

Andrews University

Digital Commons @ Andrews University

The Student Movement v. 106 (2021-2022)

Student Movement

12-1-2021

The Student Movement Volume 106 Issue 9: No Silent Night for These Busy Staffers

Irina Gagliu

Caryn Cruz

Kaela McFadden

Brendan Syto

Megan Napod

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/sm-106>



Part of the Education Commons

Authors

Irina Gagliu, Caryn Cruz, Kaela McFadden, Brendan Syto, Megan Napod, Scott Moncrieff, Caralynn Chan, Abigail Lee, Lyle Goulbourne, Valerie Akinyi, Wambui Karanja, Isabella Koh, and Alyssa Henriquez

No Silent Night for These Busy Staffers



Photo by Joseph McKinley

Humans

HUMANS

“My Favorite Christmas Memory . . .” from Our AU Students!

Irina Gagliu 12.01.21



Photo by Jonathan Borba (Unsplash)

When it comes to celebrating Christmas, everyone has their own unique traditions; and certainly, Christmas memories differ from year to year! Here are some favorite Christmas memories from different students on our campus:

Alexandria “Lexie” Dunham (freshman, psychology)

I think one of my favorite memories is when my family and I went to downtown Chicago a little before Christmas. They would have huge Christmas trees with tons of lights, lots of little snowflakes, and reindeer displays! I also loved when we would get milkshakes and drive around looking at people’s Christmas lights on their houses while listening to Christmas music. Just being with my family and looking

at all the lights together was so much fun!

Dallas Dunn (sophomore, public health)

I think my favorite Christmas memory is when I got to have a big Christmas party with my close friends. We ordered food, played some games, and did Secret Santa. My family usually travels during winter so it's not something I usually get to do. I really appreciated getting to see them at that time of year.

Sarah Page (junior, social work)

I remember when I was 4, my parents made little reindeer prints in our front yard and had me convinced that reindeer had come by to visit us. Another time, my parents made me dress up as Santa on Christmas Eve, knock on my sister's window, and run down the street just to surprise her. It was hilarious!

Dongchan Kim (senior, religion)

The AUSA Christmas party two years ago (2019) is my favorite memory. One of the reasons it was so memorable is because I still have a polaroid photo from the event. Great company and a lot of fun—it was exceptional!

Aubreyanna Scollard (freshman, data science)

My favorite Christmas memory is probably watching the movie "Christmas Shoes" with my grandma before she passed away. We spent Christmas together every year, and honestly, she loved that movie more than the rest of my family did—even though it made her cry every time we watched it. I miss her a lot.

Jesse Bland (senior, aviation)

My favorite Christmas memory has to be as a kid, wrapping presents for my mom. My dad, my sister, and I would always try to come up with fun ways to surprise her. For example, one year we gave her an iPhone in a 4-foot by 4-foot box!

Christopher Adams (freshman, computer science)

One Christmas, I unexpectedly came home to find my grandparents casually sitting on our couch. Turns out they had surprised us by flying in from California to celebrate Christmas with us in Texas! We don't get to see my mom's side of the family a lot because they live so far, so that was a special memory. Also, spending Christmas with my dogs is also always great—just have to add that.

Jheanna Rattray (junior, psychology)

One year, when I was little, I really wanted to add a nativity scene to our home's Christmas decorations. I got out my baby dolls and even a basket for the doll that was playing Jesus. What was great, though, was when my mom brought me an entire bale of hay to use for the scene. It was so big you could even sit on it!

Akya “Ky” Waller (senior, art therapy)

My favorite Christmas memories have always been when my family gets together and plays a game called White Elephant. Essentially, we all get random gifts and can steal them from each other without knowing if it is a “good” gift or not. It causes a lot of laughter and fun. One time, one person got toilet paper and another got a remote-controlled poop emoji. It was ironic because the gifts went to the two gassiest people in our family!

Braeden Peterson (freshman, engineering)

A fun Christmas memory I have is that one year when my siblings and I were younger, my family left our Christmas tree up for over a year between multiple Christmases. When my siblings and I were younger, we thought it would be fun to leave the tree up all year. We decorated it for different holidays throughout the year; it was pretty fun.

HUMANS

Semester Reflections with Brandon Alvarez

Interviewed by: Caryn Cruz [12.01.21](#)



Photo by Brandon Alvarez

As the semester nears its end, we all need to take time to reflect on the things we have accomplished, enjoyed, and how far we have come this semester. I sat down with Brandon Alvarez (sophomore, business) to discuss his reflections from this semester and hopes for the future.

What has been your favorite part of this semester so far?

My favorite part of this semester has been the integration of people. Coming to college last year in the wake of a worldwide pandemic, I knew that my college experience was going to be out of the ordinary. However, I did not know the extent to which it would be affected until this semester. Last year there were events on campus, but you weren't able to see a big group of people having the time of their lives like you were able to this year. Two prime examples of this were during the Noche Latina and Alumni Weekend Impact events. Whether it was learning new dance moves to Marc Anthony's "Vivir Mi Vida" or singing Phil Thompson's "My

Worship” at the top of your lungs, you could feel the energy in the place. This energy was so evident because everybody was present. Present in the sense that each and every person was completely engaged—something that is very rare. This type of energy is something that just builds off of itself, to the point where nobody is thinking about the troubles of their semester or the complications of life.

What is your favorite class you are taking this semester, and why?

My favorite class is Organic Chemistry. It’s probably the class I struggle with the most, but it’s definitely the class I find the most rewarding. When you finally get a concept and can apply it to a new situation after trying so long just to even understand it, you feel this overwhelming sense of relief. It’s like God is saying, “Don’t worry. I got this, and you do too.” Even when I don’t get it, I know that one day I will.

Did you try anything new this semester? What did you learn from it?

I know I’m going to sound like a heathen when I say this, but this semester was the first time I have ever tried sushi (Sushi Garden for the win!). The second time I had sushi was at the cafe, so you know how that went. Interestingly enough, I really like sushi! I’m not the biggest fan of fish, but the sweet potato tempura rolls hit on another level. As a result of getting out of my comfort zone and trying something new, I learned that you never know you will like something until you give it a shot.

What did you struggle with this semester? What was the silver lining that motivated you to keep going?

I feel like the biggest challenge this semester was time management. Twenty-four hours in a day is not nearly enough time to complete all your assignments, eat, work, exercise, spend time with friends, be a part of clubs, study, think, and the list goes on. Even with the breaks, you still feel like you’re behind and should be doing something productive. It is just so difficult to take a breather. However, little things like the sun coming out in the middle of a gloomy week or starting a Bible plan with a friend really helped me find the motivation to get through this difficult semester and finish it strong. You didn’t work this hard all semester just to give up now, so push through!

Overall, how do you feel about this semester?

This semester was a new experience that brought a lot of difficulties, but also brought a lot of joy. Even though sometimes I might think, “I should’ve gone out with friends that one time” or “I think I should’ve stayed and studied,” I know that

if I go back and change things, I could've missed out on other opportunities. For this reason, I'm content. No regrets.

What is your hope for the spring semester?

My hope for the spring semester is 67° weather. Just kidding, I know Michigan is not that kind. In reality, I hope that I'm able to make time for the things I want, and not just let time pass without having any control over it. Instead of spending time on my phone, I can use that time to nap, read a book, study, go outside, play volleyball, or FaceTime a friend back home. There are endless possibilities of the things you can do when you intentionally decide what to do with your time. I hope next semester I can take my own advice.

Arts & Entertainment

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Beginning Again: Red (Taylor's Version)

Kaela McFadden [12.01.21](#)



Photo by Public Domain

November 12 marked the second of Taylor Swift's re-releases. "Red" was Taylor Swift's fourth album (originally released in 2012) which she describes in [her message](#) on Apple Music as being a "fractured mosaic of feelings that somehow all fit together in the end."

Admittedly, I have been anxiously awaiting this release from the moment it was announced. "Red" has been my favorite of Taylor Swift's albums for years, and after thoroughly familiarizing myself with the new "Red (Taylor's Version)," I can confidently say this is still true. I personally love the wild dramatic shifts in this era of her music that moves from heartbreak, to finding love, to warnings of stardom, and being free. The line from "[22](#)," "We are happy, free, confused, and lonely in the best way," manages to capture this beautiful mess and array of emotions that are all rolled together in this one album.

For fans familiar with the original version of "Red," this Taylor's Version brings new life into the songs of this era. [Complete with 30 songs](#), including all 16 of the original tracks, four singles, eight new "from the vault" songs, and two different versions of original songs, Red (Taylor's Version) is truly an early Christmas present for fans.

Unlike with her first re-release, "Fearless (Taylor's Version)," the songs in "Red (Taylor's Version)" sound noticeably different from the original album. Her voice sounds different and I would describe it as "fuller" than in the original versions. In addition to this natural change which was likely the result of Taylor growing as a person and an artist, there were minor changes to the way that the music itself was mixed. I found that some of the rhythms and instruments sounded more pronounced in the production—the guitars and drum synthesizers are more striking and seem to be crisper than originally. In all, everything remained true to the original versions of the songs, but I found it refreshing to have these minor changes.

"I thought the album was absolutely fantastic. As someone who was pretty young when the original album came out, this rerecording has been really nostalgic for me and I definitely connect with the songs a lot more now than I did when I was 11. I'd say my favorite songs from the new vault tracks are "Nothing New," because I really feel a connection with lyrics and meaning with that song, and "All Too Well," the 10-minute version," said Kyra Wirsz (junior, behavioral science).

To me, the pinnacle of the album is undoubtedly the inclusion of “[All Too Well \(10 Minute Version\)](#).” “All Too Well” was a masterfully written tragedy with some of the most heartbreaking lyrics I have come across. The 10-minute version had existed as mere myth for years until Swift announced that it would be included in this re-release. While I was excited about the album as a whole, this song was certainly the most thrilling. It has a length of 10 minutes and 12 seconds, and became the longest song to ever hit No. 1 on Billboard Hot 100.

In addition to the track, Taylor wrote and directed a [short film](#) revolving around the song that stars Sadie Sink and Dylan O’Brien. I highly recommend watching this film to most people, but I would especially recommend it to music fans who love scarves, fall vibes, and heartbreak. The “All Too Well” film and song follow the story of Taylor Swift in her romance with [Jake Gyllenhaal](#), and opens and closes with a scarf that Swift says she left at his sister’s house. It beautifully moves through the bittersweet memories of a difficult breakup while also reminiscing on moments of happiness. This dynamic between hurt and bliss demonstrates the difficulty associated with romantic relationships falling apart.

“I’ve definitely been listening to the 10 minute version of “All Too Well” on constant repeat since it came out! The song was always good, but I think I only really came to love it when this version was released. And the short film was so beautifully made—I loved the way it was done, the contrasting tones and colors, the detail she put into it. It really complimented the additional lyrics, too. I am again in awe of her talent as a musician and a storyteller,” said Alannah Tjhatra (junior, biochemistry).

Reliving this era of Taylor Swift music has been reminiscent of years long past while also being fresh and bringing new life to the album. I have thoroughly enjoyed listening to all 30 songs on repeat, absorbing everything with the enthusiasm of a little kid and the critical knowledge of a (mostly) life-long Swiftie. Overall, I believe that Taylor Swift has given her fans, old and new alike, a time capsule to the past, allowing them to relive the glory of days gone by. She has also managed to keep the album relevant with the inclusion of songs that were originally cut from the 2012 album. This jumble of emotions and feelings packaged in musical brilliance was released just in time for scarf weather, hot drinks, and perfect fall vibes, even though winter is just around the corner.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Musicians of Andrews University

Brendan Syto with Megan Napod [12.01.21](#)



Photo by Shiekainah Decano

The Music Department at Andrews University may be overlooked by students. It is, however, one of the most amazing fields of study that the school offers to students. One might pass by Hamel Hall and hear a violin or a piano playing from an open window. I took the time to pay this building a visit and ask questions to those who practically live in this building for their education or profession.

The people in this building included students who study music or participate in the music groups and professors who teach music courses. One student that I interviewed was Jason Marquez (junior, music performance). When I asked him what his experience as a music student at AU was like. He described how students who study music must “balance academic work and music practice.” He told me

that they must practice for “at least 20 hours every week.” Besides those seemingly difficult conditions, Marquez told me that his “classes, professors, and ensembles are fun and great.”

I entered one of the classrooms and met Byron Graves, Assistant Professor of Music, Wind Symphony Conductor, Music Education Area Coordinator, Wind/Percussion Area Coordinator, and Graduate Program Director. When I asked Graves what his experience with music was like, he began to describe to me his past with music. He told me how he graduated from AU in the field of music and went on to teach it at schools. Graves has taught at a highschool for ten years and is currently teaching at AU. He enjoys working with “dedicated musicians.” Graves also told me how he is not only teaching music but also “preparing the next generation of music teachers.” His work is busy, he says.

I also had a good conversation with Caralynn Chan (senior, speech-language pathology and audiology), who is the principal harpist of the Andrews University Symphony Orchestra and also plays for the Wind Symphony, about her time so far as an involved musician and student on campus. She says that doing music with an ensemble that meets weekly and performs at least once a month requires a student to exhibit meticulous time management. “As an individual who participates in two AU ensembles, it was challenging for me during my first year of university to balance school work, practicing, and having a social life. However, as time progressed, I learned how to learn repertoire at a more rapid pace and focused on polishing my study habits to ensure that I had time to take a mental health break and socialize with friends.”

Megan Case (junior, music education), an oboist for the Wind Symphony and Orchestra, concurs with this idea. She says that “there is definitely a lot of balancing to do. It's not just homework and performing, it's daily practice, rehearsals, and making sure you have time for yourself (which is exercise for me) and some form of social life.”

Chan also gave a brief, but not-so-brief, rundown of her rehearsal schedule: “I have rehearsals for the Andrews University Wind Symphony on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 5:00 pm-6:15 pm and rehearsals for the Andrews University Symphony Orchestra from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. Besides these rehearsals, I have personal practice times in the Howard Performing Arts Center for one to two hours during weekdays to continue learning my repertoire. To handle this, I always make sure that I bring a bottle of water with me to practices to keep myself hydrated and

I always make sure to snack before and after rehearsals so that I do not become too fatigued. Moreover, I try to complete most of my homework during the day so I can focus more on rehearsals at night. I have a physical and mental schedule of what I would like to accomplish before rehearsals concerning schoolwork which helps me become more judicious with my time.”

I also asked Chan and Case if they recommend participating in the music programs at AU. Case says, “Since I'm a music education major instead of a performance major, I don't get the same weekly practice hours, but I make up for it in all my education classes that performance majors don't take. Also in music we do a lot of low/no credit stuff so I think a lot of people don't understand how busy we are. It can be hard sometimes, but I find it to be worth it or else I wouldn't still be doing it. I'm really excited about teaching music and a lot of my classes are so fascinating.”

Chan states, “While participating in any AU music ensembles can be difficult, it is important to know your motivations towards joining and dedicating your time. If you are a university student here, AU allows you to add an ensemble for one credit. This is especially helpful if you would like to take classes that could potentially increase your GPA, as the grading for ensembles is predominantly based on rehearsal and performance attendance and appropriate dress attire for performances.”

Chan goes on to say, “If you are curious about joining, please contact the music department and the conductors for the University Singers (the choir), Orchestra, and Wind Symphony. While it may sound like strenuous and time-consuming work, it is an excellent opportunity to meet people outside of your major who have a passion for creating music in a group environment.”

Case also gave this reassuring thought, “People tell me a lot that they don't think they're good enough to join, but honestly if you're willing to try and give your best, you'll be fine. Wind Symphony is fairly accommodating of lots of different ability levels. The majority in the group are not music majors. If not the Wind Symphony, maybe Orchestra is your thing. Definitely go for it if it's something you feel like you want to try. Music is so important and a good outlet for the stress of school and everything that's been going on since the pandemic started. It connects us to ourselves, others, and God, and I believe it's worth your time.”

Interviewing different people in the music department gave me a better idea of what music is like at AU, and I hope you can take some time to locate one of these students and hear about their experience in this unique and rewarding major.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Most Reluctant Convert

Reviewed by Scott Moncrieff 12.01.21



Photo by Public Domain

I saw “The Most Reluctant Convert” recently, the new movie about the life of the Christian apologist and literary scholar C. S. Lewis, perhaps best known for his “Chronicles of Narnia” series of children’s fantasy novels. This film is not a general biopic, but is specifically focused on the story of Lewis’s conversion from atheism to Christianity, mainly as detailed in his memoir “Surprised By Joy.”

The approach of the film—we’ll get to the spiritual content in a bit—is unusual and creative. The screenplay was based on a one-person play, which was written by the actor who plays the elder C. S. Lewis (Max McLean), and that format is partially carried over to this cinematic version, while simultaneously making many transformations to take advantage of the big screen.

The story starts with McClean, the actor, getting made up for his part, then

stepping into his role as C. S. Lewis. The storytelling goes back and forth between Lewis's narration as he ambles around Oxford, eating breakfast, having coffee, sharing mugs of a preferred beverage with you, the audience, as a convivial companion, and introducing vignettes of key moments in his life—including his mother's death when he was ten years old, his stormy relationship with his father, his time in the trenches of World War I, and education and early experiences at Oxford.

As someone who has read and taught C. S. Lewis over the years, I was familiar with most of the story outline and a number of lines from the film, which are lifted out of the Lewis oeuvre, but it was fascinating to see how the screenplay put these lines into specific dramatic contexts. It is no small feat to take written work and a rather wordy film and make it play well as a visual experience.

For me, it worked splendidly, since I already find Lewis a compelling figure, and magnetic as embodied in the jowly Max McLean, the very essence of C. S. Lewis. Imagine sitting down with a hot drink, snug in a little eatery, and listening while one of the great conversationalists of the world tells you his story. I could have hung around with him all day.

Turning to the spiritual aspect of the film, the “most reluctant convert” idea is pretty interesting, and as mentioned above Lewis worked it all out in “Surprised by Joy.” In short, Lewis grew up in a nominally Christian home, became a confirmed atheist by age fourteen, and converted to Christianity as a young Oxford professor at the end of his twenties. All he really wanted was to be “left alone” from a big spiritual commitment, and as an atheist he enjoyed his freedom very much.

However, his logical training “forced” him to examine the evidence as it came to him, and his experience of tastes of “joy” over the years, such as looking at the miniature garden his older brother made out of bits of flora, and his reading of George MacDonald's “Phantastes,” led him to believe there were pleasures that humans were made for that were not fully realizable on this earth. That led him to believe there must be something more that we were made for, a subject he also explores in “Pilgrim's Regress,” his adaptation of Bunyan's allegory to his personal experience.

In the end, as the film and “Surprised by Joy” depict it, Lewis was “forced” to

accept Christianity because the evidence for it, as he saw it, was too strong to deny. It's an amazing story and, from a Christian perspective, incredibly inspiring to think about how God seeks after the lost and can turn a confirmed atheist into a mighty Christian apologist. It's also just an interesting and creative film about an unusual human interest story. Hats off to director Norman Stone, Max MacLean, and all the others who made this film a possibility.

News

NEWS

AU Symphony Orchestra Presents "The Journey"

Caralynn Chan [12.01.21](#)



Photo by Darren Heslop

On November 19, at 8:00 pm, Andrews University students and friends occupied the Howard Performing Arts Center for "The Journey" Concert presented by the

diligent Andrews University Symphony Orchestra. Throughout this imaginative concert, a slideshow depicted various images that correlated with each piece.

The concert commenced with “Overture to Esther,” composed by the talented George Frideric Handel. This performance exhibited Baroque-style violin bowing, harp sections that mimicked the euphonious harpsichord, and oboe refrains that soared above the other phrases. Through the music, audience members viewed elaborately painted depictions of numerous characters in the biblical narrative of Esther.

Sofia Oudri (freshman, pre-physical therapy), a violist, remarked that while the concert had a lot of fun repertoire, the difficult part “...was figuring out a few difficult passages early on in the concert cycle. I always want to have fun and include more emotion because performances are usually more authentic when you enjoy what you are playing, and that was the case for this concert.”

The following pieces in this compelling concert cycle were exhilarating symphonic suites from the “Fellowship of the Ring” and the Two Towers movie adaptations “Lord of the Rings Trilogy.” The accompanying slideshow revealed various images from the franchise corresponding to different musical themes. Audience members were elated with the musical performance from the beloved franchise as it is renowned and cherished to this day.

Seung Yun Park (senior, speech-language pathology), an intrigued audience member at the concert that night, expressed her satisfaction with the performances. “The music they played at the concert was warm and gentle, so the atmosphere in the entire auditorium softened. I want to tell people to come to future orchestra concerts if they desire to feel the warmth in this cold winter.”

The final musical selection of the night was Duke Ellington, which was a striking and distinctive suite from “The River.” This outstanding performance featured a multitude of jazz influences and several movements that kept the audience at the edge of their seats. Concerning the slideshow, the audience was treated to stunning images of scenic bodies of water from the Greater Michigan area, which reminded them of the picturesque sights of the area.

Jamison Moore (senior, cello performance), declared that his favorite piece during this concert cycle was, “... Duke Ellington. It was nice to hear the orchestra playing music that falls more closely under the umbrella of the jazz genre. My experience

as a cellist in the orchestra has caused me to grow as a musician and made me appreciate and further cultivate my skill of sight-reading.”

If you are available and in the area, please come and support the Andrews University ensembles at their upcoming concerts. There will be a University Singers, Canta Bella, and Pioneer Men’s Chorus concert entitled “Welcome Christmas” on December 3, promising to be a magnificent treat. Also, there will be a Wind Symphony concert entitled “Joy to the Season,” which will be the enriching final ensemble concert of the 2021 season.

NEWS

Cybersecurity on Campus: What to Look Out For and What You Can Do

Abigail Lee [12.01.21](#)



Photo by Unsplash

It is not uncommon knowledge that here at Andrews University there have been many cybersecurity issues in the past. As time moves forward, all institutions must improve in order to keep up with technology that makes our life easier, including Andrews University, but that does not come without a price. We can see through

the digital scars from past breaches and the tools that we use today for privacy and prevention, that keeping our campus safe involves having protection that expands to the online realm too.

Like the recent blackout on November 19 and the subsequent issues with Lamson Hall's wi-fi afterward, many students are often aware of issues with the University's technology only when it directly impacts them. However, many of the actual problems which need to be fixed on campus are not as explicit. According to the Information and Technology Services Department (ITS), one of the biggest issues that they face on the Andrews University campus is "constantly working on ... cybersecurity threats to mitigate internal and external threats to critical data." An example of these threats appears in email inboxes everywhere as student job offers. Usually marked by exorbitant salaries and few legitimate details on the responsibilities for the job, these scams take advantage of students all over campus who are looking for work, and prey on students who may be lacking in digital literacy.

So what safeguards are currently in place for making sure the school stays safe? In ITS' statement for the Student Movement, they said, "Currently Andrews provides Active Directory Logins with DUO Two-Factor Authentication for students to access critical systems such as Self-Service, IVue, and Registration Central." While these different services and security systems can allow for students to not worry in general about the many dangers that exist online, it is still not enough. Personal responsibility is key in making sure you keep your own—and sometimes other people's—information safe. The ITS recommends that students can "pay attention to the communications they receive through social media, email, and texting for potential risk and threats to access of data" and to "keep strong passwords and be aware of the sites you access to ensure any data shared is not compromised."

If you are interested in learning more about cybersecurity on the Andrews University campus, check out the [ITS website](#), and to learn more about safe computing, check out [Safe Computing @ Andrews](#) for more information.

Ideas

IDEAS

The Complicated Case of Kyle Rittenhouse

Lyle Goulbourne [12.01.21](#)



Photo by Public Domain

When it comes to writing these opinion pieces, I typically choose topics that I want to learn about. The process of writing a well-defended opinion forces one to consult a large number of resources, and I always come out of the process having gained additional insight. The story of Kyle Rittenhouse has proven to be more convoluted than I admittedly expected, so I'll address some questions that I myself have answered throughout my writing process.

Research. But first, here's some background regarding the case:

1) Was Kyle Rittenhouse a White supremacist?

At trial, there was [no](#) evidence presented showing that at the time of the shooting Rittenhouse was involved with any White supremacist groups. Before the trial, Judge Schroeder dismissed motions made by the prosecution that they said linked Rittenhouse with the Proud Boys, a far-right group linked with political violence. The prosecution was referring to Rittenhouse posing with individuals flashing the “OK” sign months after the shooting, which the prosecution claimed was a symbol of White power (regarding this symbol, the Anti-Defamation League [notes](#) “particular care must be taken not to jump to conclusions about the intent behind someone who has used the gesture” given its complex history). The Judge stated “For me to let that in as evidence for a motive that existed four months earlier? Can’t see it.”

2) Was Rittenhouse a 17-year-old with no connections to Kenosha?

Rittenhouse has frequently been described as a 17-year-old who drove across state lines from Illinois to Wisconsin to get involved in a community that wasn’t his. However, Rittenhouse worked as a [lifeguard](#) in Kenosha, WI, home to his father, grandmother, aunt, uncle, and [cousins](#).

3) Did Rittenhouse drive across state lines with a gun the night of the shooting to oppose the protests?

His primary residence in Antioch, Illinois is 20 miles from Kenosha, Wisconsin. This is closer than we are to Mishawaka. Rittenhouse also [testified](#) under oath that he had traveled to Kenosha for his job the night before the shootings and was staying with a friend. Additionally, Rittenhouse testified that the gun never crossed state lines and stayed with a friend in Kenosha as Rittenhouse was too young to purchase the gun. Under Wisconsin Law, 17-year-olds are not allowed to carry rifles if they are short-barreled. As Rittenhouse’s rifle’s barrel was over the 16 inch minimum barrel length, the Judge dismissed the gun possession charge.

4) Was Rittenhouse out there that night looking for a fight?

Based on the evidence presented at trial, there’s no clear indication that Rittenhouse went there that night intending to kill anyone. What we know is that Rittenhouse came out that night with a first aid kit and an AR-15 style rifle. Video [evidence](#) and Rittenhouse’s own [testimony](#) indicate that he offered medical aid to protestors and ran with a fire extinguisher to put out fires, and only after he was pursued did he kill two and injure a third. There is drone [footage](#) of the first shooting and cellphone [footage](#) of the second and third shootings, which anyone

can watch, but they are violent in nature. Based on the videos, it does appear that Rittenhouse attempted to flee the situation at every opportunity and only shot at when confronted. During cross examination, the third person shot by Rittenhouse, Gaige Grosskreutz, [acknowledged](#) that Rittenhouse only shot him after Grosskreutz pointed his own gun at Rittenhouse, as he believed Rittenhouse was an active shooter and a threat.

5) Why was Rittenhouse originally being chased?

The second and third people who were shot by Rittenhouse believed he was an active shooter after learning that he had shot the first man, Joseph Rosenbaum. Rittenhouse shot Rosenbaum because he was being chased and cornered, as evidenced by [video](#) and his [testimony](#). So why was Rosenbaum chasing him in the first place? The morning that he was killed, Rosenbaum was released from a Milwaukee hospital after being admitted following a suicide [attempt](#). Ryan Balch, a witness for the prosecution, [testified](#) that Rosenbaum had been “hyperaggressive” and that he angrily threatened to kill any of those in Rittenhouse’s group if they were caught alone.

6) Would this verdict have happened if Rittenhouse was Black?

Many have stated they believe Rittenhouse would be found guilty if he was Black and not White. When looking at the data, one [study](#) analyzed how juries perceive self-defense and found that homicides with a White perpetrator and a Black victim are 10 times more likely to be ruled justified than cases with a Black perpetrator and a White victim. When accounting for confounding factors, i.e. whether the perpetrator and victim are strangers, cases with a White perpetrator and Black victim are 281% more likely to be ruled justified. So yes, it is much more likely that Rittenhouse would have been found guilty if he was Black. However, a systemic issue such as this cannot be put on trial. We cannot adjudicate systemic issues in a criminal court of one individual.

7) Should Kyle Rittenhouse have gone to Kenosha that day?

It’s hard to imagine why any teenager should have been walking around in the chaos that night with a semiautomatic rifle. Does this forfeit his right to self-defense? No. Especially given that he apparently ran at every opportunity to do so rather than engage and only shot when threatened. However, the question of whether Rittenhouse should have been there is not the same as whether he legally met the definition of self-defense. The acquittal of Kyle Rittenhouse doesn’t mean

that what he did was right or that he did nothing wrong; it only means that the jury didn't think that the prosecution proved Rittenhouse was not acting in self-defense beyond a reasonable doubt.

IDEAS

Why Is Everything Running Out?

Valerie Akinyi 12.01.21



Photo by William William (Unsplash)

Across the county, many businesses have begun posting notices to inform their customers that some products, from Chick-Fil-A sauce, diapers, cars, and electronics to name a few, are in limited supply due to supply chain issues. But how and why exactly is the supply chain issue impacting almost every facet of American life? And what does this mean for the holiday season and upcoming year?

At the onset of the pandemic in March of 2020, as millions sheltered in place and began working from home, spending habits drastically changed as many sought escapism in the form of online shopping. Money that had once been allocated for discretionary spending in the form of in-person experiences was redirected to home remodeling efforts, electronics, and particular food items.

At the same time as this was happening, the world's manufacturing hubs (China, South Korea, Vietnam, and Germany), were amongst the hardest hit and the ones with the strictest lockdown restrictions, which resulted in factory production either grinding to an indefinite halt or drastically reducing production. In an effort to adapt to the global emergencies, shipping container and trucking companies and ports implemented safety and quarantine measures for their workers. They also began unloading previously-filled containers to prioritize the transportation of protective gear to certain parts of the world (West Africa and South Asia) that are not normally known to send shipping containers back to [China](#). This action inadvertently caused a logistical nightmare when manufacturers resumed production in an attempt to meet consumer demand and had no shipping containers in which to put the finished goods. And when they did, some shipping liners had to reroute when the container ship Ever Given got stuck in the Suez Canal in early [March](#).

The strain of the global supply chain has been growing since the beginning of the pandemic, but has only recently become apparent and felt by most consumers because of the rising prices of goods. Many consumers already under financial stress have asked the question, "why didn't factories just produce more goods?" The short answer is globalism—oftentimes a product that is assembled in one part of the world requires parts made in other countries. Many nationally operated businesses, in preparation for the holiday season, attempted to order their goods earlier and to stock up on supplies—companies mirroring the panic-buying behavior of consumers which resulted in outages of toilet paper.

In an effort to alleviate the rising financial toll on both businesses and consumers, President Biden announced plans to expand the hours of operation for two of the country's busiest ports, Los Angeles and Long Beach, and entered talks with dock workers unions and the nation's largest retailers and shipping companies for assistance in moving [product](#). In addition, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach began issuing \$100 "[Container Dwell Fees](#)"—fines to shipping carriers if they did not move their cargo within 6-9 days.

While the above steps are short-term effective efforts that have helped move consumer goods, many have stressed that the current supply chain issues the country is experiencing are due to the aged supply chain system infrastructure that needs immediate attention. More long-term solutions have been proposed, and some are included in the recently passed infrastructure bill which allocated upwards of \$17 billion to update the national supply chain by modernizing ports

and marine highways, deepening harbors for larger cargo ships, and updating the inspection facilities [systems](#).

It is important to note that the current supply chain issues are a result of a breakdown in the logistical transportation of goods and materials. It is inaccurate to solely blame supply chain issues on the pandemic, as many have pointed out. There is no telling how long the supply chain issues will persist, but as the holiday season quickly approaches, expect that some of the things on your shopping list might not be available or might be more expensive than you remember.

Pulse

PULSE

Christmas Movies

Wambui Karanja 12.01.21



Photo by Public Domain

There is nothing like a fun, cheesy Christmas movie to get me in the holiday spirit. Whether it's a film focused on the treasure of family at Christmastime or the shenanigans of a holiday romance, Christmas movies are always enjoyable. Listed below are some of my favorite holiday films—both old classics and new picks—to watch this season. Enjoy!

“Home Alone”

For many people including myself, the phrases “Christmastime” and “Home Alone” are synonymous with each other. The original “Home Alone” (1990) starring Macaulay Culkin as Kevin McCallister is a classic. When eight-year-old Kevin is accidentally left at home as his family rushes off for Christmas vacation, two dimwitted burglars seize the opportunity to break into the seemingly unprotected house. Kevin, in turn, gives them a warm welcome to his home—which he has rigged with all manner of booby traps. The film features hilarious slapstick comedy and highlights the importance of family. It is definitely a must-see.

“A Christmas Prince” trilogy

When I think of a typical Christmas romantic comedy—cheesy but charming—I think of movies like “A Christmas Prince” (2017). What is exciting about this film is that it comes with three times the cheesiness and charm because it is a trilogy! In the first movie, news reporter Amber goes undercover at the Aldovian royal family's castle to get the inside scoop on the playboy prince who is destined to become king. Instead, she ends up finding love, and the adventures of her new-found royal love continue with the sequels “A Christmas Prince: The Royal Wedding” (2018) and “A Christmas Prince: The Royal Baby” (2019).

“This Christmas”

Watching “This Christmas” (2007) is a fantastic way to usher in the holiday season in a way that will let you experience all the feels of Christmastime. The movie features many notable stars, including Idris Elba and Chris Brown. The plot is a heartwarming story of a family returning to their childhood home for a Christmas together after years of being apart. This film is filled with laughs, drama, and intimate, heart-felt moments. Fun fact: I actually started my Christmas season movie marathon this year with “This Christmas” and it was a great choice; 9/10 highly recommended.

“The Princess Switch”

“The Princess Switch” (2018) contains all the elements of a classic cheesy, feel-

good Christmas movie. One week before Christmas, an ordinary baker switches places with a duchess who wants to experience life as a normal girl. While the two are switched, the baker falls in love with the duchess's fiance and the duchess falls in love with the baker's best friend. This film is a fun, lighthearted, and cozy viewing experience.

“The Santa Clause”

“The Santa Clause” (1994) is a movie I used to watch every year at Christmastime with my family. We would cuddle up in warm blankets, gather whatever snacks and warm drinks we needed, and enjoy the family classic. The film features Scott Calvin (portrayed by Tim Allen), an ordinary man who accidentally kills Santa Clause on Christmas Eve. Soon after, Scott and his son Charlie are transported to the North Pole where they are informed that Scott must take Santa's place before the next Christmas. The movie unfolds with Scott and Charlie trying to convince people that he actually is Santa, which is both frustrating and hilarious.

PULSE

Easy Dorm Recipes

Izzy Koh [12.01.21](#)



Photo by Public Domain

It can be hard to come back to school after a Thanksgiving filled with amazing friends, family, and delicious food. There's nothing that can quite match a home-

cooked meal, and sometimes cafe food (or Baguette and Taco Bell) just doesn't quite cut it.

As finals season approaches, it's easy to fall back on Pop-Tarts and Cheetos while hunkering down over class notes in an increasingly messy room. Luckily, there are some quick and inventive ways to craft meals right in your dorm (or in the dorm kitchen, if you're feeling adventurous). They may not quite measure up to Thanksgiving dinner, but they're great ways to eat something fulfilling and fueling without having to venture out into the cold winter weather.

Breakfast can be a hard meal to motivate yourself to make, but when studying for tests or gearing up for projects, it may be one of the most important components of your day. Thankfully, there are a lot of fun, accessible options available.

Yogurt and Granola

The Gazebo offers some quick and easy granola/yogurt combos, but this particular dish provides a lot of opportunity for variety. Combine your favorite flavor of yogurt with a granola of your choice (my favorite types have chocolate chips in them), and add in some sliced fruit for a great way to start your morning.

Cinnamon Maple Quinoa Breakfast Bowl

As an alternative to cereal or oatmeal, [Lauren's Latest](#) offers a simple, microwave-made breakfast bowl. It's made out of quinoa, cinnamon, butter, milk, maple syrup and banana slices, and only takes about ten minutes total to make.

Breakfast Wrap

If you've ever been inspired to make your own breakfast burrito or wrap, [Gizem Yetim](#) has created an easy, low-carb and low-fat option. This particular recipe will require a stove, so the dorm kitchen might be the best place to make this one, but all it requires is a tortilla, milk, eggs, bell pepper and sour cream.

Noodles! If you're lucky enough to have a stove, or if you're up for using the dorm kitchen, pasta (of all kinds) is a great dish to share with friends. Cooking pasta is a great way to take a break from your studies and it's not difficult to throw together in a short amount of time.

Ramen

Yes, ramen is a pretty generic dorm food, but there are a lot of fun ways to spice it up and make it a meal. Add in some egg, seaweed, green onion, peas and/or mushrooms (or other vegetables that sound good), and it becomes filling and much

more flavorful. [Epicurious](#) has a great post that lists different things you can add to your ramen to add that extra flourish.

Udon

The New Berrien Springs Oriental Supermarket sells varieties of [udon](#) (chewy, Japanese noodles served in a broth). Both filling and delicious, they are easy to cook when found in their pre-packaged form. They have a similar serving style to Ramen, and can be flourished and flavored in a variety of ways.

Mac n' Cheese

Mac n' cheese is one of my favorite dishes, so I might be a bit biased, but thanks to that fact, I've found many ways to make it in my dorm. If you're needing a quick meal, microwavable cups can be found at the Gazebo. Alternatively, boxed noodles can be boiled in the microwave if you're pressed for time, (though they are best cooked over the stove). You can also cook the noodles with real cheese and add in a bit of mustard for some extra flavor.

Rice dishes are a great way to introduce variety to a simple recipe. Whether you have a rice cooker or not (you can buy varieties of microwavable instant rice on [Amazon](#)), there's an array of ways to enjoy a rice-based meal. You can use it as a base or side for a main dish, or can utilize it as the main component of your dinner. Either way, it makes for a fulfilling meal.

Rice Bowls

[Love & Lemons](#) has compiled a great list of different types of rice bowls, each with a different flavor profile, depending on your mood. They don't all have to be fancy (I recommend stocking up on some extra vegetables from the cafeteria if you're ever taking out a meal and using them here). Adding some seaweed, furikake (rice seasoning), vegetables, egg and tofu to your rice can make for the perfect stay-in supper.

Mug recipes can be made with just your coffee mug and a microwave, making them incredibly convenient if you're wanting a full meal in a fraction of the time. There are hundreds of interesting recipes online, but I've compiled a few here that sounded intriguing to me.

Quiche

[Bowl of Delicious](#) has a great recipe for a five minute spinach and cheddar microwave quiche. All it takes is some frozen spinach, egg, shredded cheddar, milk, salt and pepper, and you're on your way.

Blueberry Muffin

This recipe from [Kirbie's Cravings](#) is a bit more complex, but if you're down for doing some quick baking, you'll need some flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, milk, vegetable oil, and blueberries. The streusel topping, which is made from butter, flour, sugar and cinnamon, makes this the perfect breakfast or snack treat.

Pizza

[Spoon University](#) has crafted a unique pizza-in-a-mug. All it takes is some flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, milk, olive oil, marinara sauce, and cheese. If you're looking for a vegan option, [vgnbites](#) has created just the thing for you.

There are times when the craving for something sweet hits, but there just isn't enough time to bake a tray of cookies. These recipes provide some simple ways to reward yourself for a long night of studying or to give yourself an excuse to take a break to share with your friends.

Greek Yogurt Chocolate Truffles

The website [allwomenstalk](#) has a great collection of healthy, tasty dorm food options. Their truffles are made out of greek yogurt, cocoa powder, skim milk, egg yolks and sweetener. Once rolled into balls and left in the fridge, they can be topped with sprinkles and chocolate chunks for the perfect after-dinner treat.

College Dorm Cookies

This is a vegan, no-bake option from [At Home with Shay](#). You'll need some cooking oats, creamer, sugar, chocolate chips and peanut butter, and the cookies are made with a microwave and a fridge - something both simple and fun to share!

Microwave Rice Krispies Treats

[Dorm Room Cook](#) has dozens of delicious foods to check out, but this particular recipe simply requires Rice Krispies Treats, marshmallows, butter and a microwave. They recommend topping with some chocolate chips, nuts, or a caramel drizzle to spice up the dessert.

Dorm life isn't always the easiest, but it does provide the opportunity to try new things, including unconventional ways of cooking. I'd encourage you to try something new and to pull your friends into doing it with you (just don't set off the fire alarm!) Study breaks are encouraged, and it helps if you have something delicious to show for your efforts. Happy cooking!

The Last Word

THE LAST WORD

Baby Pigeons and Government Deception

Alyssa Henriquez 12.01.21



Photo by Public Domain

“Okay, but, have you ever seen a baby pigeon?” said a friend to me last summer. This was, of course, a reference to the conspiracy theory that birds are engineered by the government to spy on humans. Although the comment was made in jest, I hadn’t seen a baby pigeon before, so I still took the time to google a picture.

The [birds](#) were ugly. They had shriveled skin, bulging eyes, and matted tufts of yellow feathers on their heads. Even worse, their technical name was “squab.” As I sifted through the photos of wrinkled pigeons, I smiled at the incredulity of this conspiracy theory. The Birds Aren’t Real movement was [developed](#) in 2017 by Peter McIndoe, an English and Philosophy major from Tennessee. And although it may sound like a genuine [conspiracy](#) against birds, McIndoe’s movement is actually a thinly-veiled act of parody.

The Birds Aren't Real movement claims that 12 billion birds were murdered by the CIA and replaced with hyper-realistic robots that are used to spy on Americans. In a sarcastic [Instagram video](#), McIndoe calls out the "sheeple" who can't face the truth as he runs down the side of a road in a shirt that says "I am a lie" with a pigeon printed on the back. The phrases that spill out of McIndoe's mouth—"face the sheeple," "freedom of speech," "Did Hillary send you?"—are eerily similar to those of genuine political activists. If his words weren't coupled with such eccentric actions—running down the side of the road or dancing with a sign that says "Make Love, Not Birds"—they could very well pass for genuine snippets from a [Jordan Klepper](#) segment on The Daily Show.

As multiple news outlets have noted, McIndoe won't state outright that Birds Aren't Real is a parodic movement. What he will do is share colorful activism merchandise on his site, [birdsarentreal.com](#), and continue to release sarcastic videos on an [Instagram](#) account with more than 342,000 followers.

McIndoe's movement pervaded society so much that it even found its way into my basement in 2019, as I held a casual painting night with friends. While I sketched out a pair of koi fish, two of my friends crafted sunset pictures with "The Birds Work for the Bourgeoisie" written across the sky in thick black paint. This particular phrase was based on a 2019 video by [Kendrick Smith](#) from the University of Missouri, who suggests that Ronald Reagan killed all of the birds in 1986. In this video, McIndoe's ironic statements tangle with Marxism to produce a viral soundbite that resonates with viewers all over the country.

What is so captivating about McIndoe's movement? What causes people to purchase "[If it flies, it spies](#)," shirts or paint "The Birds Work for the Bourgeoisie" on a random summer night? Maybe it's because, in a country that increasingly grapples with [post-truth](#) movements, McIndoe's "conspiracy theory" helps us comically ground ourselves in reality.

In a world where Alex Jones spouts claims that the Sandy Hook shooting, which killed 20 first graders, was a government-orchestrated ploy to strip Americans of their gun rights, society is marred by people who actively combat truth. This attitude extends from gruff figures like Jones to the comparatively sweet-toned Kellyanne Conway, who made headlines with her usage of the phrase "alternative facts" in a 2017 interview.

Outside of explicitly political circles, post-truth sentiments pervade events such as the 2018 Flat Earth International Conference, where attendees combat years of

scientific evidence in their quest to disprove the idea of a spherical earth. And countless other inflammatory claims exist, such as “Bush did 9/11,” “the moon landing was fake,” or the idea that prominent Democrats ran a [sex-trafficking](#) ring. Suffice it to say that numerous mainstream conspiracies have circulated in the past several decades, and they stem from a variety of sources.

In an interview for the American Psychological Association, Dr. Karen Douglas illuminates some of the reasoning behind conspiracy theories. “Believing in conspiracy theories and being suspicious about the actions of others is in some ways quite an adaptive thing to do. We don’t necessarily want to trust everybody and trust everything that’s around us,” she says. Essentially, the human tendency to question and distrust authority may stem from an adaptive mechanism to keep us safe.

Douglas continues to detail three primary motivations—[epistemic, existential, and social](#)—that motivate humans to believe in conspiracies. I find the social motivation particularly resonant, which rests on the idea that people “like to feel good about themselves. And potentially one way of doing that is to feel that you have access to information that other people don’t necessarily have.” Whatever the motivation for these theories, the bottom line is that they are not rooted in fact. And so, as entertaining as the less-consequential ones are to hear, their presence exposes the dark, anti-intellectual underbelly of human society.

Oftentimes, it is difficult to converse with people who believe in these theories. When one’s beliefs are not rooted in empirical evidence but stem from haphazard inclinations, no amount of data will bring them back to earth. It is in these moments that I find McIndoe’s *Birds Aren’t Real* movement particularly striking. What better way to display the illegitimacy of these movements than to model them in real-time—to copy their rhetoric but twist it ever-so-slightly to expose their festering hypocrisy?

Overall, McIndoe’s work is nothing short of a masterpiece, and one that lifts us comically away from the chaos of a post-truth society.