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Student Movement

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## The Student Movement Volume 107 Issue 1: We're Back: Andrews Begins First "Post-Covid" School Year

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## We're Back:

### ANDREWS BEGINS FIRST "POST-COVID" SCHOOL YEAR



Photo by Kayla-Hope Bruno

# Humans

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## HUMANS

# Interview of NEST performer: Sandrine Adap

Interviewed by: Nora Martin [09.15.22](#)



Photo by Photo by Sandrine Adap

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*I sat down this week with Sandrine Adap (junior, computer science and math studies) to talk about the NEST event that happened last week.*

**So you performed this week at NEST! What did you perform and why did you choose that song?**

We sang “I Just Called to Say I Love You,” by Stevie Wonder, with a spin to it: we added “She Was Mine,” by AJ Rafael, near the end. We chose the first song because

we wanted kind of a chill, old-school song for a nostalgic kind of vibe, and ended up adding “She Was Mine” sort of by accident. We were just playing around with it, and we ended up finding that the AJ Rafael song works out really well! Also we’re Filipino, and so is AJ Rafael, so we liked that his song added a little spice to it.

**You sang with your cousins, right?**

Yes! Me and my cousin, Chloe, have been singing together since we could talk. I started singing with my younger cousin, Caitlin, a little bit later. I really love singing with her because our voices are really similar in tone.

Tell me a little bit more about your relationship with music.

I think a lot of my music can be credited to three main things: first off, my parents – mostly my dad – have always really been into music. He went to Andrews and was a part of the praise team, played a lot of guitar, that kind of thing. Second off, I watched a lot of musical TV shows growing up and sort of fell in love with music from watching the characters there. The third thing would be church; my parents let me use my music in front of church pretty often and I got to practice there a lot.

**It sounds like you have some experience performing with crowds, have you ever performed in front of a crowd that was as big as the one at NEST?**

I did take piano and voice lessons before I was fifteen, so I have done some recitals. They were pretty large – the teacher had something around 100 students, so I performed for them and their families.

**Do you write music as well?**

I do! Sometimes I need a way to process my emotions in a way that doesn’t involve talking about it, and having my feelings written out in music lets me do that without putting it on anybody.

**What is the relationship between the music you’re writing versus the lyrics you're writing?**

I generally write lyrics first, and then I write the tune based off of the lyrics of the music. Since I usually write music when I’m trying to process emotions, the melodies tend to be more mellow or soft. But I do have some songs that I wrote to try to encourage myself, and so they ended up being more upbeat.

**How did you feel about this last performance?**

I was really excited for it, and I was really looking forward to what my cousins put together. It was also really nerve-racking, though, because performing in front of

strangers is different from performing in front of people you know. It was also hard because I was playing the guitar at the same time, but it was fun! I like the thrill of performing.

**If you were to give tips to someone who was just starting out and interested in writing music or performing, what would you tell them?**

I think the first thing I would tell them is to do what is true for you. Myself, for example: I write to process my emotions. That means that I don't always show my music off to an audience, and that's okay, because that's what makes me happy. If someone wants to show their music off to an audience, then go ahead! Just be true to yourself and do what you like. Second off, listen to different types of music. There's a lot of stuff you can learn from different styles, genres, and that kind thing. Listen to yourself, listen to music, and listen to other people. There are a lot of really talented people on this campus, and I know that I have learned a lot of things from people on the campus – mostly guitar techniques – and it has helped me a lot.

## HUMANS

# Meet Helena Hilton!

Interviewed by: Nora Martin [09.15.22](#)



Photo by Photo by Helena Hilton

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*I sat down this week with Helena Hilton (freshman, explore Andrews) to talk about her first few weeks of college.*

**How have the first few weeks of school been for you?**

They've been pretty fast-paced. A lot more work than high school. It's definitely doable, though, so just don't get behind.

**Is that the main difference between your college and high school experience?**

**The pace?**

In high school there were a lot of things you could wait until the last minute to do and you would still be fine, like, get a good grade fine. Here, there's so many things you have to do, especially with all of the different classes, so you can't really procrastinate.

**How has the adjustment been, academically, from high school to college?**

I'm struggling a little bit, but I think that it will get better when I get the rhythm down pat. In high school I was a little more prone to procrastination, so that's an adjustment.

**I remember that I had to learn really quickly how to study, since that's not something I was really taught in high school. Do you feel like you're having a similar experience?**

Yeah. I mean, in high school you have a vague idea of "read your textbook" but nobody really does that, because you're taught the exact same stuff in class anyways. But here, there are some classes where they go over the information as if you know about it already. So you really have to stay on top of it.

**What are you most excited about regarding the upcoming college experience?**

I guess, finding myself? And gaining more experiences outside of my comfort zone. I don't know, I feel like I was living in kind of a bubble before.

**What are some highlights and lowlights of your last few weeks?**

Biology [Foundations of Biology] for sure. It's definitely pretty difficult, and I had heard before that it's a weeder class – I think that's a really good thing because it helps people figure out whether they really have an interest in it. I think it really helped me decide that that's not where I want to be. Highlights? Meeting new

friends and meeting people in general. Soccer, too. I'm definitely not the greatest at it and I'm still learning but it's been a fun experience.

**What do you like the least about the college experience?**

The area is kind of really bland. There's a lot of people, but there's not a lot of things close-by and accessible. You have to drive if you want to go anywhere, and that's inconvenient.

**On a one to ten scale, how would you rate your college experience so far?**

Hm. Maybe seven? I guess somewhere in between a six and a seven. I've definitely been able to experience more things here than in high school. There are a lot of things to do where I am from, but I lived pretty far away from the general area of where my friends lived, so I wasn't able to do a lot of fun things after school. Now that I'm on campus pretty often, I'm able to see people and go to events more.

## HUMANS

# Meet Aya Pagunsan, AUSA President

Interviewed by: Lauren Kim [09.15.22](#)



Photo by Photo by Aya Pangusan



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*I spoke to Aya Pagunsan (senior, nursing) this week, the new AUSA president for this school year, to ask about her role as president and the student government's plans for the future.*

**Why did you decide to run for AUSA president this year?**

I was honestly so scared to run for this position because it is a lot of responsibility and time. I saw how much the student body needed an individual that would speak up for them and support them, especially after Covid year. I wanted to bring the student body back together and let them know that they are being supported on this campus. I wanted them to know this year that they have someone advocating for them, someone that is excited about their accomplishments, and someone who is praying for them every day.

**What is your job as the president? What roles do you specifically handle?**

As president, I lead my team out to make changes on this campus. I am the spokesperson and liaison for the students to the faculty. I also assist my team if they need any help. The roles I handle are being the main representative for the undergraduate student body, supporting my team with anything, and finding new ways to connect with the student body.

**What are your plans for this year's AUSA events?**

The plan is to make students feel connected to each other and bring back school spirit. Covid-19 has definitely caused stress in students since we were so used to social distancing and having a limited number of students come to events. We want students to come and to know that these events are for everyone! We want students to walk away with new memories and friends.

**Is there a specific event you are excited about this year? Why this event?**

The event I'm most excited about is AUnited Weekend. This illustrates our school's diversity and inclusion and also brings together so many clubs! We are able to showcase and appreciate each other's cultures. In addition, I get so excited to see how many people are able to participate and how happy they are to represent their culture.

**What are some favorite memories you have from being a part of AUSA (even as an attendant of AUSA events)?**

There are so many events that I enjoyed from AUSA. One of my favorite memories is our AUSA Retreat, the Talent Show from 2019, and just getting to meet so many

people at all the events! It's allowed me to connect with others and enjoy the social gatherings.

**What advice would you give to those wanting to pursue a presidential role?**

Don't second guess your abilities or your team. It is so easy to do things on your own and also to doubt the skills you already have. I wouldn't have been able to step into this role without people cheering me on and a strong team who supports my ideas.

**Do you have any goals for the organization this year? What is your vision for AUSA?**

AUSA will be heard and seen. I want students to look at the student association and say, "They were there for me this year." I truly believe that small actions build up to create a big impact. I want AUSA to support students in their studies, their accomplishments, and their spiritual well-being.

## Arts & Entertainment

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### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Currently...

Solana Campbell [09.15.22](#)

Hi guys! And welcome to your weekly column of new media, brought to the Andrews University students by yours truly, Arts & Entertainment editor Solana Campbell. The following is a list of brand new music, movies, books, and TV to consume. So next time you're aimlessly scrolling through Netflix looking for a new show to be obsessed with or hankering for a new favorite album to jam to, look no further than Currently... a brand-new weekly column from the Student Movement to help you waste less time :)

### Movies

[Bullet Train](#)

A new August release only in theaters, “Bullet Train” hails from director David Leitch, most notable for action-packed comedic hits like “Deadpool 2” and “Hobbs & Shaw.” Starring Brad Pitt, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, and Bryan Tyree Henry, as well as Bad Bunny’s first time in a major role on-screen, the film is packed with great stunts and fight choreography, excellent comedic breaks, and has potential for a meaningful storyline. Catch it in Niles’ Wonderland Cinema for only \$5!

### [See How They Run](#)

Do you love the thrilling Netflix whodunit “Knives Out”? Did you catch the Gal Gadot-starring Agatha Christie- remake “Death on the Nile” in February? If you love a good Victorian mystery, you’ll love this Saoirse Ronan and Sam Rockwell extravaganza from director Tom George! See it in your local theaters tomorrow, September 16.

### [The Invitation](#)

Released on August 26, “The Invitation” is an American supernatural horror film that darkly echoes Francis Ford Coppola’s iconic hit “Dracula.” That’s right, folks, this is a vampire movie. The film stars Thomas Doherty and Nathalie Emmanuel as the titular characters, and promises lots of jumpscare and vampire-appropriate fashion choices. It’s also directed by a woman: Jessica M. Thompson. Check it out for lots of feminist, fashionable, scary fun. See it in your local theater as soon as possible.

### [The Woman King](#)

Already promising Oscar nominations for this film’s powerful lead, Viola Davis, “The Woman King” opens in theaters this Friday, September 16, and is definitely a must-watch. The film tells the story of the Ajojie, an all-female warrior unit that protected the West African kingdom of Dahomey in the 19th century. It promises to be ground-breaking, inspiring, and full of fantastic action moments all in one swing. Catch it in theaters this Friday!

## **TV Shows**

### [She-Hulk](#)

Are you really a true Marvel fan if you don’t painstakingly consume every piece of content they put out? I don’t know about y’all, but I’ve gotten to the point that there’s so much new Marvel content, I can’t keep up. I’m still trying to get through

“Ms. Marvel”, but, you know, ya girl’s a college student. Either way, “She-Hulk” belongs on this list! Episode 5 dropped literally last night at midnight, and you’re totally missing out on all the cultural commentary if you aren’t tuning in. So if you’re like me, and you’ve forgotten which Phase we’re in, take a moment to play catch-up and stream some quality episodes of Marvel’s “She-Hulk”.

### [House of the Dragon](#)

Is this even a list of current faves if I’m not naming the long-awaited Game of Thrones prequel, “House of the Dragon”? Ever since GOT absolutely bombed their finale (please tell me that’s something we can all agree on), fans have been waiting expectantly for another chance to jaunt into Westeros. And “House of the Dragon” delivers. Unlike everything on this list, I have caught up on the four episodes of this show, and what can I say, I highly recommend. Check this one out Sundays on HBO Max.

## **Music**

### ["Born Pink"; Blackpink](#)

If you’re anything like me, you were immediately enthralled by Blackpink’s light pop sound and penchant for making hits that can’t get out of your head. And tonight at midnight, you’ll have the chance to listen to a whole new collection of hits. They’ve already released the catchy single “Pink Venom”, entralling their fans with a performance (and win) at the 2022 VMA’s. Stream in Spotify by clicking the link above.

### ["LEGEND"; John Legend](#)

Aside from the fact the name is a little kitschy, John Legend, icon extraordinaire and EGOT winner (that’s an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony, folks), has finally released a new album. “LEGEND” is a 24-song R&B delight (at least, according to Twitter) that you have to at least check out. The album features everyone from Saweetie to Jhene Aiko, and three songs were co-written/produced with Pink Sweat\$. The album is smooth, soft, and sexy, bringing us back to the OG sound of Legend’s famed hit “All of Me.” Stream in Spotify by clicking the link above.

### ["Hold the Girl"; Rina Sawayama](#)

Rina’s new album, which releases tomorrow: Friday, September 16 on all platforms, already promises a change and growth in her voice as a musical artist.

She moves toward a more pop-rock sound and away from her alternative-pop sound, while still staying true to her edgy roots with the album's title single "Hold the Girl." Her album promises deeply personal lyrics and explores the darker themes of her life, while trying to be raw, honest, and vulnerable. Stream tomorrow.

### ["Persephone"; Ashtenn](#)

It might seem a little unfair to put this personal of a pick on Currently... but what can I say, a little promotion doesn't do any harm. Ashtenn, a new artist on the scene (who is also a friend of mine), released the alternative, smoky, girl-anthem Persephone two weeks ago on Friday, September 2. The lyrics and tone have a spiritual essence to them, and the notes of the sitar combined with her haunting melody give the song a hazy effect, like you're experiencing something instead of just listening to it. If you love alternative indie and strong melodics, check this one out.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Film and a Fling

Jonathon Woolford-Hunt 09.15.22



Photo by Photo by Henrique Ferreira on Unsplash

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Each year, the Venice Film Festival brings together actors from all over the world to celebrate all the standout films of the year as well as the brilliant acting that took place in them.

This year the festival took place on August 31 - September 10. With such a large event there was bound to be drama, and I am here to break down all of the tears, laughter, and joy that happened at the festival this year.

To start us out let's talk about Brendan Fraser. You may know him from "The Mummy" trilogy and "George of the Jungle" from Disney. He was a breakout star in the early 2000's but as of 2013, he was given smaller roles. The film that brought him back to the big screen is called "The Whale." It stars him alongside Sadie Sink (Max in "Stranger Things"). This movie follows Fraser as a 600-pound gay man who wants to reconnect with his estranged 17-year old daughter. After the movie was played, Fraser got a 6-minute standing ovation which he cried through. We are so happy to see this icon receive the recognition that he deserves. You can see the movie in theaters on December 9, 2022!

Many of you might have heard of this next movie. The excitement surrounding "Don't Worry Darling" is contagious. From the beginning, this film was full of drama: from the script, to the actors, to the director. Let's start with the budding romance behind the scenes. In September 2020, people speculated that the director Olivia Wilde and Harry Styles were romantically involved. This created controversy amongst her fans because Olivia Wilde had not yet publicly split up from her husband of 10 years.. During the film festival, however, both

Styles and Wilde seemed to not talk or associate with each other—many critics think that they might be on a break.

Before Harry Styles was cast as the main actor, Shia Labeouf was the main actor. When rumors started that he was fired from the movie set, Olivia Wilde had this to say to Variety, “His process was not conducive to the ethos that I demand in my productions. He has a process that, in some ways, seems to require a combative energy, and I don’t personally believe that is conducive to the best performances.” However, soon after this story hit the newsstands, Labeouf came with the time. He claimed that he left because he had issues with the script and scheduling conflicts. Main actress Florence Pugh also shared texts exchanged by the two actors stating that he left because the script was a mess.

The biggest piece of drama that is rumored is between Florence and Olivia. Pugh and Wilde had personal and professional issues on and off set. First, Florence did not like the fact that she was paid significantly less than Styles even though she is the main actress. She has more acting experience than Styles and she is on screen far more than he is. The next issue that she had was that when Wilde and Styles first got involved, Wilde and her husband were legally still together. Florence did not agree with that. There was a lot of tension between the two and it ended up that Florence did not do any press for the movie, and the only thing she agreed to do was walk the carpet with all the actors. With all the drama surrounding this film and the actors within them the only real way to see this first hand is to watch it unfold when the movie “Don't Worry Darling” comes out in theaters September 23.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Fleabag: Simply Human

Lily Rodriguez [09.15.22](#)



Photo by Wikimedia Commons

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To be honest, I spend the majority of my free time on TikTok. My attention span? It's three minutes on a good day. During one of my endless scrolling sessions, I happened to come across the recommendation for "Fleabag," a British comedy that came out in the last good year: 2016. Written by Phoebe Waller-Bridge, "Fleabag" is available to stream on Amazon Prime Video and was rated 3.5 or more stars on Rotten Tomatoes. Therefore, I had to watch it.

As you watch the first season, you notice that the main character, Fleabag, narrates her life to us, the audience. You also notice that she is never called by her actual name—she is only called Fleabag, which has its own messy connotations. The main difference between this show and other shows is that Fleabag often breaks the fourth wall, allowing us insight into each situation. No one recognizes when she does these narratives until season 2, episode 1. After a year of no contact with her family, she's at a family dinner celebrating her father's upcoming wedding. At the table sits her father, his fiancée, her sister, her brother-in-law, and the priest who is in charge of the wedding. Her family is shocked at the amount of maturity Fleabag has undergone, but instead of praising her, they question her. During the dinner, those at the table constantly attack and belittle her (with the exception of the priest). And he's not your normal priest either—he truly sees her when no one else



does. It's a simple episode in a simple setting, but seeing a simple man break this fourth wall, we witness someone truly acknowledging her for who she truly is. The whole dinner is a disaster. The family setting is messy and full of drama, and it's all so raw. Who doesn't have their share of family drama? Slowly, you begin to see the deeper meaning behind this particular episode. The priest heard Fleabag when no one else did. And comparing it to season 1, as the audience, you're a bit shocked. Awestruck. Amazed. You can't get enough. And you're caught up in the show—late night binging, losing sleep to finish the show (while your unfinished assignments are piling up). Will she fall for him? Can she fall for him? He's a priest?! But that's just the beginning of something beautiful.

The show is so transparent, so human, and you can't help but be dragged along on her life's emotional roller coaster. You empathize and relate to the complexity of Fleabag's inner nature, and maybe you see the complexity of your own. The show deals with real life problems in a comedic way, which sums up this generation. It's been a few weeks since I finished the show, and a part of me can't let it go. So watch the show, embrace the awkward. Grieve with Fleabag. Laugh, cry, cringe. But mostly, just let yourself be human along with this flawed, complex character.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Summer Rewind

Ysabelle Fernando 09.15.22



Photo by Graphs by Solana Campbell and collage by Kayla-Hope Bruno

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As we bid the summer goodbye, let's take a look back on all the good music, movies, and TV shows we got to enjoy. Here are a couple of favorites from your fellow Andrews University students.

“Harry’s House” has claimed its crown as the album of the summer.

“Stranger Things” seems to be the favorite show of the summer.

“Top Gun: Maverick” has soared its way to the top for movie of the summer.

You can find the playlist to these favorite albums on Spotify as ["The AUSM: Summer Rewind"](#)

**Hannah Venn (senior, animal science)**

Album: “Harry’s House” by Harry Styles

TV Show: “Umbrella Academy”

Movie: “Thor: Love and Thunder”

**Leo Fernando (senior, nursing)**

Album: “Jamie” by Montell Fish

TV Show: “The Terminal List”

Movie: “Minions: Rise of Gru”

**George Isaac (sophomore, biology)**

Album: “Mama’s Boy” by LANY

TV Show: “Friends”

Movie: “Elvis”

**Taehyun Lee (senior, biology)**

Album: “WHO CARES?” by Rex Orange County

TV Show: “Jojo’s Bizarre Adventure”

Movie: “Elvis”

**Steffanie Newkirk (senior, elementary education)**

Album: “Superache” by Conan Gray

TV Show: “Stranger Things”

Movie: “Belle”

**Davin Pagarigan (graduate, physical therapy)**

Album: “Harry’s House” by Harry Styles

TV Show: “Stranger Things”

Movie: “Everything Everywhere All At Once”

**Enlai Wang (senior, biology)**

Album: "MOTH" by WOOSUNG

TV Show: "Cowboy Bebop"

Movie: "Everything Everywhere All at Once"

**Sofia Amaya (graduate, physical therapy)**

Album: "Harry's House" by Harry Styles

TV Show: "Stranger Things"

Movie: "Elvis"

**Franky Paypa (senior, physical therapy)**

Album: "Face the Sun" by SEVENTEEN

TV Show: "Ms. Marvel"

Movie: "Minions: Rise of Gru"

**Vieny Anggita (graduate, physical therapy)**

Album: "Sunroof" by Nicky Youre, dazy

TV Show: "Moonknight"

Movie: "Persuasion"

**Dawilda Lorenzo (graduate, physical therapy)**

Album: "Un Verano Sin Ti" by Bad Bunny

TV Show: "Blacklist"

Movie: "Lightyear"

**Marco Ruppel (sophomore, elementary education)**

Album: "Dawn FM" by The Weeknd

TV show: "Ms. Marvel"

Movie: "Top Gun: Maverick"

**CJ Arthur (graduate, physical therapy)**

Album: "Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers" by Kendrick Lamar

TV Show: "Stranger Things" and "House of the Dragons"

Movie: "Top Gun: Maverick"

**Louis Merani (senior, mechanical engineering)**

Album: "My Heart's Grave" by Faouzia

TV Show: "White Collar" and "Suits"

Movie: "The Greatest Showman"

**Philip Wekesa (senior, music)**

Album: "Sweet Side" by Raquel Rodriguez

TV Show: “Reacher”

Movie: “Top Gun: Maverick”

**Nathan Boddeti (sophomore, exercise science)**

Album: “Gemini Rights” by Steve Lacy

TV Show: “Arrow”

Movie: “Thor: Love and Thunder”

**Ashley Oh (senior, psychology)**

Album: “Face the Sun” by SEVENTEEN

TV Show: “Friends”

Movie: “Top Gun: Maverick”

**Abiah Newton (senior, psychology)**

Album: “Die Lit” by Playboi Carti

TV Show: “Stranger Things”

Movie: “Looper”

**Jasmine Fraser (senior, nursing)**

Album: “Give Or Take” by Giveon

TV Show: “Stranger Things”

Movie: “Spider-Man” (entire series)

**Matthew Masangcay (graduate, physical therapy)**

Album: “Mr Morale & The Big Steppers” by Kendrick Lamar

TV Show: “Stranger Things”

Movie: “Everything Everywhere All At Once”

**Claudius (Nigel) Emilaire (junior, digital communication)**

Album: “Harry’s House” by Harry Styles

TV Show: “Obi-Wan Kenobi”

Movie: “Top Gun: Maverick”

**Aya Pagunsan (senior, nursing)**

Album: “Harry’s House” by Harry Styles

TV Show: “Extraordinary Woo Young Woo”

Movie: “Spirited Away”

# News

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## NEWS

# Andy's Welcome Back Party

Gloria Oh [09.15.22](#)



Photo by Photo by Kayla-Hope Bruno

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Last Sunday, on September 4, Andrews University hosted the Andy's Welcome Back Party to invite new students, returning students, and the community to the grand beginning of the 2022-2023 academic year. Although the party itself was scheduled to take place at 6:30 PM, other activities were prepared throughout September 2-4 under the name, "Andy's Welcome Weekend." It started with the Proximity Vespers, in which the Grammy award-winning gospel artist Kierra Sheard-Kelly performed a concert. On Saturday, a range of worship services

occurred for students to experience the spiritual atmosphere of the campus. Sunday was packed with fun and games; in total, 15 activities were prepared on and off campus, free of charge for students. My friends and I participated in two of them—canoeing in the morning and rollerskating in the afternoon. Despite the chaos of suddenly losing my vision due to the abrupt escape of my contact lens from my left eye, all of these excursions only lifted my hopes and expectations for the evening. And they for sure went beyond those expectations.

Even before the event properly started, lines were extending from the administration building to the front of the seminary building, where nitrogen ice cream was provided by the Fire & Ice Pizzeria & Creamery. Flavors offered included chocolate-covered strawberry, blue moon (delicious), cookies and cream, piña colada—and of course, the classic vanilla flavor. The line remained long for several hours, even when the party was wrapping up. Thankfully, the lively hosts kept the long line entertained, and they encouraged people to participate in dance competitions to win Amazon gift cards.

Soon after the first couple of winners won their prizes, the NEST talent show started, featuring many talented individuals on campus. The first few songs continued in a calm atmosphere where most people sat down, waving or clapping their hands to the melodies. Haeun Park (senior, biology), who opened up the talent show with the song "Life's Best Adventure," detailed her experience on the stage and the stories behind what brought her up there.

"So this song...was actually composed by my friend, Keila Valenzuela...The song is basically about how everything in life, regardless of the circumstances and wherever you are on your journey, can become a joyful adventure when you are with God." Haeun continued to explain, "The lyrics motivated me to get on the stage, even though singing is not my forte. I wanted to share my message...I sang, hoping [those who listened would] understand that it's okay not to know—because God knows, and He got you."

Although the first half of the talent show was overall still and peaceful, things took a turn when the performers started bringing back 2000s and 2010s nostalgia songs such as "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus (brought to you by the members of the Freshman class) and "Baby" by Justin Bieber. From people screaming at the top of their lungs to others crowd surfing, the components of a pop concert manifested right in front of the James White Library on Sunday night. Amid all these lively early 2000s pop songs, Kavya Mohanram (sophomore, biology) brought

the audience back to the present and retrieved some calmness to the scene by singing "Everything I Wanted," by Billie Eilish.

When asked about her performance, Kavya said, "I picked 'Everything I Wanted' because it was a song that got me through a dark time in my life. The song talks about seeing someone next to me; I always thought that someone was God. The song showed me that nobody could hurt me genuinely if God is there." She goes on to explain that her desire to work on her social anxiety urged her to participate in the talent show. "I ended up feeling very scared on the stage, and messed up a lot, but that was okay because everyone was so nice and cheered me on regardless of my mistakes. I got so many compliments days afterward. It also helped me meet new people, so it was nice."

Nevertheless, the most significant attention-grabber was the grand firework display that decorated the night sky with vibrant colors and patterns. As the fireworks erupted, the message rang clear, "Welcome to Andrews." After the fireworks, some individuals left the party, but others stayed to grab popcorn and watch "Spider-Man: No Way Home."

Enjoying the party while being surrounded by old and new friends made this weekend a very special one for me; but what made the weekend's activities even more special was that they were incomparable to the events held before at Andrews University. From a gospel singer's concert (and not just anybody, but Kierra Sheard-Kelly!) to free social activities held on and off campus, the past few days were nothing like what I have experienced—at least not during the years I have been a student here. After everything, I was filled with gratitude for the individuals who made this happen. I can only imagine all the effort that was put in to host the events, especially because of the lack of examples from the previous years. As Belva Davis said, it is important to "not be afraid of the space between your dreams and reality. If you can dream it, you can make it so." The AUSA team, Dean DeLeon, and many other leaders on this campus indeed dreamed big for the students and AU, and they made their dream a reality.

NEWS

# News Analysis: Gun Violence in Cities

Julia Randall 09.15.22



Photo by Photo by David von Diemar on Unsplash

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Gun violence is a well-established issue for cities across the United States, exemplified by several Labor Day shootings in Chicago, in which a total of 55 people were shot, with 11 suffering lethal wounds. According to Chicago Sun Times, the deadliest individual [incident](#) occurred Sunday evening in a South Chicago neighborhood and resulted in the death of two young men, ages 18 and 20 and left two more wounded. In the video of the Tuesday news conference recording published by ABC Eyewitness [News](#), Chicago Police Superintendent David Brown reports that Chicago has had 600 fewer victims of gun violence so far this year than last year, but that's still over a hundred more than by the same date in 2019 based on data provided by the Chicago [Tribune](#). In the conference, Brown



mentions other ongoing issues such as carjacking and, regarding perpetrators, ultimately proclaims that “We need more consequences for violent offenders regardless of your age.” While certainly actions should have repercussions, addressing only the crime is like slapping a bandage on a deep cut. As anyone familiar with first aid can tell you, you’ve got to actually stop the bleeding so that the wound can begin the healing process. Treating the symptoms is necessary, but is not the most effective means of preventing recurrence of an issue. This seems to be a motivating force for Pastor Chris Harris, who shares a brief message during the Tuesday news conference with the police department. In the meeting, Harris emphasizes that policing would not suffice to lift the city out of its situation, urging viewers to “say nothing about Chicago violence and trauma until you do something about Chicago violence and trauma” and highlighting how his Bright Star Community Outreach (BSCO) supports Chicago neighborhoods in receiving trauma support.

While organizations like BSCO provide invaluable resources for their areas, perhaps it’s time for cities to redistribute their wealth in order to reduce gun violence. How could that help? Well, the April article from The Brookings Institution, [“Mapping gun violence: A closer look at the intersection between place and gun homicides in four cities”](#), which focuses in part on Chicago, highlights some crucial details of the communities which suffer the most due to gun violence. The article discusses recent low levels of gun homicide rates in wealthier regions, despite overall elevated firearm violence. Authors DW Rowlands and Hanna Love present that generally, neighborhoods that have experienced higher levels of gun murders share some common traits: these communities lie at “the intersection between poverty, racial segregation, and systemic disinvestment.” Cities can reinvest in at-risk areas and support individuals through methods like those suggested by Rowlands and Love, including by implementing “quality housing, youth workforce development and employment programs, green space, and civic and community-based organizations.” When cities allocate resources to support people in disadvantaged neighborhoods rather than focus exclusively on crime punishment, they will likely be addressing causal factors in gun violence, thereby reducing gun homicides. Ideally, programs like the American Rescue Plan Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will provide resources beyond the scope of organizations like BSCO to communities overwhelmed with gun violence and effectively reduce these tendencies.

## NEWS

# What's New? Genesis Fellowship

Lauren Butler [09.15.22](#)



Photo by Logo by Manuel Monchon

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Andrews University provides various congregations for worship including Pioneer Memorial Church, New Life, and One Place. Upon returning to Andrews for my final year, my interest was piqued when I heard about a new space to worship and fellowship on campus. With a focus on the Latinx presence on campus, Genesis has entered the mix with its first service. Andrews students, faculty, and community alike were warmly welcomed with conchas (Mexican sweet bread rolls) upon entering the inaugural Genesis service at University Towers on Sabbath morning, September the 3rd.

It was truly a joy to witness others spend time reconnecting with peers after spending the summer apart. When the service began, we were greeted in Portuguese, Spanish, and English and sang in a mixture of those languages as well. Pastor Douglas Barahona subsequently blessed us with his message, sharing parts of his story to express that all God needs is for us to be willing to know Him, and He will take care of the rest. The experience was spiritually and socially enriching in seeing a blend of different Latin cultures come together in praise and worship, regardless of your ethnicity. In hopes of further understanding the reasoning behind Genesis here on campus, I reached out with a few inquiries to William Dos

Reis (graduate, architecture), who is part of the leadership team at Genesis Fellowship.

In response to what Genesis is and what it hopes to accomplish, Dos Reis answered, “Genesis provides a safe space for all people, but fills the need of a Latino fellowship. It [aspires] to draw from the culture we currently live in and the cultures of our home nations in the Latino community.” He went on to clarify that Genesis also hopes to transcend culture. “It's about creating community and creating spaces that feel like home,” he said. “Safe, authentic, sincere spaces that draw our attention to the Creator and to each other! That being said, Genesis is not just a Sabbath service, it's a community. It's the gatherings we all have in our homes, classrooms, or wherever [we have the chance] to meet.”

Chaplain José Bourget, expounded on the history behind the creation of the Genesis fellowship. Vertical, a program directed by former students, gained traction on campus in the past—however, as students matriculate, their ideas leave with them. Bourget described the unrelenting attitude towards building a Latin centered pupil led worship on campus. He shared, “...wanting to do something isn't the same as being called to do something. When you are called, you keep going and never quit. The need for something like this was evident but it took the Spirit working through stories of students to get this here.”

When faced with obstacles in jumpstarting Genesis, Dos Reis related that God was and is always working to make things happen. “The key to any success is clear and honest communication,” he shared. “That was necessary for the other Hispanic organizations on and off campus. Creating partnerships with those organizations at the leadership level and clarifying that Genesis is meant to empower and strengthen even them is what made it possible to start Genesis.”

If students or anyone wishes to contribute to the program, Dos Reis encourages them to start by taking up the message of Genesis. He emphasized that “creating community means to *know* and *love God* and to *know* and *love people*.” Additionally, in each service, Next Step is a way to further get involved through directly communicating with the leadership of Genesis so the team can continue to expand and grow.

“Genesis” Dos Reis described, is “a word for beginnings, and this is the beginning of a beautiful chapter for the community of Andrews and the Latino community within it.” I wholeheartedly enjoyed my worship experience at Genesis alongside many of my peers and I eagerly anticipate what comes next.

# Ideas

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## IDEAS

# Bringing Balance to the Forest

Alexander Navarro 09.15.22



Photo by Photo by Arnaud Mesureur on Unsplash

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Located within Redwood National Park in California, resides the tallest tree in the world. Known as Hyperion, this behemoth is over 380 feet tall. The most massive tree in the world is the General Sherman Tree, whose trunk has a circumference of almost 103 feet, meaning you would need almost 20 people wrapping their arms around it, fingertip to fingertip, to reach around the entire tree! It is incredible to think about how big these trees truly can grow, but the absolute size of these trees raises an interesting question: where do trees get all of the matter that they use to grow so large? One obvious guess might be that trees absorb material from the ground using their roots, but that is incorrect. Trees don't need to get their building materials from the ground, because they get it from a different source: the air itself.

We hear about how trees use carbon dioxide in photosynthesis, but for trees to get large amounts of building material from the air just doesn't seem immediately obvious. After all, the air is something that, in our everyday lives, feels extremely

immaterial. The air just kind of flows around us, not getting in our way too much. Hearing that trees mostly build themselves up with material from the air is like hearing that someone built a house out of salt crystals that they extracted by boiling tons upon tons of ocean water. With trees, only small amounts of minerals are actually absorbed through the roots—and as it turns out, there is a fairly simple observation that shows this. When we look at a tree and think about the trunk and all of the leaves and branches, everything besides the roots is above the ground. If the tree was getting matter to build itself up from the soil, then we would expect that the ground around the tree would sink down from material being pulled from the ground upward to build up the trunk, but we all know that often around trees the ground is actually often elevated by their roots extending outward and pushing up the soil. While the roots do indeed absorb water and small amounts of minerals from the ground necessary for growth, that does not make up most of the tree.

Within a tree, most of the dry mass of the wood (that is, the mass excluding water) comes from chemicals that provide structure to the tree, specifically, cellulose and lignin, among others. These structural compounds are composed of carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen—and while oxygen and hydrogen are easily obtained from water and other simple chemicals, carbon is best absorbed from carbon dioxide in the air. As it turns out, since about half of a tree's mass is water, about one fifth of the mass of a tree is from carbon that it absorbs from the air. Thinking about this, it really goes to show how great trees are for fighting greenhouse gas emissions. Every year, an average-sized tree absorbs on average about 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air, which it uses to sustain itself and build itself up. And yet, while trees are essential for regulating the atmosphere's carbon composition, human deforestation has destroyed about one third of all of the earth's forests. This deforestation not only removes trees that would otherwise be absorbing carbon dioxide, but the deforestation and often burning of the biofuel obtained from the trees releases the carbon that was previously stored within the tree back into the atmosphere. If growing a tree absorbs large amounts of carbon, then naturally destroying it will release it again. As such, it is essential that we not only stop deforestation, but begin replanting trees, expanding forests. This is especially important since trees provide many other environmental and economical benefits besides carbon capture. It is essential that any strategy for combating climate change contain, as one part of the approach, reforestation.

However, we can't just plant trees and expect that to solve all of our problems. In 2019 43.1 billion tons of carbon dioxide was released into the atmosphere by human activity, which, assuming 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year is absorbed per tree, would require almost 2 trillion additional trees to be planted to absorb it all. Planting that many trees is, to put it mildly, not really feasible. As such, we need to be taking major actions to reduce carbon emissions. This includes, of course, actions such as switching to renewable energy sources away from fossil fuels, changing manufacturing processes and electrical consumption to be more efficient so less energy is needed in the first place, as well as many other areas. Once we are able to reduce emissions, then trees will be essential in absorbing the carbon that has already been emitted, and bringing the planet back to its proper balance.

## IDEAS

# In Rebuttal of Andrew Tate

Elizabeth Getahun [09.15.22](#)

'Andrew Tate' is a name that has been spreading throughout the world of social media this past summer. Tate made a name for himself in 2016, being a contestant on Big Brother UK. However, he was kicked out of the Big Brother House due to a leaked video of Tate hitting a woman as well as posting offensive tweets. He allegedly fled to Romania for a multitude of reasons, one of which being to evade rape charges since police in Romania are less likely to investigate sexual assault cases. It wasn't until recently that his name and controversial takes on society and women became a mainstream topic of interest within Gen-Z circles.

If you haven't already come across podcast interviews or rants with Andrew Tate on TikTok, here's the rundown of his controversial takes.

Tate makes claims that "depression isn't real," which of course completely dumps on the mental health community. He also—as a single, unmarried man—states that fathers don't need to be around their children and that it is the mother's job to raise them. He elaborates by saying that he only saw his father once a month. He

goes on to explain that women like mystery and that if he as a father were present, the mother may lose some interest in him. Essentially, he's placing female attraction over the raising of a child. Considering the views Tate holds and some of the trouble he's gotten into, it seems he would have benefitted from a present and involved father figure. He also mentioned in a deleted YouTube video that it's easier to get off on rape charges in Romania, stating that it was 40% of the reason he moved there. He states that society and the legal system favor women when we know that historically that isn't the case. He also relates women to property and has stated that women should bear some of the blame for their rapes. Additionally, he talks about imprinting on teens because they've had fewer sexual partners than women in their mid-twenties. The most offensive thing I heard Andrew Tate say in a podcast interview is this: "A man can only cheat if he loves someone else. If I have a woman I truly love and I go out and [expletive] and I come back and I don't care about her and I love my girl, that's not cheating, that's exercise. If she even talks to a dude, that's cheating." Andrew Tate was banned from Twitter in 2017 and was recently banned from all social media platforms.

Andrew Tate poses a threat and his rhetoric is dangerous. Now more than ever, the definition of who men (and women) are is constantly updating and changing. For this reason, Gen-Z is having a mass identity crisis, searching high and low for how to find themselves, define themselves, and feel secure in an increasingly unstable world. Andrew Tate uses this crucial time to his advantage by telling young men with impressionable minds how to "be a man" and how to make money. He has a 'Hustlers University' training program which accumulated approximately 110,000 students this year alone, the majority of whom are males. Furthermore, he promotes arrogance and a self-centered view of life, and this unempathetic and uncompassionate mindset will cause many relational issues in the future. Tate tells these young impressionable minds who they are, who they can be, and how to achieve it. Tate's views, as previously mentioned, cater to innate human desires and temptations of wealth, power, sex, and control. Rather than learning how to keep these drives in check and within respectable contexts, he emboldens and empowers young people to delve into their fantasies, which is exactly what people want to hear.

This affects us as college students, too. We have various anonymous confession pages, as was discussed thoroughly in an article by former Andrews student Abi

Lee. At times, hateful or inappropriate content was being housed on those pages. For example, an intimate photo of someone was posted without regard for that person as a human being who deserves privacy and respect. It wasn't taken into consideration how people consuming that content would be negatively affected by it either. Various interviewees in Abi Lee's article stated their frustrations and dismay with what they had been subjected to as a result of these posts. I bring this up because it's influences like Andrew Tate who amass young individuals like those at university and spread their hateful rhetoric to our campuses, resulting in the harm of students.

I see Andrew Tate as a symbol of toxic masculinity and a big part of what is wrong with today's society. Consequently, I believe that a rebuttal of Andrew Tate and what he stands for falls under what it means to value people and have good ethics. I believe that people should be self-sufficient and care about themselves, but I don't think that focusing solely on oneself at the expense of others and one's community is right. I think we are better off being empathetic and compassionate creatures, and this would improve society as a whole. Being a good person is about doing what is best for you and for others, not looking to exploit and use others' weaknesses against them. If Andrew Tate had received genuine and unconditional love growing up, he may have turned out differently. Deep down, I think there is a lonely individual who turns to material success and lust. for meaning rather than creating genuine connections with people. The only way to combat such hateful ideologies is to simply be the opposite of who he is—instead, we can spread love and respect. In doing so, we are able to uplift one another.

## IDEAS

# Student Loan Forgiveness

Gabriela Francisco [09.15.22](#)

A recurring nightmare I have—exacerbated by eating close to bedtime—is me plummeting to my death. I never know what I'm falling from and I never actually hit the ground, but the feeling is just as scary as if it were to happen in reality. I always wake up in a sweat.

Another recurring nightmare I have is the beginning of each semester when my



family and I have to figure out how we're going to manage getting financially cleared again—except this nightmare is REAL.

If you're anything like the average American, you probably don't find the financial clearance process to be one that brings you utmost joy or satisfaction. Instead, you probably view it as an extremely stressful process. Why is that?

Based on the many discussions I've had with friends, we can agree that financial offices across the country don't necessarily make the process as smooth as they could be. However, I would say that even if we had the perfect advisors all the time, we would still be left feeling frustrated.

The core of our frustration stems from the fact that, at the end of the day, we are left with a number that is not representative of our needs. If your family is financially blessed (and I'm honestly happy for you), this process is just the last step before you can move into the dorm. For the rest of us, we are left wondering things like:

Who determines the amount of loans I can receive?

Do they not realize my family has other financial responsibilities?

Do I need to consider a private loan?

Why did I not receive a Pell Grant?

It sort of feels like you're going around in circles. On one hand, you need extra help from the government at the moment, but you know that you'll have to pay for it down the road—so what is the right thing to do? In most cases, people don't even have the luxury of making a choice—they just need to get more loans.

When President Joe Biden finally unveiled his student loan forgiveness program, America collectively breathed a sigh of relief. Of course there were some who wondered why people couldn't just pay off their debts, just as they had. To those who ask that question—it's fair. To put you in their shoes, imagine yourself as a ten-year-old who has a sibling one year younger than you. Your parents tell you they will pay you each \$50 if both the front yard and back yard are mowed and both of your rooms get cleaned. You diligently mow the front yard and clean your room while your sibling just cleans their room, and your parents, upon looking at the work you've each completed, award both of you \$50.

Similarly, it must be frustrating for people who diligently paid off their loans with no help—whether it was easy for them or not—to now watch others receive help.

That being said, the simple fact is that it's just not as easy to pay off your debts in 2022 as it was 20 years ago. [Statistics](#) show that even when adjusted for inflation, tuition is two times the amount it was 20 years ago. You may say, "Well, work a job and save money to go to school." Happy you brought that up. Let's say you work at a job that pays you \$15/hour. You work full time and take only two weeks of vacation.

= $\$15/\text{hr} \times 40\text{hrs}/\text{week} \times 50\text{ weeks} = \$30,000$  BUT you faithfully tithe and need to pay taxes

= $\$30,000 - \$3,000(10\% \text{ tithe}) - \$6,288$  (taxes according to [smartasset](#))= \$20,712.

So if you want to attend [Andrews University](#) but don't want to take out any loans, never buy new clothes, never go out to eat, never have to pay any other bills (ha!), you'll only have to wait about 8.5 years!

The reality is, most jobs that will allow you to make enough money to move out and be independent require a formal education. Some of these jobs, in turn, don't pay workers enough to even make a dent in their loans.

Because of this, it is my opinion that it is both necessary and beneficial for the entire country for people to receive loan forgiveness. Truly the only cons of forgiving loans are that not everyone who has ever taken out a loan can benefit from this program, and that some states will tax the money you get to pay off the loan. The pros are endless, though. Unlike independent student loan forgiveness programs, this doesn't keep you from earning higher wages and your debt will [actually](#) decrease.

Furthermore, as President Biden stated when he [announced](#) the program: "I ran for office to grow the economy from the bottom up and the middle out because when we do that, everyone does better, everybody does well. The wealthy do very well, the poor have a way up, and the middle class can have breathing room. And that's going to help America win the economic competition of the 21st century.... That's what today's announcement is about. It's about opportunity. It's about giving people a fair shot. It's about the one word America can be defined by: possibilities. It's all about providing possibilities."

When I think about the possibilities that have opened up,, I see my parents having \$10,000 worth of stress lifted off of their shoulders, possibly to go into the house renovations they've been needing for a while. I see \$10,000 being put towards a college fund for my cousin's children who are still young but will go to college in the future. I see \$10,000 going into a downpayment for a home or simply into my

savings to spend later on in life. For the average American, \$10,000-20,000 goes a very long way and is a tangible reminder that our government truly cares about our present just as much as our future.

What will you do with your money?

*Sources not used but interesting to look into:*

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IDEAS

# The Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II: The Right to Mourn (and Not)

Alexander J. Hess [09.15.22](#)



Photo by Photo by Samuel Regan-Asante on Unsplash

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On the afternoon of Thursday, September 8, the world was notified of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. In a brief tweet, the official Royal Family Twitter account stated, “The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon.” Immediately following the announcement, every social media platform was filled with various

responses to the Queen's death. Some praised her legacy as the longest reigning British monarch, thanking her for her years of service. Others, however, were less sympathetic. For days afterwards, my social media feed on Twitter and TikTok showed a majority of people who were celebrating the Queen's death—followed by her supporters calling this response deeply disrespectful and insensitive. As with so much of our modern popular discourse, the world was polarized between both ends of the spectrum (celebration and mourning). However, I think that there is and should be the space for both of these opinions. I believe that it is key to approach this complex conversation in a way that allows us to both respect the sanctity of life and critique the deeply problematic systems and institutions that the British monarchy—and by extension, Queen Elizabeth II—stood for.

To begin, I think it is important to openly acknowledge my biases in writing this article. When I first saw the Royal Family's tweet on my Twitter feed, I was emotionally torn. On the one hand, I was shocked and devastated by the news of the Queen's death. Ever since I was young, I have been surrounded by British culture and media. As the son of an English teacher (and now as an English major at AU), many of the shows, movies, and books I read for class and for pleasure center around British culture and history. Given this context, to hear of the Queen's death was extremely emotional. However, during my time at Andrews, I have also learned so much more about British colonialism and the horrible atrocities that the United Kingdom committed in the name of the Empire. In class, I've been exposed to the stories of generations of people across the world whose lives were forever changed by British colonization. I read first-hand accounts about families being torn apart, mass genocide of indigenous peoples, forced religious conversion, and Black and Brown people made to renounce their cultural heritage and embrace a new, totally foreign regime at gunpoint. Needless to say, what I've seen inside and outside of class has made me aware of the deeply complex institution that is the British monarchy. Being both an Anglophile and a critic of the United Kingdom allows me to see and empathize with both sides of this issue. For some, the monarchy is a source of national pride and joy; for others (as expressed by those on my Twitter and TikTok feeds) the Queen is a triggering reminder of genocide, oppression, and colonization. With this in mind, I think that the death of Queen Elizabeth II allows us the opportunity for much needed conversation surrounding the ongoing effects of the British monarchy, Empire, and colonization. Similarly, looking at people's cries that critiques of the monarchy

and Queen Elizabeth II are insensitive and disrespectful of her death shows us how steeped our society is within white supremacy.

Before we apply this to ongoing conversations about the death of the Queen, what is white supremacy? In “White Supremacy and Me” (2020), author Layla Saad writes, “White supremacy is a racist ideology that is based upon the belief that white people are superior in many ways to people of other races and that therefore, white people should be dominant over other races. White supremacy is not just an attitude or a way of thinking. It also extends to how systems and institutions are structured to uphold this white dominance” (12). A primary example of these caustic, white supremacist institutions are the British monarchy and Empire/Commonwealth. Beginning in the 1500s during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, the British Empire began as a series of attempts to establish trade routes around the world through creating colonies in the Caribbean, the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Fast forward to the early 1900s and the British Empire covered nearly 25% of the Earth and ruled over between 470 and 570 million people. Unfortunately, as many of us learned in history class (or from watching “Hamilton”), the British Empire’s colonial process consisted of armies arriving in a foreign land, finding the land’s main source of economic value, sometimes enacting mass genocide and enslavement of indigenous peoples, and then establishing British colonies. In this way, the British Empire and colonies tapped into Saad’s definition of white supremacy. By forcibly removing or enslaving Black and Brown people and creating British colonies, the British created systems that placed white people in power and gave them the ability to dominate (and profit from) people of other races. Many of these countries still suffer from the ongoing effects of British colonialism decades after gaining independence. Following World War II, many of the countries that had been colonized by the British Empire fought for independence. And this is where Queen Elizabeth II comes into play. Beginning her reign in 1952, Queen Elizabeth II was the figurehead of the British government while the British Empire fell apart. What we now know as the British Commonwealth (which includes Canada, Australia, India, and various countries in Africa) was born out of the remnants of the British Empire.

Now, having provided context, how does this apply to the polarized opinions surrounding Queen Elizabeth II’s death? A creator from the Instagram account @aotearoaliberationleague sums up this connection. She says, “Some people are

saying that celebrating or minimising the death of the Queen is insensitive. That may be true, but in my view it's even more insensitive to saturate our media with celebratory posts about a person who, for many people, is a symbol of genocide, colonisation, and all the violent institutions that came with it." In this way, this creator pushes back against the idea that Queen Elizabeth II was an amazing human being who should be celebrated and looked up to, when in reality, for many people across the globe, she represented generations of trauma and pain due to colonialism. She continues, "So in my view it's totally inappropriate for people to police how victims of colonisation talk about the passing of the Queen. And I think it's only right that if we choose to remember her legacy that we remember all of it." I wholeheartedly agree with this point of view. While it is important to remember the Queen's legacy following her passing, we also must be purposeful to remember all of her legacy and not just the parts of it that make us feel comfortable. MSNBC analyst Brittany Packnett echoes this idea on Twitter: "Today is a reminder of how things like 'decorum' help white supremacy be cultural not just systemic. Decorum will silence people from telling the truth because it's 'impolite.' Meanwhile, it's not impolite to ask the colonized to mourn the chief symbol of their colonization? Folks aren't always 'celebrating death' when they tell an inconvenient truth. Don't be more obsessed with decorum than the truth. Don't be more committed to order than you are justice." As both of these commentators argue, we have to be purposeful about telling the full story and acknowledging the truth when we remember the legacy of Queen Elizabeth II. While we recognize the space for mourning (especially for those who knew her as a mother, grandmother, and friend) we also must equally and importantly recognize the ways in which white supremacy uses decorum and "politeness" to maintain deeply problematic norms and silence necessary critique of oppressive institutions. When an influential figure dies, we are quick to define whether they were a good person. However, in this case, the Queen represented both the best and the worst of the British monarchy and the United Kingdom as a nation, which places all of us in a sticky situation. When wrestling with this issue, many people draw the distinction between the Parliament and the Monarch, arguing that the Queen—as a symbolic figurehead—had little control in the on-goings of the British government and is therefore blameless in colonization. While I would agree that Queen Elizabeth II may not have been the overseer of colonization, I think it is important to recognize her complicity within a unignorable toxic and oppressive system. For example, over the Queen's reign she embarked on numerous Commonwealth tours which, in part, acted to dissuade nations who were considering independence from the

United Kingdom. Similarly, in January of this year, the Queen knighted Tony Blair, a former UK prime minister who many Iraqis hold responsible for the modern colonization of Iraq and other countries in the Middle East. In an article for the New York Times, Maya Jasanoff writes, “By design as much as by the accident of her long life, her presence as head of state and head of the Commonwealth, an association of Britain and its former colonies, put a stolid traditionalist front over decades of violent upheaval. As such, the queen helped obscure a bloody history of decolonization whose proportions and legacies have yet to be adequately acknowledged.” By attempting to silence those who point out the very real problems of the British monarchy and Queen Elizabeth II, we perpetuate white supremacy and cultural norms that maintain racist power structures. In telling people from the Commonwealth to be silent, you say that their hurt and pain is invalid and doesn’t deserve to be listened to. However, by denigrating those who mourn, we also invalidate those who saw Queen Elizabeth II as a role model. Both of these points of view can (and are) valid at the same time.

With this in mind, I want to pull another quote from Brittany Packnett’s Twitter thread. It reads, “I’m not telling y’all to dance on anybody’s grave or place flowers there. But I believe times of social conversation can help us build deeper understanding. There are lessons [to be learned].” In our conversations surrounding the death of the Queen, as with much of current discourse, we are quick to ignore complexity and nuance, instead opting to take a side. Instead of thinking critically about the monarchy and the British government’s ongoing impact on colonization, we define the Queen as a good person because that’s what makes us feel the most comfortable. By not confronting the United Kingdom’s deeply problematic past, we remain complacent and complicit within colonization and systems of oppression. The negative feelings and lived experiences of colonized or previously colonized peoples are just as valid as those who adored the Queen. If anything, now is the time to recognize the deeply problematic past of the British Empire and how the monarchy continues to negatively affect people colonially and financially. As Packnett said, these online discourses can help us build empathy for those who believe differently. However, just because we are empathetic does not mean that we, as antiracists and anti-colonialists, should remain complacent. Let us use the death of Queen Elizabeth II to acknowledge the atrocities of the past and commit to a more ethical future.



# Campus Life After Covid-19: A Newfound Freedom

Amelia Stefanescu [09.15.22](#)

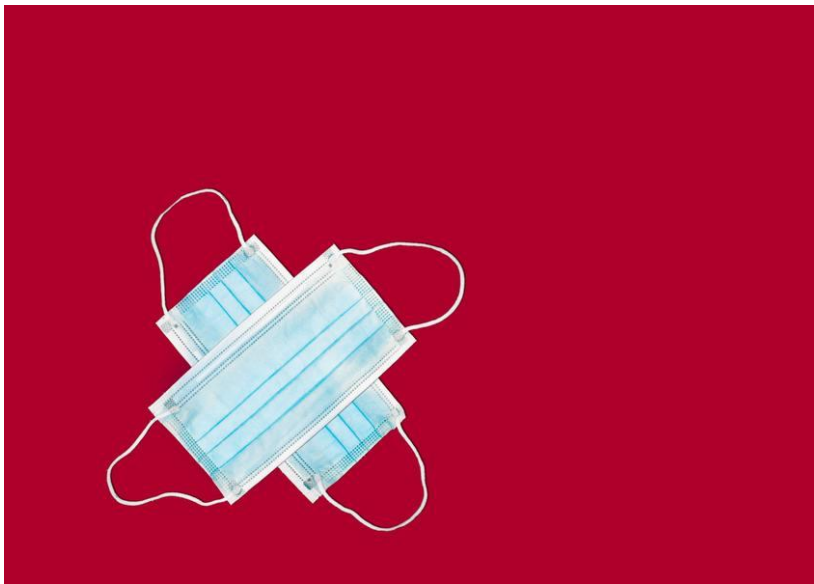


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Our lives have forever been changed by the spread of the virus Covid-19, with its devastating effects spanning over three years. Even now, the virus and the restrictions its presence has demanded are never far from our thoughts and habits. On the Andrews University campus, these restrictions manifested themselves through the mandatory use of masks, testing when returning to campus grounds, remote learning, social distancing, and limited access to places like the Gazebo. These restrictions kept us safe for the years 2020 to 2022, and limited the spread of this harmful virus to the students and staff of our

establishment. But now, as the effects of Covid-19 are lessening, and life is closer to what it was in its pre-Covid era, these restrictions have become much more relaxed.

Strangely enough, even if the threat of Covid is no longer a significantly active one, the habits we have developed over the past three years still occasionally manifest themselves in our daily behavior. For example, most of us relate to the fact that we use hand sanitizer a lot more often than during the pre-Covid era, or that we still have a habit of social distancing in public spaces. Even schools and workplaces have changed their methods to include significantly more online options for homework or meetings. These are just a few of the societal changes brought on by the virus that seem like they will last well beyond the Covid era. Even categorizing society as pre-Covid or post-Covid highlights the impact of the worldwide pandemic on our everyday lives.

In terms of our lives at Andrews University, the habits of students and staff alike have changed drastically with the dropping of the Covid restrictions and guidelines. Vivienne Lupu, (sophomore, social work), expressed her perspective on the removal of the restrictions in this way:

“I like that I can actually see people’s faces. I feel like that has changed the college experience since last year. Everything feels more normal. There are times when I will find myself in a super crowded room, and I think to myself, ‘Oh, this would probably have been more risky a year ago than it is now.’ When I think about the current state of the pandemic, I know that Covid is never going away and that it is still real, but I am happy that the severity has definitely toned down. I still find myself being more conscientious about who I am hanging out with and where I am going as to limit exposure and risks, but based on how the university handled Covid guidelines last year, I trust them enough to know when or if it would be time to bring them back based on rising cases.”

Her view on this topic is also reflected through the perspectives of other students, such as Melissa Moore (sophomore, nutrition). She says, “Personally, I am happy about the changes because I enjoy being able to see full faces again. As of this point in time, I do feel sufficiently safe. I think it's worth noting however that people can wear a mask if they feel more comfortable that way. I hold no judgment toward anyone who chooses to do so.”

Overall, the students seem very happy and thankful for their newfound post-Covid freedom, and have learned the value of a safe and healthy environment, as well as how to maintain it. We hope that the restrictions will be kept to the minimum in the future as the severity of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to lessen, and we are thankful for an institution that has kept us safe and will continue to do so.

## PULSE

# Environmental Fridays Begins a New Season

**Princella Tobias** [09.15.22](#)

*Princella Tobias is a founding Publisher of the Benton Spirit Community Newspaper, and an avid supporter of public science initiatives in our community. She has a deep history with Andrews University, and is working with our staff, students, and alumni to bring our community "Environmental Fridays." In this article, Tobias explains what these days are, and what they represent, in her own words.*

If your house is on fire in the middle of the night and you know it, do you keep it to yourself? Do you only tell the adults? Do you not tell the children? Do you not tell the black kids, or the Navajo kids, or the Caribbean kids? Do you wake them up? This is what Environmental Fridays is all about – telling the truth, as the late Jamaican singer Bob Marley sang – ‘tell the children the truth.’ Our environmental truths, our climate crisis truths, our environmental justice truths, and bringing actionable awareness.

A new school year is beginning. An historic bill and investment addressing the climate crisis and environmental justice became law in the United States in mid-August. Caribbean nations are renewing their commitment to address regional food security at the CARICOM Agribusiness forum. Russian aggression continues to do irreparable damage to the Ukrainian people and environment, threatening even the safety of nuclear plants. Europe is experiencing its hottest driest summer in over 500 years. The water supply for tens of millions of Americans and Mexicans is at stake with the dwindling amounts from the Colorado and Rio Grande rivers

due, in part, to decades of drought conditions. Sharon Lavigne, a former high school teacher and a winner of the 2021 Goldman Environmental Prize, is still fighting the good fight to keep chemical companies from building new plants in her community of St. James Parish, Louisiana. This is a brief and incomplete picture of our supposedly post-COVID world as Environmental Fridays enters its third season.

Debra Shore, the Administrator for U.S. EPA Region 5 will lead off Environmental Fridays, Season III with a presentation on the climate crisis and environmental justice. Her responsibilities include overseeing environmental protection efforts in the Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, as well as 35 federally recognized tribal nations. Her September 16, 2022, lecture is the first of twelve episodes with different guest speakers that meet online every Friday at 9:30 am until the final one on December 9 about the plants of Trinidad and Tobago.

Topics in Environmental Fridays, Season III range from butterfly gardens, a nature park in an oil refinery, waterborne pathogens, coastal development and conservation in Grenada, and improvement of a Benton Harbor, Michigan watershed to managing wildfires in Western United States, sustainable agri-tourism at the historic Belmont Estate Grenada, to the environmental impact of Sargassum, the environmental impact of natural disasters, and the advantages of native versus invasive plants.

Season III guest speakers come from a variety of backgrounds, expertise and experiences across the United States and Caribbean. For example, they come from Illinois, Michigan, Virginia, Delaware, Kansas, Washington, Trinidad, Grenada, Barbados, and Saint Lucia. They represent government, nongovernmental, business, and volunteer organizations, and educational institutions.

An important goal of Environmental Fridays is to engage and mentor our next generation about environmental challenges and concerns that we face around the world, from local to global. Another way of engaging students is through the Environmental Fridays Public Science Announcement Video Contest. This contest is open to all high school and college students from participating Environmental Fridays institutions. It requires that participating students create a two-minute public science announcement (PSA) video on an environmentally related topic. Entries will be judged in two categories: high school and college. The top three videos in each category will be awarded \$250, \$150, and \$100 at the end of each

Environmental Fridays season. It is co-sponsored by Building Excellence in Science and Technology (BEST Early) and Benton Spirit Community Newspaper.

Each week notifications would be sent out broadly across multiple media platforms, including in the Benton Spirit (<http://bentonspiritnews.com/>) to provide more specific and detailed information of the upcoming lecture, guest speaker and the Zoom link. All are welcomed to attend and participate in these Season III public science episodes either live on Zoom or via video-on-demand on YouTube. More information and details can be found at the Environmental Fridays website: Environmental Fridays ...it is personal. Everyone is encouraged to join the Environmental Fridays Facebook group at: Environmental Fridays | Facebook. If you want to participate in Environmental Fridays as a student, teacher, potential guest speaker, community member, co-sponsor, or have any questions, please contact Dr. Desmond Hartwell Murray, Founding Director of Environmental Fridays, Inc. at [environmentalfridays@gmail.com](mailto:environmentalfridays@gmail.com).

### ***Environmental Fridays Speakers (September)***

**9.16.2022: Debra Shore** is the regional administrator for U.S. EPA Region 5. Her responsibilities include overseeing environmental protection efforts in the Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, as well as 35 federally recognized tribal nations. One of her roles is manager of EPA's Great Lakes National Program, in which she leads restoration and protection of the largest freshwater system in the world.

Prior to joining EPA, Shore was an elected member of the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, a \$1 billion agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management for more than five million people. She is a strong advocate for cleaning up the Chicago waterways and for resource recovery, including the reuse of treated water and the generation of renewable energy.

**9.23.2022: Jaleen West** is a young and aspiring environmental conservationist who works as an Education Officer at the Pointe-a-Pierre Wildfowl Trust in Trinidad. A graduate of the University of the West Indies, Jaleen holds a BSc in International Tourism Management but found her passion in Environmental Education and Public Awareness. Following in the footsteps of her mentor Ms. Molly Gaskin, president of the P-a-P Wildfowl Trust, Jaleen oversees the Trust's aviculture programmes for the research, breeding and release of locally

endangered waterfowl and wetland birds as well as the Trust's Environmental education and Public Awareness programmes designed to sensitize visitors and students to the importance of wise use of our natural resources. Her aim is to instill a sense of pride in the country's young people that they may know and understand that there is only one place to call home, Earth and that they MUST protect it.

**9.30.2022: Joseph Falkinham III** received his A.B. (Bacteriology) and Ph.D. (Microbiology) from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Falkinham served in the US Air Force from 1969 through 1972, directing hospital clinical laboratories. Following a postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Roy Curtiss at the University of Alabama Medical Center, Dr. Falkinham joined the Department of Biological Sciences at Virginia Tech in 1974.

His most recent research is focused on mycobacteria, legionella, and amoeba in household plumbing; biofilm formation by mycobacteria; isolation and identification of new anti-mycobacterial antibiotics; and mechanism of action of antibiotic dendritic amphiphiles.

## PULSE

# Freshmen Advice

Gloria Oh [09.15.22](#)



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Every new academic year is filled with hopes and dreams, but freshman year is even more special as it marks the beginning of a new journey. It is compact with passion and high expectations for oneself, but sometimes it lacks specific plans to achieve them. So today, I accumulated some wise comments from many individuals on the campus to give you ideas about what priorities you should set in your college life. I hope that you will be able to find at least one piece of advice that you will find helpful during your stay at Andrews.

**Nathaniel Sitanggang (junior, finance)**

“Don’t be dumb.”

**Timmy Duado (senior, marketing)**

“Invest in an oil diffuser.”

**Hannah Venn (senior, animal science)**

“Do your homework. It’s a pain to do, but your homework can determine whether you pass a class or not, and you don’t want to have to retake a class. I know we hear it a lot, but it will save you so much stress and worry if you don’t procrastinate. Just do some work each day and it won’t overwhelm you or seem like too much.”

**Kamillie Hernandes (sophomore, biochemistry)**

“As a second year student, I’ve had my ups and downs when it comes to college. So if I had to give a piece of advice to the freshmen it would be two things: to make a schedule and stick to it. If you schedule everything out, you’ll find yourself having more time to yourself. The other is that one bad grade will not define you. There are so many people stressing so much about grades. Yes, you should try to get a good grade—but you should also give yourself a break sometimes. Enjoy your first year at Andrews and make it a good one!”

**Isaiah Elysee (senior, finance)**

“Prioritize your health, happiness, and experiences before your classes. There are professors who are hard and ones who are easy...choose the easy ones. Bring a jacket...it’s brick out here ☹️”

**John Roosenberg (junior, biochemistry)**

“Don’t be afraid of your classes and try if it’s possible to enjoy the content. Also, give Berrien a chance.”

**Ashlee-Rose Wilson (senior, religion and French)**

“You are worth more than your degree.

Live well.

There will be help when you need it.

Also, touch the grass before it snows.”

**Gina Park (junior, music)**

“First of all, develop good time management skills. Do your assignments ahead of time instead of procrastinating at the very last minute. Also, always remember that there are a lot of people around to help you, whether that be your professors or your friends!”

**Ntakirutimana Francine (sophomore, business)**

“Don’t take sleep for granted.”

**Jhoana Mortera (junior, public health)**

“You should carry some hot sauce with you; it always comes in handy.”

**Zoe Gentles (senior, chemistry)**

“Don’t be afraid to ask for help. There are so many academic help resources available on campus, so tap into them! It can often seem like you're the only one struggling in a course, but trust me—you are not. I got through a lot of my classes by being a part of study groups and frequenting professors’ office hours.”

**Abraham Bravo (senior, political science)**

"Make sure you make friends throughout your years here at Andrews. Don’t stick with the same kinds of people and be sure to branch out so you can experience what Andrews fully has to offer. Also don’t take 8:30 classes if you [don’t have to].”

**Hannie Casamayor (junior, biology)**

“‘Late night convos’ are great and all but just remember that you have an 8 am class tomorrow”

**Noah Opsahl (senior, landscape and environmental design)**

“Look at the trees.”

**Enlai Wang (senior, biology)**

“Play more.”

I still remember coming into Andrews with vague ideas of what I'd become in the future, but with strong determination that I would live my best life for the next four years in this place. Now that I'm a senior, I can say with confidence that not



everything went as planned, and I definitely did not live THE life I dreamed of three years ago. In fact, I ended up doing a lot of messed up things on lots of occasions, many times because of my fear.

So, my advice is to not let fear deter you from making the right decisions as you spend your time in college! I also hope you will remember that you will still be okay even if you end up messing up big time. Don't be afraid to make a choice and don't spend time regretting the ones you have already made. Every choice you make, whether good or bad, will probably end up being the best one you could have made at the moment. Leave your worries behind. There is no need to stress about perfection; perfection does not always bring the best moments in life. You are already where you need to be for the best life possible. You got this!

## PULSE

# What to Eat in a Small Town

Lexie Dunham 09.15.22

Have you ever wondered, “Is there even anything to eat around here besides cafeteria food?” If the answer is yes, you have come to the right place. Here is a wonderful guide to the eats and treats in and around Berrien Springs. This guide can be used for the few times you don’t have a ton of schoolwork to do. I will also be giving my recommendations for the restaurants I have visited. Let’s get started!

### **Baguette De France**

This is my personal favorite. It is a mere 5 minutes from campus and has something for everyone. If you are unfamiliar with the world-famous Baguette de France, get in your car and get over there! You aren’t going to want to miss the delicious sandwiches, smoothies, chips, and soups. Too bad we can’t use our meal plan here \*cough\*.

Lexie’s Recommendation: Veggie BBQ with Garlic Sauce

### **Mason Jar**

Another AU classic! Although this time, it’s brunch! That’s right, everyone. Even in the middle of nowhere, there can be good brunch places that are both delicious and entirely aesthetic. This place serves it all: sandwiches, french toast, pancakes,

coffee, other drinks, and so so much more. Claire Moses (sophomore, social work), “I love the small town vibes. THE COFFEE. LAVENDER LATTE. I like how they make everything from organic sources, so I always feel good after eating there”.

Lexie’s Recommendation: Spicy Egg Sandwich with a side of potatoes

### **Silver Beach Pizza**

Who doesn’t love a good pizza place? Silver Beach pizza is a great choice. They serve tasty pizza with large portions, perfect for sharing with friends. The restaurant also has lots of other fun appetizers and sandwiches. This is the ideal place to go after a day at the beach. The restaurant is always hopping with people, but the wait is worth it. This will satisfy all of your pizza needs.

Lexie’s Recommendation: Margherita Pizza

### **La Perla**

La Perla (located in Benton Harbor) offers a sensational, authentic Mexican food journey. This restaurant may look small, but it’s mighty. They offer everything from quesadillas, flautas, tacos, burritos, and more. You can be sure that you will leave satisfied. Joseph McKinley (sophomore, business) says, “The prices are reasonable and affordable for the amount of food you get. It feels and tastes very authentic. I recommend the enchiladas! Go on down to La Perla if you want some delicious Mexican food. You will not regret it!

### **Tim’s Too**

Tim’s Too is a customizable restaurant. You can have noodles as your base, with many options for toppings. Even if your bowl looks like a mess when you bring it to the chef, they create a wonderful fusion of flavors with the items you picked. They have flavorsome sauces and an excellent selection of veggies and meat that you can have grilled up for you. I can’t give a recommendation because you will have to make your own bowl.

Thank you for following along with my guide. Let me know if you try any of these places. Now go out there and EAT!