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## Student Movement - Issue 2

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## Andrews Assemble!

Andrews University Gets Together in a Clash of Classes



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIA VINICZAY



### I AM WHAT I AM

“We are not defined by what we have done, but who we are.”

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### CASTING OFF THE SHADOW OF 9.11

“In American society, nothing is more dangerous than irrelevance...whatever my ties, or lack of ties...at the very least I must never forget.”

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### SMARTPHONES DUMB CHOICES

“It’s easy to fill silence with more silence when you have a smartphone to look at.”

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### MORE THAN A CONVENIENCE

“Some people have a ministry from the pulpit; we think it can also be in the electrical/plumbing aisle.”

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### WHAT WOULD JESUS DO IN 2017?

“A cameraman on the sidelines pans to Jesus’s face—one of his eyes is swollen beyond recognition and his limp arms hang on the ropes.”

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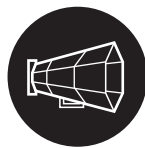


### IN PURSUIT OF MEDIOCRITY

“What if I raise my hand in class and the teacher thinks my question is dumb?”

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## News



Lisa Hayden  
News Editor

## Comic Conflict



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIA VINICZAY

**Alicia Dent** | Almost Anything Goes came around again with a bang, or rather with a “Boom! Pow! Slam!” While last year’s theme turned out to be a fusion of the eras in American history, this year all your favorite comic heroes came together to battle it out.

On Saturday, Sept. 9 at 9 p.m., DC and Marvel heroes were easily identifiable all over Johnson Gym from Spider-man to Batman, Iron Man to Wonder Woman. Almost Anything Goes is one of the first opportunities of the school year where each class can come together, foster school spirit and have a great time. While sometimes a focus on competition can bring about frustration and even break bonds, this was not the case for our Andrews University community.

Students pulled together and shared smiles, dances and words of affirmation.

The event kicked off to a good start thanks to James-Andrew Hearn (senior, music education) who sang the National Anthem. Shortly after, the battle of the classes began. As usual, freshmen sported green, sophomores were in blue, juniors and seniors in Red and the grad students wore their famous yellow. Every year since 2014, the combined junior-senior team won the event and this year our grad students presented an even greater challenge for the reigning champs.

Some of the events included familiar activities such as the hula-hoop contest, the famous mattress race, relay races and the classic tug-of-war. The tug-of-war event proved one of

the most dramatic of the night as the juniors and seniors (who had maintained their lead) were put to the test by the grad students. Within seconds, the grad students won the victory, a blow to the hearts of our longtime champs.

While it was fun to watch students engage in fun and games, the most inspiring part of the night was the comradery and teamwork exhibited by the various classes. The members of the classes cheered and supported one another no matter what. They celebrated after the games and encouraged their participants throughout the night.

Adriana Santana (sophomore, psychology) said, “I love the class of 2020. Whenever we get together it’s a great time and Almost Anything Goes

is one of my favorite moments of the year because of how we feed off of each other’s energy.”

The spirit of competition and connectivity transferred to the other classes as well. Each year, the freshmen exhibit the most excitement about the event and show up in groves. “I really feel like Almost Anything Goes was a good opportunity given to show school spirit. Working together as teams incorporated a competitive aspect,” said Shalom Dosunmu (freshman, political science).

While each class put up a good fight, in the end the juniors and seniors gained the ultimate victory followed by the sophomores in second place, the freshmen in third and finally the grad students in fourth. Of

course, the juniors and seniors celebrated their victory with excitement and cheers. Many of them are already thinking about next year and anticipating another victory. Gena Gordon (junior, theology) put it this way, “If God did it before, he can do it again!”

## News

# Identity and Impact: Polite's Challenge for a New Year



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTUMN GOODMAN

**Gabrielle Johnson** | On Friday, Sept. 8, students made their way to Burman Chapel to attend Impact, a weekly vespers event held by the Black Student Christian Forum (BSCF). At this event, students from different ethnic backgrounds come together to engage in faith, fellowship and fun.

"It was one of the biggest turnouts I've seen in awhile. There seemed to be a new aura about Impact and I feel this year will be an amazing spiritual experience," such as Alicia Dent (junior, music and biochemistry) said. The evening began with a worship service, led by Impact's very own praise team. Directly after, Chaplain Michael Polite began his sermon emphasizing the importance of identity; Impact's theme for the year. Chaplain Polite asks students if they ever feel incomplete or not good enough encouraging students to take a deeper look inside at themselves. Chaplain

Polite explained that this feeling is the reason why one may constantly feel the need for validation, and how one builds their identity by the people they associate with and their

we have done, but who we are." Not surprisingly, this message appealed to several students especially at a time where fresh faces enter new territory and returning students might

plain how sin is intertwined into one's identity. However, the sermon also clarified how God helps one overcome their struggle with identity. Chaplain Polite explains that as

students who feel like their soul is crying out for freedom. He encouraged students to stop making excuses and to seek God first, as he is the only one who can help you.

Shortly after leaving the vespers, Joy Ngugi (junior, documentary film) expressed her thoughts about Impact. Ngugi said, "The return of Impact was both highly anticipated and very needed. To me, Impact depicts a worship experience with the richness of the black community while not being exclusive to those having other backgrounds."

Overall, Chaplain Polite's sermon expresses the theme of identity for this upcoming school year. The best thing that a person can do for themselves is to recognize that they are enough. Now, it's up to the students to follow through and make changes in their lives.

**"The sermon was very uplifting and I felt like the sermon related to my current situation. Tonight was really a blessing."**

socioeconomic status. For example, a student may be a biology pre-med major not because they want to be a doctor, but because their parents want them to be one.

The sermon delineated the core of identity: "we are not defined by what

still be figuring things out.

One student, Kiana Gurley (junior, film) resonated with this point, said, "I felt like the sermon related to my current situation. Tonight was really a blessing."

Chaplain Polite went on to ex-

a sinner, one tries to place God into a box, but God is unconcerned with proving himself to us. God is secure within himself and wants to help us get over this value-based system of the world. To end the sermon, Chaplain Polite had a special appeal for

## Change Day Reminder

**Shannon Kelly** | Tomorrow, Sept. 14, Andrews University is hosting its first annual Change Day. Change Day, created by the Office of the Provost, gives students the opportunity to serve their community and help fulfill Andrews's mission to "change the world" starting at home.

All classes and offices will be closed from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to accommodate this campus-wide initiative. Breakfast will be provided to

participants. After spending time at their chosen sites of service, volunteers will return to campus for lunch and an opportunity to share experiences. Volunteers will meet at the flagpole, where they will be given a Change Day 2017 t-shirt and can sign up to serve at one of many locations. Those planning to serve are advised to wear clothes they do not mind getting dirty and closed-toe shoes. Long pants are recommended.

There are a plethora of opportunities to volunteer on campus, in Berrien County, St. Joseph, Benton Harbor and surrounding areas. Love the lake? Silver Beach and Rocky Gap are just a couple of beaches seeking help with site cleanup. Are you an artist? The Arts and Communication Academy in Benton Harbor needs help painting a mural on campus. Still others may feel at home on a farm or around horses. The Thera-

peutic Equestrian Center is requesting volunteers who can help clean the barn, pastures, or paint and repair fences. Several other organizations seek volunteers to help clean their grounds or aid in other cosmetic lifts such as painting and various repairs. These are only a few choices out of the numerous opportunities. A complete list of project sites and details regarding each volunteer opportunity can be found on the Change

Hub webpage: <http://www.andrews.edu/changehub>.

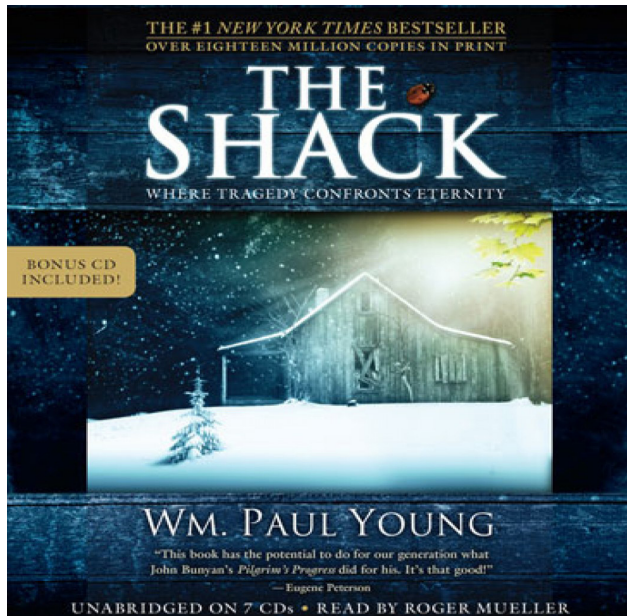
The Change Hub also provides the main goal of Change Day: "Change Day is our way of giving back to the community through acts of service. Our mission at Andrews University is to Seek Knowledge, Affirm Faith and Change the World. What better place to start change than at home?"

## Ideas



**Frentzen  
Pakpahan**  
Ideas Editor

## The Christian Relationship to Fiction



PROVIDED BY PUBLIC DOMAIN

**Konner Dent** | Fiction fits into that gray area of unanswered Adventist controversy that seemed super important in high school. An apparent brick in the dividing wall between conservative and liberal camps, the topic gained importance whenever a young adult novel got adapted into a mov-

ie, causing parents to remember that children can read. With the ever-popularizing Harry Potter series celebrating its 20th anniversary, it's a good time to address the dividing topic of a Christian's relationship to fiction, which starts with addressing the two differing sides.

In one camp lies those who oppose fictional literature. They assert that untrue stories (aside from the parables of Jesus, Bunyan, Aesop and Uncle Arthur) are lies no matter how they are dressed up. Even though there may be a message or "lesson" found at the end of a novel, the end does not justify the means. This view is backed by Ellen White's commentary in *Messages to Young People*, which declares, "Love stories, frivolous and exciting tales, and even that class of books called religious novels—books in which the author attaches to his story a moral lesson—are a curse to the readers. Religious sentiments may be woven all through a storybook, but, in most cases, Satan is but clothed in angel-ropes, the more effectively to deceive and allure" (272).

In approval of fiction, readers of differing opinion point to the portion not covered in the "in most cases" as a justification. Though mainstream fiction admittedly has its flaws, the lessons found in the aforementioned parables are available through other authors as well. The religious allegories of *Narnia*, good/evil dichotomy of Tolkien's stories and the contextual

insight that historical fiction prove that the category of "fiction" isn't all vampire romance and wizarding plot conveniences. Even darker and morally dubious pieces like *The Hunger Games* and *Game of Thrones* can be gleaned for their social commentary—warning readers of what not to do while illustrating why it might be tempting.

The problem that both sides face in saying "fiction is good" or "fiction is bad," is that it places a rule where a brain should be used instead. In her colorful warning against novels, Aunt Ellen doesn't say that fiction should be avoided because it simply isn't true and could be deceiving someone or breaking the 9th commandment. Instead, her cautions are against the content of the stories and how they affect the devotional process. It could be that a fictional story like *Pilgrim's Progress* or *The Shack* helps strengthen spiritual understanding, while a very true war story or Kardashian autobiography could do just the opposite. When it comes to literature, "good" does not mean "real," and "bad" does not mean "fictional."

Of course, there are fields of writing, such as science, journalism and theology, where such sentiments are true. Here, things are good when they are factual and bad when they are fictitious, and where the Christian's focus eliminating them should be placed. No matter how problematic steamy pulp fiction or a novel about supernatural teenagers may be, a greater danger occurs when infractions on the truth infiltrate religious doctrine, scientific writing, historical analysis and news reporting. I believe this is the Christian's most important relationship to fiction—to spot its damage not only when it is marked in the "fiction" section of a bookstore or library, but also when it sneaks into things that are supposed to be factual. To quote Proverbs 14:15, "The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps" (NIV).

## Doctor, Teacher, Pastor...Politician?

**Samuel Fry** | During the fall of my freshman year at Andrews University I took a break from my studies to spend a weekend at home catching up with family and friends. That Sabbath I decided to visit my hometown church, a warm and welcoming congregation that I have been blessed to be a part of for most of my life. After the service, I stuck around to catch up with old acquaintances and church family who I knew would want an update on my life and college experience. At first, it was the usual questions, like "Do you miss home?" and "How are you adjusting to your classes?" but eventually the subject turned toward my future career.

"What are you studying at Andrews again?" asked one of my elders.

"Political science," I replied. His brow quickly furled and he adopted a stern expression.

"Politics, eh? What is a Christian going to do with a degree in politics?" I was initially taken aback by his questioning. My field of study and career plans (although I had considered them extensively) were not something I was used to being grilled about.

Now, I know that this man did not intend to come off as condescending or patronizing, but I received the message loud and clear: politics is not an acceptable field of study or career for an Adventist.

Years later, every time I recall this conversation, I find myself annoyed.

How can someone unequivocally condemn a certain career as unfit for an Adventist to pursue? And moreover, who gets to determine which careers are acceptable and which are not?

Perhaps my experience was an isolated incident, a symptom of an especially conservative interpretation of Adventist theology on the

**“Our efforts to win souls for the Kingdom are no longer limited to sparsely populated locales, nor are they constrained by some of the limits of human ingenuity that our early Adventist Pioneers had to grapple with.”**

part of a member of an older generation. Or maybe he said it because for so many Adventists (and Christians) politics has become a dirty word, carrying with it the assumption that one cannot in good conscience become involved in secular politics without corrupting one's soul or forsaking Biblical precepts.

¶ These are certainly plausible ex-

planations. But I have come to believe that my experience is reflective of a much deeper problem within certain constituencies of the Adventist church—a tendency to promote traditional Adventist careers in fields such as pastoral ministry, health care, or education—at the expense of discouraging younger generations from pursuing a calling outside the

realm of these conventional and accepted vocations.

The Adventist church has a deep-rooted history of contributing to education, health, and ministry—and rightfully so, as these are important areas to focus on—but with millions of Adventists now swelling the ranks of our global church, it is not realistic or beneficial for us to filter our young

people into only these three fields.

There is another compelling argument for supporting millennial Adventists who are looking towards careers in emerging fields of technology, business and politics, and it is rooted in the many ways that globalization is changing how we think about ministry. Long gone are the days of sending missionaries on

they constrained by some of the limits of human ingenuity that our early Adventist pioneers had to grapple with. We now live in an information economy, where new job fields and careers are opening up, and fewer people are needed for traditional jobs.

Now more than ever there is a great need for Adventists who are skilled in new media, who can manage IT systems for our universities and hospitals or who can solve complicated humanitarian policy questions for ADRA. In our increasingly complex world we need Adventist CEOs, lawyers, entrepreneurs and yes, even politicians.

¶ In 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Christ refers to the early church as a body of believers, consisting of many different parts, yet unified in mission and purpose. We would be wise to appreciate that diversity in our church is far more encompassing than race or geography—that it is also a diversity of ability which extends to the talents God has given each of us that we might fulfill the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations." (Matthew 28:19) Because of this reality, we ought to be more supportive of our young people who choose to follow a higher calling that leads them to minister in non-traditional ways.

¶ Our efforts to win souls for the Kingdom are no longer limited to sparsely populated locales, nor are

## Ideas

## Forgetting 9/11



PROVIDED BY PUBLIC DOMAIN

**Frentzen Pakpahan** | In 2001, my little sister was born. In 2001, the Twin Towers fell. Side by side, those two statements are jarring to anyone who witnessed the fateful events of September 11, 2001. An entire generation breathes, having experienced their entire lives in the space between new life and the deadliest event in American history. On the day when 2,996 souls never came home, 11,029 new souls entered the world. The hijackings are no longer woven into

the fabric of their memories, but instead are facts for future students of AP US History to learn, study, and “analyze the consequences” on their document-based questions—and I daresay few of us can recall the details and significance of similar monumental events in American history: John Brown’s raid on Harper’s Ferry, the suspicious destruction of the USS Maine or the Gulf of Tonkin incident. It’s incredible to imagine that September 11, 2001 has little meaning for

many kids besides the vague understanding that it’s the reason for the long lines at the airport.

The passing of 9/11 into the collective amnesia is a legitimate danger to the American psyche. In American society, nothing is more dangerous than irrelevance. Just ask former President Jimmy Carter, whose term in office is forgettable and whom many forget is still kicking. His activism is hardly noticed and fails to stir attention from the American

public. Search images from that day and you will see the resemblance of New York City and the now war-torn rubble of Damascus. Only the hardened heart fails to be moved at the sight of the infamous videos of the Twin Towers falling, the Pentagon up in flames, and United Airlines Flight 93 smoldering in a lonely Pennsylvania field. The symbol of America’s economy, the headquarters of America’s intelligence community, and the legislative branch of the American government (UA 93 was destined for the Capitol Building) came under attack in a deliberate attempt to disable America as a world power—it’s a storyline straight out of an episode of *House of Cards*, but one slowly losing the effect of the dramatic and unthinkable. Terrorist attacks are ordinary occurrences now in the West and the Middle East, and in the public mind they almost seem as regular as Wimbledon and the Australian Open, and just as forgettable.

I would make an appeal for all Americans to exercise their willpower and meditate on these events, to make for them more than a monument, but also a living memory. However, I know the human condition enough that the general public will quickly move on with their lives and those who still suffer from the memories will be left behind. As anyone who has lost a loved one in the mid-

dle of a busy semester knows, the world slows but it does not stop—“Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow creeps in this petty pace from day to day.” (*Hamilton*, 2015, track 26).

It’s a shame. Carelessness and forgetfulness are the most dangerous habits to any society. It allows perpetrators to go free and tragedy to continue. The Holocaust is a similar tale. Even the deaths of millions cannot ensure that I will become a better person or that I will immediately drop my present work and become an activist. I can joke about it, walk over it, even deny it if I so choose; what I cannot change is that it happened. Whatever my ties, or lack of ties, obligates me to do, at the very least I must never forget. It’s cliché but true: we are doomed to repeat history if we are not mindful of it. Check the fall of empires, the recurrent genocides and civil wars, and even the repeated abuse in relationships—they all have the common thread of collective negligence and mindlessness.

## Soldiers in Our Father’s World

**Jatniel Rodriguez** | For more on this topic please read the chapter “Violence in Defense of Justice” in *The Moral Vision of the Old Testament* by Richard B. Hayes.

I can still hear the joyful singing of “We Are Soldiers” in the corridors of my memories. I am sure many of you can hear it too.

“We are soldiers in the army/we have to fight although we have to die/we have to hold up the bloodstained banner/we have to hold it up until we die.”

The blunt reality of the lyrics and the themes addressed in the song strike me more now than they did before. In my youth, I sang this song countless times and yet the military imagery failed to astonish me. It is only now that I consider the apparent conflict between these common images in our Bibles and hymnals and the pacifist notions of Scripture. God seems to endorse peace but also accepts military images to describe the Christian experience. It is the contrast between the atrocities seen in photographs of war painfully and New Testament biblical militaristic imagery that puzzles me.

Indeed, there seems to be dissonance between spiritual words of peace and

words of conflict in the spiritual arena. For example, there is strong contrast between the aforementioned children’s song and the hymn “This Is My Father’s World.” The latter goes “This is my father’s world/The birds their carols raise/The morning light, the lily white/Declare their maker’s praise.” Both may be accurate; but how can we embrace both peace and the sword?

It is imperative to realize that the sword of the Spirit and sword of the flesh differ in their purposes and their way of thinking. The sword of the Spirit and the flesh are both double-edged and cut to the innermost parts of man. Nevertheless, one cuts unto edification while another cuts unto destruction. (Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6, Proverbs 5:3,4) A greater question arises when considering the conduct of Christ on earth.

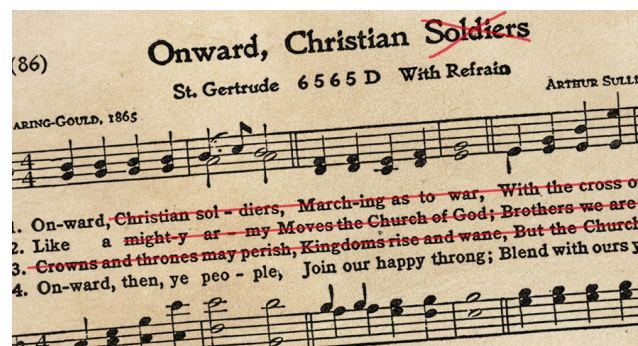
During the times of Christ there were issues of social justice and corrupt government institutions similar to those that presently exist. Nevertheless, we do not see Christ directly championing retaliation against these powers; instead He addresses a higher power and conflict. “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rules, against the authorities, against the

powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12). His kingdom is not of this world and yet by waging radical warfare against the higher powers, He reclaims it.

Furthermore, He challenges His disciples to embody this countercultural form of warfare. His request is more difficult to carry out than the natural responses of revenge and retaliation: “...do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other

cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well” (Matthew 5:39-40). Some would say Christ’s mandates intensify and exceed the commands of the Old Testament. Nevertheless, there are evidences of this concept in the Old Testament too. (Proverbs 25:21-22)

As Christ followers we are to embody a kingdom mindset. Christ does not endorse coercion or force as a solution. Instead of championing the removal of an institution Christ champions the changing of the mind and way in which we relate to one another. He appeals to the ultimate authority which can destroy the soul and the body (Matthew 10:28). From a literary perspective another



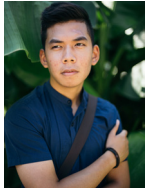
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question arises. What is the benefit to utilizing such imagery in Scripture? For example, the armor of God with its helmet of salvation, shield of faith and sword of the Spirit as opposed to the Fruit of the Spirit. The potential of imagery to obscure a meaning or make it easier to understand contributes to the benefit or detriment of its communication and utilization. Military imagery has its benefits in emphasizing the seriousness of an invisible reality and bringing it closer to the immediate reality. Conversely, the imagery could be detrimental when coupled with a negligent hermeneutical method. These factors could lead to a misunderstanding and the eventual taking of actions that were not in-

tended by the author.

Upon pondering these issues of pacifism and militaristic imagery, I find a deeper question of authority. Ultimately, if the Bible places more emphasis on spiritual warfare than physical, then the former must eclipse the latter in importance. Furthermore, by faith we know in the end God will realign the physical and personal order of this planet. As the ultimate authority, He has the final word. Recalling and reflecting on the hymn once more, I remember this stanza, “This is my Father’s world/O let me ne’er forget/That though the wrong seems oft so strong/God is the ruler yet.”

## Pulse



**Carlye  
Tagalog**  
Pulse Editor

## Sacrificing Smart(Phone) for Smarter



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAYLOR SCALZO

**Dana Wilson** | Calvin Imperio, a third-year pre-physical therapy major at Andrews University, decided to take a break from his smartphone – for an entire year! The slim, convenient, dearly-beloved device got a rest over the span of a

school year because Imperio decided that he needed to focus on his studies. The temporary breakup began near the end of summer, 2016, and Imperio switched from an iPhone to a LG Cos-

mos. He took a bold step that many young people would not be willing to take. Even though he had to rely on a “dumb phone,” a term he thought was a common one at first, Imperio made a switch to a smart direction for his health and social life.

According to health specialists, taking a break from your smartphone contributes to stronger mental health and better overall well-being. Smartphones conveniently provide many resources including various applications for communication, fun and challenging games, books, music, videos and so much more. However, having such easy access to this concentrated variety of activity does cause individuals to cut down on face-to-face social interactions, limit independent mental functions and disrupt healthy habits such as proper sleep. Taking a break from the smartphone is heavily advised to avoid becoming addicted or even controlled by technology. These healthy and social benefits were not Imperio's

motivations to begin his new experience but surely became a side-effect of his smartphone sabbatical. While recognizing the negative effects of constant smartphone use, Imperio's experience wasn't always a sweet relief.

Imperio expressed honesty about the break. He decided not to use his smartphone in order to focus more on schoolwork, but he realized that he still procrastinated on his assignments. Time away from his iPhone did not really change his work ethic. Imperio said, “I quickly realized that it did not have much of an impact on my study habits.” With a “dumb” phone, Imperio had less of a tendency to check his device, missing some texts and calls. Not having Snapchat or Facebook Messenger also contributed to difficulty in keeping in touch with others. Imperio felt a sense of disconnect socially since almost everyone uses a smartphone. But Imperio's hardships didn't negate the benefits he found.

He said, “I think that something I took out of this experience was just how often we look to our phones instead of the people around us. It's easy to fill silence with more silence when you have a smartphone to look at. But when you don't have one, you learn to actually communicate.” Imperio reinforces the fact that smartphones are extremely helpful in modern society but he encourages others to give the challenge a try. In his opinion, giving up his smartphone was not only worth it, but eye opening as well. Give your iPhone a rest in social spaces and step outside your comfort zone!

## Why Rush? Explore!



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

**Randall Ulangca** |

As the Director of Personal and Career Development, Aaron Moushon also serves as the Director of the Explore Andrews Program. Apart from his role as an academic advisor, Moushon's other involvements include helping high school students prepare for college, AU international partnerships, and assisting with incoming students as an admissions professional. Moushon's passionate goal is to help students make the most of their time at Andrews and prepare them for the future.

**What is the main purpose of the Explore Andrews program, and how does it work?**

Explore Andrews exists to help students find the best on-campus major that lines up with their career goals and personal abilities. I primarily work with incoming freshman who are trying to narrow down their options or just find the best fit for their skillset. Primarily we do a lot of one-on-one advising and figuring out how students work. Everything we do is personalized to each individual. There are no molds to work from.

**Can any undergraduate student enroll in Explore Andrews?**

Yes they can. Although we work mostly with freshman, we are also a destination for students who started a major and want to make a change. We also welcome transfer students who might not be aware of everything that Andrews has to offer.

**How long does the program last?**

Typically students will stay in the program for 1-2 semesters. The intent is to get you to the right program, so we don't hold anyone back.

**How many Explore Andrews students are on campus?**

I work with around 100 students per year in a variety of capacities. At any given time I have about 55 advisees.

**Is each Explore Andrews program tailored to each student, or are those students expected to take a preset range of classes?**

As I mentioned briefly before, there is no mold or set schedule for students. Each student comes with unique gifts and skillsets, so we try to take what students are good at and steer them towards career paths and majors that can make the most of those gifts. For our new freshman, we have a robust and varied core curriculum that lets us get students in courses that can introduce them to departments and majors while still checking off graduation requirements. Over the past few years, we have worked with the academic departments to offer more introductory courses and seminars that students can easily fit into their schedule so they can explore the various majors on campus.

**Would you say there has been much success in regards to students finding direction in college? What outcome could an Explore Andrews student expect?**

Over the past 10-15 years the college experience has become longer than it once was. The majority of students are now taking more than 4 years to graduate, and one of the goals of the Explore Andrews Program is to help students get back to a 4-year degree. It might seem counterintuitive that starting college without a major will

get you done sooner, but there is serious research and data to back that up. In the past few years, about 80% of new college freshman change their major before they graduate. Major changes slow down the process. When a student who is unsure of their major starts out broad and takes the time to explore their options, they tend to finish up a little sooner. The students in the Explore Andrews Program have some of the highest enrollment indicators amongst student types on campus, so we have seen a benefit from the program for our students.

**Any advice you would give to students who are in a major, but may be considering Explore Andrews?**

One of our goals as a program, and as a university, is to help our students get the best education possible and leave Andrews ready to enter the job market and contribute to society. If a student has already found their calling and is in a great major, that is fantastic. However, if students are in a major that they are unhappy with for one reason or another, we'd love for them to stop by the office and have a chat about their options.

**What is your vision for the Explore Andrews Program?**

I envision a learning environment where every student who comes to Andrews has the opportunity to ex-

plore their career and major options during their first year of study. I think it is a lot to ask an 18-year-old high school graduate to know exactly what they want to do for the rest of their life as soon as they start school.

Not only does Moushon showcase warm personality and passion for college students, he genuinely wants the best for his advisees. If you have any questions or want to meet Moushon himself, don't hesitate to stop by his office in Nethery Hall 138 office.

## Live Wholly: The Stress-Free U

**Tara Thona** | We students are in our “honeymoon phase.” It’s not a honeymoon phase where people are falling into infatuations, but rather a temporary state of mind.

Addressing the current mental health of AU, Dr. Harvey J. Burnett, Jr., Associate Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Behavioral Science Department, says that “right now, students and faculty are beginning the honeymoon phase. [There is] low-stress in the semester with a little pressure, [but] the real stress has not yet started.”

We are transitioning into our third week of school, but some of us (especially student leaders who have been here for at least a month) already feel exhausted. For others, the thrill of being a new college student is gradually fading away. You are learning to juggle classwork, new friendships with a brand new job. This is the beginning stage: low-stress U.

After this stage, “tests begin. (Students have their) reality check after their first test grade to see whether they need to revamp themselves or not,” Dr. Burnett says, “Then, we

start to see the real panic and (students) ruminate over bad grades. From research, the majority of students experience higher level of stress because of procrastination.”

In a blink of an eye, it is mid-semester. Your grades aren’t where you want them to be, and your procrastination, your relationships and

non-academic responsibilities are catching up to you. Stress levels increase rapidly. This is the stressful U. Let’s remove ourselves from the pressures of right now. Imagine walking down the aisle of Pioneer Memorial Church beside your fellow classmates, who have been with you through every Organic Chemistry test, every early morning Hebrew lesson, every late night club meeting,

or maybe every personal battle you had to face. It is your graduation, the last official day of your undergraduate experience, with the people who have been with you for the last few years. You are about to end your college experience feeling like a warrior because every day was a battle that you fought and survived. Presi-

dent Andrea Luxton finishes her final words and the dean of each school begin to call each graduate’s name. With anticipation, your name is called up and it is your turn to walk onto the stage to receive your diploma. Amid the crowd, your parents stand in the pews with tears of joy rolling down their faces because their child made it.

But before this glorious day hap-

pens, we have to get through today, tomorrow, and next week, or that Thesis Portfolio. How many of us prepare ourselves with the end in mind? How many of us prepare for the days that are the most stressful? Do you prepare for stressful schedules?

Stress management is key to surviving and living the AU experience in

fullness. On campus, there are several resources to guide your mission to manage stress. Through the University Health & Wellness Department, the Daily Wellness Theme recommends Stress-Free Sundays, which is the first reminder of the week to prioritize yourself and manage your stress. Instead of being engulfed by the heavy amount of stress, set yourself up to get rid of it.

Managing your stress does not need to stop on Sundays. Students struggle with multiple pressures throughout the week, and even until graduation day. Students often do not place mental health and stress remedies as a priority.

David White (Wellness with a Fitness Concentration Major, Senior) says, “Rarely do I think about my mental health. There’s a good amount of pressure to get good grades and graduate, so whether I eat very little because I’m too busy or get less hours of sleep to study for a quiz (or) an exam seems to be more important right now. I know it shouldn’t be, but that’s life.”

The AU Wellness Initiative challenges the idea that life need not to be as stressful as some students experience.

A member of the mission to be less stressed, Jordanne Howell-Walton (Psychology major, senior) says, “Caring for my mental health means planning ahead to avoid the stress of last minute things. Doing things like journaling, having friend dates with someone you can confide in, mak-

ing sure you have a strong support group and taking time for yourself can make a huge difference in your mental health and all other aspects of your college experience.”

On top of that, she and other peers recommend checking out the Counseling and Testing Center (CTC), which is located in Bell Hall. Learn more about its resources on the website: <https://www.andrews.edu/services/ctcenter/resources/>. CTC offers online and on-campus resources that are geared to improve your mental health.

Besides the CTC, “be deliberate and intentional about your steps to de-stress,” says Dr. Burnett.

Seek out and take advantages of the options that AU provides to help you deal with stress. Rather than breaking down during finals week, AU provides stress reducers you can use now in the beginning of the semester. Find support groups, mentors, a Campus Ministry chaplain, any church pastor, resident hall dean or a confidant who is able to listen. Why not start off this semester with a stress-free U?

**“Stress management is key to surviving and living the AU experience in fullness.”**

## Concordia Tops Cardinals in Soccer Season Opener



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAYLOR SCALZO

**Torian Hill** | On Friday, Sept. 8, the AU Cardinals men’s soccer team hit the pitch for the first time. They played against Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Unfortunately, Andrews fell short to their opponents. Concordia went into Friday’s match with four other games already played this season, allowing them to have a little more

experience. For Andrews it was only the first game, making the challenge difficult. Concordia went into the game very confident and comfortable, leading to a show of prowess on

the field. The final score: 9-0.

The statistics show Concordia had more possession. Meanwhile, Andrews struggled to find their rhythm for most of the match. When they were able to, the pace of the game had slowed down and the opportunities for goals seemed brighter. It is fair to say that

Andrews was simply outplayed. Looking at the other statistics, Concordia had better numbers than Andrews in every section. This was a loss that the team will not forget. Hopefully, the Andrews team will use it as a learning opportunity early in the season so that they can figure out how to fix their weaknesses and improve their strengths.

Captain Cameron Burton (Senior, Engineering) said, “Although our first game was rough we can still hold our heads high because it gives us a wake-up call early in the season.”

The first game of the season is always a wild card, due to the new

players on the field. For the Andrews Cardinals, there were many new players who perhaps did not know the intensity of playing on a collegiate level. This threw the players off their game a little because their only soccer experience was against each other. With each game, the players will learn how to adapt and their chemistry will get stronger.

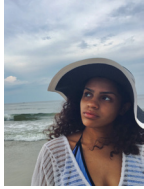
While speaking with Burton he said, “From the very start of the season going back to preseason conditioning and training, Torian (Senior, Psychology) (Captain) and I have been explaining to the players that it is important to make connections with each teammate both on and off the field.”

This will allow their bond to grow, which will allow things to run smoother on the field, and will also help the players trust each other. These factors will create better ball movement on the field and more opportunities. After the first game, the drills that players worked on in train-

ing sessions were a little different so that the players could work on their weakness. The coach wanted to go into the week with a different tactic and mindset so that the results for the next week could be better. Throughout the weekend, the team was focused on representing the school well for their first home game of the season, which took place on Monday, Sept. 11. The Cardinals men’s soccer team thanks the fans that have supported them so far throughout the season and would like to encourage everyone to come to their next home game on Friday, Sept. 22.



## Humans



**Adriana Santana**  
Humans Editor

## A Talk With a Diplomat's Daughter

Thato Lehoko  
Year: Senior  
Major: Photography  
Interviewed by: Benin Lee

### Where are you from, and do you speak another language?

I am from Gauteng, Pretoria in the country of South Africa. I can speak German, and a little bit of my mother tongue, Sesotho.

### Your father is a South African diplomat, can you explain a little about what that life is like?

He is an ambassador, so he represents South Africa in different countries. Right now, he's in Guinea-Bissau, which is in west Africa. Before that we were in Indonesia and Prague, so yeah, we have moved around a lot.

### What is one of the most interesting places that being a diplomat's daughter has taken you?

I think I would say Indonesia. It's definitely a different culture from South Africa and other places mainly because I felt it was "homogeneous" population which definitely led to some culture shock as a foreigner. However, my time there overall was great.

### Have the different places you have lived affected you as photography major?

Oh, for sure, I think one of the things I'm going to focus on is food. I mean

I love food, and a lot of the food I eat isn't country based. I like mixing my foods, styles and seasonings. So, a lot of the stylings and the food I put in my pictures will come from different countries. There could be something like a South African dish, styled with an European technique. I enjoy anything that is not so "one-cultured," I enjoy taking things that I've learned from the places I've lived and kind of just putting it in my arsenal, and not just in this case but in fashion as well.

### How long have you been interested in photography?

I would say eight or nine years, but at first, I wasn't allowed to take photography as a major. My parents were worried about me finding a job in the future, and were concerned with my financial security. After a long time of convincing them and showing them what I could do, they allowed me to become a photo major. I also had to promise them that I would work hard and be able to do things on my own and provide for myself.

### Is there any specific style that your work has?

My work is generally very minimalist. A lot of people like to make it conceptual, using their past or their history and putting it into their artwork. Most of my art I would say is simplistic and appealing to me and those

who see it. I like things that look nice, the aesthetics.

### Do you think that living abroad has affected the way you see things here on such a diverse campus? Is there any advice you would give to someone going abroad?

I'd say that it really taught me how to appreciate and be open to other cultures. Some people I know are often closed off and not willing to try new foods or experiences. So, I think living abroad has helped me talk to people who I may not have otherwise. As well to have conversations and share ideas. It has definitely made me more open to accepting, and sharing cultures between people. My advice to people going abroad would be, just do it! Also, don't be afraid to talk, and learn from locals and try your local food.



PHOTO BY APRYL BRILEY

## The Man Behind the Dinosaur



PHOTO BY MATTHEW RIGG

Bradley Tang  
Year: Freshman  
Major: Criminal Justice and Nursing  
Interviewed by: Tyler Mason

### What inspired the dinosaur costume?

I got into it by accident. I was just looking through eBay in the middle of the night and I saw the costume for seven dollars; no one was bidding on it, and there was 5 minutes left. So I said to myself, "I can pay that." First time I wore the costume was during the Berrien Springs County Fair.

### Did the dinosaur protest in Washington have anything to do with you purchasing the costume?

It has nothing to do with that. I'm not doing it to protest anything.

### Are you going to do it again or was this a one-time thing?

Maybe I will someday, or maybe once in awhile. Actually, what inspired me is during the summer I was having some issues and some bad days. When I wore it to the fair, the people received

it very well. Kids were chasing after me and I had a good time. Although it was hard for myself because it was hot in there, I thought if I'm able to give others a better day then it is worth it. Also people in the university seemed to enjoy the costume as well. So it seemed like I was making their day better too.

### Do you ever think about getting any other type of costume?

The dinosaur costume is pretty much the only good one on the market. There isn't another costume that has caught my eye like that one did.

### So when do you expect to pull it out again? Whenever you feel like it?

Yeah, basically whenever I feel like it. Whenever I feel it is appropriate

### Do you ever think you're going to pull it out to events? Like any school events?

I don't know about that actually. I'm kind of just going with the flow, again if I ever feel like I will.

# Humans

## An Interview With Garren Dent



PHOTO BY SCOTT MONCREIFF

Garren Dent, Owner  
Village Do It Best Hardware  
106 West Ferry, Berrien Springs  
269-473-5811

Interviewed by Scott Moncreiff

### When you were a little kid, did you tell your parents “when I grow up I want to own a hardware store”?

No—but it does seem that we were destined for retail. My dad managed the University Market, which was where the bookstore is now, only it was about half that size. And to take it to the Apple Valley of today, at 27,000 square feet, was quite a jump. That happened in 1974 or 1975. So, then, with my dad being the manager of Apple Valley for 10 or 12 years I used to walk from Ruth Murdoch and go there and bag groceries or whatever, starting from when I was maybe 8 years old. So retail is kind of in the blood.

When I was 14 I had a bike shop in town, for four or five years before I went to college, a little retail/service industry kind of thing. It was fun. We didn't sell new bikes. It was just drop off your bike and we'd work on it. Then I just started doing a lot of odd jobs to try to pay my way through college. I worked for a plumber, worked as an electrician's helper, did some roofing, just a little of anything.

### A bunch of little things that people go to hardware stores for?

Yes. Never really an expert in any of it, but kind had the feel of it. I worked for a couple of apartment complex owners fixing all kinds of stuff. They'd get

work orders and after school or between classes I'd run over there and help them.

My wife, Bonnie, and I got married in 1988 and I stayed out of school a year to work full time while she finished up. I like work better than school anyway [laughs]. But then it seemed like the hardware store next to Apple Valley started having less and less stuff. They would run out of common nails and screws and plumbing parts. You couldn't buy a plunger there—they were out. We started calling it the “out” store because they were always out of what we needed. The guy I was working with said “what we need in town is just a basic hardware store.” Actually, that store did a pretty good job on stocking lawn furniture, riding lawnmowers, appliances, but it was really hit and miss on hardware.

Long story short, there was a little hardware store for sale downtown, and in 1990 we bought it. It needed a lot of improvement and it was very small, but we just said “no statuary, no lawn furniture, no power mowers—just basic hardware.” And we're still on that same premise for the most part. It's coming up on 27, 28 years now. People come in and say “I've got a problem with my dishwasher,” or “my garbage disposal,” and I say, “well, I've done a couple of those before,” because at the apartments they had like fifty of them, and I'd say “so what's the problem?” and you can kind of walk through it with the customer.

You expanded a couple of years ago.

### How is a small town like this able to support such a big hardware store?

That's always a concern. A lot of prayer went into that because I've seen what can happen. We aren't going to double our demographics in the next 20 to 30 years. So it was a concern not to put a lot of money into any kind of addition. Fifty years ago, a 1500 square foot store like we had originally, stocked just about every hardware item made. But they keep making so much stuff—maybe a thousand items a day are being pumped into the marketplace, odds and ends all across the board. And once in awhile those items will stick. Then you have to find a space on the shelf for it. And it just keeps growing and growing and growing. Back in 2000 they were saying if your hardware store wasn't 10,000 square feet you couldn't survive. We're at 15,000 square feet now, and we don't even touch all the merchandise carried by Lowe's and Home Depot. Their business model is based on Walmart's. They're a manufacturer's showroom. As people make stuff they put it in this showroom called Home Depot or Lowe's. Lowe's doesn't even pay for the products until they are sold. Then they send the money to the manufacturer. They have 250,000 square feet.

We're strictly a convenience store. Gas stations sell a lot of milk. Gas stations compete with Apple Valley and Harding's on milk sales, just because of convenience. And we compete against Lowe's and Home Depot on a similar basis. You know you're going to pay a little more for milk when you're over

at the gas station—but you're already there. People don't mind paying a little bit more from a small place—they're expecting it. You're not going to drive to Benton Harbor and back to save a dollar. It's not worth it. People's time is more valuable. So we provide convenience. Someone might buy 50 bags of concrete for a job and they're two bags short. It might be \$1.50 more a bag here than at Lowe's, but for three bucks they want to get the job done now. The concrete is hardening and they don't want to drive to Benton Harbor to save three dollars. And this is a bedroom community. Logistically, we're in the center of the county, and a lot of contractors live in the area. They might have a job in St. Joe or Niles, but they're here in the morning, so they'll stop in at 7 a.m., pick up the items they need, small things, and then head out to the job. So convenience is a big thing for us. Convenient hours, convenient parking, easy to get in and out, in house charge accounts for some of these people.

Plus they know the store employees.

It's relationships. We have the religiously based concept of treating others as we would like to be treated. If it's 8:05 (p.m.) and someone comes to the door, everyone here knows that we're opening the door. If they find us in here, we have to open the door. And the customer will love you for months. You imagine what it's like when you're on the other side of the door and you need one bolt to finish a job and you want to get it done. Then you say “I love this little store.”

### What's an example of new hardware products that have caught on in the last five or ten years?

There's tons of them. In the plumbing department, they came out a few years ago with “SharkBite fittings.” So with copper or plastic tubing, instead of with a copper fitting having to solder joints together, you simply push them together. They're 8-10-12 bucks apiece, but there's no education needed, you can't mess them up, you push together and you're done. You can run water through them right away, whereas with a copper fitting that's soldered you can't. Those are extremely popular. We have to have eight feet of shelf space just for SharkBite fittings, and that wasn't there five years ago. There must be 40 kinds of furnace filters, from the one dollar filter up to the thirty dollar filter that protects against allergies. We carry ten of them—and this isn't sizes, just different levels of quality. Those things take up a ton of room. They make more kinds of hammers than could fit in this entire store. Titanium, the shape of the handle, the pink ones, the camouflage, just on and on. And that's true about every item. There's just too many choices. Henry

Ford said “black.” You got a black car and that was it. I go to Honduras on mission trips, and I swear the entire country has one broom you can buy. It's the same everywhere. You send someone to the store to get a broom and you know what you're going to get.

### What do college students come in here for?

Our main business comes from homeowners, maybe 80 percent. Students in the dorm, there's a limited number of things they buy. A couple of weeks ago I was at another school and I saw tons of students buying small refrigerators. I thought maybe I'm missing that market. I don't have those. Maybe we should! Students might get a little electric heater—not sure about dorm regulations there—an extension cord, sticky pads that allow you to hang something on the wall without damaging the walls.

### What's your favorite thing about running a hardware store?

The people. There's so many relationships you build. It's a ministry. Some people have a ministry from the pulpit; we think it can also be in the electrical/plumbing aisle. There's a crowd that comes in here, elderly, widows and widowers, and they might just need someone to talk to. We have contractors that won't make it to church, but they come in here every morning. We just got a letter from a lady yesterday who dropped her Visa card. One of our employees picked it up, looked up her name and called her, and she thought that was just phenomenal. It's the only thing you should do.



Scott E. Moncreiff  
Faculty Advisor

## Arts &amp; Entertainment



**Kelly Lorenz**  
Arts &  
Entertainment  
Editor

## A New Movement for the Music Department



**Adriana Perera**  
Chair, Music Department  
Associate Professor of Theory and  
Composition  
**Interviewed by Adair Kibble**

Professor Perera has joined the Andrews University Music Department Faculty this year as Chair. Among other positions, she has previously served as the Chair of the J. S. Bach Conservatory in Sagunto, Spain, and

has taught at Oakwood University.

### When did you know you wanted a career in music?

I started playing the piano when I was 5 and I loved it, but I loved playing by ear. I didn't like practicing, so I quit. I think it's that way with a lot of musicians—they love music, but they don't like the methodology or the pieces they are forced to play. When I was 14 I wanted to play the piano seriously, and I studied at the Conservatory of Music. I finished my degree in music at 18.

Then I took a year off to be a missionary in Spain. That year, God showed me clearly that he wanted me to be a musician. I was 20 when I decided to be a career musician. I wanted to study theology as well, and I really wanted to connect music with theology. I published two books about music and worship, and it was a way for me to unite my love of theol-

ogy and my love of music.

### Where did you work before coming to Andrews?

I was at Oakwood University for 10 years teaching theory and composition. I had also been a chairperson for the music department in Spain. It was too much work because my kids were little. Being head of the music department in Spain involved a lot of performance and touring Europe, so I was out of my house a lot and my children were growing up without me. Then my husband received a job offer to go to Oakwood and I just wanted to be with them before they went to college. Now they are in college, so I think it's the right time for me to be here. I think I can do it, and I love the opportunity.

### Why did you choose to come to Andrews?

I have been coming to Andrews

for 6 years as a guest speaker. Every time I was here and I saw the quality of the professionals in the music department, I would think, "I would love to be a part of this music department." So when I was offered the job I said, "Yes! I love it!"

### Do you have any special projects or goals for your first years as music department chair?

Yes, our first priority is recruitment. We need more students, both participating in music events, and more students majoring within the department. Our music students are not involved enough in music making on campus and we want that to be improved. Classic repertoire is good, but we want more presence in activities like campus ministry and the church.

Our second priority is more diversity. We want different music styles and genres. We want an inclusive

music department in which every student will feel their story is listened to and is embraced.

The third priority is more involvement with the community. We are launching a music school in a prison in St. Joseph, hopefully within the next few months. We are already in a partnership with the state of Michigan to provide music lessons to children for free. At Andrews we have the privilege to make a real difference. The idea of music is to not limit what you can do. God gives us the promise that if you want to dream big, dream big and he will be with you. I don't think we should limit what God can do.

## Breaking the Mold: Dunkirk and Movie Violence



**David Dunham** | When I walk into a movie, I want to see something of quality. I don't want the movie I am watching to treat me as if I have no common sense and try to explain everything. Sometimes, the best parts of a movie are the parts that go unsaid—the inferences and connections that I have to make for myself as an audience member. That is exactly what Christopher Nolan's Dunkirk did.

The historical events portrayed in Dunkirk are an amazing setup for a movie, and the story hasn't been overplayed by Hollywood. Dunkirk tells the story of French and British soldiers surrounded by the Axis powers at Dunkirk, France—across the channel from England. The movie starts with a bang, and keeps you in suspense until it ends. Nolan brilliantly breaks the story down into three acts, tying them together in the end.

The first striking indication of the show-don't-tell philosophy: many scenes omit dialogue. Nolan shows the action instead of filling entire scenes with expository dialogue. The lack of words, however, also contributes to a lack of character motivation. Despite this, when it came to the end of the movie, I still felt as though I knew them as characters. The actors clearly conveyed

what their characters felt, rather than saying what was going on in their heads. This is more realistic for both battle scenes and quieter moments throughout the film. This, coupled with the dynamic, ever-present soundtrack and enticing.

Dunkirk also left out another key staple of war movies: excess violence and gore. Soldiers still die. This is World War II after all. However, I believe Dunkirk, unlike many other movies, implied rather than dwelt on violence. From the first scene, the Axis powers have clearly surrounded the Allied forces, but you only see an actual Nazi soldier in one short glimpse. Axis planes repeatedly bomb the beach, leaving an overtone of anxiety—you don't know when the next attack will come. Because these bombings continue for over a week, the film implies that thousands were killed on the beach. The focus, however, is not on the explosions themselves, but their aftermath. Shots of countless wounded men, bodies floating in the water, and craters of impact, take the place of outright violence. Nolan shows the toll of these events, rather than the events themselves, telling a powerful story.

In Dunkirk, there's no grand battle to make a last stand. Instead, No-

lan tells a lifelike, slow-paced epic of a few heroic men who stood up to the Axis powers, their superiors, or even their friends, proving that not every war tale has to show gratuitous loss of life in order to tell a compelling story. As a student, this movie inspired me to stand up for what I know is right, even in the face of hardships. Every main character had to fight the odds to overcome the obstacles they faced. Honestly, that's one of the best messages the movie could have shown.

## Arts &amp; Entertainment

## What Could Have Been: Teenage Jesus



PHOTO PROVIDED GREG CONSTANTINE

**Natalie Hwang** | The Harrigan Hall Art Gallery is exhibiting a series of drawings by Professor Emeritus Greg Constantine titled “Jesus of New York: Premonitions of a New York Teenager” from Sept. 6-28. Very little narrative account of Jesus’s childhood exists in the canonical Bible—the years between twelve and thirty are not portrayed at all. Constantine’s exhibit, a collection

of fourteen pen drawings and one painting, seeks to bridge that gap in Jesus’ life by showing an innocent side of Jesus that foreshadows many events in his future. These premonitions are translated to modern occurrences: getting lost in the temple becomes wandering in on a game-show, walking on water becomes water skiing, and the Good Samaritan story becomes a mugging in Central

Park. Within the context of the modern age, Constantine’s Jesus presents himself as a brother or friend, rather than an aloof God.

The artist’s favorite piece is a pen rendering of Jesus after a boxing match. The only work in the series where Jesus is 20-something, the drawing depicts a bruised and beaten Jesus crowded into one corner of a boxing ring. Onlookers whisper to each other, mouths open in gray gasps, and an assistant cleans Jesus’s face with a wet cloth. A cameraman on the sidelines pans to Jesus’s face—one of his eyes is swollen beyond recognition and his limp arms hang on the ropes. This event foreshadows the crucifixion, the small boxing ring acting as a comparison with the cross.

Constantine describes his work as a series of premonitions, events he imagines may have occurred in Jesus’s childhood (had he grown up in New York) that hint at His later life as described in the Bible. The rest of the pieces follow suit, bold black and white strokes filled with diverse char-

acters, modern settings, and vaguely recognizable events.

Constantine has previously written books about Vincent Van Gogh, Leonardo da Vinci, and Pablo Picasso, depicting the artists as time travelers transported to a more sophisticated era. This time, mainstream publishers refused to publish a book on “Jesus of New York” because the subject matter was religious; however, Adventist publishers implied it was sacrilegious. While his work is in between two extremes, so is the audience Constantine targets. Many young Christians begin to question and contemplate the theology of their church, rejecting pious and legalistic aspects while embracing wholeheartedly the loving and accepting nature of Jesus as portrayed in the New Testament.

As described in his artist’s statement, Constantine’s Jesus experiences “temptations, fears, misunderstandings, hypocrisies, and injustices much like young people find today,” from witnessing discrimination against a disabled man on the

subway to feeling indignant that an immigrant medic is ostracized. These genuine experiences, similar to those the audience might experience today, draw a connection between Jesus and the viewer. Constantine expresses a hopefulness for his audience to realize that Jesus is not a parent, but a brother. In “Jesus of New York,” he separates and elevates the highest aspects of Jesus’s life, boiling it down to the compassion, thoughtfulness, and intelligence with which he approached every situation. Emphasizing the multifaceted nature of Jesus’s personality without producing a limited portrayal of Jesus, Greg Constantine’s exhibit is well worth visiting.

## Kesha: A Rainbow for Turbulent Times



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PUBLIC DOMAIN

**Kelly Lorenz** | You may remember Ke\$ha from the smudged eyeliner, glitter-crusted, grungy reputation of her “TiK ToK” days, but after five years of relative radio silence and no major releases, Kesha has returned

with a new album, *Rainbow*, and without the dollar sign. After years of lawsuits with her former producer Dr. Luke over sexual harassment and emotional abuse (among other concerns) and time spent in re-

habilitation for an eating disorder, *Rainbow* sees Kesha through to the other side—resilient, free, blissfully at peace, and oh-so-weird.

Kesha’s artistic freedom stands out as one of the most obvious differences between *Rainbow* and previous discography. In her new release she showcases multiple different musical styles, as well as her wide vocal range—most notably in “Praying,” where she sustains a high note that has gained its own online following. The song discusses past traumas, expressing forgiveness and proving the strength it takes to not seek revenge without being self-righteous. Kesha comes across as genuine—pain evident through vocal grittiness in some passages.

On another extreme, “Boogie Feet” at times retains the whiny and sing-song quality of past songs like “Die Young” and “We R Who We R,” but lyrically it stands apart. While these past songs could be played un-ironically after 3 a.m. in a house party, “Boogie Feet” is simply too bizarre for that genre. It promotes dancing for joy to celebrate being alive, with

no motive of being attractive or fulfilling external expectations. The lyrics are silly instead of sexy, and blend well with her tone of voice.

A hymn to self-care, “Learn to Let Go” presents a realistic perspective on recovery and growth. The artist admits the difference between repeating a mantra and making change happen in one’s life. Notably, she says “choose redemption, your happy ending’s up to you”. Considering the journey she has taken over the past few years—standing up to her abuser and to her eating disorder—the message carries more gravity.

Some have criticized *Rainbow* for lacking unity—after all, it includes collaboration with Dolly Parton, the troubles of falling in love with Godzilla, a feminist anthem to independence, and similarly far-flung song concepts abruptly back to back. However, I think that the title track “Rainbow,” situated at the center of the album, is the glue binding it together.

Kesha uses this song to highlight the importance of living her truth

in its multi-faceted entirety, limiting her self-expression for no one. In the same way, the album allows her to share so many more sides of herself to the audience than when her label and heavily styled brand directed her work. While she had been constrained before to monosyllabic material, *Rainbow* doesn’t follow any rules, pulls material from many genres and adapts it to fit who she wants us to see right now. This release presents a portrait of Kesha Rose Sebert as complex, healing and confident—a confidence and self-acceptance she encourages her listeners to try on for themselves.

## The Last Word



**Alexi Decker**  
Copy Editor

# When Mediocre is Good Enough

Exhibit A: A girl invites a friend to join her at Zumba. The friend goes once, and never goes back.

Exhibit B: A writer does not submit their work to be published. Ever.

Exhibit C: A student forgoes a career path outside of their comfort zone after a semester with questionable grades, choosing instead a major that requires skills they already possess.

I've found myself thinking about fear a lot these past two weeks. Not the big fears—not death or failing all my classes or being kidnapped by a clown with googly eyes and being stuck in a birdcage for the rest of my life (hey, it happens). No. Being in college fills me with everyday fears and reminds me of everyday failures.

For example, I live in mortal terror of being asked to make a seating chart for a class. Sounds fake, I know, but hear me out. My interests as a child leaned heavily on the language arts side of the spectrum. I read. I wrote a lot of terrible short stories about missing puppies and mean girls. And since my best friend could draw fantastically well by the age of eight, well—it wouldn't matter even if I started drawing; she was so much better, and always would be. Her pencils turned paper into gold. I decided if she was the art girl, I was the words girl. That's all I needed to be. So that's all I became.

As a result, when a teacher asked me to sketch out a seating chart during my senior year of high school, I literally couldn't do it. My visuo-spatial thinking and hand-eye coordination were so underdeveloped that I could not draw a bunch of squares on paper and have it come out looking roughly like the classroom setup. My language skills

were completely useless for this task, and when my teacher returned at the end of the period, I had to sheepishly hand her the sorry piece of paper and admit my incapacities.

Why hadn't I ever learned to draw? Because, at the ripe old age of eight, I was afraid of not being as good as my artistic genius best friend.

A confession. I am exhibits A, B, and C. While changing my major was a good decision and I much prefer running to Zumba and I do not write for the sole purpose of being published, the fact remains that each of these de-

in, I take it personally, feel it and remember it for months or sometimes, for years to come. Secondly, I fear rejection. What if I talk to someone and they think I'm annoying? What if I raise my hand in class and the teacher thinks my question is dumb? And even if it isn't, what if it's not good enough? Ultimately, I fear being mediocre.

It's true that surviving in our world requires a certain level of accomplishment. So if we aren't great at something straight off, many times we walk away. We're afraid of being only "decent," afraid of squandering all that

piano, but you'll never win prizes for your skill? Your family probably loves it when you play for them! And you like sudoku and casual number games but your head spins at the thought of calculus? Cool, you can still balance a budget or do mental math gymnastics at the grocery store to figure out how much you'll spend. Mediocrity is not something to be afraid of. Rather, it is the only thing that enables us to live a well-rounded life.

Fear paralyzes us. It spins our heads, cripples us in ways we don't even realize. It keeps us from our potential, steers us clear of opportunities and prevents us from being truly fulfilled.

But it doesn't have to do that. The best thing about being human is that you have the ability to change things. Everything could be different tomorrow. You could sign up for that class, try out for that choir, talk to that cute senior at vespers. You may not get an A. You may never get a solo. You may find that the senior you're crushing on is crushingly boring. Or you may find yourself discovering new talents, new abilities, new things to learn and new people to love.

I wish someone had told me in elementary school that I could be the words girl and an artist, too. I wish someone had told me that I didn't have to be good at something to make it worth pursuing. Most of all, I wish I'd been brave enough, back then, to try.

**“I am afraid of being bad at things. I am afraid of failing. I am of taking risks.”**

isions was made out of fear. No matter how well some of them turned out, I'll never know if submitting that short story would've made me famous, or if Zumba might've introduced me to an awesome new friend group, or what my life would've been like if I'd stuck with my psychology major. This system of playing it safe doesn't just apply to 8-year-old me—it's a habit that manifests itself over and over again.

I am afraid of being bad at things. I am afraid of failing. I am afraid of taking risks.

But why? I think, first of all, that my pride is easily wounded. Even good-natured ribbing from friends—if it's not about something I feel confident

potential they told us we had in elementary school—because if we aren't automatically successful, then maybe that potential didn't exist in the first place.

But mediocrity doesn't deserve your disdain. And while it's true that you have to be decent before you can be good, mediocrity doesn't have to be the step that comes before mastery. You don't have to be good at everything. Being “decent” can be an end in and of itself. So you could shoot hoops all day but know you'll never play on a real team? Awesome, you've got a fun way of staying in shape and know enough to play with your friends! What's that? You love picking out pop songs on the

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