Almost Anything Glows

Andrews University
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A New Light on an Old Event
Pg. 3
Change Day 2.0

Kara Herrera

On Thursday, Sept. 13, students and faculty gathered in the grassy lawns of the University’s flagpole for Andrews’ second annual Change Day. Last year marked the start of this annual event. For those of you new to Andrews University, on Change Day volunteers are organized into groups in order to go out and help change the community for the better. Activities organized on Change Day can range from volunteering at animal shelters to acting as a teacher’s assistant for an elementary school. Each of the students volunteer to participate in one event and, because classes are cancelled from the morning until 3:00 p.m., they can dedicate around four hours to whichever event they sign up for. Both staff and faculty can join in for Change Day and spend their time influencing their community without having to lecture for classes.

Jonathan Horton (junior, photography) says that he thought this year’s Change Day was an overall improvement from last year. I went to the Benton Harbor Charter School with the (J.N. Andrews) Honors group, and it was a really good experience! We helped the teachers and played with the kids, and it was quite rewarding to see how the kids responded with enthusiasm to our presence and help.

When asked how this year’s Change Day compared with last year’s, Jonathan responded that “this felt like a legitimate outreach opportunity, something that we were doing to genuinely help instead of just a PR stunt, which some of the projects both years seemed to be.”

In addition to Jonathan, who has been attending Andrews University since his freshman year, Zippy Idowu, a transfer student (junior, biology) spoke about her experience, saying that “As a new member of the Andrews’ community, Change Day was a reminder that every small act counts. It was a reminder that all big movements start with several small acts. Like a puzzle, each piece on its own doesn’t make sense, but after you put them all together and step back, you can see the big picture, which is really beautiful.”

This year’s Change Day seems to have impacted the students in a positive way, appearing to have improved its impact in just one year.

When asked what he appreciated from this year’s Change Day, Jonathan said “I look forward to possibly going back to the school and continuing to help there. In that sense, I appreciated the project, because it felt like more than a one-off opportunity.”

Zippy adds, “Change Day is an experience you can’t have twice. I realized that Change Day is an annual event, but the actual experience of going to one Change Day can never be fully replicated.”

I Scream For Ice Cream

Gabrielle Johnson

On Sunday, Sept. 9, Andrews University’s annual Ice Cream Social took place on the front lawn of the Student Center. Every year, Student Life puts on this event as a way for official campus clubs and organizations to showcase their different attributes to students. Students at the event could choose between two ice cream flavors—chocolate and vanilla. After that, students also had the opportunity to go to different booths to receive toppings in exchange for signing up for a club.

As usual, several clubs had over-the-top booth decor. Cultural music, airplanes and animals were just a few of the things used to attract attention to the wide variety of clubs and organizations offered at Andrews University.

Pepi Moyo (senior, medical laboratory sciences) stated, “Club Fair every year is always an experience! Clubs showcase their culture and what they have to offer with toppings, music, traditional attire and apparel.”

Many experienced clubs brought in specific attractions in the hopes of bringing in more club members. For example, the Peruvian club this year had a special guest at their booth: an alpaca named Cesar. Students had the opportunity to sign up for the club as well as take pictures with Cesar. Other animals present included kittens and dogs for Pre-Vet Club.

Many experienced clubs, such as the Andrews Filipino International Association (AFIA), Black Student Christian Forum (BSCF) and African Student Association (ASA), have taken part in the Ice Cream social for the last few decades. However, for other clubs, such as the Vegan Club, this was only their second Ice Cream Social.

The BSCF Vice President, Joy Ngugi (senior, documentary film) said, “It’s always a lot of fun meeting and interacting with new faces. I’m really excited. I think that BSCF did a great job of getting a really diverse cast of member sign-ups this year.”

Andrews University has a wide variety of organizations and clubs that are unique to its diverse student body. Many of the campus clubs are put in place to celebrate the different cultures on campus. Samantha Jerome (senior, psychology) stated, “Attending the Club Fair for the first time was intriguing, not just because of the ice cream, but because witnessing all the different clubs was a sight to see. There was a lot of culture and enthusiasm in the atmosphere, and I am excited to learn more about the clubs that I signed up for.”

There is something here for everyone, whether it be Astronomy or Anime. Students are encouraged to get involved on campus. And it isn’t too late to join! To learn about events, students should pay attention to flyers and follow clubs on social media—Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat.
A Night In Indo

Richla Sabuin

The Michigan Indonesian SDA (MISDA) Church held a cultural night last Sunday, September 16, 2018, at the Howard Performing Arts Center to raise funds for the renovation of their church. For eight years, the MISDA did not have a church building. In 2011, they found and purchased an old church building. The Indonesian Cultural Night, held in this church building, featured performers from Illinois and as well as from the Indonesian community here in Michigan. Additionally, church members were also involved in organizing and participating in the program.

The performances included some traditional Indonesian instruments: a gamelan, which is a traditional ensemble of bronze percussion instruments, including a kolintang, which is another percussion instrument that has rows of woods in different sizes or sometimes consisting of gongs; an angklung, which is made from two or three bamboo tubes attached to a bamboo frame. Aside from instrumental performances, an Andrews University student, Melody Nelwan, sang the United States national anthem followed by the Indonesian national anthem sung by the Michigan Indonesian Choir (MIC). The MIC also sang and enacted "Ayo Mama", which is a song from Maluku, Indonesia that describes a young girl’s conversation with her mother where she tells her mother not to get mad at her for kissing a young man. In addition to instrumental and singing performances, there were also dances of different Indonesian tribes performed on stage. There were dances from Bali, West and North Sumatra, North Sulawesi, East Jakarta and Papua.

The MISDA church members also thanked the local Asian communities for supporting them. To thank them, they had a dance feature presented by the Ali San Ladies. The church members then ended the cultural night with all the performers singing the song “How Great Thou Art” accompanied by people playing the kolintang. When the cultural night ended, they sold Indonesian dishes in the lobby of HPAC. In addition to the money from the tickets sold, people also donated some money for the renovation of the MISDA church. All in all, the fundraising cultural night was a success!

“My favorite game was probably ‘mattress surfing’ or the ‘skateboard’.”

Almost Anything Glows Lights Up Johnson Gym

Kara Herrera

This past Saturday, Sept. 16, Andrews University kicked off its annual Almost Anything Glows event in Johnson Gym. Though signs are always placed around campus, many students, especially new ones, are unaware of what exactly the event comprises. Almost Anything Glows is a friendly class competition where different classes can vent out their real or fictional internalized aggression for each other to see which class is the best. This year, in terms of design and decorations, the lights were dimmed and the students literally ‘glowed’ in the dark to add to the party atmosphere of the event. Though the atmosphere and design was recently added, the competition remained about the same as previous years.

Freshmen, sophomores, juniors/seniors and graduate students competed with various games, amassing points in order to come out on top. These games included a hula hoop competition and a race to blow ping pong balls across the gym floor. Some student favorites are the notorious ‘mattress surfing’ game and a ‘skateboard’ game where students push a wooden platform holding another student in a figure-eight motion.

Arielle Douglas (junior, animal science) says “Almost Anything Glows was lit to say the least. So far, I’ve enjoyed this year the most. My favorite game was probably ‘mattress surfing’ or the ‘skateboard’. It was nice being able to interact with my year-mates whom I don’t often see. Once again, seniors/juniors won.” She smirks. “Who saw that coming?”

If any of the other classes would consider joining next year, maybe one day the junior/senior team will fall. Who’s to say? As Almost Anything Glows evolves and returns each year, perhaps more and more students will choose to attend and participate in some friendly competition.
External Christianity

Caitlin Jankiewicz

As a Seventh-day Adventist university, Andrews places a high value on incorporating spiritual experiences into everyday life. With worship services of almost every style imaginable and too many small groups and Sabbath Schools to count, Andrews caters to a wide spectrum of cultures and preferences. In addition to Sabbath morning programs, Thursday always has chapel and Friday night ushers in the Sabbath with Prophets 'ilers. In many ways this is awesome; the highly spiritual environment is one of the reasons I chose to come to Andrews University in the first place. However, the fact that spirituality is such a major part of the Andrews experience causes a couple of problems.

One that I have struggled with in particular is letting my environment spiritually "spoon feed" me. With all the choices and required co-curricular attendance, it's sometimes easy to rely on the external spiritual environment to get my spiritual "fix". Going to church, chapel and ves- pers gives me the feeling that I am worshipping God and doing my duty as a Christian, getting in the required quota of spiritual activities. In this way, I've come to depend on becoming complacent in my spirituality, as these activities require very little proactivity and initiative when it comes to forming an actual core connection with God. It's only when something goes wrong that I realize that I'm not as connected to God as I let myself believe. Eventually, when we graduate and get thrown out into the real world, we probably won't be surrounded by a sea of spirituality anymore. If we build our own relationship with God, it will remain when the external structure is stripped away.

In addition, a relationship with God can be so much more than simply giving time and "doing" time in church. It's an anchor during rough patches and a joy during the times of smooth sailing. Knowing God in a personal way can fill you with the overwhelming sense of being loved and protected. Knowing that you're not alone. When you develop your own connection to God, it stops feeling like a burden or obligation and becomes something that brings you joy and peace. As Jesus says, "...whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:13).

I don't believe that there is a one-size-fits-all instruction manual on how to have a relationship with God. Personally, I'm an external processor, so I connect with God by journaling and talking to Him out loud, as well as listen- ing to Christian music, but that isn't for everyone. I'll be honest, I struggle to read my Bible every day. Sometimes, a week or two will go by before I realize that the time has come to do that again. It doesn't always work, but it is still not fair. In- telligence is not something that should only be expected from a certain group of people. Listening to immigrants from different cultures shouldn't depend on how easily a person can be understood. If you are the daughter of an immigrant who has taught you something, it's that no matter how "broken" the person's English is, they still have something to say and I need to show them the same respect they would show me.

What Did He Say?

Adriana Santana

My sister sits in a pew with her friends at church as my father gives the sermon to our congrega- tion. She feels a tap on her shoulder. As she was talking I could see how disengaged everyone around her was. Her friends quietly laugh- ing. She leans in eagerly as my father begins his sermon to our congrega- tion. In church, an African American woman making fun of him.

As Jesus says, "...whoev- er drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:13). I don't believe that there is a one-size-fits-all instruction manual on how to have a relationship with God. Personally, I'm an external processor, so I connect with God by journaling and talking to Him out loud, as well as listening to Christian music, but that isn't for everyone. I'd be honest, I struggle to read my Bible every day. Sometimes, a week or two will go by before I realize that it's time to do that again. It doesn't always work, but it is still not fair. Intelligence isn't something that should only be expected from a certain group of people. Listening to immigrants from different cultures shouldn't depend on how easily a person can be understood. If you are the daughter of an immigrant who has taught you something, it's that no matter how "broken" the person's English is, they still have something to say and I need to show them the same respect they would show me.

Growing up, I've heard about all the stories of people I know love being looked down on because their English didn't meet the "gold standard". Many times people with Afri- can, Asian and Hispanic accents have to try hard- er to be taken seriously in society. My father has often talked about how when some people first meet him, his accent is highlighted and has been used as a tool to try to discourage him. He has dealt with ignorant com- ments, questions and has even experienced people making fun of him. My parents are immigrants from the Philippines who have seen people speak slowly to them in class as if they are incompetent when trying to have a simple conversation. In church, an African American woman pretends to have this thick Singaporean accent. We as an audience are meant to throw off and laugh at the joke when he speaks in a regular American accent afterwards; however, why is a stereotypically strong Asian accent the punchline? In Modern Family, the same concept is executed in regards to Sofia Vergara's character Gloria. Her thick accent is used to add comedic re- lief in honest, I struggle to read my Bible every day. His slight British accent adds to the air of "sophis- tication" that surrounds him, and is, in general, a plus to the character's per- sona. In the same movie, Rachel Chu's friend, Peik Lin, has a father (played by Ken Jeong) who at first pretends to have this thick Singaporean accent. We as an audience are meant to feel connected to God, put in that context makes you feel con- nected to God, put in that context makes you feel connected to God, put in that context makes you feel connected to God, put in that context makes you feel connected to God, put in that context.
Ideas

Pigskins and Protests: Giving Meaning to Pastime

Daniel Self

How free is an individual if they cannot critique those who provide their freedom? Moreover, should the size of one’s platform impact their ability to use this subsequent freedom? These questions remain paramount during the continuing saga between Colin Kaepernick and social conservatives.

Kaepernick’s activism began during the 2016 preseason, when during the national anthem he sat as a sign of protest. During the next game, Kaepernick and teammate Eric Reed both knelt during the anthem. When asked for his purpose during a press conference, Kaepernick replied, “This stand wasn’t for me. This is because I’m seeing things happen to people that don’t have a voice, people that don’t have a platform to talk and have their voices heard, and effect change. So I’m in the position where I can do that and I’m going to do that for people that can’t.”

However, some people took his activism as disrespectful to members of the military who served his country. While Kaepernick repeatedly denounced these claims, factions still formed which suggested that his stance was inappropriate. While this backlash brought a great deal of interest and media attention onto the subject, it also diverted parts of his original mission. Herein lies one of the saddest aspects of this narrative, the shift of attention from Kaepernick’s message against injustice to the ethics of citizenship.

More worrisome, however, is how America’s obsession with professional sports allows for demonstrations of professional athletes to dominate headlines. Nevertheless, one must give Kaepernick full credit for using his platform effectively. While his message has received both intense social pressure and high praise, Kaepernick’s movement has gained immense publicity. Opinions regarding “all press is good press” aside, his political and social impact remains undeniable.

So should Americans be concerned about how easily the nation becomes polarized by sports? Over 24 million Americans watched Sunday Night Football during the 2017-2018 opening weekend, with the Super Bowl, the season’s climax, usually drawing over 100 million viewers. In a society that places such a strong emphasis on a pastime, it makes sense why the players hold such political sway. While Kaepernick’s kneeling to bring awareness to injustice or Lebron James’s I Promise School stand as strong positive examples of athletes using their platform for good, it often seems that the majority of America’s infatuation with professional sports leads nowhere. As the nation’s attention transitions from free agency to opening day to the finals, all these for several different major leagues, our pastimes consume our attention, to the neglect of more important things such as national and world affairs, or even goings-on in our homes and neighborhoods.

While the triviality of sports paradoxically seems to have overridden the interests of many American citizens, one must not devalue their positive potential. Kaepernick’s actions, along with those who knelt with him, are an attempt to make their game a mode for transmitting a much more pertinent message. Amid a sport which largely holds little intrinsic value for humanity these athlete’s actions bring meaning to a Sunday night football game.

“I’ve heard stories of people I know and love being looked down on because their English didn’t meet the “gold standard”. Many times people with African, Asian and Hispanic accents have to try harder to be taken seriously in society.”
Longboards and Unicycles

Jared Marsh | It may be one of the unspoken rules of Andrews University that incoming students will soon become accustomed to: if you’re walking on the sidewalk, pick a side and stick to it. Spanning 0.6 miles from West Campus Circle Drive to East Campus Circle Drive, the campus of Andrews University presents an opportunity for students to get creative with their transportation to and from class, if walking just won’t cut it.

We’ve seen bikers and longboarders, even rollerbladers and unicyclers at times, presenting an obvious benefit: getting to class faster, leaving more time to study, sleep or play video games. Alternate modes of transportation may also require less physical exertion, a clear perk if your trek to class requires you to climb three floors of the science complex.

But quicker transportation doesn’t come free of flaws. Bikers and longboarders may not be guaranteed ample space on the sidewalk on the commute to the Terrace Cafe for Sam’s Chicken after chapel adjourns. Not to mention the sidewalks that were poured during the era of J. N. Andrews that have aged less than spectacularly and often fail to provide a smooth surface to ride on. If you have yet to witness any fabulous longboard wipeouts, give it time. Additionally, while most buildings on campus have a rack to store and lock bikes, longboarders and skateboarders are often faced with the question of where to store their vehicle when it is not in use.

To some, this dilemma may be enough to rule out longboarding as a viable transportation option, yet others remain unphased. “It doesn’t bother me,” remarks Katie Krawczyk (sophomore, political science). “I just set it up against the wall and go sit down.”

So whether you choose to walk, bike, longboard or unicycle, one thing is for certain: the modes of transportation on the Andrews University campus are just as diverse as its student body.

“If you have yet to witness any fabulous longboard wipeouts, give it time.”

Marathoning Your Degree

Counseling and Testing Center | School started just four weeks ago and many of us are already running on fumes. Here are some tips from the Counseling and Testing Center to help you adjust to the new school year and the many demands of college life:

1. Pace yourself. Getting to the end isn’t just about doing the next thing; it’s about managing your resources so you are still standing 20 things later. This is a marathon, not a sprint.

2. Get connected. Community and support are essential, and building meaningful connections can carry you through tough times. Keep in mind that no one is an island.

3. Listen to your body. Your body is a great source of information. When you have good rest, food and exercise, you are better able to manage the social and mental aspects of life.

4. Do what works. Everyone has a strategy for getting through each semester. Take note of what strategies work for you and allow your strengths to help you get to where you want to be.

5. Do not compare. Comparison, though useful, often leads to overlooking unexpected positives. Everyone has expectations for how the semester (and even college) will go, and it may or may not live up to it. Appreciate it for what it is, and do the same for people.

6. Ask for help. Contrary to popular thought, success isn’t about doing things on your own. It’s about recognizing when you need help and being capable of finding it. Needing help is not weakness. Do not hesitate to talk with a trusted individual such as one of our campus chaplains, residence hall deans or see one of our friendly and confidential counselors at the Counseling and Testing Center (CTC) located in Bell Hall room 123.

If you have specific questions or concerns pertaining to mental/emotional health that you would like for us to address in this section of the Student Movement, please email your questions or concerns to: ctcenter@andrews.edu with the subject: Prevention Resources Question/Concern.
The “Strong” Friend

Cristen Williams | Wednesday night, I sat in my roommate’s arms and cried.

Moments before, I stumbled through the door with tears streaming down my face, body shaking under the pressure of sadness—I fell into her arms. She stroked my hair and we sat rocking back and forth until I could control my breathing. We prayed, we talked, we laughed. She offered me tissues and literally wiped my tears.

Even though she’s my best friend, I felt embarrassed. I was supposed to be the “strong” friend in the group. The person who you think has their life together and won’t let you believe any different. This logic is common with our generation. Why is that? I think we were brought up equating emotion to weakness. In the past, I tried comforting people and it would end up awkward or uncomfortable. I never knew the right words to say, I never knew if I should rub their back or give them a full hug; I never knew if I was overstepping boundaries. What if they just wanted to be alone? Yes, sometimes people want to be alone, but they don’t want to feel alone. It is better to attempt to comfort someone and have them shrug you off than to allow them to soak in their sorrow by themselves.

“[God] comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). Our job is to be a blessing to others. Don’t worry about not saying the right words, “for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.” (Luke 12:12)

Remind them that God hears them and will deliver them (Psalm 34:17), that He will give them stability (Psalm 40:2), He will never leave them alone (Deuteronomy 31:8) and that He will provide them with comfort (Matthew 5:4).

“Check up on your “strong” friends. Be a listening ear. Don’t be afraid to connect with others. You may not only touch their soul, but also be an answer to their prayers.”

“I was supposed to be the “strong” friend in the group. The person who you think has their life together and won’t let you believe any different.”

Why Can’t We Eat?

Vanessa Angel | Andrews University has a policy that states “no food in the classroom.” To some, that policy comes as a surprise, but to others, it comes as pure comprehension.

A freshman who requests to be anonymous says that the policy is “inconsiderate” because students tend to have tight schedules with only a short break in between. Additionally, the cafeteria and Gazebo are only open for certain times of the day and students have to take that into consideration when they make their schedules. Not everyone, apparently, can make it to the 8.5 hours a day that the cafe is open or the 12 hours a day that the Gazebo is open. This is especially true at times when there are lines at the Gazebo.

Nathaly Manrique (sophomore, biology) also agrees that having food should be allowed: “I have a tight schedule and some days I don’t have time to eat until after lunch time. As the year progresses, this can affect our health.”

Joanna Deonarine (junior, biology and music) also says, “I feel that a lot of students have tight schedules, especially in the morning, but I do understand how food can be a distraction. However, I feel that a small snack should be allowed, in that it’s not a whole course meal.”

Despite some student’s disagreement to the “no food in classroom” policy, still others were understanding to the existing policy. Kevin Maldonado (senior, theology) says, “As a senior, I myself don’t feel too affected by it because after having been in the system for four years, you kind of learn to work around your schedule and make time. I think that it was put into play looking out for the wellbeing of others.”

Dean Mattingly (College of Arts and Science) and also had something to say in regard to the “long-standing policy.” He said that the policy has been in place for years, yet some professors allow food in the classroom despite this. He mentioned three reasons for the policy’s existence: student allergies, preventing stains in carpet/floors and keeping food from being a distraction to the learning environment. However, he did want to make clear that the school is “student focused” and he is considerate to the students who have tight schedules. He mentioned how in the past Andrews tried having a “protected lunch period time,” but that it was impractical due to chaos in the cafeteria.

While many students do have tight schedules, we must be considerate of our peers as well. Dean Mattingly assured that the school is still looking into options for helping those students who may not have a lunch break. While these options are still being considered, we should be respectful of the policy that the University has in place, whether or not we agree with it.
Ask Adri

I always end up going to bed later than I plan to! How can I fix that?

Finish your homework earlier rather than later. I know it’s tempting to put things off for later but it eventually catches up. Also, try to have an actual set time for you to be in bed and hold yourself accountable. It’s easy to just stay up in a friend’s room but if it’s 12:00 a.m. and you plan to be asleep by 12:30, leave the room! Love yourself and get some sleep. Hanging out with friends can be fun but falling asleep in your 9:30 isn’t.

What’s the best way to deal with stress and anxiety?

Everyone is different, but I personally try to set time for just myself. Sometimes we can get caught up with wanting to be around everyone — and it’s fun, but you definitely need time for yourself. Find an outlet for your stress, whether that be going to the gym, doing yoga or immersing yourself in whatever hobby you enjoy. Lastly, surrender your stress and anxiety to God. He is so willing to take our burdens, yet sometimes we still hold onto them tightly. Seriously, take time out of your day and pray about whatever is stressing you out and really try to give it to him. If prayer is too formal, then try journaling your thoughts daily to God. That way, you’re both telling him what’s wrong while physically writing out what’s bothering you.

What’s your go-to Bible verse when you’re discouraged?

“For the pain that you have been feeling cannot compare to the joy that is coming,” Romans 8:18. Recently, I’ve been loving “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline” from 2nd Timothy 1:7.

Where’s the practical balance between God’s time and school work?

Everyone’s different, but I do my devotional in the morning before I do anything else; however, if you feel you can do more countries and try hard to encourage the youth to praise God.

Favorite Phrase: “Dios a bel tronco?” It basically means “what’s up dude?” and they taught it to us in class as a slang phrase, but nobody actually says that, so I like to say it sarcastically.

Favorite Phrase: “C’est pas grave” which means “it’s not serious”, “it’s not a big deal”, or “it’s fine”

Favorite Phrase: My favorite Palauan phrase is “Su-lang!” It’s an informal way of saying thank you.

—Xoxo, lovergirl96

Well, first off, put yourself out there. And though I say that, it doesn’t have to be a big deal. You can maybe ask this person to study with you, which is way less intimidating than asking them out. What you can also do is create a group setting and invite him along with your friends so it’s not exclusively you two yet. When you feel more comfortable, you can build up the courage to hang with him by yourself. I wouldn’t worry about what to say as much as just trying to find a common interest between the two of you. Once you make that one, well every single beautiful so, yeah. Besides that one, every single trip to Paris with a couple months to explore the city, but we made the most of it. As soon as we arrived, I felt immersed into the “French” world. We got to see so many things from watching the city awaken as we were at the steps of the Sacre-Coeur cathedral listening to the vibrant jazz music playing in the cafes at end of the day.

Favorite Phrase: A quote that I remember is from the writer Saint-Exupéry that says: “On ne voit bien qu’avec le cœur.” Which means, “We see well only with the heart.”
Humans

From Austria to AU

I am originally from Austria and I received an invitation to work here at Andrews. I always had the utmost respect for teachers and the way they connect, inspire and pass on knowledge to students. I myself however, being an Austrian freelance filmmaker throughout my entire young career, never imagined becoming an educator. So I was both honored and frankly hesitant when I was invited to become part of Andrews University’s faculty team. I initially told the recruiters that they surely picked the “wrong guy”, as I’m usually a “behind the camera” person. However, through a series of incidents it became clear to me that God had exactly this in mind with my family and me.

At first I imagined it would be easy to adjust from Europe to the United States. It was exciting and genuinely scary when we moved our whole household, including a newborn baby and two cats, all the way from Europe to the United States.

Where are you from, and how did you end up here in Berrien Springs?

This semester I’m teaching “Intro to Filmmaking” and “Cinematography” at Andrews University. It is exciting to be given this opportunity and responsibility, but it is also challenging to see that as a teacher I’m starting from scratch. Teaching and guiding students to understand those essential strategies and philosophies, and helping them to learn the craft of filmmaking, is a trade of its own. It humbles me and I have yet to figure out many things. I realize it will take time. On the other hand I’m glad that I have the opportunity to share what I’ve learned over the years and help the students develop these skills that I believe are so needed in today’s realm of media and visual expression. The world is saturated with stories and content that conveys a twisted worldview and leads people to consume dumbed-down versions of reality. I’m convinced there is a strong need for creators with a reflective, seeking mind and an honest, dedicated heart.

What classes do you teach here at AU, and how has it been?

I’m not a very social person, but with a child I think it’s especially important to have a community environment and familiar faces around you. Luckily, at Andrews University we found many good people with big hearts for neighbors. It helps to feel more at home and less disconnected.

The other thing that I miss is Austrian bread. I got so used to it over the years and the bakery products here in the U.S. are very different. That’s why I started to experiment with baking our own bread. I’m not sure my wife is too happy about having to eat all that experimental bread I produce, though.

What do you miss from back home?

What do you miss from back home?

I’ve been working as a filmmaker and in media for the past 12 years, producing commercials, music videos, short films and documentaries. My focus has always been on camera work (cinematography) and post-production. But through the nature of my projects—mostly low budget—I’ve many times had to take other roles in them as well. This helped me develop skills in all areas of filmmaking and understand how to bring films to life with limited resources. Parallel to my education at the Film Academy of Vienna, I started to work on commercial productions for some popular brands.

What experience do you have in the film industry?

That’s awesome! How did you think your career was going to turn out?

Well, around the same time I became a Seventh-day Adventist and chose to hold the Sabbath. This was not compatible to industry work schedules and took my career into a different direction. Subsequently, in 2008 I founded an online magazine called “cinema5d.com”, that aimed to equip emerging filmmakers with insights and knowledge about new filmmaking technology and help them create quality content with fewer and less expensive tools. It’s a field that has become more and more important for outside the commercial and Hollywood space and especially in productions coming out of the Christian institutions.

What classes do you teach here at AU, and how has it been?

This semester I’m teaching “Intro to Filmmaking” and “Cinematography” at Andrews University. It is exciting to be given this opportunity and responsibility, but it is also challenging to see that as a teacher I’m starting from scratch. Teaching and guiding students to understand those essential strategies and philosophies, and helping them to learn the craft of filmmaking, is a trade of its own. It humbles me and I have yet to figure out many things. I realize it will take time. On the other hand I’m glad that I have the opportunity to share what I’ve learned over the years and help the students develop these skills that I believe are so needed in today’s realm of media and visual expression. The world is saturated with stories and content that conveys a twisted worldview and leads people to consume dumbed-down versions of reality. I’m convinced there is a strong need for creators with a reflective, seeking mind and an honest, dedicated heart.

Do you have any advice for students studying film or students who may be thinking about having a major in film?

My advice for students interested in this field is to try to find out what inspires them about it and follow this trail. Filmmaking is a universal language, a way to show things to the audience rather than to tell it to them. It can convey things that the spoken word can never convey, it can communicate in such way that is unlike any other. With that being said, it is very important for filmmakers both to find their own voice and to find their own story. Most people misinterpret filmmaking as a tool to deliver a message, when in truth it inherently conveys an experience. Something very personal. It can be extremely rewarding for anyone participating in a film project to be able to take part in the experience. But it can also be very difficult or even impossible to achieve if you don’t have a personal narrative to be expressed in the story. So don’t try to write someone else’s story; try to find and write your own!
Charlie Albright Wows HPAC

Caitlin Jankiewicz | I'm late coming into the concert. When I hear applause, I hurry into the darkened auditorium and see on the stage a young, dark-haired guy introduc-
ing himself and the music he's going to be playing. This is Charlie Albright, renowned pianist and composer. When talking, his air is informal and friendly, but the moment he sits down at the piano and begins to play a transformation occurs. The music rises and seems to carry him along as he moves to and fro with its gentle swells and lifts. There is nothing unusual about his love for his art. As the first movement comes to a close, he lowers his head to the keyboard as his hands gracefully lift from the keys. Straightening, he launches into the next movement of the piece. His excitement and passion are evident from the grin on his face as he skips through a particularly animated passage. The melodies travel through his hands and possess his entire body and with every flick of his head and arch of his back, Albright embodies the emotions flowing from the keys.

Upon ending the first piece, Albright requests four notes from the audience, all randomly de- termined. He becomes the star of an impromptu improvise. The notes chosen seem at first discordant, but as I listen with increasing wonder, he slowly weaves them into a rich tapestry of hauntingly ethereal melodies and harmonies, never to be heard again.

The fleeting nature of the piece only adds to its charm, and I amazed at the range and scope of styles this incredible musician can capture. The audience gives a standing ovation, and we're only twenty minutes into the concert.

Towards the end of the concert, Albright plays a variation on the Blue Danube Waltz. Though I know the piece, it may as well be my first hearing of it. The expression Albright brings to the familiar melody reshapes it into a seemingly new creation. By the time he has finished, Albright looks exhaust-
ed, but I am completely enraptured. I have a new respect for the immense ability it must take to be able to so effortlessly create such beauty.

In today's world, students are often encour-
aged to pursue science and technology careers, leaving music or art behind as impractical or not financially stable. However, upon witnessing the wonder that this young musician has brought to Andrews University tonight, I can't help but wonder what the world would see if more talent ed young artists were encouraged to pursue their dreams.

“The risks of an unconventional delivery seem to have paid off”

Hamlet From Scratch

Adair Kibble | From the moment the audi-
ence filled the theater, we knew it would be a Hamlet performance unlike any other. The au-
ditorium, located in Washington Hall at the University of Notre Dame, was typical enough, with a few steps leading to a simple stage with black curtains. But it was there that convention and typicality ended. There were five chairs against the curtains facing the center of the stage, and costume pieces lying in rows on the floor in front of them.

Purusing the flyer, we learned that all of the roles in the play would be performed by only five actors. I for one doubted if they could pull off such a play with only a thin veneer of theatrical effects. However, I need not have worried. The innovative staging, instead of hinder-
ing my enjoyment of the production, enhanced it. For example, when Wendy Morgan, would switch from playing Rosencrantz to Gertrude, Guilderstern (Grace Andrews) would hold “Rosencrantz’s” hat, and make it nod and turn from one side to another in tandem with Guilder-
ernst. The visual gag added humor, and exposed the minion-like aspect of the character carrying out the king and queen’s or-
ders without question.

This dynamic developed into a tool for levity as well as outright humor as the play went on, making the characters’ deaths much more solemn when the actors would leave the clothes of the character lying on the ground as the life of the character left the body.

The props were few, but effective. Hamlet as a play does not require elaborate sets, but it is imper-
ative for a quality produc-
tion that the ghost of King Hamlet seem fright-
ening. And with just a few high-powered flashlights and a whirring noise maker providing a hum inti-
mat ing the supernatural in the pitch dark, the impressively tall Ben Eagle made for a very intimi-
dating ghost. The stark white beams of the flash-
light casting shadows on his face as he groaned and bellowed the tale of his character’s “foul, unnat-
rual murder.”

Madeleine Hyland’s portrayal of Hamlet, more subdued compared to some film adaptations I have seen, still brought across the utter despera-
tion and agony driving his actions. A standout performance by Peter
Bray conveyed very well the comic relief charac-
ters of Polonius and the gravedigger, while Grace Andrews’ haunting per-
formance as Ophelia wailing in madness and grief was a very powerful thing to watch.

I think that Hamlet lends itself very well to different adaptations, especial-
ly ones crafted and acted this well, because most of the audience is familiar with the plot and the sto-
ry relies on character evolu-
tion more than effects. In this case, at least, the risks of an unconvention-
al delivery seem to have paid off.

Hannah Gallant (ju-
ior, English), said of the play, “Watching Hamlet being performed by five people was an incredibly unique and innovative ex-
perience. I was intrigued by the various perfor-
mance choices, especial-
ly the careful selections and intentional use of the props.”

Mykhaylo Malakhov (junior, math) commented, “Through its striking minimalism, AFTL’s rendition of Hamlet combined the very best ex-
periences of reading the text and watching tradi-
tional productions. My imagination was left free to conjure the Denmark I couldn’t see, while my at-
tention remained riveted to the expressive acting in front of me.”

Clearly, Shakespeare’s writings have value that shine through a variety of different performances and I look always forward to seeing more.
Arts & Entertainment

Sierra Burgess Is Still a Loser

Natalie Hwang | This review contains spoilers

Following the immense backlash against “Insatiable,” many believed that Netflix could remediate its representation of fat women with its Sept. 7 release of Sierra Burgess is a Loser. Promising a modern adaptation of Cyranos de Bergeracs, the premise surrounds Sierra Burgess (Shannon Purser), a teenager girl who hasnt dated anyone (because, she believes, she is ugly). After a boy, Jamey (Noah Centineo), accidentally texts her, they strike up a long-distance romance, spanning the great distance of two schools in the same district. When Sierra realizes Jamey thinks shes the head cheerleader of her school, Veronica (Kris tine Froseth), she continues to text and call him, convinced that she is in love. Desperate to keep up the ruse, Sierra eventually enlists the help of Veronica to catfish Jamey, and in exchange, tutors Veronica to seem smarter to a different boy she likes.

The movies plot was a bit disjointed, to say the least. There were too many threads running throughout the overarching narrative to focus on developing all of them. As a result, I was left confused by both girls attraction to their respective interests, and also developed a healthy dislike for Sierra. While Sierras character is sympathetic at first, the girls plan to catfish Jamey goes on for too long, and reaches a climax when Veronica demands that he close his eyes to kiss her, and Si erra kisses him instead. The movie insists that Sierra is unlovable because she is unattractive, but Purser is stunningly cute in this role, and no amount of plot device convinces me otherwise. The intent is for the audience to realize that she is actually attractive and only her own insecurities keep her from dating, but the overall effect is vastly different. Additionally, it is only Purser’s unique portrayal of the awkward dork character (as in Stranger Things) that diminishes potential issues of consent in the movie. Had the genders of these roles been reversed, I think a lot more people would be uncomfortable with the general narrative, one where the romantic interest is fooled for the majority of the movie, take advantage of, finds out the truth and still ends up with the person who wronged them. The most compelling relationship in the movie was not even between Sierra and Jamey, as it should have been if the studio was pursuing the idea that their love transcends what Sierra perceives to be a crippling handicap—her physical appearance. If that was the case, the movie would have been stron-ger as a whole. However, it spent most of its run-time focusing on Sierra and Veronica’s friendship as it develops form a typical cheerleader-picks-on-geek relationship to sisterhood.

As the movie progresses, Veronica learns that Sierra is a person with feelings who is worthy of respect, and Sierra learns that Veronicas father left her family and her mother’s mental health has since spiralled—so it was a pretty equal exchange. Altogether, the movie could have been better if the directors scrapped the whole catfish gimmick and had Sierra and Veronica fall in love instead, as Purser and Froseth worked better together as best friends than either with Centineo. In fact, Purser and Centineos lack of chemistry made their relationship wholly unbelievable, especially towards the end when Centineos character forgives Sierra for everything.

The movie also suffered from an immense insensitivity to trans people and individuals. There were several running jokes that Sierra is a lesbian because she’s never dated a boy and doesn’t care about her appearance, and later on, because she and Veronica are together as a posh. Veronica suggests in one scene that Sierra is ugly because she is a hermaphroditic trans and gender, and the movie as whole treats LGBT issues as jokes rather than real life rhetoric that harms lesbian and trans individuals.

In short, the movie was bland. It failed to live up to the expectations set by the trailer, for a fun and cute rom-com wherein we like the characters and see personal development. Sierra gets the guy she catfished, and Veronica stays friends with Sierra despite Sierras eventual betrayal of Veronica’s confidence in the climax of the movie. No one gets what they deserved least of all the audience.

A Snapshot of Cuba

David Dunham | On September 11, 2018 in Harrigans Hall Art Gallery, a very special exhibit displayed the experiences and encounters that fourteen students had when they travelled to Cuba last May. Not only was this trip one that helped the students appreciate photography and the visual arts, but it also was a mission trip with the entire group helping Care for Cuba, an Adventist non-profit organization that aims to aid the more than 35,000 Adventists that live on the island. Needless to say, the old-world aesthetic of Cuba provided some impressive photo locales, and the students attending this trip were able to capture some amazing shots of the people and places of Cuba.

Each students photos displayed their own unique area of focus. Many chose people, while others took photos of nature or architecture. Almost every single student included pictures of Cubas classic cars in all of their brilliance. Encountering a different culture in this way brings out the hidden (and obvious) beauty that exists throughout the country. There was not a single photo that seemed unintentional, with many showcasing the happiness that the people of Cuba have.

The number of cars featured in the photos was astounding and fascinating. From the photos alone, one can assume that the only cars in Cuba are old, classic, vibrantly colored cars, and it leaves a smile on the face of anyone who sees them; they make every photo they are in look nostalgic. Another facet of the display were student-made posters about together as posh. Represented a different city or theme of the country.

While this exhibit was only on display for a short while, the impact that it had was amazing. I heard people discussing how they wanted to join in the next trip and they make a difference in Cuba. Knowing that simply seeing photos of the experience moved someone to want to make a change is remarkable, and only emphasizes how powerful the arts can be.
The Last Word

Fighting the Urge to Stand

They say pastor’s kids come in one or two varieties: Angelic Perfection and Rebellious Night- mare. I have always been the former. I didn’t wear jewelry, never dyed my hair, didn’t curse, sang for special music and preached sermons for my school’s student week of prayer. Basically, I did everything in my power to avoid the “pastor’s kid gone bad” stereotype. I wanted to be a “Good Kid,” not so much because I really hated dyed hair or jewelry or whatever, or even because I par- ticularly loved preaching or singing special mu- sic, but mostly because I felt inordinately guilty if I didn’t conform to tradi- tional Adventist Good Kid stereotypes. I call it Adventist Syndrome: that hyper-developed sense of guilt that’s easy to in- ternalize in a system that often focuses more on outward appearances of piety than on the inward condition of the heart.

Altar calls happened regularly at the Adventist churches I grew up in. You know the kind— the preacher’s voice slows to about the speed of mol- lasses, the pianist plays a tinkly rendition of some classic hymn in the back- ground, and everyone’s sneaking peaks at which sinner will cave first. By the time the preacher got to some variation of “if there’s anyone here who knows they cannot do this on their own, who wants you (God) to truly be a part of their lives, who wants to stop strug- gling through the motions, please come forward (or raise your hand, or whatever),” my eyes would be prickling me. Somehow, I was a bad Christian if I didn’t come forward. I was rebellious. Hard-hearted. Proud. So I’d go forward, or raise my hand, (or whatever), and tell God that I didn’t know what I was doing wrong but that I was sorry for it anyway. Do you see it yet? Inauthenticity. Guilt. Re- bellion.

They say pastor’s kids come in one or two vari- eties: Angelic Perfection and Rebellious Night- mare. I was absolutely the former, and it almost de- stroyed my faith.

And then came college. College did two things to my faith: gave it a new depth of theological un- derstanding and a new dearth of community. I felt like I intellectually understood God’s love and care for the world better than ever, but I didn’t feel it anymore. I just felt alone, like I was reaching out for a hand to hold and finding nothing but empty air. I wanted something more, something better. I wanted the ease of my childhood faith, and I would have traded my theological education over a thousand times if it meant I would feel less alone. Eventually I got sick of pretending that I felt what everyone else did when they listened to sermons or went to church. I felt much more in tune with “the world” and its criticisms of the church I loved.

And oh, the guilt. It stuck to my feet as I found myself arriving later and later for church, sliding into a pew in the back row, hoping no one would talk to me. It made me keep my eyes open in chapels, told to me that I must be doing something wrong, because clearly I wasn’t getting what ev- eryone else was getting. It told me that I wasn’t good enough, and that some- day I’d regret all my hor- rible, prideful, worldly thoughts.

But, like any good pas- tor’s kid, I kept it to my- self. I went through the motions. I’d go to church and scroll through Pinter- est the whole time, coun- sel friends through crises of life, never stopping to think about how empty I felt. If I could pretend—then I wouldn’t have to feel guilty. I wouldn’t have to see that look in my par- ents eyes, the disappoint- ment. It won’t even make things better. The pain of not knowing not only who I am but also what I’m willing to do to become the person I want to be.

I will never be consid- ered rebellious. My words are soft, my skirts long, my love for my church as wide and great as the skies above. But every time that tinkly piano music starts I find myself white-knuck- led around the edge of the pew in front of me, fighting the urge to stand. Fighting the urge to be seen as a Good Kid and a Good Christian, and to be honest instead. Whether or not I stand at altar calls doesn’t affect my salva- tion. It won’t even make God mad at me.

And I always feel like a little bit of a rebel, every time I almost stand and don’t.

Eventually I got sick of pretending that I felt what everyone else did when they listened to sermons or went to church.”