


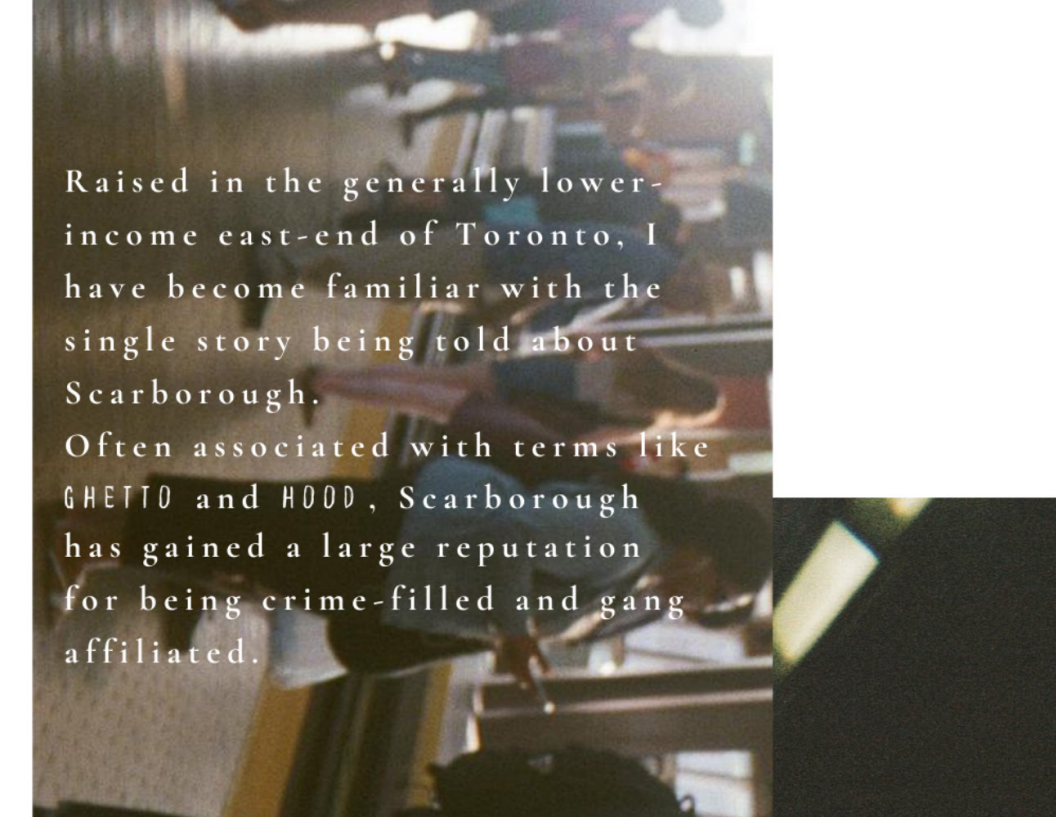


OUR SCARBOROUGH



Raised in the generally lower-income east-end of Toronto, I have become familiar with the single story being told about Scarborough.

Often associated with terms like Ghetto and Hood, Scarborough has gained a large reputation for being crime-filled and gang affiliated.



A melting pot of art and culture, Scarborough is more than what the media tells you.

This zine is a collection of photographs and comics exploring the people and cultural experience of Scarborough.

Accompanied by words from those who reside or have resided in said district, this is

Our Scarborough.

Mia Anderson, 18



"I've lived here all my life."

"I feel like they [media outlets] don't really portray Scarborough. People know about it, but not in a positive way. I always hear about shootings."

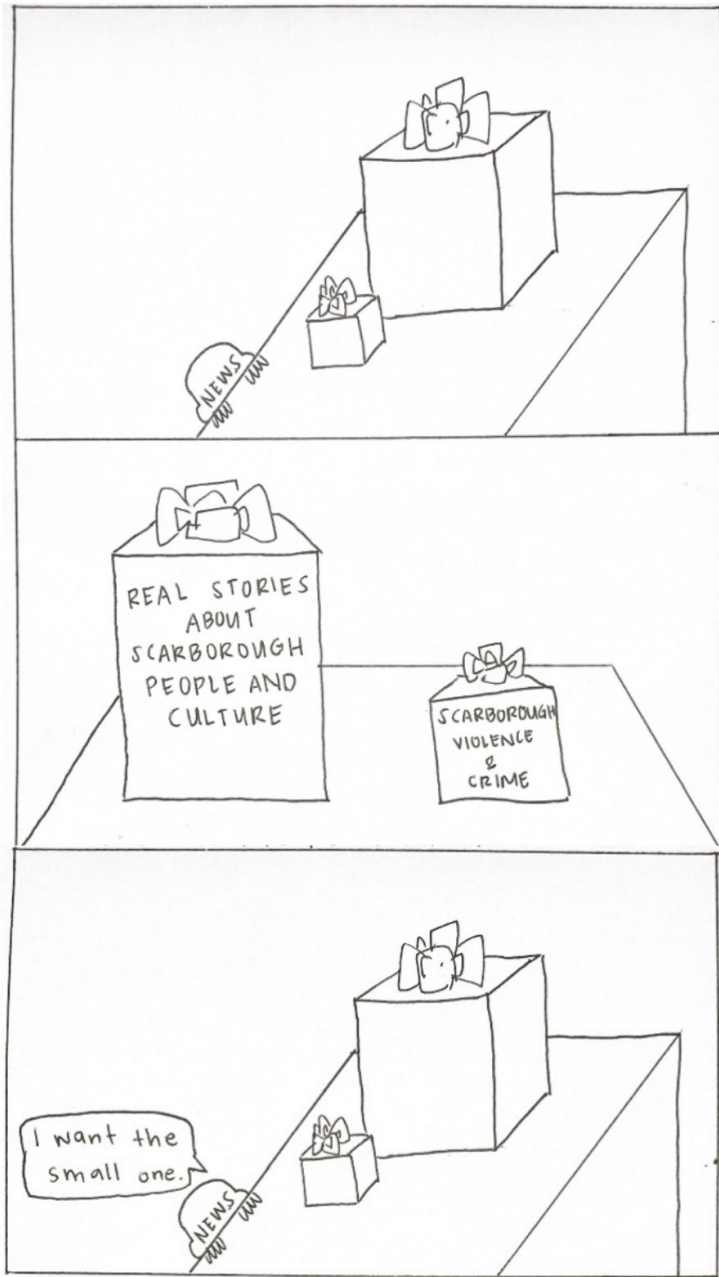


"I've been told, 'Oh that's why you look aggressive.'"

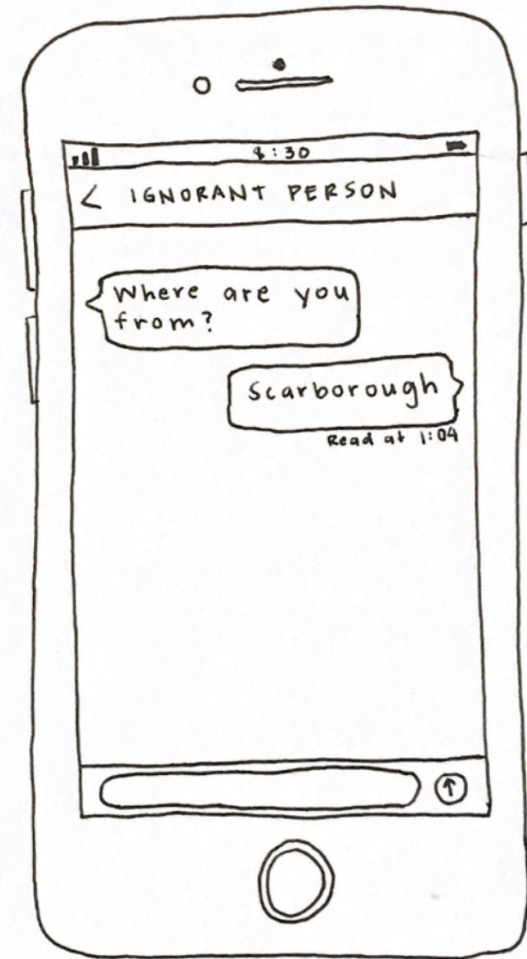
SCARBOROUGH

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THE NEWS REMINDS ME OF KIDS



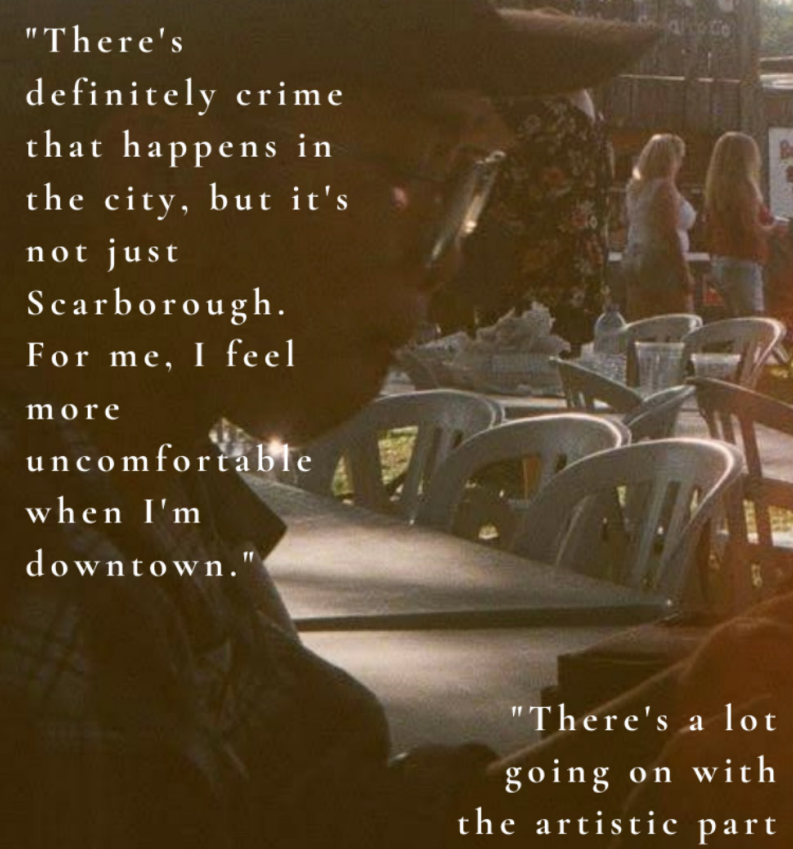
... SOMETIMES, THEY MAKE NO SENSE



I HAVEN'T GOTTEN A TEXT SINCE

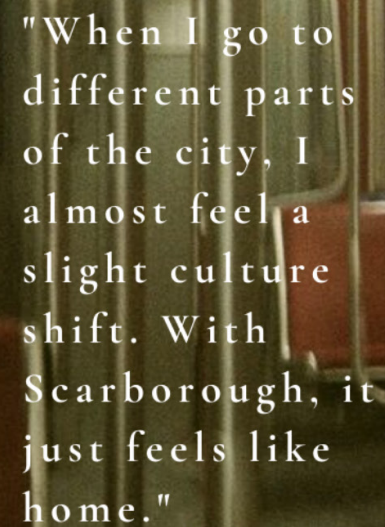


Chelsi Campbell, 18



"There's definitely crime that happens in the city, but it's not just Scarborough. For me, I feel more uncomfortable when I'm downtown."

"There's a lot going on with the artistic part of the community. Especially when it's Nuit Blanche, just the fact that we have our own section shows how we have a different vibe."



"When I go to different parts of the city, I almost feel a slight culture shift. With Scarborough, it just feels like home."

PEOPLE FROM SCARBOROUGH

EXPECTATION



- thugs and criminals
- probably has a gun
- probably sells drugs
- from the hood
- has "seen things"
- in a gang

REALITY



- normal people just like you
- they have jobs just like you
- going to school just like you
- trying to support their family just like you

WHAT PEOPLE TELL ME WHEN
I SAY I'M FROM SCARBOROUGH

*based on true events



— cool! Me too.



— yikes.
Oh, so the hood? Isn't it dangerous?




— Better stay away from you.
Have you seen someone get shot?



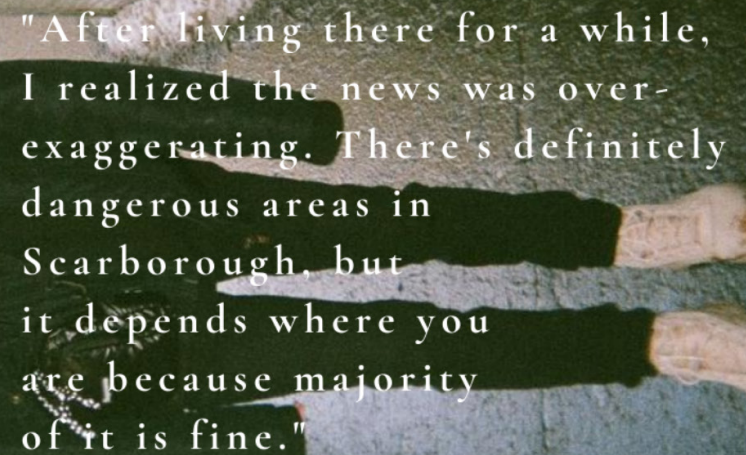
Victor Valdez, 18



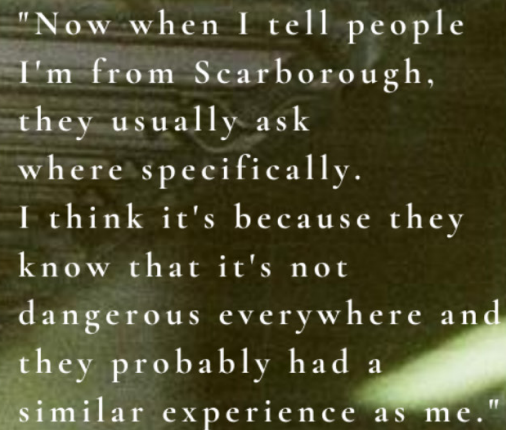
"I moved to Canada when I was 9 years old and I've been living in Scarborough for 7 years."



"When I first moved there I did research on my area and I found out there were gangs. I was young at the time so I was scared to go outside."



"After living there for a while, I realized the news was over-exaggerating. There's definitely dangerous areas in Scarborough, but it depends where you are because majority of it is fine."



"Now when I tell people I'm from Scarborough, they usually ask where specifically. I think it's because they know that it's not dangerous everywhere and they probably had a similar experience as me."

"When I say I'm from Scarborough, people instantly assume I'm doing bad stuff. Honestly, I feel like they think badly of me. It definitely makes a first impression."

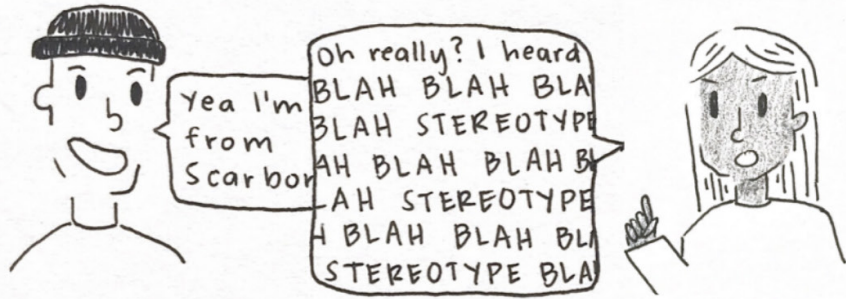
"There was a lot of different cultures, so it didn't really matter what [race] you were exactly. You could always fit in."

"I feel like everyone doesn't know much about Scarborough, but from what I've seen on social media, it's definitely portrayed in a bad way."



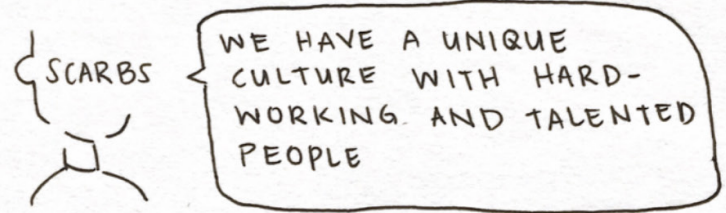
John Ahmadi, 17



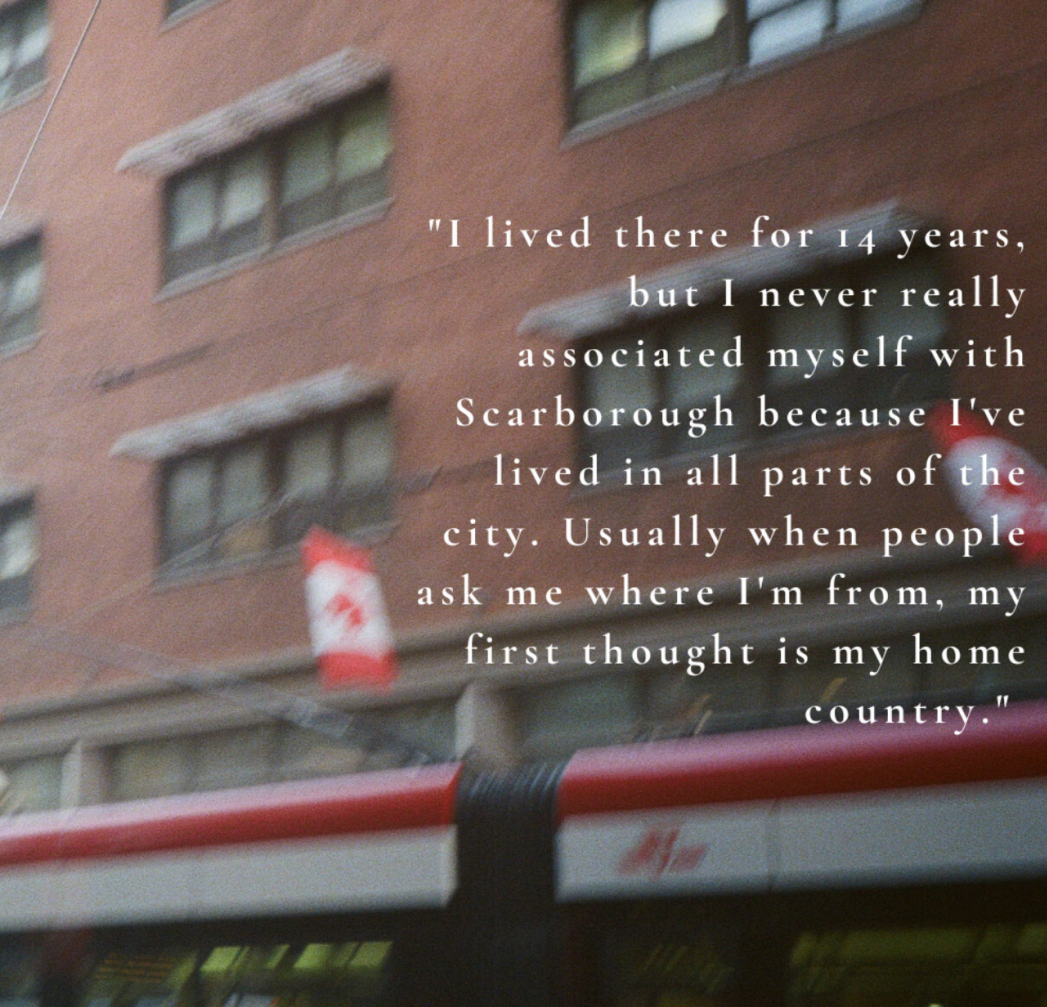


WHEN THEY THINK THEY KNOW BETTER

SELECTIVE HEARING



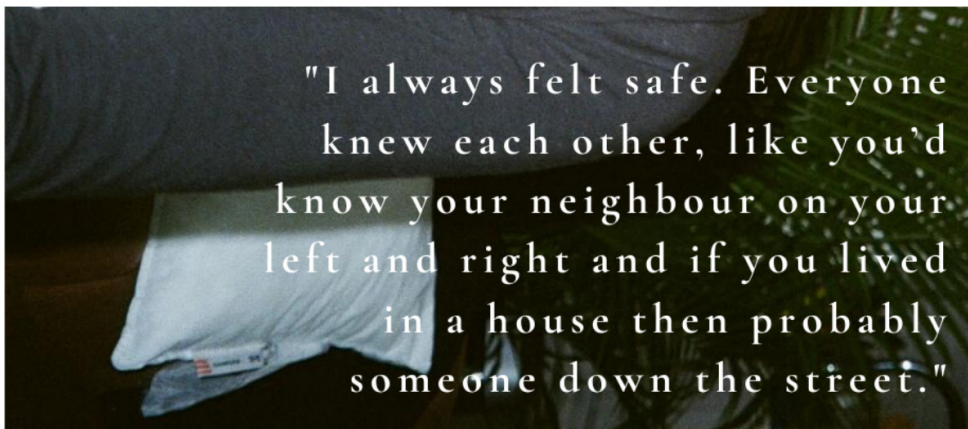
crickets



"I lived there for 14 years,
but I never really
associated myself with
Scarborough because I've
lived in all parts of the
city. Usually when people
ask me where I'm from, my
first thought is my home
country."



Nathalie Vitto, 20



"I always felt safe. Everyone
knew each other, like you'd
know your neighbour on your
left and right and if you lived
in a house then probably
someone down the street."

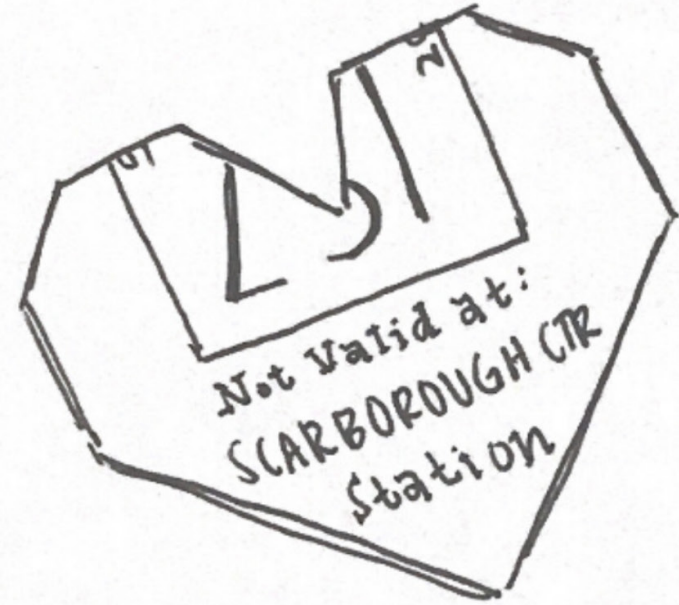
"It's warm, it's home,
and it's a community."

REGARDLESS OF WHAT'S BEEN SAID ABOUT SCARBOROUGH, NO ONE CAN DENY ITS RICH CULTURE AND PEOPLE.

WHY DID YOU COME HERE?

BETTER LIFE.

BUILT ON THE BACKS OF IMMIGRANTS, THIS DISTRICT HAS BECOME HOME TO SO MANY HARD-WORKING INDIVIDUALS.



OUR SCARBOROUGH.



Change the narrative.

Curated by Alliza Vitto.



