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Lighting Up the Season

Andrews University

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SMH

Lighting Up the Season

Celebrating Christmas AU Style

Pg. 2



PHOTO FROM AUSA



REMEMBERING ANNA KIM

“Instead of spending our time in tears, we can do justice to Anna’s memory by celebrating her life.”

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“A CONVERSATION ON GIFT-GIVING”

“Christmas meant a break from the stress of school for three to four glorious weeks while catching up on some long-overdue family time.”

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OVEREATING CHRISTMAS

“Being in the presence of your loved ones is not something you should take for granted.”

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CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR EDITORS

“Moral: never try to compete with older girl cousins in silver dresses—disaster is right around the corner.”

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HAPPY HALLMARK!

“Whatever it is that your family does for Christmas, you can rest assured that Hallmark has made a movie about it.”

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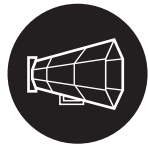


NO ROOM AT THE INN

“For a moment, I wonder if this is how Joseph felt, carrying a wife who carried God, peering in windows and pounding on doors, feeling completely and utterly alone.”

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News



Kara
Herrera
News Editor

“It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas”



PHOTOS BY IMC

Adriana Santana and Teddy Kim |

On Saturday Dec. 1 at 9 p.m., AUSA hosted its annual Christmas Party in the rec center below the Student Center. As students walked around the nicely decorated room with colorful lights hanging from wall to wall, they were serenaded with the many sounds of Christmas ranging from Mariah Carey to Justin Bieber. For students who wanted a snack or something to drink, they were met with cheese and crackers, fruit, hot cider and hot chocolate. Megan Jacobs (junior, documentary film) talked about how much she enjoyed it saying, “I loved the hot chocolate so much, I even took some packets to my

room.”

Throughout the night there were activities and contests for everyone to enjoy. For students who loved singing there was a room designated just for karaoke, so anyone could sing their favorite Christmas songs without shame. Groups of friends and acquaintances filled up corners of the room with chatter and lively talk, taking an eager break from the dreaded dead week coming up. Marcos Burgos (sophomore,) said of the night “the Christmas party was a great way to prepare everyone for the upcoming holiday. Everyone had a lot of fun decorating gingerbread house or singing karaoke.” Students like Marcos were able

to stay until 11, enjoying more games and the ugly Christmas sweaters all around. Taylor Scalzo (junior, design) won the gift wrapping contest, capping off an evening in an all around cozy and welcoming environment.

The overall atmosphere of the party was warm, fun and filled with Christmas cheer. The rec center was overflowing with students left and right. Jhanae Douglas (junior, political science), said, “It was a fun party! The photo booth was cute, and the cookies and music made it feel Christmas-y.” The talk did not fade as students left the rec center, as the spirit and festivity in the air still lingered well into the night.



“Groups of friends and acquaintances filled up corners of the room with chatter and lively talk, taking an eager break from the dreaded dead week coming up.”

News

ASIS Finishes Up With Final Sabbath Event

Richla Sabuin |

On Dec. 1, 2018 the Andrews Society of Indonesian Students hosted a church service in University Towers' chapel. Not only did students come but people from the Michigan Indonesian SDA church did as well. The church service started with song service led by Melody Nelwan (junior, speech-pathology), Raysha Masengi (sophomore, psychology), Margaux Tan (UNKNOWN), Yobela Kumaseh (junior, pre-nursing) and Richla Sabuin (junior, English).

Talented musicians Daniel Jhang (senior, biology, on the piano) Timothy An (biology, senior on the cation) and Ryano Masengi (on the guitar) accompanied the singers. After the intercessory by Atalia Admadja (sophomore, biology), Gabriela Wicaksono (senior, biology) led the children's homily. Little children who came with their parents were invited to come in front to listen to the children's homily.

"I talked about a mother who hurt her hands while saving her baby from the

fire. She received scars from that incident so I compared it to how Jesus also received scars from dying on the cross for us. Both the mom and Jesus did what they did because they loved who they were saving," said Wicaksono.

Two groups sang special music: the youth of MISDAC and the Keni family (members of MISDAC). Joshua Sihotang (first year, DPT) blessed the congregation with a sermon. Its title was "The Missing Pieces of Unity." He talked about how we could have unity in the

church when we all share the same love for souls and love for God. One of the reasons why he chose to talk about this is because of his year of missions spent in Palau last year.

"That trip runs pretty deep in me. All I can think of after getting my degree is where will I serve next. And I imagine what if we all head that vision, not necessarily that we should all go overseas, but we should be eager to serve others," he said.

He led a very empow-

ering to the students to reach out for people to lead them to God as well. After the church service, the club held a potluck in the UT rec center downstairs. The aunties of MISDAC prepared all the delicious Indonesian food. It was a very blessed Sabbath, indeed.

In Honor of Anna Kim



Katherina Burghardt | Anna Lucia Kim (MA, Community and International Development) passed away on Friday, Nov. 30, in a devastating car accident. Kim graduated with a double-major in sociology and voice from Andrews in 2016, and was in the final days of completing her Master's degree. She was 24 years old.

Nothing ever prepares you for the death of a loved one. You run the scenario in your head a hundred times, imagining what you would do, what you would say. But when it actually happens, when the rug is ripped from under your feet and the floor collapses beneath you, you realize that no amount of preparation can help. Anna Lucia Kim's death was such

an event. It left us who knew her horrified, devastated and in shock. But instead of spending our time in tears, we can do justice to Anna's memory by celebrating her life. To everyone who knew her, Anna was a ray of sunshine. She beamed into our lives, filling them with light and laughter and making friends everywhere she went. Sometimes it seemed like she had friends in every department on campus. This was reflected in her choice to study International Development. She had a passion to help people and learn their stories.

Anna was a friend to all, but to me she was simply 'Unni', which is Korean for 'older sister'. I met Anna my freshman year of college in Music Theory One and Ear Training. We bonded over the difficulties of chord progressions, inversions and music dictation. Our friendship continued to grow in University Singers and as students in the voice studio of Charles Reid. It was in singing that Anna shone

the brightest. Her voice soared over orchestras, filling halls with strength, timbre and beauty. I kept telling her to change her major and just do a music performance degree. She would laugh and say, "That means I have to do the last year of Music Theory and Ear Training, so no thanks." In all honesty, I can't blame her.

Anyone who knew Anna would say that one of her defining characteristics was her determination. For me, one of the main places I saw this was in her leadership during the Music Department's production of Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*. She put in a myriad of hours building the sets and organizing with Mr. Reid. It was exhilarating and inspiring to watch her take control and organize such an enormous production. I'm positive it would have failed were it not for her.

Anna was one of my best friends. Her loss ripped a hole in my life that will never be filled. But the outpouring of support and love that I have seen on social media

and from friends makes it easier to bear. I know that Anna will be remembered with love and fondness, and that her legacy will continue for years to come. I love you, Unni.

A memorial service for Anna Kim was scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 5th, at the Howard Performing Arts Center.

Ideas



Frentzen
Pakpahan
Ideas Editor

Capitalist Christmas

Rebecca Keller |

In one of my favorite Christmas episodes of *The Office*, Dwight Schrute hijacks the Christmas tradition of gift-giving by buying out stores that sell the popular children's toy, "Princess Unicorn," and reselling them at a huge markup to frantic parents who didn't plan ahead. Two of the single fathers in the office, Darryl and Toby, fight over the one remaining Princess Unicorn doll, hoping that the gift of the coveted toy will win back the affections of their respective daughters. While this story is amusing within the context of a

TV show, it also reflects a reality where children are taught to prioritize presents over family time and parents must negotiate the expensive, confusing and overwhelming toy aisle at Walmart or Target in order to remain in their children's good graces.

Giving gifts at Christmas can be a wonderful way to show someone that you care about them and know about their interests and likes. But once gift giving becomes obligatory and people start judging people's worth based on the dollar amount of the gifts that are given, it renders null the well-

meaning intent behind the gift. For example, when I was young my opinions about my aunts would largely be determined by the gifts they gave me at Christmas. If my teacher-aunt gave me school supplies while my other aunt gave me new Polly Pocket dolls that I had been salivating over in the toy store, guess which aunt became the favorite?

Granted, it might have been my naivety as a child that kept me from truly understanding the gift of the Christmas season, but as I went to college my attitude about Christmas has, thankfully, changed.

After being separated from my family for four months and challenged by another grueling semester, Christmas meant a break from the stress of school for three to four glorious weeks while catching up on some long-overdue family time.

The growing anxiety that Christmas has been hijacked by capitalism is actually a good thing, in my opinion. As long as we keep questioning Christmas traditions and the reasons why we buy Christmas presents for all of our coworkers, our acquaintances, our friends, our families, then capital-

ism won't get the best of us. Small gifts that come from the heart can be reflective of what Christmas is truly about: God giving humanity the gift of his Son.

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Daniel Self |

Gift giving at Christmas is a seemingly harmless tradition—yet, the practice creates immense tension for certain people. Of particular concern is how Western society's construction of the holiday requires the giving of gifts. However, because of the capitalist nature of the holiday, the Christmas gifts often come from a department store rather than being made by hand. Indeed, this direct cost of Christmas may be worth it for some people, but for others, the economic toll may completely remove the joy of the season. Rather, in the process of buying gifts to make each other happy, individuals actually become more stressed than if they had not exchanged gifts at all.

As a child, my middle-class family always held an extravagant Christmas and a just as extravagant ceremonious gift exchanges. From the early gifts of large Lego sets to later gifts such as Jordans and Playstations, Christmas day would be quite expensive for my parents—and to my immense surprise, even ex-

pense shoes did not make me a better basketball player. Yet these expensive gifts did not cause undue financial hardship since my family held the privilege of being middle-class with solid finances. The Selfs participated in the holiday in standard fashion, but for families not in our fortunate position, the season could induce significant stress and difficult consequences. A culture surrounds this holiday that nearly requires parents to buy gifts for their children and shames parents who give lesser gifts. This culture surrounding Christmas considers giving one's children gifts a prerequisite to being a good parent.

Moreover, the marketing before the holiday season creates a desire and subsequent expectation in the child and the parent must either live up to these hopes and wishes in order to meet the status quo, or fail to provide for the child's happiness. For families in lower economic brackets, this becomes a no-win situation.

Indeed, "Keeping up with the Joneses" can

create a tireless debt cycle during the Christmas season. Attempting to match their middle class neighbors, those in lower socioeconomic classes are often faced with a choice between logically-sound saving and the emotionally-stimulating buying-and-giving. Unfortunately, either choice in this binary results in a negative outcome. Either one chooses financial hardship from the purchasing beyond their means or the emotional hurt that accompanies seeing their children's pained reactions to an empty place beneath the Christmas tree. This entire process undermines the virtues of parental love.

When Christmas marketing targets children, it suggests to the child that their parent's love for them directly correlates to the niceness of the gifts they receive—and that if their parents loved them more, they would receive the particular gift they most desired. Children caught in this capitalist marketing battle come to see their Christmas gifts as more than just objects,

and instead as symbols of their parents' affection. Less fortunate children can end up feeling less-than.

This occurrence does not occur with the same severity for people in higher economic classes, but the middle class still dictates the social expectations whose repercussions will never impact them. While some Christmas gifts are unaffordable at any class, personally, I am much less concerned when Kendall Jenner cannot afford her seventh Land Rover SUV compared to the single-income household that struggles to buy their child a Hot Wheels set. Reasonably, not everyone can acquire every gift they desire; rather, a reduction in material expectations from Christmas would both make it less difficult for all parties involved, as well, reducing the visible class divisions because of economic disparity.

When approaching this Christmas season, try and recenter your family's holidays away from the extravagant gift-giving. More importantly,

keep the prices of gifts even across the board. From parents to siblings to aunts, setting a price guideline will help remove the feelings of gift inadequacy. Instead of buying your dad that \$400 Vitamix for his protein smoothies, maybe a giftcard to Orange Julius would suffice—and prevent jealous stares from your other family members. Truly, this season should not hinge on who can give the nicest gifts, but rather on aspects of familial bonding and looking beyond one's self. However, in the process of appreciating others through gifts, dematerializing the Christmas tradition will shift this recipient joy away from a high-figure price tag to the giver's profound thoughtfulness instead.

Ideas

Things I Learned This Semester

Kelli Miller |

The Christmas season is upon us. Andy Williams' sonorous voice flows clearly through the Starbucks sounds system, reminding me that it's the most wonderful time of the year. I sip my almond milk latte feeling like a stereotypical Millennial. I've read this intro to my friend, and she told me it sounds stereotypical. Great. I can't escape the wave of "basic" that has washed over my generation. These days I cringe whenever I say the word latte. Thanks, Instagram, for #whitegirlstatus—now I can't order a drink without feeling like I have failed because I am taking part in the superficial culture of lattes, white Converse and "eyebrows on fleek." I'll admit, I like these things, but Lord, please don't let them be the icing on the cake for the rest of my life. I have a ten page paper to write, tests to study for and assignments to do. Thanks, Mr. Williams, but it doesn't feel like the "happiest" time of year.

Maybe I sound like the Grinch, but I bet I'm not the only student feeling a little grumpy during this busy pre-finals week. Another semester is nearly completed, five more classes crossed off the list, and I am one eighth closer to graduation. Do I feel my mind has been enriched, filled with inspiration and a desire to create my own future? Well... these are some of the things I feel I've learned this semester.

1. Procrastinate! It's okay, everyone does it. College has basically been

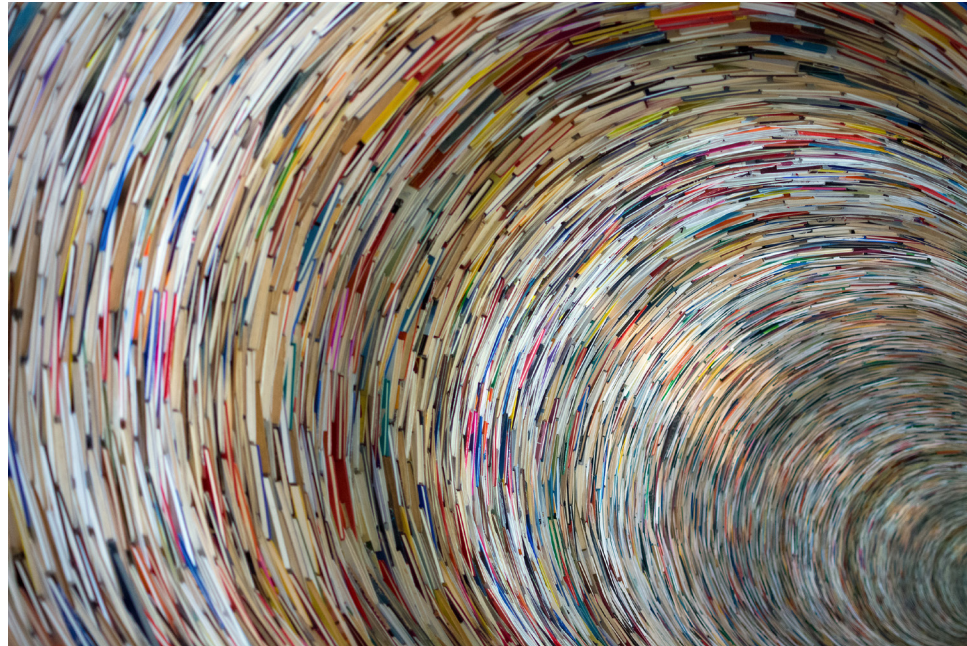


PHOTO FROM PUBLIC DOMAIN

designed to create high functioning procrastinators.

2. Pursue something I don't hate, something I can at least tolerate. I must set aside my aspirations and prepare to live in the real world, cause "adult-ing" sucks, and it's coming for me.

3. I'm really not going to need the full range of my aptitude to do the job college is preparing me for.

4. Prepare to turn my brain off for between 45 min and 3 hrs. at least two to three times per day while I sit and increase my risk of heart disease, cancer, and diabetes (sitting is the new smoking). Then know that this time period will soon expand to 8-9 hours a day.

5. I received more of a paradigm shift during the week I spent setting aside Adventist norms by watching movies such as Harry Potter and Twi-

light than I've had during my first two semesters of college. I see that there are intense levels of unnecessary superstition in my church. A book is labeled evil because there are elements of fantasy. However, I was astounded by how many similarities to the Christian message I found in these stories. Both Harry Potter (which is adorable, interesting, funny and British all at the same time) and Twilight (which drips endless sap) have Christian themes. I could write a whole article on this, but the basic shared morals between Christianity and these books are: good triumphs over evil; self control is imperative; and one cannot do without a strong moral compass. Each have their flaws and less than healthy themes (let's talk Edward and Bella, and that whole obsessive relationship), but

the point is they aren't the black books of evil I was once encouraged to believe they were. There are things we should be much more afraid of.

6. As I am watching my old indicators of "bad" slip away, I am realizing my entire definition of what is "good" and "bad" is shifting because it was never as simple as I thought. Ethics—I should study that because I'm in dire need of a new moral compass. Mine has been shattered as it never was based on morality but on exterior judgement of things that often have little effect on a person's true character.

7. Prepare to unintentionally imbibe the worldviews of those around me.

8. I'll dye my hair blonde because if you couldn't tell by reading this article I'm going through an existential crisis (don't worry, it's normal for college

students, our main cry when laden with more than we can carry, after all, is what is the point?), so this dye job could not be more timely.

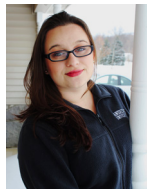
9. Get excited to learn a lot of things i'll never use that will all come together and actualize my potential to be completely average.

10. I'll work a job that basically anyone else of my similar IQ and EQ could do as well. Go me. I couldn't be more proud if I was my own child.

Perhaps you can tell I haven't particularly enjoyed the academic portion of this semester. I feel the curriculum is limited. I want to study music, but not classical. I'm praying I will find more inspiration in class next semester. I used to do my homework, but I stopped when I discovered that A's, well written essays, and passed examinations haven't given me anything uplifting to say. I'll get through and use this college advantage to have money, with which I will finance my creative pursuits. Unfortunately these may include some latte art, or the perfection of my eyebrow arch. A certain level of basic-ness simply cannot be avoided, I'm afraid. I wish college taught me how to effectively pursue my dreams, rather than teach me that A's are the answer and that an articulate paper about old texts is the way to success in today's marketplace. Oh, wait... it is. But there's got to be more than one way to success, and I intend to find them.

“I used to do my homework, but I stopped when I discovered that A's, well written essays, and passed examinations haven't given me anything uplifting to say.”

Pulse



Apryl
Briley
Pulse Editor

Christmas Relaxation

Jared Marsh |

For many students at Andrews University, the penultimate and final weeks preceding Christmas break can be some of the most stressful. We find ourselves in a frenzy of studying for final examinations, putting in long hours of writing final papers and preparing for presentations. Often, when we are neck deep in the minutia of our stresses, it is difficult to think about how to relax over the three week break between semesters. If you haven't already made a game plan for how you are going to relax over Christmas break, perhaps you can make some ideas from what other Andrews University students are planning on doing.

"I'm going to catch up on sleep," says Lady Sinuhaji (senior, medical laboratory science) "and also catch up on watching movies." Two fairly common responses, though

many students can relate to not getting enough sleep, and devoting most of their screen time to LearningHub and Quizlet logins rather than Netflix.

"I'm going to shadow a dentist," says Melissa Marciniak (freshman, biology/pre-dentistry). Even though it may not be the most relaxing activity ever, a three week break provides enough time to accomplish appointments that may enhance our fields of study, if we don't have the time or resources to cram it into our university schedules.

"I want to catch up on playing sports," says Harley Quispe (senior, medical laboratory science). Andrews has great opportunities to play sports, but with a full schedule, there may not always be time to get in a game of your favorite sport. Christmas break would be an excellent time to catch up on any physical activity you may enjoy.

"I'm going to make Christmas chocolates with my dad," says Alyssa Walter (junior, elementary education), "my dad used to make chocolates with his grandma when he was little in the same molds we use". If you fall into the category of students who haven't seen their family since August or fall break, Christmas break can be a great time to spend time with your family, and enjoying festive traditions, old or new.

So, when you are stressing about that final exam, project or paper, remember that a relaxing Christmas break is just around the corner! Whether your plan is to work on preparing for next semester, spending time with family or just sleeping and watching Netflix, remember to recharge over the three weeks we are given and come back refreshed for spring semester.



PHOTO BY SIERRA COOK

Preparing for Final Exams

Counseling and Testing Center |

It's beginning to look a lot like exam week. Does that make you feel anxious or overwhelmed? Well, you're not alone! Exam week can be full of many disabling emotions and self-sabotaging behaviors as well as distractions. You've just had Thanksgiving with family and friends, Christmas decorations are up and there are gifts to be bought. But, here you are, studying late at night, early in the morning, or even in the shower, preparing for that demanding week. Here are a few psychologically-minded ways to help you prepare for exam week:

1. Avoid all-nighters! This is the procrastinator's last resort. Sometimes an all-nighter and its accompanying anxiety

may appear to keep you focused and alert. But it has a delayed effect during an exam that will make you slow to remember what you've learned during the semester and may impact your abilities for conceptual thinking.

All-nighters are romanticized as a right of passage in university. Everyone shares in the misery of this experience (looking at you, Snapchat and Instagram! #Exam-Week), but remember, your brain needs sleep. When you sleep, your brain consolidates what you learn through repeating sleep cycles lasting between 90 and 110 minutes. Depending on how the sleep cycles are defined, we have between three to five stages of sleep. These stages include slow-wave sleep and REM sleep (Rapid Eye Movement). Memory

consolidation requires all stages of sleep. As a result, your memory is significantly impacted by a lack of sleep, which means your all-nighter may actually be hindering your performance on your exam.

Face the facts. Exams are coming. You need to prepare. The sooner you start the less anxious you will be. You've succeeded by getting to university. Now succeed by following through with what you have to do. If you are frozen in anxiety or avoiding thinking about it, start with a 20-minute goal. Set a timer and just get started. There are some great free apps on Android and iOS that can help you set study timers (search "study timers"). Remember, a little every day is better than cramming.

2. Take a break from technology. Limit social media use while studying, and don't bring your smartphone to your exam! This time of year may cause some people to feel a bit stir crazy and have FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) with all of the holiday festivities taking place, but remember your priorities right now. Over 1/3 the world's population is engaged in social media (WeAreSocial, 2016), which means there are unlimited distractions eating up our time and our mental focus. Take a mindful break from technology during exam season so that you feel focused and more refreshed.

3. Practice self-care. Do spend time with friends, eat well and relax. Don't overload yourself with non-stop studying. You

need balance as well as diligence. For the avoiders, self-care during exam prep also means making yourself a priority. Your responsibility to yourself and your sense of personal control and mastery are a key part of self-care. The ability to delay gratification is a key to your success. Recognize that exam week is short-term pain for long-term gain.

References:

WeAreSocial. (2016). Social media use: January 2016. Retrieved November 28, 2018, from <http://www.slideshare.net/wearesocialsg/digital-in-2016/31->

Serving This Christmas Holiday

Vanessa Angel |

As glistening snowflakes pave their way on our dorm windows, we are reminded that Christmas is just around the corner—less than three weeks away! Christmas brings about an amiable and cheerful atmosphere, filled with laughter, warm mugs, friendship, family and gift giving. We are also reminded of our Heavenly Father's everlasting gift to humanity—his beloved only Son. We should be encouraged to be good serving Christians and know how we can be of Christian service to others during the holidays this year. Below, I have a few ways in which we can be of service to others, both in and out of our college campus.

Be a part of a clothing drive—Have you outgrown any of your clothes and they're just sitting in your closet? How about any clothes that you don't even wear? You can be of service here on campus this Christmas holiday by donating any clothes that you don't need (including jackets, gloves, scarves, etc.) to the Campus Ministries clothing drive. Simply place your donated clothes in the box next to the Campus Ministries office. You can help another person and you don't even have to leave the school.

Be active with campus ministries—There are a few organizations here on campus that are looking for students to volunteer their Christ-

mas break and be a missionary. For example, two Spanish translators are needed for a trip to Honduras this Christmas season. If you're interested, contact Glenn Russell at glenn@andrews.edu for more information. Campus ministries also has more information about how you can be of service, including donating to our brothers and sisters who were affected by the California wildfires. Simply search for "campus ministries" in the Andrews search bar, or visit <https://www.andrews.edu/cm/> for more information about serving others through campus ministries.

Support your local organizations back home—If you are going home for

the winter holiday, look up any organizations where you can be of help. Contact your local library or community center to see if there are any clothing or food drives that you can contribute to. Most of the time, your local library and community center hosts different drives or soup kitchens to support those in need. You can even donate clothes to your local thrift store where many of them will donate their clothes to orphans in other countries as well. Be creative and be of service this Christmas holiday locally.

Service comes in many forms. Whether it be on campus or back home, the simple act of being of service to others can make a difference to the person

receiving the gift. We often take things for granted and even get greedy during Christmas time because we want more than what we have. But your service may be the only gift someone gets this year. The Bible says, "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them" (Hebrews 6:10). Try to be of service this year in any way you can, and in so doing, you will open the doors of gift giving and humility.

Overeating on Christmas



PHOTO BY AUTUMN MEIS

Cristen Williams |

The Christmas season has arrived! It is truly the happiest and one of the unhealthiest times of the year. It is tradition to eat more than one plate for Christmas dinner. Eating to your heart's desire at the expense of your stomach can only be followed by belly aches, weight gain and regret. Here are a few tips to avoid overeating on Christmas.

Eat during the day. It is a custom, for me at least, to not eat for the whole morning and well into the afternoon. The reason being is that I want to be practically ravenous by the time Christmas dinner is served. In this way, I would be able to increase my food intake; however, this is not the best idea. When you are hungry you automati-

cally take more food than you should. Your first instinct probably won't be those leafy greens after your day-long fast. Eat meals regularly throughout the day. Start dinner with a healthy appetite and a level head.

Freeze leftovers. We eat as if there won't be a fridge filled with leftovers in the morning. The amount of food cooked can and will sustain you for the next few days. Keep in mind that relatives taking food home in styrofoam containers won't even put a dent in what will be stocked in your kitchen. Pace yourself and maintain a cut-off point. You'll thank yourself later.

Socialize. Don't worry! The food will be there tomorrow. Your whole

family likely won't. Enjoy their company. Many have travelled hours to spend time with you. Stay in the moment and be present. Being in the presence of your loved ones is not something you should take for granted. Talk with them, have debates, reminisce, make jokes. Take it all in. You will end up spending more time filling your hearts rather than your plates.

Humans



Adriana
Santana
Humans Editor

Editors Christmas Traditions

**Scott Moncrieff (Faculty Sponsor)**

We lived a stone's throw from my grandparents' house, but my older brother and I had three girl cousins who lived a few hundred miles away, so we would only see them at Christmas. I was the youngest, and most likely to be left out of the older kids' activities. One Christmas the cousins wore beautiful silver dresses and sang something they had sung at a recent Christmas program for my grandparents. They got lots of high-approval comments from the adults, and then someone turned to me and asked "Scott, do you have something to perform?" I had nothing. But then I thought, hey, I can sing the Oscar Meyer Weiner song: "Oh I wish I were an Oscar Meyer weiner . . ." It was a jingle I had heard on tv. Not to mention that it was inappropriate for the venue, I got an enormous laughing attack midway in performance that turned to crying. Moral: never try to compete with older girl cousins in silver dresses—disaster is right around the corner.

**Apryl Briley (Pulse)**

Christmas has been the same for me practically since I was born. My biological parents have never been together so Christmas was always split between the two. On Christmas Eve I celebrate with my mom and then on Christmas Day I celebrate with my dad. At my mom's the one tradition that we have always had is Christmas pajamas. Every year my mom will pick pajamas out for us that we are not allowed to wear until the night before our Christmas. Now that we are older though we choose our own pajamas. However, this year we are going to start a new tradition where we have a gingerbread house making competition. At my dad's, our big tradition is to set up the Christmas tree the day after Thanksgiving, mostly because it is when I can be home to do so. We get all of the decorations from the attic and spend the whole day setting up the tree and making the house burst with Christmas decorations.

**Megan Jacobs (A&E)**

I can't really think of a Christmas tradition that is unique to my family. We do all the classics-- setting up the Christmas tree together (although I miss out on this tradition now that I'm in college), presents on Christmas day, good food, and so forth. I think a new Christmas occurrence that we have is spoiling our dog, Hugo, like crazy. This year will be his third Christmas, and it's so fun to see him get so excited when family comes over to our house (he loves humans more than his own kind), and freaking out over new squeaky toys (which he proceeds to destroy in days). I think Christmas has to be his favorite time of year. Lots of people, new toys, and more treats, what's not to love? Last year, when my cousins left our house on Christmas night, he was all mopey and there were actual tears in his eyes. I know it's sad, but I could not stop laughing.

**Kara Herrera (News)**

Besides meeting with various members of the extended family, my own immediate family never hosts any parties for Christmas, nor does any sort of legit decorating. For a brief period of my childhood we tried to do the whole decorating thing, but we quickly abandoned it. Instead, my parents, my sister and I, we much prefer sleeping in and waking up late on Christmas day. Rather than buying decorations, the Christmas season every year for my family has always been about traveling and getting away from our home. We prefer to drive out of town, sometimes we end up only a few cities over, other times we end up a few states over. Now that I'm gone for most of the year, my parents love even more to travel during the Christmas season. This upcoming year, they've already planned to drive to San Francisco, which is a seven hour drive from our home in Loma Linda.

**Adriana Santana (Humans)**

Christmas Eve is spent with my dad's side of the family and we start off with a family dinner and whoever is joining us that year. Then afterwards we do a Yankee Swap, which usually ends up in a duel for the best gift, and afterwards we have dessert. This tradition hasn't always been there but for the past five years it has been fun. Then for my mom's side on Christmas Day we watch a movie that we all vote on, and afterwards we eat dessert at my aunt's house. This tradition has been going on since I was a kid, and people come and go to join us but only family members vote. Side traditions also include watching "Love Actually", "It's a Wonderful Life", occasionally "Little Women" and whatever cheesy Lifetime Christmas movie captures our heart.

Humans



Frentzen Pakpahan (Ideas)

Christmas in our household is just like any other family gathering—we eat, play a few card games, crash on the couch, and watch movies—except in one respect: we have time. Weekend family get togethers have an atmosphere of brevity that stresses me out. Monday’s responsibilities press in, distracting me from the moments at hand. But Christmas we have together. The cold keeps us locked in together, cozy even if squished. Work is far off, and we take some time to be.



Kaitlyn Rigg (Photography)

Christmas time means christmas traditions. Typically I spend one Christmas with my mother and stepfather, then the next year with my father and stepmother. We always set up the tree together while some type of Christmas music plays in the background and we tend to bake christmas cookies. Then on Christmas Eve we try convince our parents to let us open one small gift and that may or may not happen. Then on Christmas morning the whole family gets together to hide and find our stockings. Then the rest of the day is filled with games, laughter, great food and amazing family.



Juliana Smith (Layout Editor)

My family traditions have always been divided between my mom’s and dad’s side of the family. On my dad’s side we normally make gingerbread houses. I know this sounds average but to be honest who actually eats the store bought gingerbread? This question has one answer for my family: no one. So we decorate and then my oldest cousin Jake heads the duties of finding a way to destroy it. On my mom’s side however we always go to this old roller skating rink in her hometown. On the top floor is a hall where we eat food and a room that has poles and chairs. As kids my siblings and I would wildly swing around these until we were dizzy. Of course, that’s inappropriate now that we’re older but I digress. After all that we of course go roller skating. This tradition is one I’m very fond of because they always finds something to laugh about. I think that’s what people should do, laugh and have a good time.



Teddy Kim (Copy Editor)

Prepare for next year. . . just kidding! Well, sort of. My family and I usually have fun setting up our tree, usually buying one from Home Depot. But my dad stops there with the spirit. On the other hand, my mom loves participating in the festivities. She’ll initiate the decorations, begin wearing Christmas clothes, play carols around the house, begin serving hot chocolate for breakfast, start to bake a little more frequently, and of course, she’ll always try to haul in a huge load of shopping. I like it when we spend Christmas with others, so lately we’ve been spending every year with my cousins, sleeping over until the countdown for New Year’s. I try to engulf myself as much as possible in the welcoming, jolly, and heartwarming atmosphere. There’s just no other time of year like it!



Alexi Decker (Editor-In-Chief)

I love Christmas. I love everything about it—the family, the friends, the music, the absurd amounts of baked goods (my grandma always ships us fudge), the trees, the ornaments, the lights, the gift giving, the... okay, I’ll stop. Every year on Christmas Eve, my family gathers for worship and writes out the things we’re thankful for, or the things we want to give to God, on cut-out paper hearts of varying hues. Then we put the hearts in a gift-wrapped box we call the “Jesus Box”, and place it under the tree. There are hearts in there from years where I couldn’t write my own name, the misshapen letters curling around the edges of the heart, too many branches on the E. Every year, our Jesus Box is a reminder of what’s really important.



Scott E. Moncrieff
Faculty Advisor

Arts & Entertainment



Megan
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Arts &
Entertainment Editor

Andrews Symphony Orchestra Brings Christmas Cheer



PHOTO BY IMC

Adair Kibble | I had the pleasure of seeing the Andrews Symphony Orchestra perform their Christmas concert featuring Stephen Zork and the University singers last Saturday night. The director, Christopher Wild, chose to display the unbridled pomp and pathos of a few selections from one of Tchaikovsky's

most famous ballets, "The Nutcracker." The orchestra then performed some arrangements of popular Christmas carols and melodies, including Greensleeves (the same melody as "What Child is This," "Deck the Halls," and "Jingle Bells," among others.

The décor of the HPAC is always spectacular for

the Christmas concerts, and this year it was understated, but still very festive, with a row of poinsettias in front of the orchestra, a Christmas wreath on the wall behind and strings of twinkling white Christmas lights echoing the snow from last week by hanging straight down from the ceiling. The audience

gave a standing ovation at the end of the Nutcracker pieces, owing to the status of the pieces as well as how professionally the orchestra performed them.

After the intermission, the University Singers joined the orchestra on stage with their conductor Stephen Zork, who performed solos for each of the songs in his rich baritone timbre and surging vibrato. The "Fantasia on Christmas Carols" especially showcased the synergy between the choir and the orchestra, as well as the range of both of them, because the piece built to an exuberant romp with bold notes, and then slowed to a solemn finish. In the arrangement of "Greensleeves", the piece developed from an ethereal flute and harp duet to an anticipatory tremolo by the violins and then a more booming chorus. Then, the mood was especially jolly when, during the "Christmas Festival" arrangement, some musicians donned Santa hats, reindeer antlers, and red scarves, while some viola

scrolls sported red bows, starkly contrasting the traditional black concert attire the instrumentalists wore during the rest of the concert.

But the most moving part of the concert was by far when the lights dimmed when the orchestra played "Silent Night," Christopher Wild imploring the audience to join in the moment dedicated to "people who have passed away in the community" by singing along. He also paused for a moment of silence at the end of the song to honor the memory of those people, most notably Anna Lucia Kim, who tragically passed away last Friday. In conclusion, this concert ran the gamut between the usual festive cheer of the Christmas season, as well as a more thoughtful mood for people grieving the loss of loved ones on campus, bringing in the Christmas concert season on campus to a strong start.

Bad Christmas Movies: Hallmarked for Success

David Dunham | In modern life, Christmas is always marked by traditions. Some families go out and watch lights, some bake cookies and wait for Santa, while still others sing Christmas carols. Whatever it is that your family does, you can rest assured that Hallmark has made a movie about it. It's nothing against Hallmark that they create a movie for literally every type of family that celebrates Christmas, it's just fascinating that their movies are so similar in style and plot that at this point, just by hearing the title of a new movie, anyone who has seen at least three Hallmark movies will be

able to describe the entire plot without knowing anything about it. There are only so many movies that one can create for a holiday, but Hallmark has succeeded in blowing that limit out of the water.

So why is it that these low-budget, repetitive Christmas movies do so well? Why do they actually succeed in making people feel the spirit of Christmas, rather than just pandering holiday tropes? On the surface, it is actually astounding that they get away with this. Eventually, the recycled stories should get old, and yet, here we are in 2018, and the newest Hallmark Christmas movies will reel in the

viewers, even if to mixed reviews.

The secret lies a little deeper, within Hallmark's formula. In almost every Hallmark movie, there are three main characters: the protagonist, and two potential love interests that he/she must decide between. What makes this part of the formula so crucial is that within the movie, these three characters must be different enough to create conflict, and a real sense of "choice." Because of this, Hallmark Christmas movies create a wide cast that can relate to anyone who is watching. If you don't relate to one of the main characters, there are at least two more.

And to round the cast list off, there is usually a best friend or assistant full of mediocre one liners. One liners appeal to the widest audience possible, and bring laughs like nothing else, and when you can get people to laugh in your Christmas movie, they equate that to enjoyment.

The other major key of the Hallmark movie formula is, of course, a setting in December. It might be Christmas Eve, 12 days before Christmas, or the day of, but obviously a Hallmark Christmas movie must have Christmas. This on its own is enough to get many people to enjoy the film. When December

hits (and usually earlier nowadays), the average person wants to take a bath in Christmas-related everything. Hallmark knows this, and realizes that the gold-mine is right for the taking, as anything can count as a great holiday movie if it involves both Christmas and good feelings. They have to wrap every movie up like a gift, and do it without fail. Unless you are being very critical, at the end of a Hallmark movie you won't remember the bad acting, dialogue or pacing, but the end result of Christmas joy. And that is why people come back to these movies time and time again.

Arts & Entertainment

Editors' Christmas Playlist

Frentzen Pakpahan:

"Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber - I'm a sucker for romantic walks through dimly lit New England streets, snow lightly dusting our coats. Add a banger in the background and you have the perfect recipe for a Christmas classic—or rather the Bieb's Mistletoe. Talk about a bop.

Apryl Briley:

"Mary Did You Know" by Pentatonix - When I first heard "Mary Did you Know," it was played in my American History class and I got goosebumps hearing it. Their voices blending together is just amazing. I play it on repeat, along with the rest of the Pentatonix Christmas album.

Scott Moncrieff:

"Christmas Songs" by The Eddie Higgins Trio - Light, tasteful, classy jazz, with the occasional bass solo. Eddie Higgins, the pianist, out of Chicago, was a beautiful player.

"A Dave Brubeck Christmas" by Dave Brubeck - Solo piano in a restrained (at least for Brubeck) style.

Kaitlyn Rigg:

"Feliz Navidad" by Michael Buble - I love Michael Buble's voice and this song honestly just makes me want to jump up and dance. It's a perfect Christmas song in my opinion. But truthfully I love all Christmas music.

Kara Herrera:

"You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" by Thurl Ravenscroft and "Feels like Christmas" by Panic! at the Disco - One classic and one new Christmas song. Brendon Urie always hits just the right notes to make any song he touches sound great. As for Mr. Grinch, it has always been my family's favorite song, especially when we tune into the radio in the car. By the time the "Seasick Crocodile" verse comes in, everyone is jamming hard. Can't have a better Christmas road trip song than that.

Teddy Kim:

Anything from Nat King Cole, Bing Crosby, Andy Williams, Perry Como, Johnny Mathis, Amy

Grant or Josh Groban in that order. Call me old fashioned, but they know how to arrange their carols right! Nothing like hearing nostalgia wander into your ears.

Adriana Santana:

"Christmas" by Mariah Carey or the whole "Merry Christmas II You" Album - It's not Christmas if you're not listening to Mariah Carey. She literally regains her voice every Christmas so we can enjoy her vocals and bring good cheer. The queen of Christmas honestly, no one compares.

Juliana Smith:

"I Want a Hippopotamus For Christmas" - I don't care who you are or what you think, it's

funny and I will laugh to it every year.

Megan Jacobs:

"O Come O Come Emmanuel" by The Civil Wars -

It's got a bit of a haunting twist to it, so if you're not in the mood for the usual jingle but still want some Christmas spirit, this might be it, chief.

Alexi Decker:

"Winter Song" by Leslie Odom Jr. - Kinda jazzy, kinda bluesy, Leslie Odom Jr. hits all the right notes in this rendition of "Winter Song." Need more convincing? He played Aaron Burr on the Hamilton soundtrack, and his voice is butter.

A Christmas Movie Watchlist From Your Writers

David Dunham:

Elf - This is probably the quintessential Christmas movie. It combines humor with Christmas spirit, and if the final act was as good as the rest of the movie, it would be the perfect Christmas movie.

The Grinch (2018) - The newest Christmas movie I have seen, but still really good. It mixes the heart and humor of the original with modern devices, for a 3D animated Seuss treat.

The Family Stone - Ultimately, this is a really sad Christmas movie. Then again, maybe you need some sadness to truly be able to appreciate the happiness around you. While it may not be as popular as some others on this list, *The Family Stone* is

an emotional rollercoaster, and a Christmas movie well worth your time.

Home Alone - Classic! Every kid wants to be left home alone to eat ice cream and watch bad movies, but the slapstick and humor and this one elevates it from a child's dream movie to a film worth watching far into your adult years.

The Polar Express - The best animated Christmas movie by far (except those elves. Those elves look creepy.) I always come back to *Polar Express* as a great example of capturing that Christmas magic we feel as kids, waiting for Santa to come with presents—the irony being that the main character doesn't believe in Santa at all.

Ingrid Radulescu:

A Holiday Engagement - Feel-good romantic comedies are the best type of Christmas movie.

Love Actually - This is one of my favorite Christmas romantic comedies that features 10 intertwined stories.

Hector and the Search for Happiness - This is actually not a Christmas movie but it has a nice moral lesson that is great for the family and holiday season.

Adair Kibble:

A Christmas Story - It has so much sardonic humor that takes a more honest look at the usually nostalgic material of Christmas time during childhood, and so creates a lot of hu-

mor out of it. There is a bit of outdated racism in it though because it was made in the 80's and set during the 40's.

It's a Wonderful Life - This is maybe the oldest Christmas movie (1946) on this list, but if one can look past the black-and-white, it's the story of one man regaining hope in his life around the Christmas season, and it's a classic because of how it argues that giving to one's community is never worthless, and no life is ever worthless.

Karen Vallado:

Unaccompanied Minors - This recommendation comes straight from eight-year-old me, and although in my memory it's super funny, I cannot promise

that this movie holds up. If you want to know what happens when a group of kids get stuck at an airport on Christmas Eve, this is the movie for you. Also, if you watched this as a kid, I hope it's just as great as you remember it to be.

A Christmas Story 2 - I'm not sure if this counts as a recommendation, but I recommend you not watch this movie. It seems like the script was written by a very excited, well-meaning fan who wanted to recreate every joke from his favorite Christmas film, and in the process, killed them all. You'll want to shoot your eye out.

The Last Word



Alexi Decker
Editor-in-Chief

Nativity of the Everyday

My feet are soaked. It's a stormy afternoon in early November, I'm carrying a ridiculously heavy backpack and the cobblestone streets in this tiny mountaintop town in Tuscany are slick and shiny with rain. I keep peering in windows of locked restaurants, hoping I'll find someone inside. So far, after at least an hour of walking, there is no such luck. Every restaurant in town is closed, and I watch the sky get steadily darker, feeling my unease grow.

Next to me, my friend Shayla readjusts her backpack straps. She's wilting. I can feel it, a combination of the rain and the low blood sugar and the fact that we've been traveling for a week with minimal sleep. We don't exactly cut imposing figures.

Even worse, I don't speak more than three words of Italian and my phone is dead. If anything happens, my backpack is too heavy to let me run very far. I've heard the stories. I know what can happen to foreign young women in deserted towns with dark alleyways. I know how quickly a holiday can turn into a nightmare.

I think I see lights on behind windows in an alleyway—Shayla and I turn, I check, but it's only the reflection of the streetlights. Something seizes up in my chest. I don't know where to go, I don't know what to do, I don't know if I'd be able to communicate even if I found someone to ask. I'm a good traveler, I'm good at keeping my bearings, but I'm so, so scared and so exhausted and so hungry and I can't breathe past the lump in my throat and I don't know what I'm going to do.

Around me, the town is dark and empty.

For a moment, I wonder if this is how Joseph felt, carrying a wife who carried

God, peering in windows and pounding on doors, feeling completely and utterly alone.

When I was little, my family had an interesting nativity set—and by “interesting” I mean virtually nonexistent. The star above the stablecave used to light up, but it had been broken for as long as I could remember. Over the years it'd lost most of its pieces, leaving Mary and a shepherd or two in the stable with a three-legged sheep. No Joseph, no wise men, no angels. I honestly don't know why my parents kept it for so long; maybe it was just force of habit, the nativity with three pieces that kept getting accidentally repacked in the Christmas tub with the other decorations.

Most fascinating, however, was the missing baby Jesus. I have vague memories of what Joseph looked like, and the angel, but I don't ever remember seeing Jesus. Was he swaddled tightly in white, with only a little pink face peeking out? Were his arms outstretched to his adoring mother? Was his manger made of stone or wood, filled with straw or cloth? That nativity set felt inherently dangerous—as if in some dark alternate universe Herod's soldiers had already come and stolen away the infant savior on the very night of his birth.

Somehow the missing Jesus became a reminder of all the things that could have gone wrong on Christmas, of all the ways in which the Christmas story is inherently fragile. We like to sensationalize it, I know, and there are certainly sensational elements: angel choirs, murderous kings, travelers from far away. It's easy to turn it into a spectacle, an epic—at the cost, sometimes, of the real people at the center of the story. But the sensation-

al elements of the nativity story should only highlight the utter ordinariness of its main players: Mary, the unwed, teenage mom from the slums; Joseph, a tradesman who let everyone believe he was Mary's baby daddy; the baby Jesus himself, a future refugee fleeing a murderous dictator. If the innkeeper hadn't had a stable, if Mary had given birth in the wilderness instead of in Bethlehem, if the angel hadn't told the Magi to go home by a different route—everything would have fallen apart. This story is fragile. These people were ordinary.

Reducing the Christmas story to the sum of its miracles misses the point entirely, because it misses the fact that the nativity happened to people who were just as fragile and ordinary as we are.

Finally, I find a tiny hotel with a dim light on. Inside, a receptionist, maybe ten years older than me, looks at our dripping hair and clothes sympathetically, but even I know there's not much she can do. Everything's closed, after all. No room at the inn.

I ask anyway, my English all too American, flat and rude in the quiet of the lobby. “Do you know if any restaurants are open?”

She almost says no. I can see it in her face. But then she pauses and looks at us again and draws a map on a napkin. “Try here,” she tells us, and I swear I hear angel choirs in her voice.

I wish I could say something, anything, to convey the depths of my gratitude. I offer her, inadequately, the only word I know in Italian, the only gift I have. Grazie. Thank you.

She smiles at me. Then it's out in the cold and the rain again. The sky is completely dark by the time we exit the hotel, stars si-

lent and obscured by clouds and storm, and I can't find the restaurant, and Shayla's dragging her feet and looking at me blearily and I don't know what to do.

Turn a corner. A light down an alleyway. A restaurant, stone and firelight. The door is propped open with a wooden doorstep, and I glimpse what looks like a family—some children, an older woman, a teenager. There's a man cleaning wine glasses behind a counter; I stumble inside, find myself asking, breathless—“Do you sell pasta?”

For a moment, he looks taken aback. I glance outside, at the dark, the cold, the rain; I brace myself for his refusal. They're clearly not open. There's no room for us here.

Then his eyes crinkle, his whole face melts into a smile, and he says, “Of course,” in accented English that sounds like music, like light and life. I find that I can breathe again.

Later, when Shayla and I have both eaten and the cold in my bones has finally been dispelled, our waiter will mention, casually, that his friend called and said we were coming—that they'd been waiting for us.

I almost cry on the spot. I imagine I feel, for a moment, what Joseph must have felt: gratitude, impossibly strong, for extraordinary kindness in the most ordinary of circumstances, for a receptionist who called a friend, for a family who opened a restaurant to feed us. For everyday miracles and room at the inn.

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“That nativity set felt inherently dangerous—as if in some dark alternate universe Herod's soldiers had stolen away the infant savior on the very night of his birth.”