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The Student Movement Volume 106 Issue 8: Cardinals Cheer, Thanksgiving is Here!

Timmy Duado

Andrews University, temabor@andrews.edu

Grace No

Andrews University, gracen@andrews.edu

Taylor Uphus

Andrews University, uphus@andrews.edu

Megan Napod

Andrews University, meganbrooke@andrews.edu

Hannah Cruse

Andrews University, cruseh@andrews.edu

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Timmy Duado, Grace No, Taylor Uphus, Megan Napod, Hannah Cruse, Solana Campbell, Abigail Lee, Karena Lee, Evin-Nazyia Musgrove, Yoel Kim, Nathan Cheng, T Bruggemann, Alannah Tjhatra, and Alyssa Henriquez

Cardinals Cheer, Thanksgiving is Here!



Photo by Marcel Mattox

Humans

HUMANS

Meet Your 2021-2022 AU Cardinals Men's Basketball Team

Interviewed by: Timmy Duado [11.17.21](#)



Photo by Dawson Par

On October 25, 2021, the AU Cardinals men's basketball team began their 2021-2022 season. This year, the men's basketball team consists of twelve players, 26 games ([check out the schedule](#)), and one exciting season. Below you can learn a little bit more about each of the men on the roster, their favorite things about basketball, and their goals for this season. Don't forget to go show your support during home games!

Name: Jacob Jemison (junior, marketing)

Position: Power Forward/Small forward

My favorite thing about basketball is continuing to get better and get buckets while also helping those around me to become better. My goals this season are to get a championship and play my hardest each game. Also, I'm trying to dunk on someone.

Name: Maxwell Dronen (junior, pre-physical therapy)

Position: Shooting Guard/Small Forward

My favorite thing about basketball is forming friendships and being able to help others succeed through my experiences. My goals this season are to make the tournament and bring back a banner.

Name: Mylon Weathers (senior, criminal justice)

Position: Point Guard/Shooting Guard

My favorite thing about basketball is getting to display the skills God has blessed me with and give back to Him. My goals this season are to help the team win as much as possible and win a championship. Also, I want to be an All-American.

Name: Adam Cassell (junior, mechanical engineering)

Position: Power forward/small forward

My favorite thing about basketball is creating a brotherhood with my teammates and working hard together to achieve a common goal. My goals this season are to win the championship and lead by example.

Name: Jesse Franklin (junior, exercise science)

Position: Guard

My favorite thing about basketball is playing with my teammates and building a strong bond with them. My goal this season is to win a chip.

Name: Suvan Campbell (freshman, biochemistry)

Position: Center

My favorite thing about basketball is improving my skills while developing chemistry with my teammates. My goal this season is to perform at a high enough level to bring back a championship.

Name: Elijah Le Roux (freshman, speech pathology)

Position: Center/Power Forward

My favorite thing about basketball is playing with a team and getting better at the game. My goal this season is to make a game-winning shot for my team.

Name: Benjamin Adjei (junior, mechanical engineering)

Position: Guard

My favorite thing about basketball is training with brothers every day to enhance each other's skills and connect with God. My goal this season is to help the team achieve the goals we set for ourselves, by any means necessary.

Name: Andre Crayton (sophomore, pre-physical therapy)

Position: Forward/Center

My favorite thing about basketball is getting better at the game every day and forming great friendships. My goal this season is to play at peak performance and be able to enjoy the game.

Name: Andrew DeAbreu (senior, English)

Position: Point guard

My favorite thing about basketball is getting into the lane, picking the opponent apart on offense, and forcing jump-balls on defense. My goal this season is to reach my full potential as an individual and as a team.

Name: Jackson Faehner (sophomore, mechanical engineering)

Position: Guard

My favorite thing about basketball is taking a charge and getting the crowd hyped. My goal this season is to win.

Name: Javier Simpkins (senior, psychology)

Position: Guard/Forward

My favorite thing about basketball is learning from the game. My goal this season is to create and find success throughout the season.

HUMANS

What Are You Thankful For?

Interviewed by: Grace No 11.17.21



Photo by Qualyn Robinson

As we near this Thanksgiving season, it is important to reflect on the past year and practice gratitude, especially after such an unprecedented time in our world. As a diverse campus, we all have various perspectives on the things that we are thankful for. However, even within our differences, students can be brought together through the fact that we are thankful together and that we have all made it through another year at Andrews.

Karena Lee (sophomore, English and business administration)

I'm thankful for my friends and my friend's dog Mochi.

T Bruggemann (junior, computer science and physics)

I'm immensely thankful that Andrews has stayed mostly safe during Covid so that we can still come to school in person and engage with our friends and the school community.

Ashley Kim (junior, biology)

I'm really thankful for the real ones. My friends put a smile on my face and give me a reason to stay in school, even when things get hard. I'm really grateful for their support and the comfort they bring me in hard times; I only hope that I can do the same for them. Looking forward to all the adventures that will happen in the future!

Ethan Lee (senior, biology)

This year I am thankful for my friends here at Andrews. They always make my day so much fun no matter what we're doing. Whether it's playing pokemon unite or just hanging out, I know I can count on them for a good time.

Solana Campbell (sophomore, business management)

I'm grateful for health and community, and the fact that we are slowly moving towards a new normal in the post-pandemic world. I'm also grateful for the opportunity the pandemic gave me to reevaluate my life and priorities.

Nora Martin (sophomore, English and psychology)

I'm thankful for the same things every year because every year I am reminded of just how important they are. This year, yet again, I'm thankful for warm clothes, good friends, and a suitable roof over my head.

Tyler Lee (junior, business)

I'm thankful for my therapist, good roommate, and good memories. I made new friends and bought some new plants. I also started new hobbies this year like boarding, crocheting, and taking care of houseplants—I am a plant addict now. I also love cooking with my dear friend Abi, which I do quite often.

Alexander Hess (junior, English)

Something I'm out-of-this-world thankful for is the imminent return of cultural icon Adele. In the grand scheme of things—as we begin to navigate a “post-Covid” world—a new Adele album seems inconsequential. But, like a true Daydreamer (Adele stan), I've been waiting for this album for 6 years. Adele's, “30,” for me, represents a new start, the beginning of a new era. “30,” like all quality art, acts as a beacon of hope in a world where there is so much darkness. So, even though there might be more “important” things to be thankful for, I have to say that I'm thankful for Adele.

Adasa Muñoz (sophomore, architecture)

I am thankful for another year of life, my friends, and my family. I'm also thankful for being here at Andrews. I'm thankful for God giving me the opportunity to meet all the people that I love.

Alexander Hilton (junior, pre-physical therapy)

I am grateful for my friends; they've really helped me make it through the pandemic. I'm grateful for all the conversations I've had that have helped me grow. I'm grateful for the semester almost being over, thankful for break, and thankful for a chance to rest a bit before finishing up.

HUMANS

Meet Your 2021-2022 AU Cardinals Women's Basketball Team

Interviewed by: Taylor Uphus [11.17.21](#)



Photo by Dawson Par

On October 27, 2021, the AU Cardinals women's basketball team began their 2021-2022 season. This year the women's basketball team consists of eight players, 25 games ([check out the schedule](#)), and one exciting season. Below you can learn a little bit more about each of the women on the roster: their favorite things about

basketball, goals they have for this season, and fun facts about each of them. Don't forget to go show your support during home games!

Name: Riley Hicks (sophomore, business management)

Position and Years Playing: Guard and 2nd-year player

My favorite thing about basketball is connecting with my teammates at a different level than I do with most people on a daily basis. The chemistry is different and it is like having a second family. My goal this season is to have more confidence and pride. I want us to feel like winners all the time.

Fun fact about me: I am a quadruplet

Name: Delina Overfield (freshman, pre-physical therapy)

Position and Years Playing: Guard and 1st-year player

My favorite thing about basketball is that we can not only bond over basketball, but we can also bond over our love for God. My goal this season is to be able to have a great mindset going into each game and play the best I can every time I step foot on the court.

Fun fact about me: I can juggle.

Name: Anna Lonto (junior, pre-physical therapy)

Position and Years Playing: Forward and 2nd-year player

My favorite things about basketball are being part of a team, gaining friends, exercising, and it's my favorite sport. My goal this season is to grow closer as a team and improve on our game.

Fun fact about me: I like to write songs.

Name: Katie Byrd (junior, aviation)

Position and Years Playing: Guard/Forward and 3rd-year player

My favorite things about basketball are getting to know my teammates and spending time playing basketball with them. I also like the traveling we get to do and the atmosphere we can show other teams. My goal this season is to work

together as a team.

Fun fact about me: I can juggle.

Name: Sarah Page (junior, social work)

Position and Years Playing: Forward/Center and 3rd-year player

My favorite thing about basketball is that it teaches me that I can do anything if I put in the time and work. There are things that I used to be unable to do, that I can do very well now, and that's a great feeling. My goal this season is to be a USCAA All-American.

Fun fact about me: I have been (kinda) struck by lightning.

Name: Emily Hicks (sophomore, aviation)

Position and Years Playing: Forward and 2nd-year player

My favorite thing about basketball is it forces you to put in the work and to be the best you can be. My goal for this season is to become more aggressive, both offensively and defensively.

Fun fact about me: I can ride a unicycle.

Name: Maci Chen (senior, social work)

Position and Years Playing: Guard/Forward and 3rd-year player

My favorite thing about basketball is that it provides a sense of community and camaraderie through an activity that's really enjoyable and gives a way to show off and develop new skills. Plus, it acts as a support system outside of the game itself. My goals this season are to improve my craft, grow, and develop new relationships.

Fun fact about me: I lived in France for a year.

Name: Stefanie Rackley (freshman, exercise science)

Position and Years Playing: Forward/Center and 1st-year player

Arts & Entertainment

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Thanksgiving Film Recommendations!

Megan Napod [11.17.21](#)



Photo by Public Domain

With the holiday season on the horizon, “The Student Movement” would like to provide you with some recommendations on how to spend your time during your brief Thanksgiving break. Of course we want you to stuff yourselves with turkey and green bean casserole and enjoy quality time with your family, but how about a good ol’ Thanksgiving movie? Yes, I said it—a Thanksgiving movie.

As a culture we celebrate the quintessential Christmas movie, constantly raving about the same movies year after year (I know “Home Alone” is an absolute must and “Elf” is one that will never fail to make me laugh). But, I am here to tell you that there is such a thing as a Thanksgiving movie and am here to provide you with a different way to spend a portion of your Thanksgiving right before you get back into Christmas films once December rolls around.

Here are a few of my recommendations for Thanksgiving movies or specials, ones I'll probably be spending my time watching due to the fact that I'll be here for the break. Yes, I'm seeking pity.

Let's start with a classic: "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" (1973) directed by Phil Melendez and Phil Roman

You are never too old to watch "Charlie Brown," and this episode is no exception. In the episode, Charlie Brown, along with Linus, Snoopy, and Woodstock, attempt to throw together a Thanksgiving dinner after Peppermint Patty invites herself and her friends over to Charlie's for Thanksgiving. This special brings back all the nostalgia from my childhood as well as the warm spirit that the Thanksgiving season never fails to have.

"A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" is available on AppleTV.

Next, "Lady Bird" (2017) directed by Greta Gerwig

I know what you're thinking: "this is definitely not a Thanksgiving themed movie." In fact, this movie is about a headstrong teenager, known as Lady Bird (played by the fantastic Saoirse Ronan) trying to navigate her final moments in high school while trying to heal her relationship with her mother. But if you remember the movie correctly, one of her conflicts lands during the Thanksgiving season. I won't spoil what happens; I guess you'll just have to watch the 2017 Golden Globe award winner for Best Motion Picture to find out.

You can watch "Lady Bird" now on Netflix.

For my last pick in the Thanksgiving special draft, I would like to suggest a basketball related Netflix docuseries called "Basketball or Nothing" (2019) directed by Matt Howley.

This Emmy-nominated docuseries follows the Chinle High School boys' team, a Arizona Navajo Nation basketball team, in their quest to win a state championship. It's important to remember that although we use Thanksgiving as an excuse to practice gratitude and spend time with our loved ones, the history of Thanksgiving is deeply rooted in the Indigenous peoples and their struggles. Noted, it was the Wampanoag Indians, not the Navajo, that were a part of the historic origin of Thanksgiving. Yet, this series does a beautiful job of celebrating the lives of this neglected and underrepresented group and highlights the impact they could have if we just give them a fair shot.

If you know me well, you'll know that I love anything basketball related, so I am looking forward to really getting into this six-part docuseries.

Again, you can stream "Basketball or Nothing" on Netflix.

If anyone wants to share a moist turkey and watch these recommendations next week, please don't hesitate to reach out.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

"The Harder They Fall"

Hannah Cruse 11.17.21



Photo by Public Domain

When you think of a Western movie, what is the first thing that comes to mind? I think of the Lone Ranger or John Wayne, a man of justice with sharpshooting in the Wild West, where anything goes. What movies don't tell you is that many of these lawmen, cowboys, and outlaws in western America were African-American. "The Harder They Fall" creates a story from people like Nat Love, who lived during the late 1800s. It spotlights the Black people that lived and fought for their place in an unforgiving and wild land.

The film opens with a family sitting down to eat when they were rudely interrupted by an outlaw named Rufus Buck who murders the two parents and carves a cross

in the forehead of their son. That son ends up being Nat Love, an outlaw who robs other outlaws. His gang steals \$25,000 intended for someone else—intended for Rufus Buck. Love then hears that Buck is soon to get out of prison instead of serving the life sentence that he was supposed to fulfill, due to a pardon signed by a general. He sets out with his gang and a marshal to take his and his parents' revenge and finish his quest to kill all those who crossed him. Love and his gang find Buck and his gang in the town owned by Love, without money and desperate to rebuild his empire. Love's group faces setbacks with losing a member, Stagecoach Mary, as a hostage and being forced to repay the money by robbing a bank, something they had never done before. A showdown for the ages upturns the dusty streets and thins the herd. In the end, a secret is revealed, changing the purpose of revenge.

One of the best parts of this movie is the use of people who actually existed in the past. People like Cathay Williams, an African-American woman who enlisted in the United States Army during the Civil War, put their all into a country that has consistently forgotten them. I love that we are starting to remember the people that shaped the U.S., along with the Founding Fathers. It also helps that the movie has a beautiful backdrop and a killer soundtrack with names like Jay-Z, Kid Cudi, Lauryn Hill, and Koffee.

“The Harder They Fall” is on Netflix right now to stream.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

What is CATHARSIS?

Solana Campbell 11.17.21



Photo by Austin Bates

Perhaps you've heard a little bit about the documentary shot on campus a month or so ago; maybe one of your friends was interviewed for it or you noticed a tall redhead holding a camera slowly walking down the aisle at New Life Fellowship. However you've heard about it, or if you're hearing about it for the first time now, allow me to tell you about CATHARSIS. CATHARSIS is a joint-effort documentary between SAU and AU students produced by yours truly and directed by Austin Bates, a senior religion and film major at Southern Adventist University. While the camera crew primarily consists of SAU film students, the first set of interviewees was a handful of your very own Andrews University students: Jea Erazo (sophomore, psychology), Moriah Duncan (junior, social work), Jonathan Burn (junior, mechanical engineering and mathematics), Josh Curameng (sophomore, nursing), and Steven Injety (senior, data science). Let's get into the details.

What is CATHARSIS?

CATHARSIS is an experience; a documentary filmed during an intimate conversation between each interviewee and our filmmaker. The word "[catharsis](#)" means "the process of releasing, and thereby providing relief from, strong or

repressed emotions”—and that is exactly the goal of this documentary. By providing a safe environment in which to talk about one’s experience with the church, CATHARSIS’s goal is to shine a light on what the church is doing right, what the church is doing wrong, and how we can improve together as a community. We aim to incorporate diverse perspectives and tell honest stories of pain, joy, and everything in between. Slated to release in 2023, platform still to be determined, and funded by the public, this documentary promises to be open and honest, with its interviewees and its audience.

Why CATHARSIS?

Austin Bates, the film’s director, shares the following: “The purpose of this project is to talk to Adventist Gen Z and Millennials ranging from around 20 to 35-40 years old and hear their stories; the things they’ve kept inside because they didn’t feel like they could express them because of the unity mentality, the unity push, that we’ve had.” Bates talks about this strong Adventist desire for unity within a community that seemed far more different than the same and how this desire for unity affects what stories are told. His goal is for the film to tell a complete story about how the church has interacted with a younger generation for years. During our first set of interviews, it was incredible to watch people open up about the trauma they’ve experienced at the hands of the church and share their unique insights. Not only is CATHARSIS a release for its audience, it’s a release for those we film as well. We hope when you watch the eventual film, you’ll get to experience the catharsis it provides as well.

What happens next?

In the interests of telling the stories of many Adventists all over the country, this Christmas, the team travels to Portland, Oregon to shoot their next set of interviews, and they would greatly appreciate your monetary help. Freelance filmmaking is an expensive hobby, so if you believe the stories of CATHARSIS need to be told as much as we do, we ask you to consider donating even as little as \$1 or even just sharing our instagram with your friends.

Follow CATHARSIS on Instagram [here](#).

Watch the CATHARSIS trailer [here](#).

Donate to the project [here](#).

News

NEWS

Andrews Autumn Conference on Science & Religion

Abigail Lee [11.17.21](#)

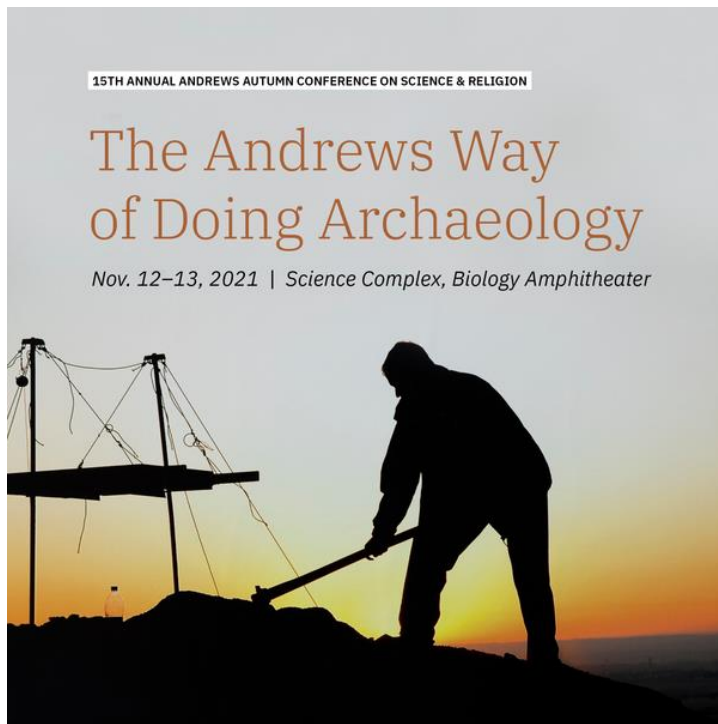


Photo by Andrews University

On November 12 and 13, Andrews University and the Midwest Religion and Science Society hosted the 15th annual Andrews Autumn Conference on Religion and Science. A Sabbath-long experience, Students and professors alike packed the Biology Amphitheater last weekend for a time filled with food, worship, and scientific growth in the form of numerous presentations.

The theme for the conference this year was “The Andrews Way of Doing Archaeology.” These guidelines were inspired by the work of Siegfried H. Horn, founder of the Horn Archaeological Museum. For Horn, the personal instructions he followed in his biblical archaeology were as followed:

1. Be forthright with findings. Do not minimize problems or stretch interpretations of data to explain things away.
2. Do not make claims beyond what the data can support.
3. Be quick and complete in publishing results.
4. Engage and work within mainstream scholarship.
5. Include a diversity of people and specialists.
6. Take the history of the Bible seriously, but do not place upon archaeology the burden of “proving” the Bible.

For conference-goers, these rules were printed in the event’s pamphlet, providing not only context but an inspiration for how these rules can inspire and guide others in the future.

Opening the conference on the 12th, Senior Research Faculty member, Dr. Øystein LaBianca gave his Plenary presentation, ““Cast Your Nets on the Other Side”: Reflections on Faith, Science, and the Andrews Way”.

On the 13th, a Sabbath breakfast was provided, followed by devotionals led by Kevin Burton and a welcome message from Andrews University’s current president, Andrea Luxton. The first presenter of the day was Dr. Randy Younker, who is a professor of Archaeology and History of Antiquity here at Andrews, with his presentation titled, ““The Andrews Way”: Its impact on non-Adventist Scholarship”. The second presentation came from Dr. Darrell Rohol, an assistant professor and Director of Calvin University’s Archaeology Program, which was titled: "Archaeology and Christian Faith: Comparing Adventist and Reformed Perspectives". The third presentation came from Christopher Jenkins, a 2015 Andrews Alumni and current Ph.D. student at Yale University, which was titled "Framing the bigger picture: A graduate student’s reflections on doing archaeology the “Andrews way.”" The final presentation came from Carina Prestes, a current Ph.D. student here at Andrews, with her lecture titled, "Archaeology, Women, and Early Christianity". After the presentations from the numerous speakers, attendees engaged with their own questions in various panel discussions and closing worship with praise provided by The Seminary chorus.

Dr. Karl Bailey, professor of Psychology and Program Director, said of the event, “What I thought was really interesting about this year's conference was seeing people who are at the beginning of their careers, like Chris Jenkins, who was my student at one point, who is just starting out as a graduate student—and then there’s LaBianca who is now Senior Research Professor, and Randy Younker, both seasoned veterans, both talking about their experiences with trying to do archaeology [the ‘Andrews way’].” Overall, this year’s Autumn Conference on Religion and Science provided a space to reconsider the way that worship can occur and its connections with the rich history of archaeology and research that Andrews University has.

For those who may be interested in learning more about the past Autumn Conferences on Religion and Science, they can check out the “[Digital Commons @ Andrews University](#)” site which includes themes and names of past speakers. For further information, check out the “[Midwest Religion and Science](#)” site to learn more about this conference and similar ones that are occurring in the area.

NEWS

AUSA Hosts Open Gym

Karenna Lee [11.17.21](#)



Photo by Darren Heslop

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. of Saturday, November 6, the AUSA Open Gym provided an escape from the autumn chill and substituted in a night of friendly competition. Hosted in the Andreasen Wellness Center, the event offered opportunities for students to compete in volleyball and basketball tournaments. Joshua Deonarine (junior, finance) shares his thoughts on the evening, saying, "I enjoyed seeing the various basketball and volleyball tournaments. Though I didn't get to play, it was fun to watch!" Whether or not people participated in the tournaments, the gym was packed with animated students. Another attendee, Luke Drew (junior, medical laboratory science), asserts that the event was "very cool."

As the spotlight of the evening, the volleyball tournament sparked both high interest and participation. Set between multiple teams, Andrews's volleyball players faced off on the court for glory and prizes. With the energy in the room electric, cheers rang out from the sidelines. Volleyballs smacked against the court, and the frenzied shouts of the players echoed through the gym. As the ball volleyed back and forth, sharp calls of "mine!" pierced the tension. Shoes skidded across the wood, and players dashed across the court. Hands rose to block the incoming ball, but as the opposing team spiked it hard, celebratory calls erupted from the scoring team. The tournament drove on for hours with the teams being steadily eliminated until a single team was crowned the winner.

Multiple students commented on the excitement of the volleyball tournament. "I played in the volleyball tournament. We had fun playing against the different teams," says Darien Jung (sophomore, biology). In particular, the final game's high stakes and skilled players stood out to Joshua Pak (senior, biochemistry). "It was a fun time, and I really enjoyed watching the last volleyball game," Pak divulges. "Both teams were really good, so it made for a very entertaining game."

Commenting on the winning team, Tyler Lee (junior, business) said: "One team was ridiculously jacked with great players, so they were just dominating everyone, and we just watched as they smacked the ball into the ground. Other than that, it was fun. I think my team finished third place."

On the gym's opposite side, the basketball tournament persisted. With triumphant laughter chiming across the court, a player dribbled past his opponents. He dashed through the defense, his gaze flickering between their movements. He sprung up and shot. It arced through the air straight through the hoop. A friend shouted their approval as the game continued. With a smaller number of participants, the basketball tournament concluded much earlier than the volleyball tournament. As a result, students had fun engaging in mini games like dunking contests.

For less athletically-inclined, the open gym offered board games and an eating area. Pizza arrived around 8:00 p.m. The AUSA officers handed out Jet's pizza with toppings from classic cheese to vegetable. Alannah Tjhatra (junior, biochemistry) states, "The one slice of vegan pizza I had was delicious." However, opinions on the food varied. Grace No (sophomore, English) shares, "The pizza was not really to my liking, but I'm sure other people enjoyed it. I liked walking around with my friends."

Overall, the night was a grand time. Students connected over good-natured games and vied for numerous prizes. The AUSA social vice president, Taylor Biek (senior, exercise science), summarizes the event, saying, "The open gym was super successful! I had fun just watching everyone enjoy a little friendly competition. There have been many requests for another, so keep your eyes peeled!"

NEWS

Campus Concert Crawl

Abigail Lee [11.17.21](#)



Photo by Andrews University

From the Ensemble Performance Scholarships to the many students involved with praise, Andrews University is packed with musical talent. With choirs and orchestras aplenty, don't miss out on the opportunity to take in some of this rich culture of our campus and consider spending some time this weekend at one of the concerts that are happening this weekend:

The Watchmen: Come, Let's Worship

November 20, 7:30 PM. Buller Hall Auditorium: Free admission.

Founded in 2017, the Watchmen are a "[contemporary gospel acapella group](#)" that is set at Andrews University. Along with providing riveting acapella performances for the Berrien Springs area, they also seek to serve God in everything that they do beyond singing, like their project, the "Watchmen International Scholarship" fund. This Saturday, make your way to Buller Hall and see the Watchmen perform in their upcoming concert, "Come, Let's Worship." Not only is the event free, but it gives a chance for students all across campus to watch these men and see what they are all about.

Andrews Symphony Orchestra: Thanksgiving Concert

November 20, 8:00 PM. Howard Performing Arts Center: [Buy tickets here](#).

For the Andrews Symphony Orchestra's 2021 Thanksgiving Concert, the theme this year is "Journey". Come forth and let the music take you for a ride as conductor Chris Wild and graduate student Nehemias Calsin (conducting) guide audiences through the fantastical lands of Middle Earth to the bright sparks of New York City. Get your tickets now to book your spot on a vivid musical journey, all from the comfort of an on-campus experience.

(Masks are still required for gatherings in HPAC).

Howard Series Presents: Chi Yong Yun

November 21, 7:00 PM. Howard Performing Arts Center: [Buy tickets here](#).

Chi Yong Yun is a professor of music here at Andrews University whose skills have been hailed all across the globe from the United States to Asia and Europe. An incredibly talented soloist, Chi Yong Yun will be performing at HPAC this Sunday. Her talent is something that should not be missed—buy a ticket today and let yourself experience the gifts of another.

Grab a friend, bring your family! Come out and check out any of these concerts on campus and support the many types of musicians that we have here at Andrews University.

Ideas

IDEAS

Hidden out of Season

Evin-Nazyia Musgrove 11.17.21



Photo by Qualyn Robinson

Fact: the colors of Fall are breathtaking. Also fact: many of us have no clue as to why that is.

We'll get to that, but for now, ponder this thought: have you ever felt ill-equipped for something being asked of you? Have you ever experienced angst, confusion, frustration, or feelings of being alone due to the current space you're in? I have a hunch that you're in agreement, and I can confirm that I, too, have been there. I've found myself anxious and confused by various seasons of life that I'd been placed in, frustrated at my "lack of ability" to perform in such seasons, and then hitting the all-time low of "woe is me, I am alone in this world and forgotten by God himself!"

Wouldn't it be nice to exist in a world where we knew what would be required of us *prior* to entering a given space? While in difficult seasons, it's tempting to think

that God brought you to that space just to then say, “alright champ, it’s all you, you got this.” It’s easy to grasp the *lie* that God is expecting more of you than you are actually capable of, especially when proof of “you have what you need” feels like nothing more than a warm, fuzzy cliché than your reality. This Fall, the Holy Spirit has offered me a fresh perspective that I’d love to share with you, friend.

As I reflect on the most challenging seasons of my life, I notice a pattern. First, I enter a season that, most times, I hadn’t seen coming. Next, I become acclimated with my surroundings to then realize that (initially) I have no idea what I’m doing. I then panic, complain, question Jesus, and cry, all to finally accept the reality that there really is no way out. Accepting my fate, over time I begin to notice something... I am...*actually doing this*. That thing that I thought I couldn’t do, or better yet, had no clue I even needed to know *how* to do, was in fact, getting done! Sure, the process may resemble trying to salvage dried-up bits of play-doh, but nonetheless, each time, I shock myself by my own capabilities and resilience.

Now, circling back to the fact that many of us have very little explanation for the beauty of Fall, allow me to fill in the gaps. Hopefully, as a college student, you’re familiar with chlorophyll, that green pigment produced by plants during photosynthesis. Turns out, plants also produce pigments called carotenoids, which produce orange leaves, and anthocyanins, creating red and purple leaves. Chlorophyll and carotenoids are present throughout the seasons, but anthocyanins are typically only produced during late summer and early autumn. With shorter days and longer nights, plants require less light for photosynthesis, hence decreasing chlorophyll production and leading to the fade of the green pigment we’re used to.

In essence, this natural process “*unmasks* the colors of the carotenoids and anthocyanins that were lurking beneath” (Leary, 2020). In other words, it’s not that during the Fall season the well-loved oranges, yellows, purples, and reds are somehow *created*, they are simply **unable to reveal themselves out of season**. Did you get that? Perhaps read that statement again for good measure. The beauty of Fall, as brought about by its leaves, is actually present *year round*, but due to the cycles of nature, it must remain hidden until the appropriate season.

Just as these vibrant colors are only able to come to life during their rightful season and are otherwise masked, *you*, dear reader, require certain seasons that reveal things in you that you never knew existed. That passion for helping kids with autism, that niche for event planning, that gift for making others feel seen, could

not have been revealed had you not been placed in seasons of discomfort, pain, or temporary confusion. When I receive perspective shifts like these, I am reminded that God created the beauty of nature, and as humans, we, too, are a part of God's natural creation. It's no coincidence that paradigms between nature and humanity serve as such helpful object lessons.

Dear reader, whether you are on the tail end of a challenging season, currently in the thick of it, or will inevitably encounter one ahead, I implore you to consider the hidden skills and abilities inside of you that will be brought to light because of it. You truly *are* as capable as God says you are (Phil 4:19). **Sometimes all you need is a change of scenery to finally *see* it.**

Reference

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IDEAS

Risk and Reward in "Squid Game"

Yoel Kim 11.17.21



Photo by Public Domain

A lot of games, especially engaging ones, employ a very simple system of risk and reward. Theoretically, you can play it as safe as possible, never straying from the strategically or statistically safest option. Yet the phrase “fortune favors the bold” didn’t spring out from thin air, since those who take decidedly risky options, when it all works out for them, reap decidedly greater rewards. This has been a tried and true system for games, sports, and even life. Many people espouse the importance of going beyond the confines of the comfort zone, to venture into the unknown and win rewards and success that would have otherwise been unattainable; there is a whole cottage industry around people giving inspirational speeches that boils down to this fundamental idea.

But there are limits to the idea of risk and reward: the two have to be balanced in order for the activity to be worthwhile. Sometimes, no matter how high the reward, there are some risks that we aren’t willing to take. Say for example, we wouldn’t play a game that would win us five dollars, if there is around a ninety percent chance that we lose twenty dollars every time we played. However, if the reward rises along with the risk, if the reward given is so monumental that the immense risk is made trivial by comparison, then we may be motivated to act.

All this preamble to talk about “Squid Game,” the new and explosively popular Korean Netflix show about disadvantaged people participating in deadly reimaginings of popular children’s games to win an impossibly large sum of money. The show is an excellently written and produced piece of gripping fiction. It has so readily captured the imaginations and fascinations of its viewers that many content creators—may that be YouTubers or video game creators—have begun creating replicas of the events in the show, imagining what it would be like to participate in a game of life or death for a ludicrous prize.

However, the love for the series goes beyond the morbid fascination with the death game; it extends to its varied cast of colorful characters, all of whom have received countless fan works. Say what you will about its later development or certain casting decisions, but overall, the writing of “Squid Game” and the way it chooses to represent its characters and the death game they play is both believable and delightfully over-the-top at the same time.

What I find interesting about the craze regarding “Squid Game”’s popularity specifically is the aforementioned love for its characters. Compared to similar works like “Hunger Games,” with its similar plot line of people competing in a

gruesome game to the death, there is a strange love for most of the characters that participate in a system that allows them to actively benefit from having your fellow contestants die in gruesome ways. So how did characters like Cho Sung-Woo gain sympathy from the viewers when Cato did not? It is because there is an air of believability to their actions and lovability to their character. Though there are some ruthless villains, most of the participants, whether they be cunning or ruthless, have some level of fanbase.

Unlike the government-sanctioned murderers that litter the fields of “Hunger Games,” in “Squid Game,” everyone playing is a person. They have their own goals, their own motivation, and their own desires that really only can be fulfilled by the prize at the end of the game. They are characters that banter, trust, betray, and play the game to guarantee their survival as much as possible, whilst abiding by personal moral codes and conducts. Finally, we know the backgrounds from which these characters come from and understand why the prize money is important for them. For the most part, their desperation does not come from the vice of greed, but a desire to continue living a sense of dignity that they cannot financially afford.

I would like to go back to the idea of risk and reward mentioned at the beginning of this piece. The risk of playing the “Squid Game” is the near guarantee of one’s own death, whether that be through the hands of the enforcers or other players. The reward is an impossibly large sum of money to get anyone out of the terrible financial predicament they find themselves in. “Squid Game” presents its characters in a way that makes the decisions for these people to play the game not only justifiable within the context of the fiction, but entirely believable in the context of them being people who live in a fictional world not too dissimilar from our own.

Many people have pointed out how “Squid Game” serves as a biting critique of capitalism, showing that the fact that the contestants murder each other to gain what they have is not too different from how the superrich of our world gained their fortune through unethical practice. I am not here to argue for the validity of this interpretation of the story; however, let us not forget that the show managed to convince us as viewers that it was believable for a person to consider being financially unburdened a great enough reward to play despite the risk of death. That stands to me as a far more incendiary and poignant criticism against the institution of capitalism than any other myriad of arguments it may propose.

More and more it becomes apparent that human dignity has a capital price now. The inalienable rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness that our nation championed at its inception now have a price tag attached. May it be through inflated housing prices or incomprehensibly large medical debt, many people, through misfortune or design of our institutions, find themselves disadvantaged, powerless, and destitute, with the current Covid-19 pandemic doing nothing to ease the pain. Through these harrowing times, it is natural for people to turn to escapist narratives or a gripping fiction to keep their mind off of reality. “Squid Game”’s ascendancy in popularity in this particular time of hardship may entirely be a coincidence. It may have to do with all the other excellent parts of its frankly astounding production value. Or it may have to do with the fact that more and more people are beginning to entertain, even if it is in their escapist fantasy, the idea that perhaps the reward for escaping their hardships may be worth the gamble of their lives. May the mere plausibility of this last idea, that our desperation may weigh the same as our lives, speak to the destructive effect of inequality in our time.

IDEAS

The Necessity of Firearm Safety Education

Nathan Cheng [11.17.21](#)



Photo by Public Domain

Tragedy is a sad reality of life, but it is infinitely more frustrating when events that transpire could have easily been avoided. The unfortunate death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of the film “Rust” illustrates the need for people to learn the basic principles of firearm safety. Gun culture is extremely prevalent in the United States, with [civilians](#) owning approximately 120 guns per 100 people. Regardless of one’s personal stance on gun control, firearms play an active role in our everyday lives. It is absolutely crucial that people learn how to behave safely around firearms so that they don’t accidentally harm someone else and so that we avoid becoming a victim of another person’s failure to act in a safe manner.

Every year about 500 Americans die from accidental firearm [shootings](#), this is four times more per capita than other high-income [countries](#) like Japan or the United Kingdom. One of the primary factors in accidental gun deaths and injuries is the belief that the weapon is [unloaded](#), as in the case of the “Rust” shooting. This displays a lack of knowledge of the first basic principle of firearm safety: that all firearms should be treated as if they are loaded at all times.

The second principle is don’t point a gun at anything you don’t intend to destroy. As a member of the military, I have to train with firearms periodically, and I have witnessed safety officials violently disarm soldiers that pointed their weapon at someone else even if the weapon itself was unloaded. The military takes firearm safety incredibly seriously, but the military only makes up for 23% of existing firearms; 75% are owned by regular [people](#). Considering that there are more firearms in the society surrounding us than the controlled environment of the military, safe handling of firearms is something that is essential for us to learn.

Even if you don’t ever lay your hands on a gun, you almost certainly know someone that does, and you should be able to correct them if they are mishandling a firearm. One common mistake people make, even in [law enforcement](#), is placing their finger on the trigger before they are ready to fire. It is entirely normal to make mistakes and forget standard procedures, but it is far less likely to happen if there is a peer nearby to remind them to take necessary safety precautions. These are just a brief summary of some of the principles for handling guns. Further information for firearm safety can be easily learned through readily available sources [online](#) without ever having to come in contact with a weapon—and though we can hope circumstances never arise in which this knowledge is necessary, it is still prudent to be prepared in case the need ever arises.

Pulse

PULSE

Honors Testimony: Worship in the Church

Honors Student 11.17.21



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Note: This testimony was given at Andrews University's Honors Church (November 6, 2021) as part of a section addressing ways in which worship can be isolating.

I am in the business of studying both the human mind and the English language. This means that I hear a lot of stories—all kinds of stories. Textbooks, play reading, research papers, all of it. I hear stories about power, I hear stories about

behaviorism, I hear stories about the Renaissance, I hear stories about hope. The one thing that remains constant in all of the stories that I hear is that I hear stories about people. So let me do what I do best, and let me relay to you some stories that are not mine—not because I am ashamed of them, or that I want to somehow distance them from myself, but because to deny the original tellers their voice would be to minimize their pain while inflicting it upon them again. So with your permission, let me tell you a story.

A young man who loves someone sits in a pew and listens to his father preach about what a shame it is that some people *almost* make it to heaven, that some people fall short of the standard of a God who is foundationally based in love. He sits on a cold wooden bench and listens to lectures about a God that loves everyone equally *except*. That God has created him wrong. That his person is disgusting to God. That sure, God hates the sin and loves the sinner but his sin and his sinner are so deeply intertwined that the only thing he can do is to cut his identity out of his chest and place it, beating and bloody, on an altar of sacrifice to a loving God that hates him.

A middle-aged woman stands in a house of worship and hears from the pulpit that her voice does not exist. That her person, her being, her 'she' is worth less in the eyes of God than the man sitting four rows in front of her. When she speaks she is ignored. When she communicates to God as a leader in congregational prayer, the front rowers whisper to themselves that "it was better when the head elder did it." She has ideas, good ideas. For years she has trained in organizational skills; she has a powerful speaking voice *and* a working car. But when she applies for eldership they tell her that her services would be better used in potluck.

A young person wears earrings. I think you can fill in the blank.

A community with a long, rich history is suddenly met by strange, new people. They call themselves 'missionaries' and they bear a strange symbol on their chest. They build schools, these guests, on land that isn't theirs, they fill these schools with the people who owned this land to begin with, and they teach them how to hate themselves. They teach them that their families' art, history, songs, and faiths are barbaric, wrong. Eventually, more strange people come. They may not call themselves missionaries, but many carry this cross on their chest. And they start to steal people and take them away. They steal more people. They steal more. And more. There are ten thousand bodies lying on the Atlantic floor in the name of the cross.

The natural state of the human being is to crave others. We are built for community. We are designed for companionship. The togetherness of worship is its greatest strength but it is also its greatest flaw—the moment that worship becomes for ‘everyone except -/-' is when it ceases to be worship and becomes a weapon. Worship can be alienating. And alienation is a powerful, powerful thing. As we take part in worship, a cultural practice with a very long history, I encourage you to take a moment and reflect on how it has failed. To change, we must listen. There are voices that historically have not been heard, and if worship is to be a warm, welcoming, and accepting place then it has to be a place that will listen without argument, without the ‘I am right and you are wrong’ that so often turns into ‘I am right and you are damned’. A genuine community of worship is a community that allows everyone—*everyone*—to speak. Now, I am not saying that the way that you have been worshipping is wrong, or that who you worship is wrong. I am not saying that at all. I am saying that to ignore the voices of those whom Christian worship has hurt would be to participate in the long history of oppression that will haunt Christianity as long as it lives. God is not our traditions. God is not our worship. God is above these things. But we use God’s name for everything. So what, pray tell, have we been using God’s name for?

PULSE

Productivity . . . (and Pronouns 🤖)

T Bruggemann 11.17.21



Photo by Matt Ragland (Unsplash)

Because this article is about productivity, I am required to disclaim towards you that the ideas expressed within it are my own opinions and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors, “The Student Movement,” Andrews University, or the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Productivity is, of course, a very serious and contentious subject that should never be made light of. Therefore, read forth only in the knowledge that you have been warned.

Ah, November! The leaves are falling, it’s getting colder, snow is ever hoped for yet never realized on the horizon, and my life is falling apart. For many of us, it seems, this semester has hit especially hard, and I personally have found that amidst all the stress, I’ve declined into some bad habits and neglected the productivity systems I aspire to uphold. In this light, since I have an ever so slight yielding in workload at present, I resolved to pick myself up, reinstate my systems, and meet my article quota for “The Student Movement” this month by telling you all what such a process constitutes.

The first big thing is scheduling, which I find to be one of the largest factors of productivity in my life. It is your past–responsible–self telling your current–unmotivated–self what to do. For myself, this manifests as a daily schedule laying out every moment of every day in the work week. For some, this amount of granularity would be quite constricting, and they may prefer to only specify working times, but I enjoy the specificity of outlining everything. Due to the fact that I am a rather large nerd, I do this first in a spreadsheet and then use a script I wrote to automatically add each period as a calendar event on my phone. I then use an iOS shortcut I also designed to tell me what I’m supposed to be doing at the current time, and what’s coming up next, whenever I should want to know. Unfortunately, Apple Calendar doesn’t allow one to specify the colour of individual events to create a nice view, but I do colour code things by type in the spreadsheet for easy identification.

And oh hey, speaking of colours, the other day I was reminded of the plasticity of language. A friend of mine needed to know how to spell the colour fuchsia. So, as one does, I Googled it, and I found that, while the technically correct spelling is fuchsia, so many people misspell it as fuschia that you can probably get away with it (and in fact neither iOS nor Google Docs flags either spelling as incorrect). And this kind of thing happens a lot in language. For instance, while I write colour and

favourite and behaviour, y'all south of the border write color and favorite and behavior. There are a lot of differences in English that people either expressly chose to change or simply did accidentally until they stuck, such as slang words, pronunciations like aluminum vs. aluminium or the just-now-omitted Oxford comma. Things that were once technically incorrect become correct. It's almost as if language doesn't have inherent correctness, and what is currently proper adapts over time. Huh. That's an interesting idea. I wonder if it could ever be relevant to any other ideas that may rear up in the future . . .

Probably not! Let's continue!

The second systemic aspect I am revamping is my time tracking. Oh, and if you've never come across the concept of time tracking, it's the practice of timing what you do. One starts a stopwatch at the beginning of an activity, then records the time once complete, all of which is performed with a specific app (I enjoy Toggl). The purpose of such ostensibly obsessive seeming behaviour is to determine what you actually do, rather than what you think you do. It also has the effect of focusing you, forcing you to commit to studying or whatever else. While I have kept reasonably in tune with time tracking, I want to return to tracking more, as I've only been tracking working time recently. I need also take the time to reconfigure the automations I've set up in the past to start and specify timers, all in all to make my life more efficient.

Oh, and in that vein, do you know some words are more efficient than others? What forthright comes to mind are pronouns. Not only is the purpose of pronouns to prevent our saying cumbersome names over and over or to refer to someone we don't know the name of, they also carry a certain tidbit of information, which is of course sex/gender. This is a rather similar situation to how some languages have gender spread across the majority of their nounage, familiarly French, Spanish, and German. As speakers of a language without gendered words, though, we garner an intuitive understanding of why all nouns carrying that tidbit of information is not necessary. There's nothing inherent about the things themselves that require carrying gender around with them, and that point is driven harder home when you realize that those languages don't even agree about which nouns are which gender. So I wonder if pronouns need to?

What's interesting is that various other languages, like Korean and Finnish, don't use gendered pronouns; they have a single pronoun regardless of one's perceived gender. And, I mean, it works for them. In effect, like other nouns, there's nothing

that says pronouns must carry a sex feature. We simply do it because we've done it. Fascinating.

But enough of this existential language nonsense; let's get back to the good stuff, shall we: checklists. One of the worst things to attempt is to hold everything in one's own fleshy brain. While our biological processors are quite proficient at just that, they are actually rather poor storage devices. And therefore, when it comes to remembering important things, it is wise to delegate the task to a reliable system.

So you know how sometimes you just forget about homework? (Or perhaps you're one of these "good students" I keep hearing about, in which case you are granted permission to feel smug for the rest of this section). But anyways, yeah, all my assignments are now going into a system so I don't forget about them, and in my case, that system will probably be the task-manager app, Todoist. Notion is also a very interesting system, though a tad involved. Pen and paper planners work well, as also do apps like Things 3, OmniFocus 3, Apple's Reminders, Google Tasks, Microsoft To Do, Do!, Due, 2Do, To Do List, ToDo List, ToDoIt, Todo Cloud, and yada, yada, yada. Ok, I've come now to the conclusion that to-do lists are kind of boring to talk about. But you know what isn't boring? Pronouns!

It is well-documented both that some people ask to be called different pronouns than what their sex assigned at birth would initially inspire and also that some people refuse to accommodate such. In my experience, the most common reason people do not want to use others' preferred pronouns is that they think it's incorrect, and they don't want to be incorrect; therefore, they feel that asking them to use certain pronouns is asking them to lie. I suppose those are understandable emotions. I also don't like being incorrect, and I wouldn't want to be forced to lie. . .

So, people don't want to be forced into agreeing with something they don't actually agree with. But is that really what pronouns are doing? Pronouns in English have historically denoted one's biological sex, certainly, but we've seen that they don't have to—we've seen that language changes based on how people use it. And so, how do people use them today, and moreover, how should we use them today?

Well, our society is collectively moving our language towards pronouns not carrying the tidbit of information that indicates one's biological sex, but instead the tidbit of information that indicates how one wants to be considered. (Note: this doesn't make them any less efficient. They're still carrying extra information—it's just different. Productivity, am I right!) Using she/her pronouns indicates the individual wishes to be considered a woman, just as using he/him pronouns

indicates they wish to be considered a man and using they/them pronouns indicates they wish to be considered neither one or the other, but possibly something in between or wholly separate. Note that cis women (women whose sex assigned at birth was also female) also wish to be considered as women, and so also use she/her pronouns, and vice-versa with the manfolk.

What this means is that using someone's preferred pronouns is not lying, no matter what your view of sex and gender is. Using preferred pronouns is an acknowledgement of their request to be considered a certain way. It is saying, "I respect you, as a human being, and your right to request", not saying anything about agreement. Whether or not one agrees with and chooses to honour their request is a whole separate debate, but it should not come into consideration when deciding to use preferred pronouns.

Ok, sure. It may not be lying to use preferred pronouns, but why should we take the effort to change language in this way? The fact is because not doing so legitimately hurts people. And whether or not we agree with their reason for pain (which, one must admit is a strange statement), it is indisputable that they are in pain—pain we could lessen by doing this simple thing. Is not choosing to cause people pain, simply because it is of a slight inconvenience to oneself to remember pronouns, cruel, in a way . . . sinful? That goes against everything we believe about love and selflessness. It is our duty as Christians to do what we can to reduce others' suffering: in this case, to use preferred pronouns. What possible reason could we have of going against God's commission to love?

Thanksgiving Traditions of Your "Student Movement" Editors

Alannah Tjhatra 11.17.21



Photo by Stefan Vladimirov

With Thanksgiving (and its long-awaited break) right around the corner, I'm sure everyone is excited to take a breather from schoolwork, eat some good food, and perhaps even go home to spend time with loved ones. Everyone spends the holiday a little differently. Here are some ways the staff of "The Student Movement" celebrate it!

Alyssa Henriquez, Editor-in-Chief

Most years, we drive to New York to visit my Dominican family. My aunt cooks food until her kitchen is overflowing, and a mix of friends, family, and community members gather in her foyer to have dinner. The dishes range from classic thanksgiving food to *tostones* and *platanos maduros*. There is always a big spread of desserts near the middle of the room, which also includes a mix of dishes from pumpkin pie to Dominican cake. We eat late in the day and stay up talking for hours afterwards. The event is cheerful, loud, and full of laughter.

Scott Moncrieff, Faculty Advisor

When I was younger I used to watch the football game. Aunt Betty's stuffing—awesome. Mashed potatoes swimming in gravy. The only time of the year I have cranberry sauce. Minimal amount of vegeturkey. If a vegeturkey had wings, it still wouldn't be able to get off the ground. Strictly a land animal. Two pieces pumpkin pie with whipped topping. Run the Niles YMCA 10K in the morning; it justifies later gastronomic excesses. The best part is the feeling that I don't have to accomplish a blessed thing for this one day, and can just hang out with family and friends.

Lyle Goulbourne, Ideas Editor

The preferred Thanksgiving traditions for my family are to gorge on food (especially a German chocolate cake), cheer or mourn Michigan's inevitable loss to Ohio State, read the latest issue of the Student Movement at www.andrews.edu/life/student-movement, and ask us cousins whether we have found a significant other.

Megan Napod, A&E Editor

My family never fails to come together and curate the best meal of my year on Thanksgiving. A moist turkey, classic green bean casserole, the meatiest spaghetti (not sweet like the Filipino kind), *pancit palabok*—and more! I have a large family and no one fails to leave my cousin's house stuffed and happy. I'm sad that I won't be there this year to hear the unmistakable laughs of my aunties and see my newborn nieces and nephews, but I'm thankful for the assurance that I will be at the next one.

Same place, Filipino time, cause it's never an exact time with us.

Alannah Tjhatra, Pulse Editor

Any long weekend is an opportunity for my family to get together and eat some good food. Very often, because of my background, it's Asian food. Whether we have hot pot, *mi fen* (rice noodles), or *nasi goreng* (Indonesian fried rice), I always end up with a full stomach and a full heart. It's always nice to see all my relatives as we catch up and play games together. The night is often capped off with a movie or a good conversation that lasts into the early hours of the morning.

Taylor Uphus, Humans Editor

In my family, Thanksgiving Day begins with an early morning of cooking in the kitchen with my mom and sister. By lunch time everyone in my family has arrived, gathered around the table to share what they are thankful for and dig into the amazing meal. However, we don't stay gathered around the table long, as everyone

migrates to the living room to watch the football games and check our fantasy stats. Later, in the evening my dad gathers us all outside to begin our “National Lampoon’s Christmas” light decorating and setting up the Christmas tree.

Abigail Lee, News Editor

Thanksgiving is a total production at my house. Not only do I have 16 cousins on my dad’s side and 7 on my mom’s, I am also surrounded by a family of amazing home cooks; we really like to go *all out*. Two turkeys—one baked, the other fried—and sides aplenty including multiple Korean dishes because how could we not. No one leaves our house hungry. With COVID cancelling our usual massive gathering (for good reasons) this year brings forth the opportunity for us to gather once again and we’re going to be making up for a lot of lost time and a lot of lost meals. (Also, sometimes Thanksgiving lands on my birthday. It doesn’t usually change anything but it’s fun when it happens).

Lily Burke, Copy Editor

In my family, we all typically spend the first part of Thanksgiving Day either accidentally incinerating or miraculously creating various favorite foods, such as homemade vegan turkey (believe it or not, our recipe doesn’t have a single bit of tofu in it) which we enjoy together at a big family dinner in the early evening. An exciting Thanksgiving tradition my family started several years ago is that once the sun goes down Thanksgiving evening, we do fire breathing in the backyard to usher in the holiday season. I’ll warn you now, isopropyl alcohol does not taste good. I believe that embracing the anticipation is an integral part of enjoying any event, and Thanksgiving really begins the anticipation for Christmas and the New Year beyond. Because of the family-focused and anticipatory nature of Thanksgiving, I think it is my favorite of the 'ber' month holidays.

Kurt Kuhlman, Website Editor

My family’s Thanksgiving traditions have changed as I’ve grown older, but as with most people, they have always been focused around the family. Before I came to Andrews, my family would spend Thanksgiving either at my grandparents’ house near where we lived in Collegedale, or at my aunt’s house in Oklahoma. Both of my parents have six siblings, so family gatherings are no joke. However, since I’ve been at Andrews, our Thanksgiving celebrations have been here in Michigan, mainly because the rest of my family got the entire week off for Thanksgiving, while we here at Andrews get the second half, so it was easier for them to travel up here than it was for me to go anywhere. Luckily for us, I also have a lot of family that live up here, so we would go over to my great-aunt and -uncle’s house and

celebrate with them and their children and grandchildren and other members of my extended family.

The Last Word

THE LAST WORD

Thanksgiving Dinner and Communion

Alyssa Henriquez 11.17.21



Photo by Public Domain

Any time people eat or drink together, it's communion. At least, this is what Thomas C. Foster claims in his book, "How to Read Literature Like a Professor." To many people, this statement may initially seem strange. The word "communion" often evokes images of the Biblical last supper, which is a markedly solemn event.

It's a bittersweet meal characterized by deceit, where Christ breaks bread with his closest disciples while knowing that one of them has betrayed him.

The atmosphere of the Last Supper is much different than eating with friends or coworkers in an ordinary context. So is the idea of "communion" as it applies to the church.

Throughout much of my childhood, communion consisted of me balancing a conical cup of grape juice on my lap, holding a delicate wafer in my hands, and counting down the seconds until I could devour them because I was starving. In spite of the fact that I'd rushed to the car that morning with no breakfast, the sacredness of the event wasn't lost on me. I recognized it as I sat shoulder-to-shoulder with my parents and partook in a unanimous, consecrated tradition with those around me.

In both its original context and its manifestation in the modern sanctuary, the concept of "communion" feels markedly different than eating with humans in any other environment. And yet, Foster claims that all of these events fall under the same term.

How is this possible? Because, in a broad sense, the word communion signals a mutual act of sharing and peace. As Foster notes, "The act of taking food into our bodies is so personal that we really only want to do it with people we're very comfortable with." There are, of course, exceptions to this rule—I think of the scene in "Breaking Bad" where the protagonist considers poisoning his drug-lord boss while having stew at his house. Or, the scene in "Squid Game" where the final three characters ravenously consume a steak dinner before battling to the death.

In spite of these moments, we do tend to commune with those we like and want to share things with. We need nutrition to survive, but the process of eating runs much deeper than a need for sustenance—it's an act of social satiation. As Foster notes, the act of dining together is another way of saying "I'm with you, I share this moment with you, I feel a bond of community with you."

And so, as we go on a date at a restaurant, break into a dessert with small silver spoons and simultaneously feel an influx of dopamine from the sugar, we are partaking in a form of communion. As we sit around the college cafeteria table with friends and shovel warm food into our mouths, we are participating in an act of mutuality with those that we care for and value.

For these reasons, Thanksgiving represents a climactic instance of communion across the United States. It marks a time of year when so many of us gather together—parents, children, extended families, friends—and consent to share an elaborate meal with one another. We shift back and forth between stoves, ovens, microwaves, sinks, stacked cutting boards, and overstuffed fridges in the hours preceding the grand event. And once the table is piled with steaming mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, roasted vegetables, casseroles, traditional family dishes, and drinks, we sit down and eat until we can hardly move.

But at the same time that we break bread with one another, this particular instance of communion is marked by nuance. Families are not perfect, and this meal often fleshes out tensions that are easily avoided when we don't dine with extended relatives. The internet is overflowing with sardonic commentary on this subject.

“May none of your real feelings slip out at Thanksgiving dinner,” reads one post.

“In advance of our annual awkward Thanksgiving conversation, thought I'd let you know up front that yes, I'm still single, and no, I still haven't gotten a real job.”

“Happy Thanksgiving to someone checking their phone in the bathroom to escape their family.”

In light of these more complex aspects of Thanksgiving, I find it most helpful to consider the holiday an instance of “communion” in multiple definitions of the term: its broad, universal meaning, and its decidedly Biblical one. At the same time that Thanksgiving dinner is about “sharing and peace,” it is also about consenting to dine with people whom we might clash with in other moments. It is about fostering an environment of mutuality and love in instances that could reap division. In the same way that the Biblical supper entailed dining with others in love regardless of the circumstances, so do our Thanksgiving dinners.

As we each sit around the table this Thanksgiving, I hope that we treasure these moments of communion with one another. At the same time that we enjoy an indulgent meal, our actions ultimately say to one another: “I'm with you, I share this moment with you, I feel a bond of community with you.”