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### High Above

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## High Above

In search of "night photos," our photographers trudged thanklessly around a very cold campus, toting their equipment with numb fingers, while questioning the judgment of a particular editor. Thankfully, this dedicated crew came up with some gems, as you will see in our center feature on Andrews at Night.

Still, there was more to be done.

Fortunately, Derek Bradfield, manager of the Howard Performing Arts Center, offered to take Martin Lee, university web coordinator, and me up in his Mooney M20B single engine airplane for a short flight over campus in an attempt to get some additional photos from high above. I like flying in small airplanes, my brother-in-law is an enthusiastic private pilot, so I was excited to join Derek and Martin in what I imagined to be an exotic photo shoot.

The night was clear and beautiful, if a little frigid, even for February. As Derek's plane climbed into the night sky, and the interior defrost began to clear the steam from the windows, I came to see AU and the surrounding area from a new perspective. I was mostly confused and disoriented.

While I had seen Andrews and Berrien Springs from the air before, I hadn't been up at night. It took a while, and a lot of pointing at landmarks by Derek, for me to distinguish the AU farm from the lights of nearby Eau Claire, Mich. Meanwhile, Martin, clearly familiar with the routine of shooting photos of the university from Derek's plane, clicked away on his digital camera. I bounced from side to side in the rear seat, trying to get my bearings and take in the sights that from the ground would have been so commonplace.

Derek circled campus about five times, using the WAUS radio tower as a point of reference, spurring us to the right or left of the blinking red apex with each go round. I finally began to recognize some of the campus buildings by the third or fourth pass—the new seminary, the library, the university

apartments. But it was much easier to see the golden arches of the Berrien Springs McDonald's and, across old U.S. 31 from it, the Phillips 66 gas station.

Still, the higher we got, the more these visual clues began to match my internal map of the area.

Derek pointed out St. Joseph, Benton Harbor, New Buffalo, South Bend, Ind., and, way off in the distance, as we climbed to over 5,000 feet, we began to see the lights of Chicago. The higher we got, the more these clumps of lights began to harmonize with my limited geographic reckoning. Martin seemed to be doing less clicking by this time, enjoying the view himself. Other than the loud whir of the engine and Derek's intermittent comments concerning land-

enting blur, they recast the familiar. These photos defamiliarized the campus and the surrounding area for me, making me look at their subject as though for the first time. To loosely paraphrase American poet Emily Dickinson, those photos show all the truth, but show it slant.

I hope our examination of Andrews at Night in this issue will have something of the same effect.

There are more than the usual number of contributors to thank for their work in this issue. Writing for the collage of nighttime events and activities are Leah Vetne, Marjorie Susens, Katie Shaw and Bjorn Karlman. Photographers contributing to the issue include Brynja Davis, Erin Heldstab, Leah Vetne, Joseph Frakes, Tamara Karr, Mikael Kirkham and Martin Lee.

Also in this issue, in our Student Spotlight, senior Hannah Balduff describes her nightly work milking cows at the campus dairy. Hannah's experience reminds us just how unusual the lives of students can be outside the classroom.

In Time Pieces, Meredith Jones-Gray writes about an unpleasant event involving a campus night watchman in 1929. If you thought issues regarding campus safety were a recent development, Merrie's article will cause you to think again.

Also arriving in this issue is a new column that we're calling Aluminati. Stephen Faehner is our first randomly selected alumnus to participate in the new Q & A, which follows the Alumni News section. (To be included in the random selection process for our Spring Issue, please send your email address to: [alumni@andrews.edu](mailto:alumni@andrews.edu)).



*GROUNDING: Derek Bradfield, Martin Lee, and I preparing for our nighttime photo shoot high above the Andrews University campus.*

*...we all stared at the quiet world below us,  
so familiar and yet strange.*

marks, we all stared at the quiet world below us, so familiar and yet strange.

Unlike our cover shot, many of the photos Martin got from our short flight show indistinguishable blurs of campus light, barely hinting at a realistic or discernible representation of the university. But in their disori-

*~ Ivan Davis is assistant professor of English and the editor of Focus.*