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The Student Movement v. 105 (2020-2021)

Student Movement

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## The Student Movement Volume 105 Issue 3: Students Take Applying Break

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## Students Take Applying Break



Photo by Darren Heslop

## News

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### NEWS

## Reimagining Chapel through Pulse Groups

Jenae Rogers [09.29.2020](#)

On Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Pulse Groups have been meeting in place of the chapels that were previously held on Thursdays in Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC). Both in-person Pulse Groups and those that meet over Zoom offer

ways for students to grow spiritually. At these sessions, the leader will often start out with a couple icebreakers and then move on to the lesson. Many of the questions thought through during the lesson include important ideas and applications to everyday life.

An in-person, freshman pulse group leader, Sandrine Adap (freshman, computer science, math) says, “I enjoy the fact that I am given the curriculum. I study the material and, then, act as a facilitator for the group. It helps me think about personal applications for the questions.” However, she expressed some difficulty in getting involvement from all the students attending. This has caused Sandrine and other Pulse group leaders to get creative. Adap says, “I tried splitting up the group into smaller groups of about four people. This seemed to make more people talk and share answers to questions.” Another in-person Pulse Group leader, Nehemiah Sitler (sophomore, communication) said, “It’s a lot of fun; I really enjoy doing it. I have heard other students say they appreciate that we are doing something other than the traditional program in PMC where we listen to someone preach. This is more relational. It is a great way to meet other people and grow.”

Pulse Groups are also a great way to meet other students. Gabriella Srikureja (freshman, architecture) attends a virtual group on Zoom. She says, “They are very enjoyable and a great way to meet students in the same class as you without having the pressure of needing to constantly be speaking.”

Additionally, Pulse Groups create more opportunities for graduate students to meet undergraduate students. Sitler says, “Many of the Pulse Group leaders are seminary students, which helps to bring people together.” So students have the opportunity, through Pulse Groups, to experience spiritual growth with other students as well as receive chapel co-curricular credit.

## NEWS

# Pacific Union College Students Evacuated After Glass Fire

Staff [09.29.2020](#)

Due to the Glass Fire in Napa and Sonoma County, California, Pacific Union College (PUC) students and faculty evacuated campus on Sunday, Sept. 27. The

PUC Facebook page released a statement on Sunday stating that there was “no direct threat” to PUC at that time. Following the announcement of the students’ immediate evacuation, both on campus and virtual classes were cancelled on Monday, Sept. 28.

The Glass Fire began near Deer Park as a 20-acre brush fire. CalFire reported that the Glass Fire threatened more than 2,200 structures as of Sunday night. The PUC Facebook page encouraged its followers to follow CalFire and the Angwin Volunteer Fire Department for updates on the wildfire.

The Napa Seventh-day Adventist church opened its doors on Monday, providing water, masks, and pizza for the evacuees. Church members were there to provide prayer and support. The PUC Instagram page held an Instagram live on Monday night, encouraging the PUC community to pray for the students and faculty that had been affected by the Glass Fire. Online PUC classes resumed on Tuesday, Sept. 29. Professors are working to meet the needs of students affected by the evacuation.

For more updates concerning the PUC campus and the Glass Fire, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/pacificunioncollege/>.

## NEWS

# Unidos Through Ethnicity

**Caralynn Chan 09.29.2020**

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Latino clubs at Andrews University are offering co-curricular opportunities with the theme of community and staying united. On Tuesday, Sept. 22, the Departments of History and Political Science and International Languages & Global Studies hosted a co-curricular event titled “Unidos Through Ethnicity.” Organizers formatted this event as a discussion panel which was moderated by Gabriella Pechero, the Religious Vice President of the Andrews University Latino Association (AULA). It was eye-opening to hear how the panelists learned to be proud of their Hispanic and Latino identities, especially in the United States and at Andrews.

When asked about what they perceived as the difference between race and ethnicity, many of the panelists stated that to them, race was a social construct that was encapsulated by physical characteristics. Meanwhile, ethnicity was more of

the cultural aspects and language. Many of the panelists stated that they did not look like the stereotypical Latino or Hispanic person and they delved into how it was difficult for them to claim their identity. It was difficult for them to seamlessly integrate into society because they were multiracial and people would try to simplify their race. Others mentioned how tough it was to be proud of their culture, growing up in a place where Hispanics and Latinos were the minority.

Salim Villanueva (junior, mechanical engineering, spanish translation) was one of the panelists. She says, "It's not easy being born in a country where they don't understand your ethnicity and mis-identify you to what they think is right. Hearing everyone's point of view on the topic was intriguing because all of us come from different households yet still have the same cultural beliefs which are pretty amazing."

Petala Santos (freshman, political science) says, "we could share our stories and be accepting of others. It is important to avoid defining people by how they look and be willing to learn people's stories." On the Andrews campus, groups like AULA, Makarios, and Adelante are trying to accomplish that. Ms. Pechero (senior, animal science) says that "even though we all identify as Hispanic, we are from different countries, and depending on where you are, it impacts the culture that you grew up in. If you are Hispanic, Latino, or are looking for a place to fit in, there is a welcoming community here at Andrews. We believe that it is important to be loud and proud of your culture." As voiced by members of the AULA association and its community, AULA is a club for Hispanics, Latinos, and Non-Hispanics where members of those groups can share their experiences and joyously celebrate their cultures with others.

# Pulse

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PULSE

## Fresh Air, Fresh Produce

Jessica Rim 09.29.2020



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Moderate temperatures for the past few weeks have encouraged people to enjoy outdoor activities more often. However, for someone like me, the most acceptable way to spend a Sunday would be to hole up in my room, finishing assignments for the week and avoiding contact with humans, if possible; the balance between rejuvenating my mind by going outdoors and being conscious of COVID-19 risks is delicate and fraught with ethical considerations.

Despite my scruples about taking an excursion, my friend and I decided to find out if there was a way to safely enjoy something close to campus. It occurred to me that it was currently harvest season and that I had not taken advantage of our local agrarian abundance in the past. Thus, after a quick Google search of “farms in Berrien Springs,” we visited the first three locations mentioned, all within a 10-minute drive from Andrews University.

The first stop was Bixby Orchards, which featured a small produce stand including watermelons, cucumbers, zucchini, and honey. Plump pumpkins were lined on the side, waiting for any avid pumpkin carver or pumpkin pie enthusiast

to whisk them away. If we had arrived earlier in the month, we might have procured a sunflower or two as well. Although there was not much to do, especially as we arrived close to the closing time, the peaceful drive to the orchard and the picturesque field in front of the parking space were enjoyable for a serene Sunday early afternoon. Perhaps unwisely denting our college budgets, we also left with a small \$8 jar of apple blossom honey, 75-cent cucumber and \$1 golden squash.

Next on the list was Hildebrand Fruit Farms. After covetously glancing over the selection of squash and gourds sitting on the ground, accented by mini pumpkins priced at a quarter each, we walked up to the table in front of the red barn. Well-organized rows upon rows of multiple apple varieties were available for purchase. A woman next to us inquired about the recommended variety of apples for apple pie, while I lamented my lack of an adequate reason to ask for a similar explanation, especially because I did not come for a basketful of apples. We quickly paid for the \$5 gallon of apple cider we wanted and left. When we later tasted it, it was just what apple cider should be—refreshing, clean, and tight as a fresh apple.

The most fruitful part of the trip was at Lazy Acre Vineyard, where families geared with hats, buckets, plastic bags, and shears were diligently picking through the rows of vines and plump grapes. The elderly owners were very willing to point people to the right direction for each kind of grape, and kindly advised taste-testing and taking only the darkest bunches. We took this advice to heart, possibly eating as many grapes as we collected, like most people at any U-pick. We also filled our eyes and camera storage with the natural beauty of the fruit, which existed on a spectrum of shades, speckles, and ripeness, not like the homogeneous factory-perfect grapes at a supermarket. Even the shriveled grapes added to the aesthetic, dramatically juxtaposed with the pristine ones. After experiencing the thrills of a treasure hunt, appreciating both curtains of untouched grapes and hidden grape clusters in thoroughly-picked areas, we bought 2 pounds of grapes at \$1 per pound.

Despite thinking that all of this would consume a huge portion of my precious Sunday, this was not the case. I realized that it is not a waste of time to appreciate the fine weather, coloring leaves and fruit-bearing plants that evidence the passage of time, and a walk with a friend. This may be even more important in current times because going outdoors reduces the risk of transmitting the coronavirus and improves one's mood. While not posing a risk to others by maintaining appropriate distance and wearing masks, we can still reap the benefits of this fall season. I certainly did, in both very material and intangible ways.



# Pumpkin Spice and Everything Nice

Wambui Karanja 09.29.2020



Photo by Public Domain

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As I was taking a short stroll on campus the other day, I noticed the vibrant reds and oranges in a tree next to Pioneer Memorial Church. The tree was so beautiful that I decided to stop and observe it for a while. I thought about how special the season of autumn is—the gorgeous colors, the crisp breeze. When I think of the season, it gives me a warm fuzzy feeling. I think of pumpkin spice lattes, cuddling up in a warm blanket, and jumping in a big pile of leaves. I want to give a few suggestions from my fall bucket list for people hoping to capitalize on the season, because before we know it, the trees will be bare with the long winter ahead of us.

## **Have an autumn-themed day in.**

This is an idea that can either be done with friends or by yourself. First, you'll want to get some things that make you feel "fall-y". Some things I would incorporate into my day are warm blankets and lots of fluffy pillows, cute mugs for hot cocoa or whatever drink you're feeling that day, and a good book. When you have all of the things you need, just take the day to relax and vibe in the cozy autumnal space you have created for yourself.

## **Go apple picking.**

Apple picking is an activity that I'm really looking forward to this season. Grab

some friends and drive to your local orchard for a fun fall day. After you go picking, you could even save some apples for baking sometime later.

### **Have a baking day.**

Whether you are confident in your baking skills or not, try out a fall baking day! Look up some recipes on Pinterest and try some out. Some treats I plan on making include apple cobbler and pumpkin spice cookies.

### **Jump in a pile of leaves.**

When we were little, I'm sure this was an activity that most of us did every fall. Jumping in a pile of leaves is definitely one of my favorite parts of the season. Personally, I believe this is one of the best ways to enjoy the season.

### **Decorate your room for fall.**

If you want to embrace the fall season a little bit more, consider decorating your space. Whether it's your house, your room, or even a desk area, decorating can help you feel the fall vibes even more this season. You could add a string of leaves along with some fairy lights and maybe throw some pumpkins or squash in there as well.

## **PULSE**

# **Yo Tengo Hambre!: A Sample of Hispanic Cuisine**

Interviewed by Alec Bofetiado [09.29.2020](#)



Photo by Public Domain

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**What is your favorite food from your culture, and what does it mean to you?**

Gabriela Francisco (sophomore, sociology pre-med), from the Dominican Republic: My favorite food is mashed plantains. I like to pair it with onions that have been sitting in vinegar, fried cheese, and avocado. It's my go-to Dominican dish. I love it so much. The sitting of the onions in vinegar makes the onions nice and sour. I think of family when I eat it. When it's there, I'm around people that I love. I like how all the parts of the dish come together to make an amazing meal that is so satiating. In the Dominican, people will eat that for breakfast and you don't have to eat that much because it fills you so much. I associate it with family and something that just makes you happy.

Karen Garcia (junior, pre-physical therapy minoring in psychology) from Mexico: My favorite food is arroz con leche, which is essentially rice pudding. The reason I like it is that it is associated with good mornings and breakfasts. My mom would make this in the mornings and because it has a really strong aroma, I would wake up to it.

Josh Bojorquez (junior, computer science) from El Salvador: My favorite food is a dish called pupusas paired with horchatas. Pupusas are basically this tortilla that's stuffed with cheese and beans. You could also put meat in it and make it however you want. At the end of the day, it tastes so good—so good! You could also dip it in sour cream. You can enjoy this meal with a glass of horchatas, which is a plant milk that you can make with cinnamon. This food means everything to me. It defines who I am, and it defines my culture. You take a bite out of this dish and you will have a new profound perspective and respect for Salvadorians and Hispanics in general.

# Humans

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## HUMANS

# Diversity in the English Classroom

Dr. Vanessa Corredera, Chair, Department of English

Interviewed by Alyssa Henriquez [09.29.2020](#)

### **What does “diversity” in the field of English mean to you?**

If we're talking about making fundamental systemic change, diversity in the field of English means making sure that you have diverse faculty. And that's a challenge for a number of reasons, especially at Adventist schools where our pool of candidates is even smaller than other universities and we can't hire as frequently. Diversity in English means making sure you have all sorts of people, especially black and indigenous persons of color (BIPOC), teaching English, so that English doesn't just become the purview of one type of teacher, one type of professor with one type of background. And then diversity also means shaking up the canon, being really intentional about having all sorts of different voices when you teach a survey or lit class. And if you're going to be teaching, you know, the dead white men, like a class on Chaucer or Shakespeare, it means making sure that you're using them as tools. So that the goal is not to say, okay, if we're just going to keep holding up Chaucer or holding up Shakespeare or Dickens as these great authors, though they may be that; how can we approach them to think about matters of inclusion and exclusion, of nascent nation, of empire, all of those things that help us understand the history of the West and how it is not just white men who have been the main players in that history. Even if there's a moment where that is the case, then we can think through how we can make it relevant to students' lives and make it more diverse.

### **Growing up, were there times that you noticed a lack of diversity in the field of English? Did you feel represented in the literature that you studied in high school and college? How did your background and life experiences align with what you learned?**

I'm Cuban American, and even if you were to take that more broadly and just say okay, someone from a Latinx background, my identity was just never represented

at all, even a little bit. And what we studied, I mean, I'm not asking for the Cuban poets to be translated into English, but I'm just saying that the rich tradition of having indigenous authors from Central America, South America, Mexico, Puerto Rico—which is part of the United States—it really shouldn't have been that hard. I really just got Shakespeare, I got the Odyssey in snippets, I read a random capture narrative by Mary Rowlandson in the early Americas—and we never had a Latinx voice. So all of that kind of made it seem . . . not necessarily like literature wasn't for me, I was a voracious reader and I never felt like that—but I never thought Shakespeare was for me. My family's first language was Spanish. That was at one point my first language, although you'd never know it now. So when I was reading Shakespeare, that wasn't something that my family was upholding or it was never a reality to say “oh, we're going to go see a Shakespeare play together,” because that just wasn't going to happen. Even now, I can't get my parents to go see Shakespeare even though that's what I do. And the language issue is part of that, I'm not going to deny that; Shakespeare is hard at the best of times, but it's also a cultural issue. So I would just say that I never really thought about literature applying to my identity in that way, probably until I got to college. And so I want to offer my students something better than that. I can't, in a class, make sure that every single student's particular background is represented—that's really tough. But wow, do I try to make sure that when I think about the Intro to English studies class, I think about how many different voices can I include, and that I make sure to include Latinx voices, African American voices, voices from the African diaspora, voices from different places in Asia. And I want to make sure that even if students can't necessarily see themselves, they see people who are somewhat like them.

**As you pursued your graduate education, did you encounter other issues with diversity in your field? Did you find that people were more conscientious of these problems at higher levels of education?**

I think people try to be more politically correct about these issues at higher levels of education, especially in public settings. My experience wasn't great—like I'm really grateful for the friends that I made, and I'm really grateful that I have the degree that I have because I get to do wonderful things that I love and teach my students, and I love them. But my graduate experience was very much about “let's try to be diverse but without any intentionality in it,” so let's accept students of color, but not realize what it's like to have a bunch of students of color who don't have professors like them teaching them. Let's accept students of color and first generation students and not understand how much extra work it takes for all these

students who have never had an academic parent. I can't even explain what a big deal this is. When you come from academic families, you just know the in's and out's in ways that you don't if your parents didn't get some sort of graduate degree.

The first day that we had our orientation, our cohort was together--and our cohort was small--and they pulled three of us aside and were like "you're going on a different tour." And so our group is already like eight people and three of us are gone and it's super awkward. And so they're like, "we're gonna take the three of you to look at the African American collection in the library," but two of us were Renaissance Scholars and the other one was doing Chicana lit. So, that's what I mean, it's this kind of tokenism--it was great to know that [the collection] was there, and I did end up using it--but the lack of thought can actually make you feel less integrated and it can make you feel more sidelined. And I will admit I am white, even though I'm Latina, I'm white. And so I'm not going to say how it was for other people, but given how things are, it was probably easier for me than it was for some other people who were not white. But then even then, when I went to do my specialty at the end of the first year, where we had our big meeting in front of a bunch of people, they're like, "well, you're Spanish, so why don't you work on Spain." And I'm like, "I don't want to work on Spain," and they said, "well but don't you think you might find that more interesting?" I was like, "No, I don't think I would." I didn't say it like that because I was terrified; my heart was pounding in my chest, but it makes me so angry now to think about it because that's a ridiculous thing. So it's those sorts of things; and my experience isn't just anecdotal. You start to figure out that this is actually a systemic problem in academia, shuttling people into areas that administrators or department chairs or advisors think fits their identity. I think that no one tells white men to do [Jane] Austen, nobody says that to them. So, it can be really harmful to have this experience that's marketed as diverse, but is done without care.

**Why do you think it's important to not just study a diverse body of literature, but to have a diverse professorship as well? What benefits does this bring to the classroom?**

You know, I think there are some people who think the personal doesn't have any place in the classroom, but I think that's super disingenuous. The personal is always going to shape the classroom, because you have biases that you carry with you, and I don't mean biases as in prejudices, there are just things you like more than others. I like certain genres, for example, better than I like a lot of poetry so I tend to not to teach poetry as much unless I have to. That's just a lowkey example.

And so, I think it's important to have teachers with diverse perspectives because you need those connections, and there are going to be things that people bring to the table because of their backgrounds that other people aren't going to be able to bring. Let's say we're reading Sandra Cisneros and she's talking about being a Mexican American. Well, there are going to be certain elements that someone else with who might be Mexican American might understand in ways that even as a Cuban American I can't. I don't want to suggest that you can only teach the one thing that you are; I just said you shouldn't do that, but I think it's important to have different perspectives, because someone who grew up poor is going to teach class differently because they're going to be attuned to issues of class in ways that the privilege of someone who's very wealthy may not make them attuned to. And then the rest of us who don't fit whatever category it is, we just have to commit to doing the work.

## HUMANS

# Kyara Samuels on Panamanian Culture

Interviewed by Ben Lee [09.29.2020](#)

**It is currently Hispanic Heritage Month, so I wanted to talk to you a little bit about where your family is from, when they arrived in this country, and what this month means to you. When did your parents first come to the United States?**

My parents migrated to the States in 1991 from Panama. They grew up there, they were both born and raised there. Though they both migrated in the same year, they did not know each other. They met here in the States, some years after they migrated here.

**Do you know the reasons why they decided to leave?**

One thing that my mother told me is that there were so many different opportunities that they were able to access here in the States. And even though the education in Panama was great education, there were opportunities for work and for growth here that were easier or a little bit less difficult to attain, especially for people of their skin complexion. Because there is still a level of colorism that they

experienced [in Panama].

**A common story I have noticed for many Afro-Latinos is that when they come to the U.S. they feel that they have to shed some of the aspects of their “latinidad” to kind of fit in and be something more acceptable to American culture. Do you think that affected your parents when they came to this country?**

Yes, definitely. One thing they experienced was not being able to fit into a specific category and being stuck in that kind of in-between space. They came here and they were too Hispanic for the black people and too black for the Hispanic people—and then they're also not white. So, they didn't really know where to put themselves. When they came here, you know, this whole Afro-Latino grouping really wasn't a thing and not everybody is thinking “where do we put these people?”

**Did you or your parents find a Panamanian community or maybe another community of Afro-Latinos here in the states?**

Definitely, I have a lot of family friends who are not blood family but have Panamanian or Dominican roots, and who have some of those same experiences that come from Hispanic and black culture.

It was a blessing to have a big loving family. Of course, some still in Panama, but as well as some who also migrated here. So I have a lot of aunts who are always over at the house.

There were also people who my parents met here, or who went to school with my parents. and ended up all being in the same area. So we all get together when the parades come up or when they have festivals. It's definitely nice to have that community, and even the conversation that I'm having with you right now, these are the same kinds of conversations that you often see with my family at home; they're just reflecting on the experience which is so unique to our culture.

**What are some of your favorite things about being Panamanian?**

The food. Having an Afro-Latina as my mother, she is able to not only bring in such great African-American style food from being here, but she also has the key into Panamanian food and that rich culture, so she can do it all. Also the dress, like the pollera, and tembleques. The art as well, like molas. And then like every time we have little events at the house, or sometimes you might just turn the music on and dance, hearing all the stories from my parents of different things they did while



they were there.

**So, there's this saying I've heard here that "Panama es el puente del mundo y el corazón del universo," which is basically, "Panama is the bridge of the world and the heart of the universe." Because of its unique position in terms of its geography and such. How do you think that where Panama is located geographically has helped form its culture?**

I definitely think the Panama Canal is so significant. My mother told me about how it is such an essential shipping route as it saves tremendous time for ships going between so many different places. And how the history of the canal brought tons of people to Panama from all around the world.

As the quote puts it, "the heart of the universe," when people talk about Panama, sometimes they separate it from the other regions of Latin America, which really just kind of speaks to the uniqueness and the strength that Panama has as a nation. I think that also shaped the culture of the people in terms of them being so strong. The idea of being the heart of the universe was able to ingrain itself into the culture of the people and the pride that we have for Panama.

**What are some things that you think are unique and special about Panamanian culture?**

A lot of the folklore and the outfits. Also, I've been able to travel with my family to go to visit some of the indigenous villages and I was just really able to see the richness of the culture, even how it was years before things were modernized. There you're able to see how much of the native culture and traditions of the people are transferred into modern day Panamanian culture.

I think that's one thing that separates us, just still keeping up with those roots, along with the European and African traditions that make up our culture.

What are some ways that you think being Panamanian influences the way you see the world the way you interact with other cultures?

One thing that I think is big in Panama is respect. Respect for your elders specifically but also in your community. My parents raised me with that same mindset. I think it also comes into play when I'm learning about other cultures and it teaches me to have the respect for them and an understanding of where they come from. Also, one thing I think is emphasized especially with regard to being Afro Latina is understanding people on both sides of that in-between space that we

are in. I think it allows me to see a lot, and my mindset also is shaped to have concern for more than just one group.

## HUMANS

# My Multicultural Experience: Eight Students Discuss The Impact of Hispanic Culture on Their Lives

Interviewed by Celeste Richardson [09.29.2020](#)

**What has your experience been like growing up mixed? What are your favorite parts about Hispanic culture and how has it influenced your life?**

Caryn Cruz

(sophomore, english)

Ethnicity: Half-Mexican, Bermudian, African American and more!

Anyone who grew up as a mixed kid will probably tell you about the interesting experiences, glances, and unprovoked comments that occur as a result of simply being ethnically mixed. Additionally, there's always the sense of not feeling fully connected to the multiple cultures or racial groups you identify with. Though at times these recurring issues can be frustrating, I personally enjoy being who I am. My father, a Mexican immigrant, has taught me many valuable principles that will prepare me for the world—working hard, dedication, and respect, to name a few. Growing up, my sisters and I always eagerly listened to my father's childhood stories placed in Mexico or Los Angeles, including his struggles of learning English or simply adjusting to a completely new culture. I appreciate my Mexican heritage because I believe it has helped me become fully aware of the social issues that immigrants face everyday in America, and therefore, prompts me to speak up! I'm still learning about Hispanic culture and I will most likely continue to educate myself on the subject throughout the course of my life.

Xochitl Graham

(senior, nursing)

Ethnicity: Mexican, Jamaican and British

My experience growing up mixed has been unique. Each one faces different challenges when it comes to finding where you fit in and embracing both parts. Fortunately, my parents immersed our house in both cultures. We always had Mexican food like rice and beans and whatever else every day, spoke Spanish, and went to a Spanish church. My dad helped us get in tune and appreciate our Jamaican side by introducing us to the food and taking us to the Island etc. Even with all this, it still was a little tough to find a place to fit in at school. I went to a predominantly white elementary school, so I always felt like the odd one out. I always struggled and still do answering standardized tests about who I am and where I come from. The pressure to fit into a category came also from friends, family, and strangers alike. I was never Mexican enough, but I wasn't considered black enough either. But over time I came to embrace both sides and be like "yes, I am Hispanic, but I am also Black and that's what makes me who I am."

My favorite part about Hispanic culture is the community and hospitality as well as the rich history. One thing that amazes me is that in every Hispanic country that I have visited every person is just as welcoming and hospitable as the next. This has manifested itself in my life through my parents who LOVE to host and have people over. I've seen my mom introduce new foods to our guests from different places and you can see the appreciation and community that can be built through this.

Noah Bishop

(graduate student, physical therapy)

Ethnicity: American and Argentinian

My experience growing up was a very typical Hispanic/Latino American upbringing. However, due to my light complexion, nobody outside of my family or close circle knew I had a Hispanic upbringing or culture.

My favorite parts of my Hispanic and Latino culture are the food and the family. This has impacted my life significantly because it seems that I can never run out of good food or good family.

Jewel Talia Murray

(sophomore, pre-physical therapy)

Ethnicity: Puerto Rican, Bahamian and African American

From an early age I always had an awareness that I was of mixed heritage. In pre-kindergarten I used the peach crayon to color my mom and a brown crayon to color my dad. Also, for the holidays I celebrated Noche Buena, Christmas, and Three Kings Day by eating arroz y pollo and flan, macaroni & cheese, greens, and candied yams. I loved the mixture of my cultures and how they seemed to coexist perfectly within my household. However, when it came to school or hanging out with my friends, I always felt like others would try to put me inside of a box. I also dreaded having to check off the questionnaires that asked about my ethnicity and race because at times I doubted really where I belonged. For a while I had to figure out how exactly I fit into being Hispanic/Latina and Black, and what that meant to me. I had to realize that other's confusion about who I was could be an opportunity to share with them my culture and heritage. Currently, whenever someone asks about where I come from I let them know boldly that I am mixed and I identify with all parts of who I am.

I am so proud of being an Afro Latina and I would not have it any other way.

Everything I have experienced in regards to my race and ethnicity has made me dive deeper into learning about my cultures, traditions, home countries, and family; I am always excited to share “the best of both worlds” with others.

My favorite part about the Hispanic culture is that everything is done with great passion and love. From music and dancing, to playing fútbol or cooking, absolutely everything is completed with purpose. Being Hispanic or Latinx means you are a part of a family, and the main component that makes a family functional is love. I appreciate that the Hispanic community is so amorous because it serves as an example for me as to how Jesus wants his children to care for each other. In 1 Corinthians 16:14, the apostle Paul instructs us to “do everything in love”; and no matter what the Hispanic/Latinx community has always shown me what it truly means to be devoted to others and to the culture that binds us together.

Adam Henriquez

(freshman, computer science)

Ethnicity: Dominican and Indian

Growing up mixed has been a blessing for me. It has allowed me to experience two different cultures at the same time and given me a broad range of perspectives.

Hispanic culture has taught me the importance of family, and because of this I have had the privilege of being able to see most of my family members every year for Thanksgiving.

Carolina Cruz

(senior, religion)

Ethnicity: African American, Mexican, Bermudian

Growing up mixed has allowed me to be a part of more than one ethnic “circle,” but also caused me to never fully belong in any one of them. Growing up mixed means that my culture in the home was a beautiful, complete blend of each one of my parent’s individual cultures. It means never, ever running out of tortillas, Kirk Franklin playing every Sabbath morning, visiting the wonderful streets of Mexico and stopping at every shop to enjoy elote, chicharrónes, raspados, churros, and of course carne asada tacos! Then traveling to Bermuda and swimming in the clearest oceans that are home to the most beautiful fish! There’s been so much beauty in growing up in two cultures that are so different from one another. My favorite part of my Hispanic culture, has to be the importance and prioritization of family. I love our open communication, as we have many conversations that are hard to have, with no hesitation. I love the responsibility that is placed on individual decisions, and the effect that it could have on the family as a whole. And I love how much time we spend together, that has allowed for my sisters to become my best friends, and my parents to become my biggest mentors.

Basam Mohamed El Sayed González

(freshman, architecture)

Ethnicity: Hispanic and Middle Eastern

My experience growing up mixed was an interesting ride. My mom is Hispanic and my dad is Middle Eastern and although both cultures have differences they also share many similarities. For example, both cultures value hospitality as important. But overall if I were to highlight my favorite part of being mixed it would be the rich variety of food between both cultures.

My favorite parts about the Hispanic culture and how it has influenced my life would be the sense of community that Hispanics everywhere create. In my experience through the Adventist Church, wherever you may go almost always you

can find a Hispanic group that will accept you into their community, barely knowing who you are. The way that Hispanics care for each other and look out for one another while also giving back to the community is an inspiration and example in my life.

Alyssa Henriquez

(senior, English, biochemistry)

Ethnicity: Dominican and Indian

There are many times in my life that I've felt strangely out of place in communities that I am supposed to belong to. I think for a lot of multiracial kids, it's hard for them to pick up their parents' second languages because having conversations in one parent's original tongue ostracizes the other and excludes them from your communication. Because of this, I didn't learn Spanish when I was little and grew up feeling less "Dominican" and connected to that side of my family than I wanted to. Because of the way I look, people typically categorize me as Indian and assign me stereotypes based on that label. On both sides of my family, we have incredibly rich culture, strong family values, and amazing food. I love interacting with both sides of my family and participating in their respective traditions, and I wouldn't trade the multicultural experience I've had for anything. My parents' particular backgrounds have also given me insight into some of the prejudices and harmful stereotypes perpetuated within minority communities, and the benefits that come with breaking those barriers and interacting with people outside of your own racial/ethnic group.

# Arts & Entertainment

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Hispanic & Latinx Show and Movie Recommendations!

Megan Napod 09.29.2020



Photo by Public Domain

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To celebrate the art that Hispanic & Latinx culture has offered to the world, I asked students what their favorite Hispanic & Latinx shows and movies are. The following are some awesome recommendations, one of them I actually claim is my favorite show ever. Keep reading to find out which one.

Movies:

Grecia Castillo (junior, communication) - *Bajo la misma luna* (movie directed by Patricia Riggen)

This film presents the parallel stories of nine-year-old Carlitos and his mother, Rosario. Rosario, who hopes to provide a better life for her son, works illegally in the U.S. while her mother cares for Carlitos back in Mexico.

You can find *Bajo la misma luna* on Hulu.

Hannah Cruse (junior, psychology and Spanish) - *Roma* (movie directed by Alfonso Cuarón)

“It tells the story of Cleo, an indigenous woman, who is a maid of a family of European descent. This movie shows the disparities of the indigenous and European Mexicans in the 1970s. I love this movie because it represents a pathway for indigenous people in cinema and shows a more accurate representation of what they have had to deal with in history.”

You can watch *Roma* on Netflix.

Jem Curameng (junior, medical-lab science) - *Selena* (movie directed by Gregory Nava)

This biographical drama tells the story of Tejano singer Selena Quintanilla, played by Jennifer Lopez. The movie spans her journey of her talent being discovered by her father at a young age and trying to find success in the music industry as a Hispanic singer.

Curameng says about the film, “It was an enriching biopic that masterfully portrayed the soul and beauty of Latin-American music.”

You can rent *Selena* on platforms such as Amazon Prime and Youtube.

Carlos Tavárez Miqui (graduate, psychology) - *John Leguizamo’s Latin History for Morons*

“Leguizamo got the idea for “Latin History” after his son, Lucas, was being bullied by classmates because he was Latino. So, basically, he wants Lucas to be proud of his Hispanic heritage. While doing his research, Leguizamo found out that his knowledge of Latino history was incomplete. The reason why I like that stand-up show so much is that he talks about individuals and cultural contributions that are always overlooked in regular history classes.”

You can find *John Leguizamo’s Latin History for Morons* on Netflix.

Shows:

Cameron Mayer (junior, speech-pathology and audiology) - *Jane the Virgin* (created by Jennie Snyder Urman)



This American telenovela, loosely based on the Venezuelan telenovela *Juana la Virgen*, is about a devout 23-year-old Latina virgin, played by Gina Rodriguez, who becomes pregnant after her gynecologist accidentally artificially inseminates her. Mayer raves about the show, “I love the Narrator aspect of the show. It really ties in the telenovela style and makes the show unique from other dramas on TV. I also love how Spanish is at times spoken on the show because it makes me more familiar with the language as I am working on learning Spanish.”

Shows like this help people outside of the Hispanic community experience aspects of the culture so tangibly. As someone who has also watched this show, I know that it is absolutely hilarious but also finds balance in exploring issues such as immigration, work-life balance, and the concept of self-discovery. Of course, it wouldn't be a telenovela if it didn't have some murders and romance, this show really has it all. If you're looking to watch something that keeps you on your toes, you've come to the right place. And if you haven't figured it out already, this is my favorite show, ever.

You can watch all five seasons of *Jane the Virgin* on Netflix.

Emma Tennyson (junior, psychology) - *La Casa de Papel* aka *Money Heist* (created by Álex Pina) and *Grand Hotel* (created by Ramón Campos)

*La Casa de Papel*, which grew international fame from Netflix, is a Spanish heist crime drama set in Madrid, Spain. The series so far has unearthed two thoroughly planned heists led by the Professor, who recruits eight other criminals to execute his plans. *Grand Hotel* is a drama set in the early 1900s and follows the inner workings of a fancy and prestigious hotel. It is centered around the family who owns it and will stop at nothing to keep it.

Tennyson says she likes Spanish shows in general because “It makes me listen to the language in a more natural way compared to learning in class. Also, the shows I watch take place in Spain and I really like their accents. Because Spanish is such a beautiful language, I feel like it makes the scenes more dramatic and interesting.”

You can watch *La Casa de Papel* and *Grand Hotel* on Netflix.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by taking a look at at least one of these recommendations, you may find a new show to binge. But be careful, you need to study for that test.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# TikTok, Time's Running Out

Joshua Deonarine 09.29.2020



Photo by Public Domain

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TikTok is a cultural phenomenon. From the moment it was released in 2016, millennials and Gen Z'ers have flooded the app, numbering in the millions. Seconds-long videos are created and viewed by these "TikTokers", bringing a rise in popular dances and soundtracks. The dance moves performed on TikTok, dubbed "TikTok Dances," have been replicated both on the app and in real life, providing TikTokers fun activities to do and view, especially during the quarantine period.

But on August 6, 2020, President Donald Trump issued an executive order, stating that TikTok was a national threat and would be banned. The only way TikTok would be able to escape its fate would be if it sells its U.S. division to a U.S. company within 45 days of the order, deadline on August 20. TikTok has been given an extended grace period past its original deadline, but the clock is ticking.

The reason TikTok is considered a threat is because of its parent company, ByteDance, which happens to be a Chinese corporation. Unfortunately, China and the United States haven't been on the best of terms as of late, especially since neither country endorses the other's methods of governance. Because TikTok has

access to the personal data of its U.S. client base, the U.S. government has decided to take preventive measures against potential espionage by banning or heavily regulating TikTok.

Despite the political tension, TikTok has become more than just an entertainment platform, especially during the quarantine. Current—and former—teachers could teach viewers difficult or tedious subjects in more appealing ways. Artists could showcase their unique artwork and the processes used to make them. Musicians could share their personal songs or covers of others. TikTok has become a community, where anyone can share their ideas and everyone could benefit.

The void of TikTok would only increase the despair caused not only by our political climate but also by the overbearing pandemic. Many, especially youth, have been experiencing the negative effects of social distancing, and have been utilizing TikTok to cope. We can only hope for leniency for TikTok lest we face an onslaught of decreased morale and depression in the foreseeable future.

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist

Hannah Cruse [09.29.2020](#)



Photo by Public Domain

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Have you ever thought about what it would be like to know most inner problems and anxieties of the people around? NBC's new series, *Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist*, tackles just that in a joyful and quirky way, with a heaping tablespoon of color. Full of spontaneous singing, on-the-spot choreography, and overwhelming emotions, this series is like a Broadway show with popular music from all decades come to life. This cheery and optimistic show will definitely captivate you and make you want to sing along with all the characters. It's also a bit of a tear-jerker, so please be prepared to break out the Kleenex. Don't say I didn't warn you.

The show follows the life of Zoey Clarke, a programmer, who is shy and has a hard time expressing her feelings, especially now that her father is dying from Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP). She fears that she may be developing PSP as well, so she schedules herself an MRI to be sure (because this is what rich white people have the time and money to do). While in the machine, she experiences an earthquake while listening to a curated Spotify playlist. Her world was never the same. Zoey starts hearing people sing out loud in public places, but nobody else can hear them. She realizes after encountering several of them and a little help from her flamboyant neighbor (played by the amazing Alex Newell) that these songs, what she later calls "heart songs," are an expression of emotions that the people are too afraid to convey. Her life slowly becomes intertwined with people she would have never talked to and she learns to overcome her fears of speaking out and being honest about her emotions.

Episode three, entitled "Zoey's Extraordinary Boss," is my favorite. Zoey hears her boss sing the song "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" by the Rolling Stones, and she realizes that her boss is complaining about her failing marriage. Not wanting to overstep into her privacy, Zoey decides to not help her. What she did not expect was that she would start hearing the same song; haunting her everywhere she went, from the elevator music to a whole marching band. What she then learns is that running away from "heart songs" will only make her rehear the song over and over until she gets over fears and helps the person who sang it first.

Each episode will have you laughing, singing, and crying at the same time. So if you're a music lover and need a break from all the dismal things happening around you, *Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist* is right for you. The whole first season is available to binge-watch on Hulu right now. Watch it, you won't regret it.

# Ideas

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## IDEAS

# Conversations With Me

Evin N. Musgrove 09.29.2020

“Take care of how you speak to yourself because you are listening.” - Anonymous

The things we tell ourselves have the greatest influence on our well-being. They do one of two things: help or hurt. It's safe to say that most of us human beings find comfort in negative self-talk, as if insulting the self is a fast-track to growth. We inherently give ourselves permission to uplift and love on others, as long as we neglect to return such love inwardly. This vicious cycle, perhaps our second nature, can often feel unbreakable. But I urge you, don't lose hope just yet.

Research reveals that “individuals make about 55,000 self-talk utterances each day and 75% of our daily self-talk works against us” (Chopra, 2012). Yes, seventy-five percent! If nothing else, this statistic shows just how responsible we are for our own stagnation. We truly are our greatest enemies. On the contrary, engaging in positive self-talk always works to our benefit. It helps us acknowledge our progress and the areas we're gifted in as well as hinders comparison (Chopra, 2012). When we compare ourselves to others, we deny ourselves the privilege of celebrating our own unique person. We become so envious of others' financial or popularity status, appearance, or even personality traits, that we essentially tell God, “You didn't create me well enough. I need more to be accepted.” Positive self-talk thwarts those lies and uncovers our true, God-given potential, grants vision for the future, and lessens anxiety (Nimawat, 2020). As if things couldn't get any sweeter, a positive inner dialogue also reminds you that it's okay to tell yourself “good job”. It's okay to try something new and fail the first few times. It's okay to be afraid of something unfamiliar. It is okay.

Just like any other skill, controlling one's internal dialogue takes deliberate practice. Albert Einstein said that “The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking with which they were created.” In other words, reprogramming your brain to think positively takes great effort and a higher level of thinking than used to create negative patterns. You must, first, be conscious of the things you tell yourself on a daily basis, scientifically known as meta-cognition

and further described as “intentional, conscious, foresighted, purposeful, and directed at accomplishing a goal or outcome” (Chopra, 2012). As a negative thought manifests, you must deliberately capture it, and lay it beneath the magnifying glass of God’s truth about you. Practically, this can mean writing down Biblical affirmations on sticky notes or even set as reminders in your phone. It means waking up and making the first words of your day empowering, beneficial ones.

If consciously repeated daily, affirmations like “I am patient,” “I have everything I need for the season I am in,” “I am fruitful,” “I have an indescribable peace,” and “I am walking in God’s path for me,” will manifest themselves to be true. I have, personally, incorporated this practice into my own life, and believe me when I say, God knew what He was talking about in Proverbs 12:18, “the tongue of the wise brings healing”, and again in Proverbs 18:21, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.” I’ve found that reciting things like “I am selfless” and “I am generous” has allowed me to see opportunities in my day where I can do something selfless for the people in my life, especially my own family while I’m currently at home. I have begun to align my behaviour with the Biblical affirmations I speak every day and I am also so much happier because of it!

Consider that “believing in yourself” just isn’t enough, my friend. Merely “trying harder” to suppress your negative thoughts is simply unwise and quite frankly, impossible. The only way to break a habit is to create a new one. This world offers us countless outlets of negativity, paired with our own internal battles, that we are incapable of optimism without receiving power from the Good Source, Himself. If you think you can cultivate positivity all on your own, your cycle of negative self-talk says otherwise. With this Truth in mind, stop feeding off of who you think you are or what your feelings would like you to believe, and instead, internalize the words of the One who holds your blueprint. After all, who knows a product better than its creator?

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## IDEAS

# Faith in Our Current Moment

Adoniah Simon 09.29.2020

One day, I put my brush to a canvas and created an admirable work. Just like that, I became a painter. The first of many pieces to come was hung as a part of a collection in my hometown, the city which I love. This first piece was hung at the Portland Art Museum (towards the back, but who cares? Still a museum). The following pieces worked their way to the front of a collection spotlighting emerging young artists. And there I was, a talented painter in the prime of my youth. Someone who belonged entirely to himself. Someone who saw no other way but to be fully who he was made to be, my work emanating that same aura of assuredness. That was a lie. Did I have you going there? Forgive my trespass, and know that it is for a reason. Sometimes I admit to my lies. Other times I do not. My meeting with the chaplains only a few Mondays ago was not one of these times.

I enter their meeting in a window of time they had set aside for me. I've come to petition them for their wisdom. For the past weeks and months, a roving band of questions have walked the perimeter of my mind. How can I keep the faith and hold onto hope in a time like this? Where is the beauty, the opportunity, the joy, and the blessing to be found in our current moment in history? Who is God revealing himself to be? What is he revealing to us? It is never a question of if, but how. I don't think I've ever truly doubted the existence of God. The question has only ever been how can I seek him and find him, because the answers have not always been easy to believe and know in my heart. I share with them the heart behind my questions, the words coming out in a rush, fearing I am taking too much of their time. They wait patiently, and they are gracious in their responses, all them sharing what they've learned these past few months.

Chaplain Danielle Pilgrim was pushed back to the beginning of her faith. As a pastor, so much of it has been nurtured by the experience of a church program on a Sabbath morning. She pulled back the layers of tradition so that she could begin to discover newness in her relationship with God. What she found is that he is not held hostage by the predicaments we find ourselves in.

Ashok Willmott, a first-year seminary student and student chaplain, has been called to slow down, to rest. In that, he's talked often to God about his hopes and dreams for this campus. God has spoken to him of revival, of culture change. He

waits for what God will have him do next, and he prepares.

Director of Student Missions & Service Teela Ruehle has pondered her inner life. What it means to continue to engage our relationships as all sorts of things pull at our attention. How we can dig deep and discover new ways of participating in the world.

Chaplain Jose Bourget has wondered if we tire of learning about God. He does not mean to disparage the forms of worship we are well-accustomed to, mainly prayer and singing. He only is trying to say there is so much God is waiting for us to know and experience. Yet here we are, inclined to the familiar. Chap Jose sees an opportunity to incorporate newness into our lives with God, as the world we find ourselves in now is different than the one we were in at the outset of this year. Now more than ever he sees how asking how we can give of ourselves to others has the power to create radical, positive good on our campus. Ashok ends our conversation with the mic-drop statement of “love is life.” We laugh, I thank them for their time, and I make my leave, my mind turning over all that they said.

My aforementioned lie that day was one of omission. It’s a regular lie of mine. I feel it in the disconnect between what others think of me and who and how I truly am. I do not know what I am doing. I make attempts to seem collected, that anything regarding God and faith comes easily to me. I didn’t then, just I don’t tell many people now that I feel as though I’ve been coming up short with God. That my faith feels fragile. Weak. That I know who I am and what I’m doing at Andrews. I let people think I have it all figured out. I prefer it that way.

I want to be the painter of the introduction of this story. The remarks I hear from people about me sound like they think I am him. I want his level of self-assuredness. For everything I do, and for everything I am to glow with confidence, too. I know I’m not alone in this desire. Similarly, I know I am not alone in feeling as though I am looking over the shoulders of those that have it all figured out. The canvas of their life before them, me peering over to catch a glimpse of it, capturing what I saw on my own canvas.

Faith—in myself, in God, in the future—is a puzzle I’ve turned over in my mind for years and years. There are moments when it feels like I’m getting at something. It’s exhilarating, feeling as though I’ve come closer to uncovering its hidden mechanisms, and as though I’m coming closer to finding myself. There are times in which I feel the joyful rush of all of this and more. The silent, parallel side to these moments is this: sometimes, it feels as though I am playing at faith, imitating the faith of a better version of me. Maybe even someone else entirely. The silent side, the parallel world to my joy is the dread I sometimes feel thinking about the



future.

You are likely well acquainted with the thing in the air. You know it in the way the words “uncertain” and “unprecedented” are just a regular part of collective vocabulary. You know it in the ways in which things appear, at least on their surface, to be heading toward decline. I will save you from my rant about the ills of the world. I’ll save us both the heartache. It’s hard, at least for me, to have faith that I can make it through whatever comes next without the chaos of this moment in history. With the levels of stress and fear that are just a normal part of being alive, God can feel just out of reach.

My depression, and everything that comes with it, is something I must contend with every day. The doubts about who I am, who God is, and the future come and they go. What lies underneath them all, the thing that remains is my mustard seed of faith. There are easy days and difficult days alike. Although the harder ones have seemed to stretch further and further lately, I must believe that simpler days are on the way, even as I cannot see them. Even as I forget what it is like to be in them. When I do make it to the other side of doubt, and return to myself and true perception of myself and the world, I return changed. I return better, able to meet someone with the sort of empathy that comes from braving the difficulties of life. Even on my worst days, God is no further from me. Even in the darkest of days we are on the way to the light.

IDEAS

# Remembering RBG Part 1: Legacy of the Supreme Court Justice, American Icon and Feminist Champion

Lyle Goulbourne 09.29.2020



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Remembering RBG Part 1:  
Legacy of the Supreme Court Justice, American Icon and Feminist Champion  
By Lyle Goulbourne

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a champion of women's rights as an attorney and as the second woman to serve on the Supreme Court, died Friday, September 18 after battling cancer for over a decade. She was 87. Justice Stephen Breyer wrote the following in her memory: "a great Justice; a woman of valour; a rock of righteousness; and my good, good friend. The world is a better place for her having lived in it" (Statements, 2020).

Ginsburg attended the Harvard Law School in 1956 as one of only nine women in

a 500-person class. The dean infamously began the year by asking her and the other women why each of them deserved to take the place of a man (Pullman, 2020). While in law school, her husband and classmate Marty Ginsburg was diagnosed with cancer and subjected to intense treatments of radiation. During this time she cared for his needs, organized his class notes, helped him study, and dealt with her own coursework, all while taking care of their three-year-old child. Marty recovered and was hired in New York City. She was a grade below him, but she chose to move with him and graduated from Columbia Law School, tying for first place in the class (Greenhouse, 2020).

Despite graduating top of her class, Ginsburg did not receive a single job offer from a law firm. She then spent a year in Sweden prior to becoming a professor at Rutgers University, where she taught some of the first classes in the nation on women and law (Honderich, 2020). As the women's movement gained traction towards the end of the 60s, Ginsburg joined the American Civil Liberties Union and led its Women's Rights Project. With this platform, Ginsburg embarked on her career of changing the court's opinions regarding gender bias and its effects on men and women. Ginsburg was quite strategic and precise in the cases she brought before the court, as she knew she was appealing to a court composed of nine men. In fact, several of her cases were often on behalf of men, demonstrating that gender discrimination harmed both men and women. For example, in one such case, *Weinberger v. Wiesenfeld*, the Social Security Administration provided survivor benefits to women widowers but not to male widowers, so Stephen Wiesenfeld was left alone to care for his child after his wife died in childbirth. Ginsburg brought his case before the Supreme Court and demonstrated to the justices how the inequitable nature of these laws harmed both men and women. Ginsburg would go on to win five of the six cases she brought before the Supreme Court, establishing in law the constitution's protection of gender equality (Savage, 2020).

Ginsburg was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1993 by president Bill Clinton, where she continued her fight for gender equality. For example, in *United States v. Virginia*, Ginsburg defended the right of women to attend the all-male Virginia Military Institute (V.M.I.), stating "Women seeking and fit for a V.M.I.-quality education cannot be offered anything less under the state's obligation to afford them genuinely equal protection, generalizations about 'the way women are,' estimates of what is appropriate for most women, no longer justify denying opportunity to women whose talent and capacity place them outside the average description" (Supreme, 1996). This powerful statement reiterated her belief in

gender equality and helped further the advancement of women in the military.

Her status as an American icon was not solidified until later in her career when she became famous for her stinging dissents as the Supreme Court drifted towards the right. In 2013, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of taking down significant portions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, following the case of *Shelby v. Holder* (2013). The Voting Rights Act is a landmark piece of legislation that prohibits racial discrimination in voting, and the Court ruled that the provision determining which jurisdictions engaged in egregious voter discrimination was unconstitutional. In response, Ginsburg stated “Throwing out preclearance when it has worked and is continuing to work to stop discriminatory changes is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet” (Coyle, 2020). This dissent and many others made the small and soft-spoken Ginsburg a household name and a titan of American equality.

Her career as a champion of women's rights have made Ginsburg an icon and hero for the current generation. Terika Williams (junior, english) states “Her tenacity and strength will forever live on and push me to break through barriers where I’m told I don’t belong.” With her passing the Supreme Court has lost an American hero. However, the nation is left with little time to mourn, as her vacant seat has rapidly become a partisan issue during an election year, as will be discussed next week in “Remembering RBG Part 2.”

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## The Last Word

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### THE LAST WORD

# Gaming and 'The Guys'

Daniel Self 09.29.2020

I began playing online video games in high school, during the rush to bring multiplayer games to the general public. Largely before, gamers could only congregate in rooms on wired connections to a shared server, (affectionately dubbed "LAN parties") or around a single console where they could play split screen with their friends or family. Gaming then was much simpler—people would only play in-person and didn't need a several-thousand dollar set-up to have fun. A decade later, the landscape of online gaming appears radically different, the changes bringing a lot of excitement, innovation and joy to the larger community—but with these changes came a cultural shift that merits addressing.

The online gaming community is predominantly male—particularly in certain genres of games, particularly first-person shooters, role-playing games, and sports titles. While to generalize and suggest that only these genres exclusively dominate the gaming community would be wholly unfounded—Animal Crossing' domination of summer's sales demonstrates that eclectic titles and genres can still have global reach. However, both the community itself and external research

acknowledge the unique potency of these genres. Scholars, led by Manero et al. 2016, defined the term, “hardcore gamer,” which focuses playtime on shooters, role-playing games (RPGs), and sports titles; effectively, Manero et al.’s hardcore gamer represents the very demographic of players who form the most prominent and dedicated communities. Conclusively, they found a strong association between these game genres [those of the hardcore gamer] and time intensivity, violence, and high complexity.<sup>1</sup> One could rightfully categorize the Call of Duty series, Counter Strike: Global Elite and Destiny 2 as games within the genre. While inherently high complexity, violence, and time intensivity do not worsen a game or its community, it does create an additionally stressful environment for players who wish to become more skillful at the game.

Tangibly, an issue of toxicity exists in the gaming community. A few of the games I enjoy, Riot Games’ League of Legends and Blizzard’s Overwatch, struggle with player-bases that worsen the experiences for other gamers. It’s the highly competitive environment, in my experience, that most-strongly breeds toxic outbursts from players towards other players, the game developers, their WiFi connections, a strong cross-breeze or their desk angle. Losing team-based games— as opposed to a single-player game—always feels different, as placing blame on someone else feels easier than accepting one’s own play. It feels like a weird dichotomy, where seemingly normal people will log into games and suddenly will say things to teammates and opponents that one would never say face-to-face. The anonymity of one’s avatar masks a deeper issue, that in one of the last arenas of wholly unregulated free-speech, people often treat each other terribly.

During my free time, and some time that isn’t so free, I’ve taken up climbing the Teamfight Tactics’ competitive ladder. As my roommate and close friends can attest, I spent numerous hours in quarantine attempting to reach Diamond IV—a rank which roughly represented the top 1.3% of the playerbase. Many people who enjoy competitive gaming have a particular rank or milestone that they set their sights on. For me, reaching Diamond IV granted me access to invite-only Riot’s TFT tournaments and some participation in e-sports. In other games, reaching particular ranks or completing achievements comes with prizes, merchandise, or in-game recognition. Bungie’s Destiny 2 operates an entire shop of real items, trophies, and gear that can only be unlocked for purchase if players complete certain challenges. It isn’t particularly surprising, then, that people place more emphasis on the outcomes of these matches. It rewards winning more and losing less, as the more you win, the closer to come to reaching or exceeding that particular goal. Likewise, the outcomes of virtual contests result in tangible

rewards and benefits.

The issue only becomes more nuanced when you understand that, often, your matches will be uneven before you begin the match. More highly skilled players will make new accounts with the sole reason of dominating players below them (affectionately called “smurfs”), while other players will join competitive games with the sole intention of ruining the experience for their teammates (often called “being griefed”). Players who want the competitive experience and then encounter these sorts of issues rightfully feel upset; however, the question remains, to what extent is their anger justified? In truth, the inter-player dialogue in most game servers represents a pseudo-reality, where even the most horribly blunted language loses all of its potency. I recall my first time entering a ranked Overwatch match and being berated over my team’s voice comms for making a particular play—a legal and well intentioned play, but one not executed properly. A decade later playing competitive games, I still remember that feeling of being shell-shocked; and yet, I’ve heard much worse profanities, insults and general aggravation in the last decade of playing online.

The line between friendly trash-talk and outright toxic behaviour represents an area that even game developers haven’t seemed to nail down. Beyond outright hate-speech, which is often reprimanded with an account suspension or ban, the rest exists in a grey area that may (or may not) be decided by the game company itself. But without the competitive banter, a fundamental aspect of the experience vanishes. It’s the same sort of machismo that occurs between professional athletes; the game within the game begins when two gifted players begin to answer each other play for play. It’s reminiscent of NBA games where a player from each team would get hot and a single player on the opposing team would match him bucket for bucket. Each time back down the court, always trash talking the other player—a scene one saw on occasion between LeBron James and James Harden in this year’s second round matchup. It’s undeniably a special moment when players seem to transcend the game itself and dial themselves in so closely; and there’s something about the competitive atmosphere between two players that fosters it. Without the potential for such an experience, competitive gaming would lose so much of its lustre. But like most experiences, it comes with the potential to go profoundly poorly. In this, the gaming community as whole must answer to themselves what they are willing to tolerate in exchange for this opportunity.

### Works Cited

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