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The Student Movement v. 107 (2022-2023)

Student Movement

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### The Student Movement Volume 107 Issue 7: Hot Drinks & Hayrides: Barn Party Comes to Campus

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## Hot Drinks & Hayrides

### BARN PARTY COMES TO CAMPUS



Photo by Rachel Onongha

# Humans

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## HUMANS

# Meet David Springer: AUGSA President

Interviewed by: Kavya Mohanram [11.03.22](#)



Photo by Jackson S. John

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*I sat down with David Springer (graduate, MDiv) to talk about his experience as the president of the Andrews University Graduate Student Association.*

### **What does your job consist of as the president of AUGSA?**

I guide the vision for the AUGSA executive team. I'm also responsible for inspiring the leaders, which looks like AUGSA's executive team connecting with leaders on and off campus including administration, social club presidents, and externally, as sometimes we have to find resources off campus. Sometimes, it's connecting with graduate students and seeing if they have some concerns or even some plans to make Andrews University a better place. Maybe some of them have concerns with their families that they may be requesting specific support with. Sometimes it's

meetings—we tend to have a lot of meetings because we are on different committees for the school: Dean’s Council, Strategy and Policy Committee, Housing Board, and Alumni Board.

**What is your vision for Andrews and the graduate students?**

The vision is not just my vision, but it’s the vision we’ve been trying to push for the last year or two. It is the EPIC model; we’re trying to make sure that our graduate students are not just world changers but EPIC world changers. We believe in the philosophy that world changers come to Andrews University to become equipped to go back out into the world and serve. But when they leave here, we want them to be EPIC, which means they can access any sphere of endeavor, and have enough entrepreneurship skills to be able to go and start any business if they need to do so. We also need them to be able to be professional, by virtue of being graduate students. Then, we want to foster the pillar of intimacy: connecting with one another so that we can have not only networks built among graduate students, but eventually net worth built among graduate students. And then community is important, the aspect of us being able to take care of each other emotionally and mentally as well. Those are the four pillars we have for this year.

My personal motto for this year is, “Step by step, with God leading the way,” which means we can’t do anything without God to lead us and move us forward. But that also means we are being strategic and intentional about taking every step that we move forward.

I believe that this Graduate Student Associate is not trying to make moves that would only impact graduate students for the next year, but for many years to come. Just recently, we were able to announce the start of a graduate student scholarship that would be funded by AUGSA. It is an endowed scholarship, so it means that we have placed \$15,000 for the initial scholarship that will stay in an account and accrue interest and interest will be paid out of that so that it can fund the scholarship. We will be distributing \$5,000 from Spring 2023 towards that initiative, so graduate students across campus can apply and access the funds. We are not looking at short-term goals, but medium- and long-term goals as well.

**You talked about the EPIC model; can you give an example of how AUGSA is using this model?**

Just last week, we partnered with BSAS (Black Student Association of the Seminary) to bring in the CEO and president of Advent Health Organization in Illinois. He did a talk but also brought an entire HR team ready for graduate

students to connect with them so that they could get on-the-spot hires. So, we're trying to develop these types of relationships. We have been also working with the career center, trying to make sure that we have more opportunities for students after graduation, and within the context of students being able to get to do some of their practicum. We're trying to make sure we can create new pathways for people to be able to do their practicums as well.

Every Thursday night, we also have Kinetic vespers, which is done in conjunction with University Towers. That helps take care of intimacy and community as well. But then, when people are asked to participate, it also helps build and foster the professionalism aspect of things. It helps to prepare them to move out of this space at Andrews University and go out into the world.

So, when we talk about entrepreneurship, professionalism, intimacy, and community, most of our projects and events that we take on have to fit within that framework.

## HUMANS

# Meet Rock Choi: AUSA Presidential Assistant

Interviewed by: Anna Pak [11.03.22](#)

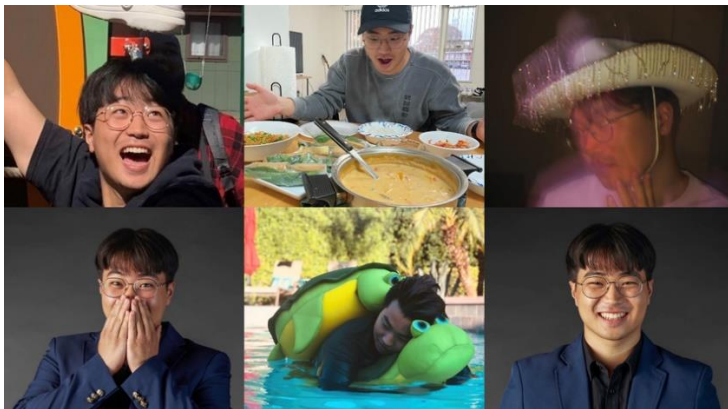


Photo by Rock Choi

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*This week I talked to the AUSA Presidential Assistant, Rock Choi (sophomore, exercise science) to learn more about why he applied, what responsibilities his position entails, and future goals he has.*

**What attracted you to apply for AUSA? Why does it interest you?**

It's a combination of multiple things. Last year's AUSA President Dongchan came up to me and said, "Rock, I think you'll do really well in AUSA, and I know you're interested in leadership." And I am interested in leadership because I really enjoy it, and serving other people is what I live for and what I feel like I've been called to do. It really fulfills me and it feels like I'm doing God's work by helping people through leadership, and representing others as best I can.

**What is your philosophy on leadership? Are there any ideals you hold?**

As someone who is holding a leadership position among peers, I think it's very important to make a distinction between friends and partners in leadership. It's hard to find that balance, but once you get that set, especially in a student leadership role, you can do so many other things while keeping your friends really close. Leadership isn't all about logistics, and it's also not all about creativity—you can combine those both. Someone like me—I'm not good at creativity, I'm definitely more the logistics type—so finding people who compliment you is also really important. Also, I think you have to keep in mind that leadership is never going to be easy from the jump. You're put in a position where you're in service to others, but that doesn't make you better than anyone else and it doesn't give you more clout. If you're doing it for clout, then you'll fail because you're doing it for the wrong reasons. The reason why you do leadership is because you want to serve others.

**What prominent roles and responsibilities do you hold as Presidential Assistant?**

I help out with the Senate, so I work directly under the Executive Vice President, Andrew Rapette (Senior, Information Systems), and do small logistic tasks such as taking attendance and making sure everything's in order. I also lead the Finance Committee for the Senate; for example, clubs securing grants or division of money. Although the EVP has the ultimate say, a couple of other senators and I kind of deal with it. Basically, that's the bulk of my job in addition to going to events and helping out wherever I can, because as part of AUSA, it's my duty to make sure that I show up at every AUSA event.

**What do you enjoy the most about being in the Student Association?**

I think just meeting new people, because there are so many positive people who want to do a lot of things. Additionally, making new friends and connections like saying hi to someone while walking to class has definitely allowed me to broaden my circle.

**What is the most challenging aspect of your position?**

The most challenging aspect for me is sometimes feeling like my position is less important—which doesn't mean anything—but just the fact that it doesn't have a fancy title can make me feel like, "Oh, well, I'm not that important, so I don't have to go." I think it's just about breaking that barrier and saying "No, I'm still a part of AUSA, I'm still an officer." So I think I should do my best—and no matter how small my role, no matter how easy my role may seem, it's about constantly doing more than what I'm asked and doing the best I can, despite my role seeming unimportant.

**What are some of your goals and priorities for the 2022-2023 school year?**

My goals overall for AUSA is to do a little more than just events. During my freshman year all I've seen AUSA do was put on events which were obviously really good, but I want us to go further. For example, we could do a little more with administration, or connect with more departments of the school and just put on a wider variety of things. Letting the school as an entirety know what the students want and strive for—that's pretty much my goal. It's very broad, but I think it's achievable.



HUMANS

# Women in Stem: Minseo Kang

Interviewed by: Anna Pak 11.03.22

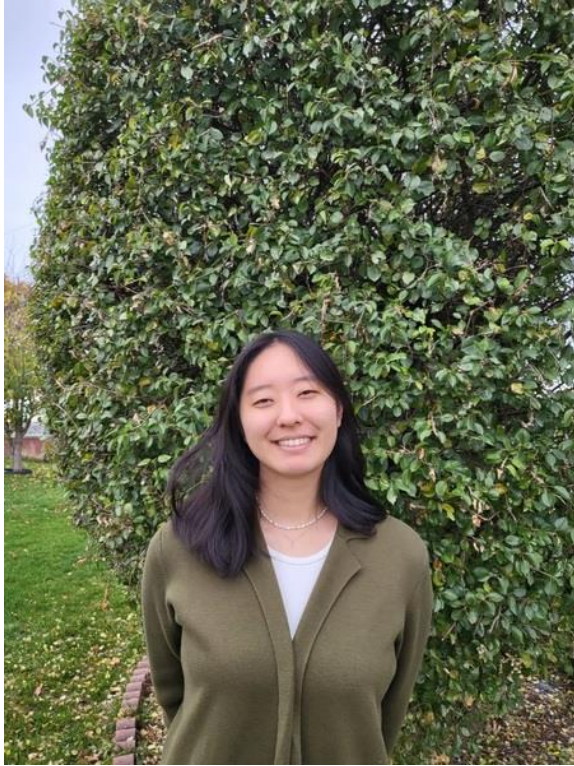


Photo by MinSeo or Minseo Kang

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*I talked to Minseo Kang, (senior, mathematics) who answered questions about her experiences as a woman in mathematics, including why she chose this path, the challenges that she's faced, and future goals she has for after graduation.*

**What made you decide to go into mathematics?**

I had always felt a calling towards it. I enjoyed math in high school, so I thought it would be a good background for the kind of thinking and logic needed for my future as a physician.

**What are some of the mathematics courses you've taken so far, and which has been your favorite?**

I have taken Calculus I to III, Intro to Linear Algebra, Linear Algebra, Foundations of Advanced Math, Real Analysis I&II, Differential Equations, and Abstract Algebra. I enjoyed Calculus I to III and Differential Equations the most, as they have been computational classes while the others have been proofs. Calculus is also the foundation of mathematics and other fields, so I believe that it could also help in medical research in my future.

**Have you faced challenges so far as a woman in STEM? On the flip side, have you been able to experience triumphs or successes?**

I have not experienced any challenges so far, as my department and this school have been nothing but supportive to my learning. In terms of successes, the interviewer and most of the people I talked to while applying for medical school have been intrigued about my choice of major. I was able to talk about how logic and critical thinking gained from mathematics helped me study more efficiently in my pre-medicine courses. Additionally, on the MCAT, I was able to use logic and critical thinking to effectively solve the CARS section.

**What are some ways in which you have been able to experience or create community in your field?**

There is a colloquium every Friday at 12:30 that I attended almost every semester throughout college. At the colloquium, speakers would come and talk to us about their field in math/physics and the possible job opportunities that came along with it. My friends in the math department and I would sit together at eigen\* (Andrews University Mathematicians and Physicists Club) and enjoy listening to the speaker while eating the food provided. The sense of community at eigen\* was a blessing for me.

**Do you have any role models that you look up to?**

I look up to my mother because she worked so hard to be where she is today. As an international student that came to Michigan State to study for her PhD, she successfully became a professor while also being the best mother to me. Currently, she is a professor in mathematics at Andrews University. Just like her, I hope to become a physician that people look up to and successfully start a family.

**What are your career plans for after graduation?**

After graduation, I plan to attend Loma Linda University School of Medicine and study to become a Physician. Right now, I am looking into orthopedic surgery, but I know that is subject to change as I get more clinical experience.

# Arts & Entertainment

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Creatives on Campus: Passion Through A New Lens

Amelia Stefanescu 11.03.22

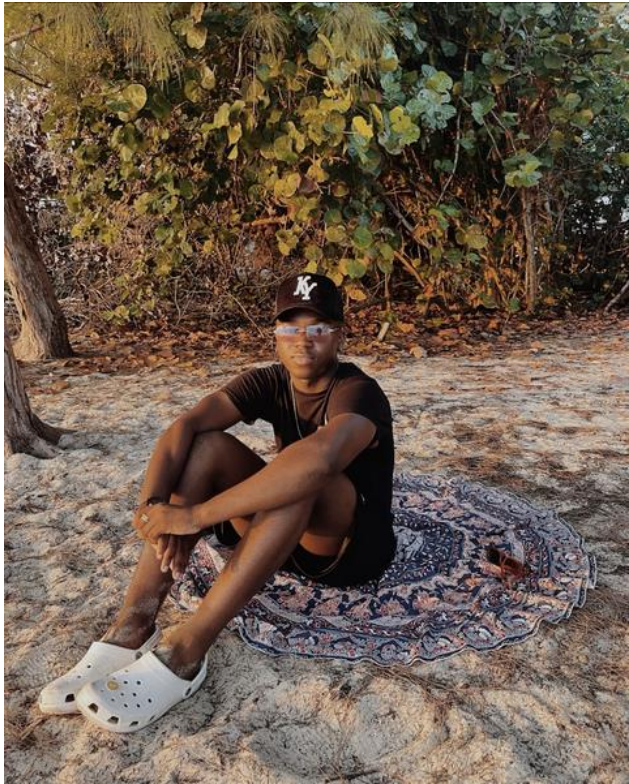


Photo by Ragét Amõr Ricketts

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*This week, I decided to interview one of Andrews University's very own creatives! They are very passionate about photography and are originally from the Cayman Islands. Can you guess who it is? It is the one and only Ragét Amõr Ricketts*

*(sophomore, aviation)! Let's discover his passion for photography and the ways it has influenced his life.*

Amõr discovered photography about three years ago, during a five-day cruise. At the second stop in Cozumel, Mexico, as he was taking pictures from the tenth deck with his phone, a woman approached him.

“This random lady tapped me on my shoulder and said, ‘I see you’re taking pictures. Do you like photography?’ And I said, ‘Yes, yes I do’. She said: ‘Well, I have a camera here if you’d like it, since I don’t use it.’”

And that was the start to his beautiful creative passion. Sometimes, a stranger’s kind words and appreciation is all one needs to be encouraged into pursuing a creative hobby such as this. One of Amõr’s most memorable shoots was in fact an impromptu shoot done with a couple from Italy who stumbled on his page while they were in the Cayman Islands, and asked to be photographed.

He describes his biggest motivators as being the people who reach out to him and communicate their admiration for his work on the way to and from class, and through social media, and urge him to keep going. He even fondly calls his Instagram motivators his “Instagram besties.”

Besides it being a wonderful hobby and a release of creativity for Amõr, photography has also helped him in his mental life.

“Well, photography is how I cope with my depression. Growing up, I didn't really have the best childhood and would often go into very depressive moods and lock myself away from the world, but photography has helped me to come out of that depressive shell state and be happy, you know?”

Amõr describes that, as time went by, he could notice the positive effects focusing his efforts on photography did for him. He describes himself as more happy, willing to meet new people and make friends, and more open to putting himself out there for the world to see.

As a word of advice for people struggling with identifying a passion, or who feel like they haven’t found one, Amõr advises to never limit yourself to only doing one thing. He encourages people to explore and develop a love for curiosity, to always look for new knowledge or a new skill to learn.

“I think we should go out into the world and run a marathon, take on a cooking class, try fishing, play video games etc. You’ll never know what you’re passionate about until you try it. So yeah, try everything you can!”

Creativity is all around us, and as Amôr has told us, these creative passions can only be found if we actively try new things. Take the time to discover yourself in your passions and build up your own creativity! Also, remember to take the time to admire some of Amôr’s work on Instagram ([@visualsbyamor](https://www.instagram.com/visualsbyamor)).

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Currently...

Solana Campbell 11.03.22



Photo by Kayla-Hope Bruno

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Anyone else suffering from mid-semester burnout? Just me? Okay. This week’s collection of new releases gives you a plethora of options for your limited free time. Now, I think it’s time I give you readers a little disclaimer. I may or may not actually watch the picks for these weekly lists. I mean, come on, did you guys really think I have the time to consume hours upon hours of brand-new streaming media each week? NO way! To be honest, I tend to prefer to watch 12-season long hit dramas (I’ve been binging “Bones” on Hulu for like two months straight) that have

been out for ages and are long cemented by a wagonful of ardent fans. However, I do occasionally like to watch a season of something new or catch a new release in theaters. Which is why I attempt to give you guys the opportunity to do so as well. But, just in case you guys were wondering, my little words (if we can call them that!) on each project are usually just a prompt to get you guys to stream :) So, take a moment to check out my Instagram (@solana.campbell) and let me know if you guys have been keeping up with Currently... Did you check out any of my picks?

### [Selena Gomez: My Mind and Me](#)

I know, I know, usually I try to give you guys *entertainment* to get your mind off things and you might not classify this as one, but Selena Gomez's highly anticipated mental health documentary releases this Friday. Gomez, who grew to fame for her starring turn on Disney's "Wizards of Waverly Place" and infamous on-and-off relationship with teenage pop sensation Justin Bieber, has recently grown into a slightly different celebrity profile. After coming forth about her painful experience with lupus, she began to pivot into a more wellness-minded space, spearheading (one of my favorites!) the makeup brand Rare Beauty and taking on a larger mental health platform. It has been a beautiful experience for those of us who grew up listening to her music and watching her on tv to see her grow and blossom into her own persona, a profile crafted by her desire for privacy and the platform she was given to spread awareness. The documentary traces her pathway through this incredible growth and gives viewers an opportunity to look at their own lives and determine who they want to be. Check it out for all the feels. *November 4, Apple TV.*

### [Enola Holmes 2](#)

Remember when the adorable Louis Partridge was white boy of the month? If you're not familiar with the term, "white boy of the month" refers to whoever young white male celebrity the internet (primarily Twitter and TikTok) chooses to go ga-ga for each month. The picks have ranged from Dylan O'Brien to Logan Lerman to, of course, the aforementioned Louis Partridge. Well, it sounds like we can forecast yet another dose of Partridge pics on our timelines with the upcoming (Friday) release of the sequel to "Enola Holmes," the instant Netflix smash hit that skyrocketed him to fame. The original "Enola Holmes," a teenage detective historical piece featuring the younger sister of Sherlock Holmes, was pushed forward by Millie Bobby Brown, the young executive producer and titular character of the project. The first film gave us fun and family, with a little dose of feels (Enola

must reckon with her mother going missing), and the second one is sure to do the same. Keep your eyes peeled! *November 4, Netflix.*

#### [Manifest: Season 4](#)

I don't know about y'all, but the description for "Manifest" Season 1 immediately pulled me in. "When a plane mysteriously lands years after takeoff, the people onboard return to a world that has moved on without them and face strange new realities." The show's trailer pulled me in even more. "What happened to the people on that flight that they lost five whole years of their lives in the span of a few hours?" is the question that the series has wrestled with for the last three seasons. And with its fourth and final season, Netflix promises to finally give viewers the answer. Binge the first three seasons to see how the characters evolve and change while dealing with this huge traumatic event (and the aftermath, when they return to a world where their loved ones seem to have forgotten them); then catch up with the fourth to discover why it all happened. As a fan of the show myself, I hope that the answers are satisfactory. *November 4, Netflix.*

#### ["Lift Me Up"; Rihanna](#)

Y'all KNOW I couldn't release this week's Currently... without at least taking a moment to mention Rihanna's miraculous return to music. After her smash hits took out the early 2000's and 2010's, she solidified her status as a pop superstar. Personally, I still stream those classics; who can forget the sultry, catchy tones and impressive runs of "Needed Me"? One of the things that really solidified Robyn Rihanna Fenty as a musician is her unique sound and voice. From the initial hums of "Lift Me Up," last week's brand-new song from Rihanna (finally ending our 6-year drought!), the melody puts the iconic smoky quality to her voice at the forefront. However, its melodies also emphasize a growth and maturity to Rihanna's voice, putting her on a slow and minimal piano backing track and letting her voice shine. The song is meaningful as well, a tribute to the late Chadwick Boseman's passing and the title track from this year's Black Panther sequel, which is sure to echo our nation's grief. Most listeners were surprised by the almost lullaby-like quality to the piece, expecting something a little more upbeat from the "queen of pop." However, I find it the peace I have needed in the last few month's hubbub. Perhaps it's exactly what our trauma-ridden world needs right now: to be lulled into peace by Rihanna's magical voice. *Already out.*

#### ["Smithereens"; Joji](#)

"Glimpse of Us," arguably Joji's most popular hit, starts his new album off strong. The song isolates his vocals and provides a meaningful new sound to a feeling

many of us have (sadly) felt. To be honest, I was listening to it as I wrote this paragraph and the very soulfulness to the piece makes me excited for his upcoming 9-track EP. Joji rose to fame with the single “Slow Dancing in the Dark,” which blew up on TikTok, igniting trends and giving Joji a rising fan base almost instantaneously. However, those of you who are more *original* fans might remember his initial single “Yeah Right.” His music is self-described as “dark love songs” and his tone eases toward a more sad-toned R&B, less sexy than a traditional R&B artist. He’s signed to 88Rising, the music label most focused on attracting Asian hip-hop talent. Even the “Yukon (Interlude)” single that was released at the time of this writing echoes his melody-focused tone. I, personally, am excited for what “Smithereens” promises me: chill R&B that I can cry to. *November 4.*

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Fatphobic or Sensitive?

Lily Rodriguez [11.03.22](#)



Photo by public domain

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We live in a generation accused of being sensitive. We point out the flaws in our parents' words, our grandparents' beliefs, certain songs—the list goes on. Most



people use artistic outlets to express themselves, such as music, art, poetry, and writing. But where does expressing oneself become offensive to others? Popular artists are often accused of racism, ableism, fatphobia, objectification of women, and more in their art. Recently, Taylor Swift's new album and music video was accused of being fatphobic. In her music video, Taylor is on a scale, and as she glances down at the scale, it reads "FAT." Taylor defended her video, which she wrote and directed herself, and stated that it is her own personal struggles and experiences she was trying to demonstrate with body dysmorphia. The video sparked controversy throughout social media—some made the argument of how harmful the word 'fat' is, while others argued it was her artistic right to portray her own experiences.

Words hold so much power. They can either make or break a person. [Lyricism](#) is defined as "an intense personal quality expressive of feeling or emotion in an art (such as poetry or music)." There have been endless controversies over lyrics in the past with big artists like Beyonce and Lizzo, where both used the slur "spaz." After much criticism, both artists acknowledged the problem and changed the lyrics. Popular rap lyrics (not all) are also notorious for objectifying women. The misogyny behind these lyrics use many derogatory terms towards women. But there are also lyrics that do the opposite, and instead of offending, they empower. As humans, it's in our nature to create and express ourselves. There's a saying, "All work and no play makes Johnny a dull boy." I believe artistic expression is important to feel more alive. The Renaissance is a prime example of how as humans we flourish in our creativity. But where do we draw the line between expressing ourselves and offending others? The freedom to express is a privilege that can easily be taken away, especially with the toxic cancel culture that exists today. It's a thin line we need to learn how to maneuver.

With Taylor Swift's recent music video and the backlash it received, Swift ultimately decided to edit and crop out that portion of the video. She was trying to convey her struggles with disordered eating and body image, but recognized that it caused harm to some of her fans. I don't necessarily think Taylor was trying to do harm—but the way she used the word "Fat," it seemed like she made it equivalent to the word "ugly." And maybe that's the biggest issue with that word. People automatically assume that a synonym to the word fat is ugly, or unworthy, or all these negative things because of the negative connotation of it. We live in a society where there is a lot of gray area in these controversial topics. I can't take a side on the situation since I understand the reasoning on both perspectives. But I do give

credit to those who did pick a side and defended what they believed in. It shows we are not a sensitive generation. We are just a generation that is not afraid to speak up on the flaws in situations. We are open minded, progressive, and yes, very bold. But we defend what's right, even if it means going against our parents, or our favorite artist. Don't let someone's creative outlet offend, and don't let your own creative outlet offend others either. Instead, let the goal of creating be to flourish, grow, and express what you can't necessarily put into words (unless you're a writer).

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Take 3: Is Love Truly Blind?

Hannah Cruse 11.03.22



Photo by public domain

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After all the divorce announcements of the season 2 Pod Squad, the world looked a little bleak. Does true love exist? Is anyone going to be happily married? Is love blurry? Are Cameron and Lauren the exception? But when we thought all was lost, Love is Blind season 3 proved us wrong. It is time to once again flex our critiquing skills as we delve into the world of engagement in Dallas, Texas. Warning: Spoilers abound.

If anyone is still holding out on watching the show, here's how it works. A group of young professionals who are looking to be married sign up to experience a type of social experiment to see if people can fall in love without ever seeing each other. Men and women are kept in separate wings and can only meet in the pods, a room that has a wall separating the couple. You first have to propose to the unseen match before you can meet them in person, after which you are whisked off to a resort to see if you two can develop a physical connection before testing their relationship in their everyday lives. You then have three weeks to see if you are completely compatible before going in front of the altar, surrendering yourself to the mercy of your partner's decision. It's a whirlwind experience for both the couples and the viewers.

One key theme in this season is the amount of gaslighting and toxic masculinity that overflows into the relationships between the engaged and the other couples. One such pairing is between Bartise and Nancy. She is an established speech pathologist and real estate investor who has been living debt free, while Bartise has just graduated from college with student loan debt. You can tell that he feels financially inferior to her, and that bothers him. He also constantly brings up the fact that Nancy, a shorter and tanner woman, is not very physically attractive to him, as his usual type is tall, blonde and athletic. Right up until the latest episode, Bartise is trying his very hardest to make Nancy out to be the villain in the relationship by bringing up her view on abortion (a pro-choice queen) in front of his anti-abortion family and "catching her in the act" of talking to a man who also proposed to her, despite her defending Bartise and her decision to marry him. He has been using all of this as an excuse to withhold physical affection, further making Nancy look like the needy one in the relationship. Gaslighting often occurs when one partner attempts to make the other partner feel as though they are in the wrong, even when the problems extend deeper. Clearly, his male ego can't take her sureness and financial independence, which is a no in my book. But to make matters worse, he chooses to make her look like the problem.

Another example is the love triangle between Cole, Colleen, and Matt. Cole, who is engaged to a lovely Pakistani American, Zanak, has eyes for Colleen, a typical blue-eyed blonde. He talks about how, in the real world, he would not have gone for Zanak, but Colleen, which causes Zanak to lose confidence in herself. Cole keeps telling her it's not a big deal, but it really is. Cole and Colleen even have a conversation about it at the pool, which starts causing tension in Colleen's relationship with Matt (her fiance), a walking nervous breakdown about to happen.

Having been cheated on before, he's quite cautious and is ready to give up so many times on their relationship. Colleen tries to downplay the whole "pool scene", even though everyone, including the viewers, can't deny that Cole and Colleen might be a little too into each other for two engaged people. The emotional fallout is deeply damaging to the confidence of their aforementioned partners, Zanab and Matt. Infidelity, even while emotional, is always a problem.

One thing that the audience can learn from this season is that love doesn't have to be blind to all things. Nancy keeps telling herself Bartise is the right person because she loves him, despite all the times he's gaslighted her and thrown her under the bus and Zanab can overlook Cole's emotional infidelity, in spite of how it makes her feel, because she "loves him". People should not just settle for someone just because they claim to love them, because love isn't always enough to save a relationship. Both these women need to leave ASAP and find someone who appreciates everything that they are and the values they stand for.

This season and even the previous season causes me to question the efficacy of this so-called social experiment. More and more of the people seem to be coming on the show because they want fame, rather than because they want to get married in an unconventional manner (which is the whole point of the show). Also, the fact remains that people can say whatever they want while in the safety of the pods, because people have no way of knowing if the other person is lying. Lastly, it is a reality show like any other, meaning there are storylines to follow, people to root for, and others to strongly dislike. The amount of changed opinions from "After the Altar" segments really show the problem with editing and leaving out potentially important information that can show red flags from the "heroes."

The first seven episodes are available to watch on Netflix and the next three will drop on November 2. Get your golden goblets and squinty eyes ready for all the drama and shenanigans.

# News

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## NEWS

# AUSA & AFIA End Filipino American History Month On A High Note

Nicholas C. Gunn [11.03.22](#)



Photo by Nicholas C. Gunn

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With the many events and titles that come with the month of October, which also happens to be Filipino American History Month, the Andrews University Student Association (AUSA) and the Andrews Filipino International Association (AFIA) felt that they needed to end the month with a bang. So they did.

On Monday, October 31, the Andrews Filipino International Association (AFIA) and the Andrews University Student Association (AUSA) hosted a night for the Andrews University community, which they titled “Karaoke Night” or Kanta Na. At 8:00 pm, students gathered in the Rec Center Amphitheater, located on the lower level of the Campus Center building, for a night of joyful singing, food, and fellowship.

Students participated throughout the night and signed up to sing some of their favorite songs. Some students wanted to do more than sing and instead hyped up the audience by coming prepared with dance routines that shocked just about everyone, for the most part.

The event seemed to have been enjoyed by many students who were in attendance. One attendee, Chloe De Leon (sophomore, graphic design), said: “Tonight was really fun, and everyone who participated gave their all. I can’t wait till next time.”

Andrews University Student Association (AUSA) President, Aya Pagunsan (senior, nursing), who first envisioned planning this karaoke night, said, “I came up with this idea with the AUSA Social Vice President, Hailey Prestes, and our AUSA Executive Secretary, Franky Paypa (senior, physical therapy), because we wanted to end Filipino American History Month in a fun way. Karaoke was a big part of our lives growing up, so we asked AFIA if they wanted to partner with us! We wanted a fun night where students could relax, but also enjoy a part of Filipino culture that is near and dear to our hearts.”

Andrews Filipino International Association (AFIA) didn't pass up on the opportunity. AFIA President, Jaden Leiterman (junior, medical laboratory sciences), who decided to partner with AUSA, stated, “When Aya reached out to me for this collab with AUSA, I was excited to bring this to my team to start planning. Karaoke is such a big part of Filipino culture that I found it perfect to help close our Filipino American history month. I’m glad we could do a very chill pop-up event where people can not only de-stress and have fun, but also learn a little more about Filipino culture still!”

To learn more about the Andrews Filipino International Association (AFIA), follow them on Instagram at [@AUAFIA](#), and to stay up to date with the Andrews University Student Association (AUSA), follow them at [@weareausa](#).

## NEWS

# AUSA Hosts Barn Party

Alannah Tjhatra 11.03.22



Photo by Peter Tumangday

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On Saturday, October 29, from 8 to 11 pm, the Andrews University Student Association (AUSA) hosted their annual Barn Party on the Alumni Lawn. They collaborated with the AU Pre-Vet Club, the Women’s Empowerment Association, and Global Tastes to tie everything together.

A large white tent was set up in front of the alumni house. Outside the tent stood warm gas lanterns surrounding a circle of lights and hay bales. A bonfire crackled at the center of this circle, ready for s’mores to be roasted (or burnt).

Students showed up in their best western attire: flannel, big belts, and cowboy boots and hats were in popular fashion that night. Popular music—including a large assortment of nostalgic Taylor Swift country songs—blasted from the speakers, helping to maintain the lively atmosphere.

The mechanical bull gathered an especially large crowd as students competed to see who could stay on the bull ride the longest.

After his turn on the ride, Caleb Sigh (senior, information systems) commented good-naturedly, “The bull riding was fun—I’m a little disappointed with my results,

I got 30 [seconds]. I was hoping for two minutes or something like that, but you know, next time, next year, we'll come back stronger!"

Inside the tent, students warmed up with chai and hot apple cider, as well as a selection of finger foods provided by Global Tastes catering. There were a few hiccups, however—food became more scarce as the night wore on.

Nora Martin (junior, English and psychology) shared her experience: "I know everyone worked really hard, and it's really hard to run an event. But I was told that there was going to be a fourth wave of food in twenty minutes, twice, so I waited for forty minutes, only to be told that there was no more food left for the students. I just wish the lines of communication could have been better so that I wouldn't have had to wait for forty minutes for something that was not coming."

Evidently, it was difficult to provide so much food for such a large crowd.

Hailey Prestes (junior, architecture), [AUSA's Social Vice President](#), shared her behind-the-scenes input about the event: "This [the alumni lawn] is not the original location that the barn party was supposed to be at, so let's just say a lot of struggles came in the last week that we had to sort through. But other than that, the team came together—shoutout to plant services, custodial, Dean DeLeon, and VP Faehner—who all really came through, putting things together for us."

When asked if she thought there was a specific highlight of the night, she said, "I think that dancing to the Hoedown Throwdown, and getting to sing your heart out to Taylor Swift, *while* riding a mechanical bull—that just sounds like a vibe."

Games like pumpkin bowling and connect four were also scattered throughout the lawn. Additionally, students could paint mini pumpkins, ride a hay wagon around campus while singing karaoke, take pictures at the photo booth, and interact with animals at a petting zoo.

Carolina Smith (junior, animal science), who was helping out at the petting zoo, explained the Pre-Vet Club's part in the event: "We transported the bunnies...and goats...in some carriers and a pick-up truck...we have some hay here for them, in case they get hungry. [AUSA] reached out to us [about helping out], so we're offering this petting zoo and also the hayride. We helped with setting up hay bales on Friday." She introduced the goats as 'Tiny Dancer' and 'Jazz,' explaining, "We chose them because they have the best body condition score out of all the goats on the farm."



Ariana Coast (senior, biology) chimed in, saying, “They’re more social, too. And we also brought four rabbits—we’re showing two at a time. The ones we have out now...are super friendly. Both of them are adults, about five years old.”

Samantha Flores (freshman, music education) said, “Honestly [the barn party] is pretty fun. I love the turnout and the decorations...I like the set-ups for all the pictures.” Meanwhile, Rod Olofernes (freshman, medical laboratory science), said, “My favorite thing here has actually been the pumpkin bowling. I can’t believe I almost got a spare...I suck at bowling in real life, but maybe pumpkin bowling might be my thing.”

As Miley Cryus’s “Party in the U.S.A.” blasted over the speakers, Rachel Onongha (senior, medical laboratory science) said, “The pumpkin painting was so fun. The fact that I get to keep something from this event makes it very nice.”

As the night progressed, Franky Paypa (senior, physical therapy), AUSA’s Executive Secretary, guided the barn full of flannel-clad college students in stepping to the Hoedown Throwdown, a dance from “Hannah Montana.” One by one, enthusiastic students took to the middle of the white tent to show off their barn party moves, getting into the country-style music.

Although there were a few hiccups, the Barn Party served as a much-needed break from the hectic midterm season. It allowed students to enjoy some fun outdoor activities before the fall weather transitions into a cooler winter period.

NEWS

# Honors Outing to Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Nora Martin 11.03.22



Photo by Alannah Tjhatra

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Wednesday, November 2, the Honors Department sponsored a trip to the Chicago Shakespeare Theater for a performance of “Measure for Measure.” After a brief lunch stop at Navy Pier, theater-goers nestled in for a rendition of the play set in 1950s Cuba, just before the Cuban Revolution. “Measure for Measure,” generally considered one of Shakespeare’s ‘problem plays’ due to its mix of comedic and dark elements, follows the Duke of Vienna as he steps out of public life to observe the affairs of the city as it is run by his spartan chosen secondary, Angelo. The Duke discovers that Angelo, while ascetic in public, privately attempts to coerce a young nun, Isabella, into having sex with him. The play deals very heavily with issues of consent, judicial hypocrisy, and misogyny, and has been criticized by some modern audiences for its depiction of sexual assault. In an interactive post-production chat with the audience, the actors explained that they and the director had taken the moral issues of the text very seriously, and very intentionally tried to

frame and cut the original text in a way to create an ethical, relevant, performance. Regarding this attempt, T Bruggemann (senior, computer science and physics) said: “The material they were working with is very problematic, but they performed it well and the setting and theming of it in Cuba was very interesting, and also very thought-through in how it related to the original play.”

One notable adaptive change in the production was the inclusion of several new pieces of music, staged at the beginning as an introduction to the play. Alex Navarro (senior, math and physics) explained his impression of this adaptive choice thusly: “I think the primary purpose of the music was to immerse us into the story. Also, it provided a memorable experience besides what was just in the original script. It highlighted the specific parts of the new setting that they put the play in, and that also really helped immerse us in this new (for most) cultural background.” In addition to immersion and contextualizing, the music also provided some helpful character descriptions, as Madison Vath (sophomore, English) described: “I thought the choice to add in music was really interesting, especially because Claudio [one of the central characters] used his first song as kind of an exposition to introduce some of the characters, which I thought was really neat. From my little knowledge of Shakespeare productions, there is not often a lot of music, so this was an interesting choice—especially in light of the setting.”

Overall, the outing seemed to be very enjoyable for many students. Yoel Kim (junior, physics and math studies) summarized briefly: “I really appreciated the moment to explore and vibe at Navy Pier, and I loved the fact that we were able to talk to the actors after the play. That was fun and their insight was very interesting. I also thought it was cool how high-end the event was—there was a lot of effort put into production and acting.”

The return to live productions post-Covid has been greatly anticipated by many honors students, and with such a successful outing, perhaps we may see more in the future.

# Ideas

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## IDEAS

# Reader's Digest: Midterm Elections

Terika Williams [11.03.22](#)



Photo by public domain

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The Midterms, coined for its placement in the second year, the middle of a presidential term, occurs on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. In the last midterm election, which occurred in 2018, around 53% of the eligible American population voted, which was the highest it's been in 40 years. Meaning at

most, around half of the United States population participates in this opportunity to vote. If only around half the population votes in the midterms it must not be important, right? Wrong! Let me explain to you why midterms are important by taking us back to sixth grade Social Studies.

The U.S government has 3 branches: [executive, legislative and judicial](#). The executive branch, we are well aware of. It contains the president, vice president, and their cabinet. We elect these officials every year that ends with a multiple of four. Our last presidential election was in 2020, and our upcoming election will be in 2024. The purpose of the executive branch is to enforce the law. For example, the president is responsible for signing or vetoing laws, appointing federal judges, and more. The president is responsible for creating a cabinet, integral to the federal bureaucracy. Some examples of the US Cabinet Departments are the Department of Homeland Security, Treasury, Education, and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Secondly is the judicial branch which consists of the Supreme Court and other federal courts. These judges, nominated by the president in office when a vacancy opened, serve for life, or until retirement. Their job includes interpreting laws, and deciding whether or not they are constitutional. There are nine justices in the Supreme Court. Lastly the legislative branch, Congress, is composed of the House of Representatives and the Senate. There are 100 senators, two per state, and 435 representatives based on population. Every six years, Senator seats are up for grabs, but this is staggered so that every two years there are Senate elections. Members of the House of Representatives are voted in every two years. Their responsibility is to the laws that you and I must adhere to. In addition, they have the right to declare war and reject any appointments the president makes. If the president vetoes their law they can override it by passing the bill in each chamber, the Senate and House of Representatives, with 2/3 votes in favor.

The Midterm elections determine the next Senators and Representatives of the United States. You must be wondering now, *Terika? Why did you just fact attack me in the last paragraph?* To your question, I answer, so you understand the significance of Senators and Representatives in your future, and how they affect every other branch of government. [A politics professor](#) at George Mason University, Gary Nordlinger, gets it right: “Whoever controls the House or the Senate controls the agenda.” The extent to which a president can change America around is determined by who sits in Congress. Gun control laws are made in Congress. Climate control laws are made in Congress. The midterm elections give

American citizens the chance to choose who makes their laws, which arguably is the most important part of government. Lobbyists impress and win over Congress members to promote their own agenda. The president's ability to appoint new, life serving federal judges or hinder certain laws is controlled by Congress. These positions exist to represent a government for the people and by the people.

Lastly, before you click out of this tab, most states use this time, while many citizens are still in the voting booth to present their proposals to their state government. If you would like to see more about Michigan's proposals for November 8 [click here](#). For more information about the candidates for Michigan's governmental positions [click here](#).

I hope to see World Changers in the voting booth on November 8!

## IDEAS

# The Death of the Rom-Com

Grace No 11.03.22



Photo by public domain

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To be honest, I had no idea that “Bros” had been released in movie theaters when it first came out in September, and the only promotion that I briefly saw of it was a ten second Tik-Tok trailer that I quickly forgot. And when I saw the movie poster of two white men holding each other's butts with a cutesy looking title in large font, it

hardly stood out as peak graphic design or even a comedy worth watching. If anything, its opening box office numbers of \$4.8 million prove that most everyone else thought the same thing. However, I'm happy to watch all kinds of stupid movies in a theater if it's with my friends, and I went in to watch the movie expecting at best a mindless rom-com. What I saw exceeded all expectations. Although it features a romance between two cisgender white men, Billy Eichner shows a refreshing amount of self awareness as both lead actor and writer, and takes care to feature a diverse cast and intersectionality within the entire movie. It never felt as if the story ignored the many different systems of oppression that LGBTQ communities face, and it accounted for other factors like race and class alongside sexuality and gender. It also calls out popular queer movies that perpetuate harmful stereotypes and commodify queer culture, such as "Brokeback Mountain" and "The Power of the Dog." "Bros" is set apart in the fact that it doesn't diminish or warp itself to appeal to a more heteronormative audience. Even though the movie is a mainstream Hollywood release, its plot is unapologetic in its queer romance. In true rom-com fashion, the conflicts are centered on miscommunication, rather than homophobia and pain ("My Policeman" could never), which is of course rare in the narratives we see about LGBTQ lives in popular media. It's nice to see a movie that is, at its heart, a simple, sweet romance but is still entirely conscious of its queerness and the unique complications that this raises in dating culture and relationships. In addition, Billy Eichner's sharp dialogue throughout helps keep the story from feeling too cheesy.

After an extremely disappointing performance in theaters, though, Eichner took to Twitter to call on "[Everyone who ISN'T a homophobic weirdo](#)" to show up to see "Bros," and criticized straight people for refusing to watch the movie despite its overwhelmingly positive reviews. Unfortunately, it's not completely surprising that "Bros" flopped, considering that rom-coms have been on the decline in recent years. This is largely due to dropping attention spans and franchise film approaches to cinema that focus on high action, big budget blockbusters instead of more independent movies that aren't as intense for viewers—often dubbed the "Marvelification" of movies. Even though this movie was a solid romantic comedy that had me laughing out loud at the theater and tearing up at surprisingly poignant emotional moments, and managed to present a serious commentary on less obvious parts of navigating queerness in the modern age as a middle aged man, "Bros" didn't sell. This was probably a combination of both homophobia and the dying genre of rom-coms as a whole. "Bros" differs from past American mainstream gay romances—like "Love, Simon," which had a definite box office

success—in that it doesn’t feature a large conflict surrounding “coming out,” infidelity, or characters stuck in extremely homophobic communities. These tropes usually have the effect of letting cisgender, heterosexual audiences be more comfortable in their viewing as it still upholds much of the status quo. In contrast, the leads of “Bros” work through more nuanced issues than coming to terms with their sexuality, presenting a more progressive happy ending to their romance that isn’t defined solely by heteronormativity. In my opinion, Billy Eichner’s goal of portraying the complexity of queer people as “[funny, sad, lonely, extremely confident, messy, brave, horny and hypocritical adult human beings](#)” was ultimately achieved.

## IDEAS

# When Art and Activism Collide

Valerie Akinyi [11.03.22](#)



Photo by Markus Spiske on Unsplash

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On October 14, the shocked and horrified exclamations of onlookers could be heard as a bright orange liquid substance dripped from Van Gogh’s “Sunflowers” painting. In the seconds that followed, a museum-goer could be heard emotionally calling for security while two young individuals—the words “Just Stop Oil” displayed across their shirts—crouched on the floor, smeared glue on their hands, and promptly glued themselves to the [wall](#).



Then, in a loud projected voice, the words “What is worth more, art or life?” echoed throughout London’s famed National Gallery.

Similar words were echoed nine days later in Germany’s Museum Barberini, when mashed potatoes were splashed on Monet's *Les Meules*; and most recently in the Netherlands’ Mauritshuis Museum when a protester, inspired by the former two protests, attempted to glue their head to Johannes Vermeer’s *Girl With A Pearl Earring* [painting](#).

Despite all paintings involved in these stunts being behind glass and remaining unharmed, the individuals, Just Stop Oil, and Last Generations—the environmental activist groups responsible for organizing these stunts—received considerable backlash and [scrutiny](#) for their actions and from financial [backers](#). In response, the organizations repeatedly reiterated that their demonstrations were acts of civil disobedience meant to garner attention as a means to compel their respective governments to stop future licensing and production of fossil [fuels](#).

The resulting discourse has been mixed however as many, both against and for, climate activism have criticized the tactic used by the protesters for being poorly executed and distractionary. Others, conversely, have argued that any attention is good attention when it comes to bringing consistent awareness to an urgent issue such as climate change—especially since public attention on particular issues quickly wanes before it can inspire concrete policy [actions](#). (Recall, a climate protester died this past March after setting himself on fire at the steps of the Supreme Court on Earth Day—a protest that elicited little public discussion on climate [change](#).)

I’d like to offer an alternative perspective and lens for examining these recent climate protests. These demonstrations are perhaps emblematic of a result of two recurring issues within climate activism as a whole. The first can be best understood through listening to the words of the protesters themselves. In the demonstration in the Netherlands, the protester asked the audience, “How does it feel when you see something beautiful and priceless being apparently destroyed before your eyes?” This line of inquiry is illustrative of the helpless feeling many young environmentalists contend with when learning of the damage done to the planet thanks to irresponsible human activity and greed. This feeling of helplessness can then lend itself to the actions one takes and the intentionality and thoughtfulness behind said actions. The execution and delivery of the recent art climate protests in Europe highlight a lack of truly intersectional approaches when

it comes to climate advocacy, for activists representing those that are most affected and at the forefront of experiencing the negative impacts of climate change (the BIPOC community in which a majority of the world's population resides) were not consulted or considered in the planning of these demonstrations, and would not positively or materially be impacted by protesters across Europe defacing art.

But perhaps these demonstrations were the beginning steps, as they have successfully achieved the goal of encouraging conversation in and across communities—conversations that must continue and result in concrete action.

## Pulse

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### PULSE

# Cafe Cutlery: What's the Deal with the Dishwasher?

Ralph Gifford [11.03.22](#)



Photo by Susan Mohr on Unsplash

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As I'm sure many of you have noticed, the cafe now serves its meals on ceramic plates. I first noticed this development at 6:55 on a Wednesday night. Nobody came to my tutoring session, so I left early to grab dinner before the cafe closed. As I walked in, I noticed the change in the plates and utensils. 'Well, this is new' was pretty much the extent of my reaction, that is, until the paper and plastic returned just a few days later. Over the next few days, the dishwasher seemed to be having an existential crisis, trying to decide whether or not to work. As of this moment, it seems to have settled into working; the real plates are here to stay.

According to Chef Linda, a General Manager for the catering service Bon Appétit, this assessment is correct. The chain was old, and became weak from disuse during Covid. It snapped when the dishwasher was restarted, but has since been replaced. This means there should be no more intrusions of disposable dishes, except on Friday evenings and Saturdays, as cafe employees are encouraged to rest on the Sabbath.

Chef Linda explained that reusing dishware is less wasteful, for both the economics of Bon Appétit and the environment. Paper plates are easy to buy in small quantities, but in bulk they are very expensive. The Cafe dishwater is cheaply supplied from Andrews, and the cafe uses environmentally friendly detergent. The disposable plates and utensils are all compostable, but the decrease in use still is better for the environment.

In addition to being cheaper, Chef Linda hoped that real plates would help students feel more at home on campus, as many families use real plates instead of paper ones. I took this as a hypothesis and casually asked other students their opinions on the new dishes. The feedback was mostly positive. There was only one person I spoke to with a complaint. They didn't want their name repeated, as they mentioned that it's harder to sneak food out now. Other students were more enthusiastic, however. "It's a good thing because the cafe is making less trash," said Melissa Moore (sophomore, nutrition). Personally, I think this change is a step in the right direction. Chef Linda told me that the Cafe is now back to normal; the pasta bar, sandwich grill, and real plates, which disappeared during Covid, have returned. I'm glad the drama with the dishwasher is over, and we have ceramic plates. It will certainly help the meals feel a little closer to home.

# Dress Code?

Abraham Bravo 11.03.22



Photo by Martin de Arriba on Unsplash

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Modesty is the first thing that comes to mind when describing the dress code Andrews University asks of its students in its [student handbook \(2021-22\)](#). The guideline for students of all identities is simple: you can wear anything as long as it fits, covers the torso, and does not disrupt a learning environment.

Technically, sportswear is not allowed inside the classroom but only inside the gym and at sporting activities. The school discourages the use of jewelry and piercings but does not outright forbid it, with “wedding and engagement rings” specifically allowed. However, this has not been the case since the rules on dress codes have been relaxed over the course of time. Back in [2016](#), jewelry and even tank tops were outright forbidden for students. Andrews has moved forward, and the policing of clothing has almost become a thing of the past, with only extreme cases being addressed for violating the dress code.

I went out on campus to see if there was a consensus on the campus dress code. I found that most students initially did not know that there was a dress code, and there was a general feeling of indifference to the rules. While I tried to find more positive perspectives, I was not able to find any students with any other

perspective than what had been said. Here are some of the resulting quotes:

“I did not know there was a dress code on campus, but I am completely fine with having it.”

Bianca Rinko (senior, religion and education)

“I think it’s weird. I am pretty sure that the school is not the ultimate authority, and Jesus died for me whether I am wearing a tank top or a crop top or jewelry. Me wearing those things won’t keep me out of heaven. If people are distracted by it, here is a tip: avert your gaze.”

Anonymous

“I think the dress code can be kind of sometimes annoying because I feel like it just makes people want to go against it more.”

Isabella Goncalves (junior, spanish)

“In my perspective, they don’t really enforce the dress code, if there is one.”

Ceiry Flores (sophomore, speech pathology)

“I had no idea there was a dress code.”

Brooklyn Anderson (freshman, animal science)

“I don’t know what the dress code is.”

Andres Weiss (junior, pre-physical therapy)

“I was not aware that we have a dress code. Considering that this is an Adventist University, I guess I am not surprised. Everyone dresses the way that they want to express themselves, and I don’t think anything has been too scandalous for the university.”

Alaina Burghardt (senior, Spanish and global studies)

Most students don’t even know that there is a dress code, and they seem indifferent to the idea of one. However, from what I have gathered, it is clear that the students would not want a stricter dress code. They dress to express themselves, and the majority of students have always been within the bounds of modesty. The enforcement of the dress code seems to be only done in rare extreme cases: this may be why most students don’t seriously consider the existence of the code. Andrews University does not seem to ask for much in the way of a dress code here on campus. They don’t require a uniform, nor do they allow students to wear anything they want. All they ask is a mean between both extremes: modesty.

PULSE

# Homesick

Gloria Oh 11.03.22



Photo by Zhivko Minkov on Unsplash

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Many years ago, my fifth-grade class went on a field trip. I planned to play cards, eat snacks, and do whatever a ten-year-old would want to do on a class trip. However, my plans were derailed after one of my friends started crying and said, “I miss my parents.”

Back then, I mindlessly comforted her by saying, “Don’t cry,” but I could not understand why she was crying. I was so excited to be away from my parents and enjoy the freedom from brown rice, beans, and studying, and to be indulging in white rice, snacks, and the absence of academics. I did not realize that everything would have felt foreign and scary to my friend since it was her first time spending time away from her family.

Many students might find themselves in a similar place to my friend, especially since many of us have to stay away from home for months, and maybe years.

Thus, having a short checklist to process your feelings could come in handy. A few ideas you can add to your list are introduced in this article. You don't have to do all of them since everyone can experience some level of loneliness or homesickness, but each person's reasons are unique. And that is why the list starts with this specific recommendation:

**Accept your feelings, and think about why you feel so.**

Maybe you are having a hard time adjusting to your new environment due to the difficulty of your studies, a roommate with a drastically different lifestyle, or food that your taste buds are having a hard time adjusting to. Ask yourself what moments make your longing for home, family, and friends even more intense. When you identify them, finding a solution becomes much more manageable.

**Talk about it with your friends, or utilize CTC or TeleHealth.**

What should you do if you are not used to identifying your feelings, or have no idea where to start asking for help with the problems present in your life? Talking about it with reliable friends is an excellent place to start, but I also recommend utilizing the [Counseling & Testing Center](#). If the thought of physically meeting someone or scheduling a time on the phone is already stressing you out, remember that you can also talk with a counselor online via TeleHealth. These services are all free to you, so take advantage of them.

**Find the club(s) that feels like home.**

If you are missing some elements from your home, such as the food, the vibe, or the language, check out the cultural clubs available on the campus. At Andrews University, it is rare for someone to say they can not find anyone who shares their cultural background. Check out the Andrews Engage website and read through the list of clubs. Even if you cannot find a club that promotes your cultural background, you will easily find a club that shares your hobbies or interests. If there is none, becoming a pioneer and starting a club is an option too. Make yourself at home!

**Schedule a date to visit home.**

We can try everything while we stay on campus, but sometimes we have to go back home to feel better and fight the loneliness that homesickness brings to our lives. The good news is that we have breaks several times over the school year. If you miss home, tell yourself Thanksgiving is only three weeks away, and you will meet your friends and families back home in no time. Three more Foundations of

Biology Quizzes/Tests, and you will be hugging everyone you missed or tasting the food only your family can cook right.

### **Call your loved ones.**

Homesick or not, it's always a good idea to call your loved ones every now and then. Let them know how you are doing and vice versa. Just as much as you missed them, it is likely that they were also missing you. Distance sometimes helps us realize our love for each other, so express your feelings regularly. You will soon realize that the homesickness that the distance has initially planted in your heart will quickly be replaced with a bigger affection toward your loved ones.

Lastly, I would like to make a quick note that if this “homesickness” is not getting any better for months or years, and it is affecting you so much that it is deteriorating your physical health, you should reassess the situation. It might not be simple homesickness but a psychological disorder such as depression or anxiety. The CTC and TeleHealth are always good places to start looking for help. You are not alone in this process. Stay strong and happy, dear friends! :-)

## PULSE

# How to Have a Devotional Life as a College Student

Melissa Moore [11.03.22](#)



Photo by Sixteen Miles Out on Unsplash



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After half a semester of attending chapels and spiritual events, every Andrews University Student is familiar with a phrase that goes something along the lines of “we encourage you to have your own devotional life.” This is good advice, but as a busy college student, it sometimes seems nearly impossible to make time to spend with God. It is also easy to sometimes get into a rut and feel like you are doing the same thing every day. So, how do we make this advice practical and develop a consistent devotional life that includes multiple ways to connect with God?

Life as a student is busy, and many students have been honest that they often struggle to follow through on their intentions to have daily devotions. Over the past few weeks, I have been falling into this category more often than I would like. To help with this struggle, some students have shared techniques they use to prioritize consistent devotions. One common piece of advice was to have a Bible app with daily reminders to read a verse, or set a personal reminder on your phone. Others suggested finding out what time of day you are usually energetic. Do your devotions at that time every day, instead of putting it off until you are tired. Finally, a common principle students use to prioritize devotions is to do them at the very beginning of the day. For example, Angelina Nesmith (sophomore, exercise science) says, “I prioritize devotional life by trying to make my devotional the first thing I do in the morning. I’m personally really bad at just running through it and then running out the door, so I set a 15-20 minute timer to keep me on track so that I purposely spend more time with God.” Although spending time with God is not about fulfilling a quota of minutes, setting a timer is an excellent way to ensure time spent with God is not rushed. Together, these tips can help you establish regular devotions amid the business of university life.

Additionally, Andrews University has many resources available to help students make their spiritual walk with Christ an engaging experience. Although there are more obvious worship experiences, such as attending vespers and church, there are many other alternatives that are less known. For example, the UFaith app lists small group events with a spiritual focus that happen throughout the week. Small groups are a great option to worship with others during the week when Sabbath is still days away. The campus itself also holds hidden gems if you look for them. The quiet seating areas strewn around campus are ideal places to spend quiet time with God. One of the more popular ones is located between Buller and Nethery where there is a chair swing, but there are also others on campus. In addition, the girls dorm has a prayer room that students can use to escape the busy

surroundings of daily life. Finally, going on hikes or walks, in silence or while listening to Christian music, can help clear the mind and aid in bringing your focus back to God. Whichever method you choose, there are many options available to enrich your devotional life.

Are you looking for more helpful tips to actively make your devotional life a priority? Two of the best pieces of advice to keep in mind are to start small and do what you can. It is unrealistic to go from having no devotional life to reading the Bible for three hours daily. It is hard to build a habit when jumping from one extreme to another. Start with reading a chapter of the Bible daily and then meditating on it. That is much more sustainable. If you accidentally sleep in, use the walk to class to pray or listen to Christian music while thinking about the lyrics. Do what you can, and if you fall off the bandwagon, use the opportunity of the Sabbath to reconnect with God.

Although it can be difficult to make time for a thriving devotional life while balancing school and other activities, it is possible and well worth the effort. It may sound cliché, but building a relationship with God is important, so do not wait. Do what you can to start today.

# Last Word

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## LAST WORD

# Andrews University: Diverse But Divided?

Alannah Tjhatra 11.03.22



Photo by Randy Ramos

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Andrews University has long taken pride in being one of the most diverse universities in the U.S. Our campus boasts over fourteen cultural clubs, the largest being the Andrews Filipino International Association (AFIA, with over 300 members), the Black Student Christian Forum (BSCF, with 243 members), and the Andrews University Latino Association (AULA, with 204 members).

These clubs regularly hold a variety of immersive cultural events that showcase and educate students about popular ethnic food, games, music, and dance. Just last year, for instance, we held our first AUnited Weekend, a large collaborative event that included [Infusion Vespers](#) and the [AUnited Fashion Show](#). I remember just how electric Johnson Gym felt as the fashion show progressed, students

cheering each other on and supporting the various cultures represented at the event. In this moment, our school indeed felt very united—but unfortunately, this is not always the case.

Though many of the friend groups at Andrews are pretty mixed, a simple observation of our campus reveals that cliques still exist, separated by cultural and ethnic differences. Of course, part of this is natural: we will always be attracted to familiar things—and these things include our own cultural groups. Some argue that this sort of separation is necessary as a form of heritage retention. The argument is that this sort of separation is not harmful—in fact, it promotes good cultural retention and development. But isn't it still possible to still 'retain one's culture' amidst the mosaic of others?

In addition to speaking with various peers from different ethnic groups, I dialogued with the presidents of four prominent cultural clubs at Andrews, as well as the president of our student body, to gain more insight into the situation. After having these conversations, the common agreement could be summed up like this: *We need to strive to be inclusive of any and all people, and we are at our best when we come together as a university community, regardless of race, ethnicity, or culture.*

And though there has been a push to create more togetherness, it seems there are two main streams of thought that continue to perpetuate this division on our campus: 1) the fear of being 'othered' and 2) the pressure of representation.

Even though campus organizations are open to all, students sometimes feel that they cannot join certain clubs because they are not of the ethnicity or race that the club represents; they will stand out as the only 'other' person there. There's a worry that you're not wanted in another culture's space, that you will be seen as an outsider. One student shared an experience where they wanted their friends to join a certain club, only to be met with responses of: "Well I'm not [part of this culture], so why would I join [this club]?"

Sometimes, this worry stems from external factors: some clubs are still fairly closed off, advertising mostly to individuals of their own culture. Other times, I think this worry can stem from within ourselves. We decide what we can and cannot do, based on who we think we're allowed to approach or befriend. As one club president put it, "The stigma [around the exclusivity of cultural clubs] limits people's mindsets and creates unnecessary division."

Another student told me about their experience with this pressure when they joined campus sports a few years ago. They had been playing for “Team 1” over the past few seasons, and at one point, “Team 2” asked them to join their playing group. “Team 2” consisted of players of the same cultural background as the student.

“I told them I already had a team. We played a practice match with [Team 2], and throughout the game, they were very annoyed with me. I tried to show sportsmanship but they wouldn’t take it. They told me that I should want to support my own culture and roots, and I shouldn’t be playing for [Team 1].”

This story highlights the second issue: sometimes, it’s not that people necessarily always *want* to stick with their own cultural groups, it’s also that they are *expected* to do so. If a person doesn’t choose to join their own culture’s club, it is often assumed that they have ‘betrayed’ their culture, that they are not proud of their heritage. Cultural and racial representation is a beautiful concept in and of itself. But when does representation become something more exclusive—when does it become something that separates rather than unites?

I recently had a conversation with a friend from Nigeria who stated that, because she was fluent in a language of another ethnic background (other than English), many people would joke that she basically belonged to that ethnicity. But this frustrated her: rather than being referred to as that ethnicity, she preferred to be seen simply as a Nigerian who spoke another language fluently. She explained that she was still very proud of her roots. Venturing into another culture did not mean that she was trying to erase or hide her own.

Many find themselves caught in the middle: we often have the desire to reach out to other cultures, but we feel like we’re not allowed to because we won’t belong; or we feel expected to take pride in our heritage without branching out. In reality, however, there are so many components that make up one’s culture. Sticking to only one thing not only takes away from multiracial and multicultural identities, but it also removes the nuance that comes with diversity.

In the past few years, there has definitely been an effort to bring our campus together. Michael Nixon, as VP of Culture and Inclusion, has been very proactive in promoting racial and cultural diversity. Club leaders are pushing for more inter-club inclusion and collaboration. More and more often, cultural clubs are partnering with each other to create lively fusion events. In these moments, we come together and enjoy each other’s company.

It is easy to fall into groups and cliques, easy to forget that there is a world of people out there to get to know. So we have to make an active, intentional decision to expand our viewpoints. We need to step outside of our bubbles and make a conscious effort to meet new people. We can attend a cultural event, try a new church, join a new organization. In doing so, we can start undoing the negative stigma that sometimes surrounds cultural clubs. People are usually more open than we think they are. So let's give each other a chance, shall we—and work towards being not only the most diverse campus, but also the most united one.