach all our "successes" (even under such oppressive capitalist systems) means that racism is over! or that if we just "follow the rules", it will be okay. these are all false (obviously) but quite often those arguments are used to justify the lack of asian representation and their overall unwillingness to acknowledge asian racism. because we are able to "keep our heads down" and "follow authority", there is no way we are oppressed! so other poc should follow our examples!

when i found out about riot grrrl, i was so excited, because here are these strong women who use music to express and stand up for themselves against stinky crusty men. bikini kill, bratmobile, sleater-kinney, team dresch....the list goes on. it was truly eye-opening, but the issue was that it was super white. yes, these women played songs that i could resonate with, but as a woc, it was a bit discouraging when i could barely find any bands with girls like me. asian bands and other poc bands were not being supported the same way these white bands were- in or out of the punk scene.



for that reason, it was hard for me to really associate myself as a "riot grrrl", especially since there weren't many poc riot grrrl bands being put on the pedestal to begin with. maybe it had to do with the model minority myth, because i'm sure it wasn't because there just wasn't "much of us". regardless, i did manage to find emily's sassy lime, and god are they badass.

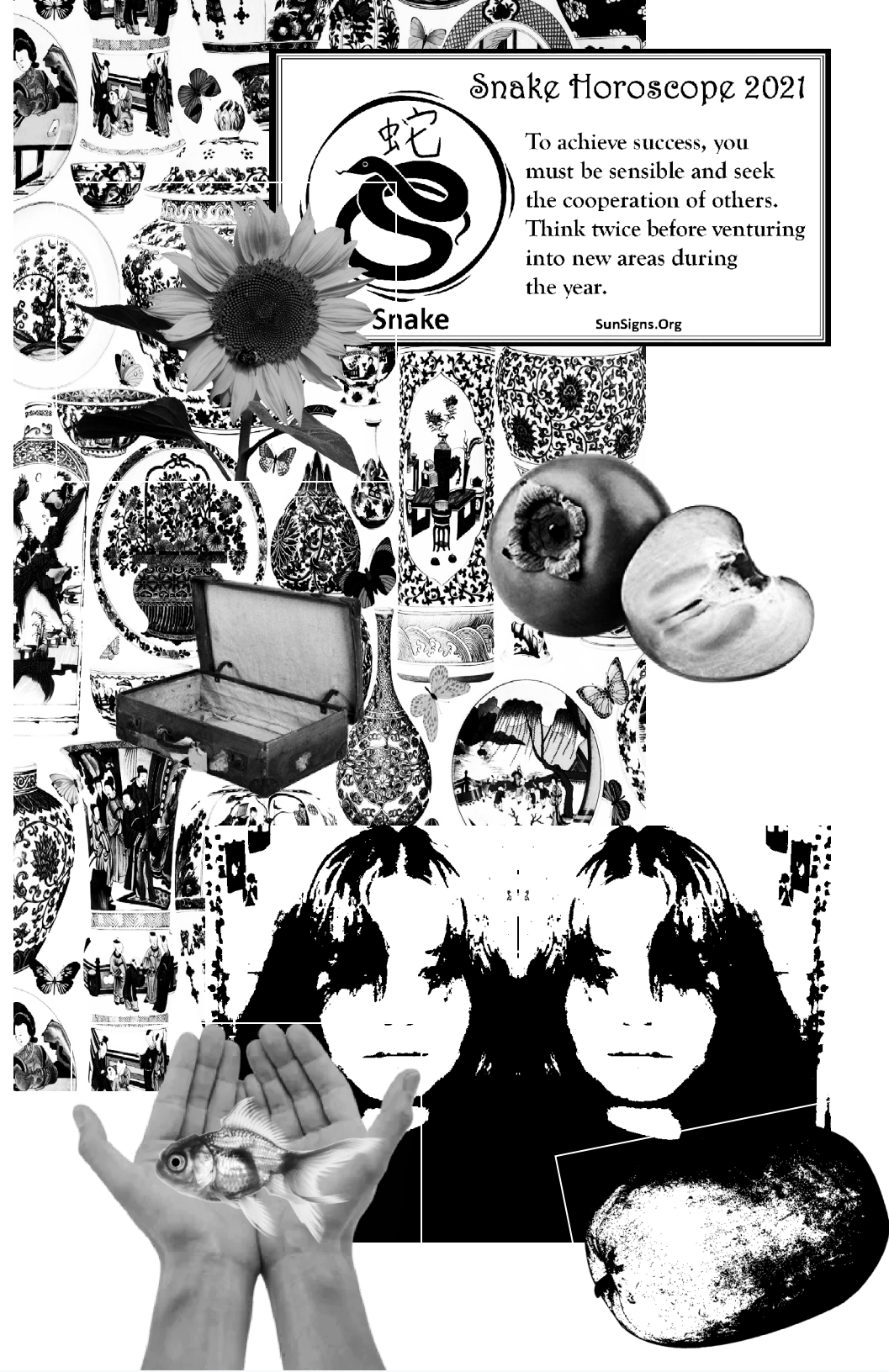
here are 3 amazingly talented asian girls (wendy yao, emily ryan, and amy yao) who stuck out from the white-majority of the punk/riot grrrl scene of their time, and defied against the racist stereotypes that mark young asian women as submissive and shy. their music is way stronger and way more passionate than anything i've ever heard- if only they got the same recognition and support the same way all those white bands did.

hearing these chinese girls sing and play made me feel so represented. it's hard for me to feel like i belong in the scene, especially when a lot of these "rising" punk bands are composed of white people with rich parents who sing about oppression and prejudice and racism, but have never truly experienced it themselves.

we don't realize how important representation is, especially if we're used to not having it at all. representation matters. emily's sassy lime is proof of that.

(*photo above was taken from <https://tinyurl.com/emmyslime>)

你不能離開我



smile for the camera



WHAT DOES ART MEAN TO YOU?

WRITTEN BY SARAH

As a first-year Asian American woman, there are a lot of perfectionist ideologies and high expectations that've been placed onto me since I was a kid so when I create a piece of work, a lot of these expectations tend to get in the way of my process. I got stuck and target that art isn't meant to be perfect (at least that's what I think) it's meant to express and confront, and I think that's what really drew me towards wanting to make a zine. There's no real pressure to make some flawless masterpiece, and it anything, chaos and imperfection is what you want. The mess and absurdity is the art. What the reader pulls from the paper is what's important - not how neat the spreads are or how "good" it all looks and art like this is something that I find that traditional art forms may struggle with achieving, because it's not the technical skill or training of the artist that's important, but rather the energy, emotion, and overall feel of what the artist is trying to communicate. It's a type of intimacy and connection that their audiences can resonate with

POGGERS



and so I think that's what I kind of struggle with remembering a lot what makes an artist "great" is not their skill or talent, it's their grit you can be the most talented artist in the world, but without perseverance to fight through all the setbacks and "art blocks", there's nowhere to really take that talent and it's not just grit that makes an artist great - there's also authenticity. art is a form of self-expression and communication what are you trying to say? what do the people need to hear? it's crucial that when we create a piece of work, it is true to ourselves. otherwise, what's the point in making it in the first place? to have it be mass produced again and again to be sold in the furniture aisles at target?

spare me the misery



our environmental crisis has brought in many ideas in an effort to reduce its damages. veganism and vegetarianism has been gradually dominating western food culture, establishing itself as not only a way to be eco-friendly, but also as a way to simply be healthy. and western vegans and vegetarians have essentially placed themselves on the forefront, claiming that their vegan/veggie diets are a major factor in helping our environment. this has brought major issues.

while it truly is a better way to live, vegan/veggie diets continue to be inaccessible. those who are able to eat that way are often the privileged white middle-upper classes. look at trader joes for example-- they're known to have their store locations in wealthier parts of cities. this places the accessibility of better food options for the rich and privileged, and only for the rich and privileged.

oftentimes, many marginalized communities have access to fast food restaurants more than grocery stores (and i mean *general* grocery stores, not just the high-end organic ones). and there seems to be a lack of understanding or even awareness of this. because of that, we're shamed for not eating the way they do, even if we can't afford or access it. according to them, we just have to "try harder", and/or "make a farm".

another issue is that these vegan/veggie diets are being put out as the only sole way of eating sustainably and eco-friendly, disregarding the various native and indigenous cultures who already have a long history of sustainable living and eating, even with meat consumption. but because the fight to end our planet's demise has been individualized, it's become a fight where we are not looking towards those who are truly at fault (major corporations and the 1%), but rather seeing who can blame the most people who don't use metal straws.

it's god awful how they are now fixing the blame on us. the wealthy classes who are pretty much responsible for contaminating our planet have now manipulated us into thinking that this issue is ours to fix-- that switching to plastic straws will help, that recycling more will help, or that taking less showers will help. (i even heard, that we aren't even recycling most of what we sort out to be reused...?) so i'm just sick and tired of the privileged coming at us for these tiny little things, when the problem is much bigger. so much bigger. i guess it's easier for them to point at us with their fingers than to look at themselves in the mirror.

it's as if my mind subconsciously knows things before the actual conscious part of it does.

like in high school when i'd just burst out crying for no apparent reason, only to find out exactly why i did weeks later in a more healed state of mind. (boy problems mixed in with unnecessary ap exam stress? love that...)

during my sophomore year of high school, i made friends with a woman who'd eventually play a role as my mentor. we had met by joining a lion dance team around the same time, and she had been one of the greatest friends i'd ever had. we went out to eat, went to the beach, and just enjoyed being in each other's company. i went to her when i had issues or needed to vent, and she was always there for me. always. she was my big sister.

she worked in social services and as her job, she helped kids like me, and although she wasn't required to help me in her free time she did it anyway, and for that i'm eternally grateful. one of the things she advised me to do was to get therapy. and that was pretty much the only advice i didn't take from her.

i always knew that there was nothing wrong with therapy, but for some reason, i pretty much wanted to avoid going to it. of course, i never really knew the *true* reason why i did. i always told her it was because of costs, the stigma of mental health in asian families (my mother would probably laugh in my face), and *time*. but really, i knew that i'd end up with some white american therapist that wouldn't fully understand the struggles i would share with them. the advice they would give me would be partially helpful (at most), and although there are poc therapists that do specialize in people such as myself, oftentimes they can be costly, fully booked, and/or out of reach in terms of distance. and i wasn't considering any online therapists either because i need that person to person interaction.

unfortunately white therapists lack the understanding of how our ethnic identities and backgrounds play into our traumas and emotions. they will not be fully equipped to give us advice on how to deal with our generational traumas and cultural issues. and that is something that i didn't realize until a while after i graduated, fresh out of such a mentally isolating and tumultuous year in quarantine.

there are times where i have felt that having a therapist is better than not having one at all, and at least even if they were white they could still help in *some* way, but if it's gonna cost me then i'd rather save it for someone who'd truly be able to help me the whole way through. i'm sure as hell not going to invest in a half-ass therapist, and truth be told i've been self-soothing since the day i could remember, so i guess i'm doing alright, considering...





hello! my name is sarah luu.

i am a first-gen asian-american woman, and proud to be vietnamese and chinese. unfortunately, however, who i am- my overall existence- is still a risk. every so often, i feel as though i am not fully welcome here, even if i'm told so. i created *guai*, so that i could have an outlet to vent and express. even if these things i have experienced are personal, i know that i'm not the only one that has gone through the things i have. a lot of the things that i'll be sharing and creating has to do with my asian-american identity.

i was inspired by the re-emerging riot grrrl movement and the renewal of zine culture. (for those who don't know, the riot grrrl movement emerged in the 90s against the gender oppressive systems both within and out of the punk scene).

today's riot grrrl movement has evolved into something that is unlike its racist, ableist, homophobic, and transphobic past. now more than ever are there zines being shared that showcase the works of these amazingly talented creators, who would otherwise have been rejected by the riot grrrls of the 90s. these zines discuss issues from sexist dress codes to misogyny and slut shaming, but go further into having in-depth conversations about how all of our systems of oppression are intersected. now more than ever are we starting to finally tackle topics past the surface level bullshit. we're finally asking the important questions, such as how does being non-white affect the way we are perceived? how does it affect the way we are treated? within the punk/riot grrrl scene or not, we are finally acknowledging how certain experiences affect marginalized groups way differently than it does for straight cis-white able-bodied individuals. i'm hoping to be able to add on to this conversation using my own personal experiences and perspectives.

guai is pronounced like 'rye' but take out the **r** and add the **gw** (gwuh) sound in front. if you suggest to pronounce it any other way i will kick you hard in the balls.

this is the first issue, so...don't have any high expectations! just know that by opening this zine you agree to not steal any of my content. i will also kick you hard in the balls if you do this.

thank you for choosing to read guai.

i hope you enjoy. feel free to let me know what you think! -sarah <3

P.S. as i was finishing up the zine, i realized that 'guai' is actually supposed to be 'gui'. it's named after the chinese part of my name (貴). in my defense, i spoke mainly cantonese when i was growing up, so i just spelled it the way it sounded to me. it's still gonna be guai. thanks! :3

MUỖI ĐIỀU EM NÊN LÀM

1. Dạ thưa
2. Thưa Ba
3. Nói tiếng
4. Đi học để
5. Nghỉ học
6. Làm bài
7. Nhớ man
8. Không m
9. Giữ gìn d
10. Tuân the



MUỖI ĐIỀU

1. Không xả rác.
2. Không vẽ bậy lên bảng và vách.
3. Không ăn uống trong lớp học.
4. Không hái hoa trái của chùa.
5. Không chửi bậy, không đánh nhau.
6. Không chen lấn khi vào lớp và ra về.
7. Không la hét, đập phá bàn ghế.



SPANK YOU VERY MUCH!
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