

ZU Magazine

RESPONDING TO TRAGEDY

Feature Article: page 14



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



H

ey, Readers!

Welcome to the fourth issue of ZU Magazine this year! I'm so glad you've decided to join me. In this issue, you will encounter mostly fun things about music, culture, sports, and more. But we do have a couple of hard conversations in this issue, so I'm going to preface that a bit.

Our community has dealt with some harsh situations and realities so far this semester. The shooting down the street and being put on lockdown are rattling, stark things to deal with. However, we are stronger when we stand together in community and have hard conversations.

Oftentimes, shying away from hard conversations is easier than facing the reality of them. But when we don't have conversations about the things that matter, those things take root and affect us in the depths of who we are. I want us to be a community that breaks the status quo and runs toward talking about difficult topics rather than running away. I want us to be a community that questions the way things have always been done or talked about, and change it. I want us to be a community that fosters change and growth, refusing to be stagnant.

When we become stagnant, complacent, and comfortable, growth stops. When we turn away from hard topics, thriving ceases. When we refuse to engage with difficult topics merely because they are uncomfortable, we give those topics power over ourselves and over others.

It's important to remember that we may never truly know what another person is going through. We may never understand their pain, hardship, or life. But when we give that person the space to talk about the hard things they have or are experiencing, the chains of those hardships are broken and freedom can begin to occur.

I want us to be a community that stands by one another in valleys and celebrates with one another at our peaks. I want us to be a community that allows one another to stop doing and to merely be. I want us to be a community that is okay with having challenging, honest conversations, because we know they will strengthen who we are and how we present ourselves holistically.

I encourage you to have a hard conversation today. Be honest. Be vulnerable. Be authentic.

"Vulnerability gives us freedom, power, and connects us to a network of injured souls. It is through the art of being real that we can heal ourselves and others."

-Shannon L. Alder

Sincerely,

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TO LISTEN

Almost (Sweet Music)- Hozier

After his chart topping song "Take Me To Church" from his 2013 debut album, Hozier released an EP in 2018 and has started 2019 off with a new single, "Almost (Sweet Music)." Tickling the guitar strings and enchanting the speakers with his vocal prowess, just as is to be expected from such talent, you cannot help but dance to this song. He tells the tale of feeling a little lost in himself by referencing songs he uses to keep calm when things seem overwhelming. His sophomore album is set to be released later this year on March 1.

TO TASTE

Lucky Elephant Thai Cuisine

Many of us are still mourning the loss of our favorite Thai food place, Siam Palace, that formerly resided just across from East Campus. It is not uncommon to hear friends talking about the need for a new go-to Thai food spot. Lucky Elephant Thai Cuisine in San Dimas is certainly worth a try! While it might not be walking distance, it has all of the same essentials at an equally great price point as Siam Palace. As the name implies, it is filled wall to wall with elephant statues, paintings and paraphernalia, making it a delicious and fun place to grab a bite.

TO GO

The Huntington Library Botanical gardens

Just a 22 minute drive from campus, the Huntington Library has 120 acres of land dedicated to 16 themed botanical gardens. The gardens are home to over 15,000 varieties of plants, including bonsai and orchids. Take a free garden tour or simply enjoy a leisurely walk over lily ponds and under a forest canopy. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day but Tuesday, admission to the gardens also gives you entrance to the entire Huntington collection, which includes the library and art collections. Or if you would rather visit for free, you can go on the first Thursday of the month with an advance ticket.

TO WATCH

On the Basis of Sex

Based on the true story of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, this movie highlights the early career that brought Ginsburg to her position as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. She fought to change the societal understanding of gender equality through the changing of the law. The movie details some of her passion for this topic and creates a powerful social narrative for today as well.

THINGS TO DO IN LA

BY: MICHAELA STEINER

5 Reasons You Should Collect Vinyl Records

By: Jordan Green



Listening to music is one of the rare pleasures that almost everyone on the planet can participate in and appreciate. No matter the country, race, religion or economic stature, anyone can find an artist or genre that resonates with them in some way.

Personally, listening to music is a passion of mine. If I'm struggling emotionally or stressing over an assignment, I can just put in my earbuds, play some Bob Dylan and suddenly my fears begin to lessen. It is a brief moment where I can escape through absorbing the lyrics and instruments of the music.

With my belief in music's spiritual-like qualities, I wanted to find a way to go deeper into my passion and discover an even stronger appreciation for the craft. Last year, I began collecting vinyl records. Since then, I have developed a pretty impressive collection of over 200 records and I have found the experience to be one of the most enjoyable of my life. With that being said, here are five reasons why collecting vinyl records is absolutely essential.

1. The sound improvement

A common rebuttal record collectors hear is "why not just listen to the music on your phone?" With the amazing services available today such as Apple Music and Spotify, it may seem difficult to come back with a legitimate argument. However, records have been proven to provide an improved form of sound quality.

Vinyl records have better sound because they use analog rather than digital. Reporter David Greenwald and Adam Gonsalves, a sound engineer at Telegraph Mastering, discussed the difference in a 2014 article from The Oregonian. To put it simply, a vinyl record will almost always have more musical data than an MP3 file, meaning the sound of a record is both an improvement and more complex compared to several streaming sources.

"Vinyl is the only consumer playback format we have that's fully analog and fully lossless," Gonsalves stated. "You just need a decent turntable with a decent needle on it and you're going to enjoy a full-fidelity listening experience."

Despite this, there can also be issues with the digital conversion process. When the conversion takes place, fatigue and delay amongst the sound could occur. However with analog, the sound is being fed directly to the amplifiers, meaning no delay unless there is sufficient damage to the vinyl.

2. It creates an appreciation for album artwork

When using streaming services, consumers cannot possibly engage with the impressive artwork that can be found on and inside album covers. Sure, they may be able to see a tiny glimpse of the front cover. But how can one completely support an artist that they love and appreciate when they don't engage with this particular aspect of their work? For example, consider the album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band by The Beatles.

There is so much more inside the record that is worth seeing. A majority of albums have posters inside them. The sleeves that protect the record are often times designed. Also, records have unique lyric guides that help listeners follow along to their favorite songs.

3. It helps you develop a connection with your family

This may only apply to those who appreciate old music, but record collectors usually do! When discovering classics from generations ago, it can create a new connection that involves conversations with parents or grandparents.

But despite the music itself, I have also found a tremendous level of support from my family when actually gathering the records. It has almost become a monthly occurrence to go to antique stores with my grandparents, and we will look through stacks upon stacks of records and I am given advice on which ones are or are not worth listening to. I also often look through my family's old collections, and they are so ecstatic that the vinyl records which brought them so much excitement are now being used once again.

4. It is simply so much fun to scavenge for those gems

Speaking of looking through old collections, one of the most enjoyable experiences when collecting records is finding those special albums that you have been seeking.

And not to mention, looking through stuff is just fun! Consider people's obsession with scavenging for clothes, shoes, books, movies, video games and a boundless number of commodities. Looking through records certainly holds that same level of compulsion. And with the impressive amount of record stores throughout the U.S. -1,482 as of 2017 according to Mixmag- the inventory basically promises to be different and unique wherever you may shop.

5. It invites you to listen to an album fully

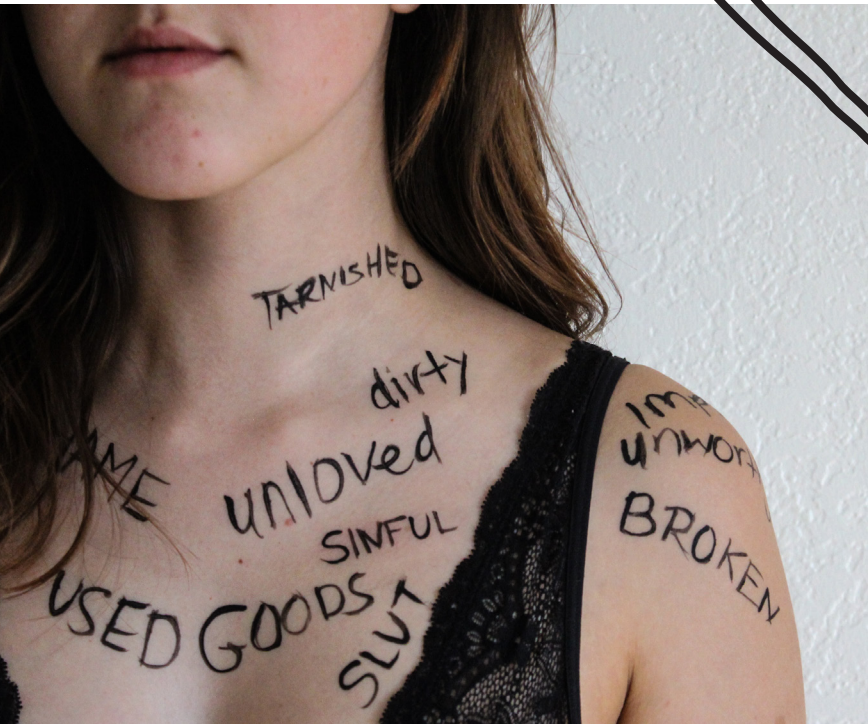
Many view downloading sole songs through streaming services as a positive. I mean let's face it, there are a multitude of albums where it seems only one song is perfect, while every other track is worthy of a skip. With records, you can always move the needle to the next track, but it is very difficult compared to pressing those two sideways triangles displayed on your phone screen.

However, I would strongly consider attempting to see the beauty in listening to an album fully. After all, it is the way the artist wanted us to listen to their work. Part of making an album is considering the tracklist, meaning several artists spend hours upon hours strategically placing their songs in a particular order, hoping that listeners will experience a desired feeling or emotion. When listening to vinyl, you are invited and encouraged to take part in this phenomenon.

Record sales over the past half-decade continue to grow, and I am not surprised by this. I feel that youth are tired of music-listening seeming so routine and are eager for it to be an intimate experience. There may be no better way to accomplish this than flipping through a stack of vinyl records, finding the record that causes a sense of infatuation, throwing it on the turntable, placing the needle on that first groove and absorbing the sound of your desired music.

How Sex and Purity Are Discussed in the Church

and why it needs to change...



By: Alyssa Burlingame

Growing up in the church has many pros and cons. Some of the benefits include growing up around people of faith, people of good character and people who love Jesus. But there are also some downfalls, including unrealistic expectations, shame and the way purity culture is taught.

Purity culture can be summarized as the way the Evangelical Church teaches young people, specifically young women, about sex and purity.

Many young women who grew up in the church reach adulthood and experience severe feelings of shame and guilt after their first moment of physical intimacy, regardless of whether or not that encounter involved formal intercourse.

In Linda Kay Klein's book "Pure: Inside the Evangelical Movement that Shamed a Generation of Young Women and How I Broke Free," she shares her personal story and the stories of others who have experienced shame and other psychological damage based on the purity culture narrative taught in churches.

"In the Evangelical community, an 'impure' girl or woman isn't just seen as damaged; she's considered dangerous," Klein writes. "Not only to the men we were told we must protect by covering up our bodies but to our entire community."

In being taught about purity, girls are often taught that their virginity is something to lock up in a box and not give away to anyone except their future husband. They are often taught that sexual desire is dirty and sinful and that it's abnormal. They are taught to be modest not for their own sake, but for the sake of not allowing their "brothers" to sin by viewing the girls' bodies as sexual objects. They are taught that their inner worth is reflected solely by their outward appearance.

Some analogies that have been used to discuss sex in evangelical youth groups are that girls are like a piece of gum; once it's chewed up nobody wants it. This analogy tells girls that once they've lost their virginity, they are no longer worth loving. It tells them that once they have sex, they will be used goods and thus seen as undesirable to men. Another popular analogy is of a wedding dress. The dress is placed on stage to symbolize virginity and how before you lose it, the dress is white. But once you have sex, the dress gets stained red. You're no longer pure.

These are the narratives many girls are being told about sex and their sexuality. They are being told that they are responsible for their purity and the purity of the boys around them.

Cindy Burlingame, M.S., LMFT speaks about the damaging effect this method of teaching about sex and purity can have on young women.

"I constantly speak with young women who walk around feeling as though they will never be good enough for any man because they have had sex before marriage," Burlingame says. "The church teaching of 'no sex before marriage' leaves no option for those young women to feel as though they can still be loved by God."

Another facet of purity culture in the church is the "modest is hottest" movement. This is ultimately the idea that girls should dress modestly to attract the "right" attention from men, and not give off the wrong vibe or seem desperate with the way they dress.

This movement gives girls the idea that wearing a spaghetti strap or a skirt above the knee will give men the permission to sexualize their bodies, no matter what their age is. However, the message changes between elementary school and high school. In an article about this movement, blogger April Kelsey shares, based on her personal experience, that in high school, young girls are told that men are "seeking a pure woman all wrapped up like a present under the Christmas tree. [Girls] had to stay wrapped or the surprise would be spoiled, [their] inner worth compromised." Unfortunately, however, this narrative is not only reflective of Kelsey's experience but this is a common narrative experienced by girls who may have grown up in church.

This is an unacceptable standard placed on young women and girls regarding their bodies and their sexuality. By these standards, the church is ultimately sexualizing the female body just as the secular world does when that is the opposite of what it should be doing.

Instead, the church should be speaking about sex and purity through a viewpoint of God's grace and mercy.

"Premarital sex is not the ultimate sin, yet that's how the church portrays it," Burlingame said. "Even worse, young women are often taught this by men so of course, they are going to listen to those men that they trust. They need to understand why God says to wait but they also need to understand how to protect themselves if they choose not to wait and what it means to accept the grace of God."

If young men and women continue being taught this idea of sexual purity under a lens of shame, they will never have a healthy relationship with sex or physical intimacy in general. It is imperative that the church change the narrative and teach the next generation about sex and purity in light of the psychological and spiritual benefits of waiting, not condemnation for being physically intimate. Grace is one of the most important parts of our redemption stories and the church is not doing grace justice by teaching young people a shameful view of sex.

SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS

By: Brendan Fretwell

As technology has developed and people have become more connected, social media has become the main outlet for everyone looking to communicate on a large scale. As this has taken place, the world of sports has found itself on the path of a social revolution. In terms of the tools that social media has supplied to people and entities, sports leagues at varying levels have done a great job of taking advantage of this new form of mass connection and communication. But of course, with any advancement comes setbacks.

Sports fans are oftentimes an opinionated group of people, especially when it concerns the performances of teams and individual players. Before social media, it was extremely difficult, if not impossible, to articulate these opinions directly to athletes. Now that fans have access to social media, they can directly communicate with any athlete they please, even if it's more of a one-way conversation. Whether they have nice things to say or not, these athletes are exposed to the actual thoughts of fans like they have never been before and it's not always a positive experience.

Two incidents that have occurred recently prove that sometimes people can get out of hand with their complaints towards professional athletes—especially professional athletes who have not performed up to the standard that some fans expect. The Chicago Bears and Philadelphia Eagles met in a playoff game on Jan. 6. At the end of the game, the Bears found themselves losing 15 to 16. Cody Parkey, the Bears' kicker, ran out onto the field to kick what could have been the game-winning play. With pressure unlike most have experienced, Parkey kicked the ball and hit the left post officially missing the all-important kick.

According to an article from Business Insider, Parkey stated after the game, "I feel terrible. I let the team down. That's on me. I have to own it. I have to be a man. Unfortunately, that's the way it went today."

A similar situation was presented on Jan. 2 in the 2019 International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Hockey Championships. In a quarterfinal match between Finland and Canada, Maxime Comtois, Canada's team captain, found himself with a penalty shot and subsequently an opportunity to win the game in sudden death overtime. After missing the easy goal that could have been the game winner, Finland scored shortly after, which won them the game and knocked Canada out of a tournament the country had been looking forward to all season. Following both of these shortcomings from Parkey and Comtois on the playing surface, fans were quick to unleash their deepest frustrations with the two individuals, which is where the problem lies.

Fans sent insults, threats, death threats and hopes of horrible things happening to both Parkey and Comtois. In Parkey's case, things got so bad that even players of the Eagles, the opposing team, protected him.

Jake Elliott, kicker for the Eagles, was aware of the pressure Parkey was feeling and stated on Twitter, "This is a stand up guy that a lot of young players can look up to. This is how you handle adversity like a pro. Cody is a heck of a kicker and will be for a long time. No reason to be taking the heat he is especially when that ball was tipped."

In both situations the fans were completely out of line. For Comtois, racism became evident in the comments directed at him due to his French-Canadian heritage. It was obvious that there was a sense of anti-francophone sentiments being thrown at the young Team Canada captain which only made the whole experience even worse.

Fans have a right to voice their opinions on teams and players. Nobody can take that away from them. Part of the excitement of being a sports fan is being opinionated and supporting your favorite teams and players. I am a firm believer that it is okay to be critical of a team or player's performance. However, when being critical, one needs to keep hateful emotions out of it. In the end, it's a game and these players are the best in the world at what they do, but they're also human. Just like everyone else, they make mistakes and they have bad days.

When athletes go on social media, they need to remember that they are public figures in a space that is open in terms of communication. There are unpleasant people in the world and unfortunately, those unpleasant people have access to social media just like everyone else. It should be expected that public figures are going to receive some less than encouraging comments on a public platform if they've failed in some way.

This in no way excuses the horrible comments that were directed at Cody Parkey and Maxime Comtois. They didn't deserve to be treated like that by their so-called "fans." No real supporter of any sport, athlete or team would ever behave that way toward an athlete who is working hard to make those supporters proud.

Fans need to understand that although the game means a lot, that's just what it is: a game. Although frustration is valid in a losing situation, there is no need for threats, racism and general awfulness to be directed at these people who have dedicated their lives to their craft. Social media has changed the way people communicate with each other forever. With this change, some are using it to be hurtful, threatening and negatively opinionated. These two incidents from the world of sports simply shed light on one of the biggest issues of social media and how it has altered the way people associate with each other.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR NEW YEARS TO HAVE RESOLUTIONS?

By: Jasmine Campos

(NOT) New Year's Resolutions

An outline on why we should not wait until a New Year to have resolutions.

It is Dec. 30. You finally decide that it is time to take out a pencil and a piece of paper, or in the twenty-first century an iPhone and start jotting down some ideas for your New Year's resolutions.

Lose weight. Read my Bible. Go to bed earlier. Eat healthier. Give up bad habits.

These are all common resolutions that once a year some of us are determined to make.

Theresa Fisher, writer for Mic, claims that January "is officially the busiest time of year in gyms across the country... [but] if history is any indication, they'll ditch their newfound fitness regimen by mid-February."

If most people are bound to either fail or give up on their New Year's Resolutions within the first month of the year, then why are expectations set so high and what can be done about it?

Once Americans begin to lower their expectations, accepting that Jan. 1 represents nothing but a day on a calendar and that there is a constant need to be improving, New Year's Resolutions will be turning into New You Resolutions.

One of the most confusing things about resolutions is how high people set their expectations. After not attending a gym for four years, what are the odds that every day this year you will wake up at 5 a.m. to go workout?

Slim. To. None.

People set expectations as if they are going to be a new person when they wake up the next day, as though Jan. 1 means anything different than Dec. 10 or any other day of the year. It is much harder to follow through with an unrealistic expectation than it is to set a goal that is achievable. Why set a goal for going to the gym everyday instead of starting with two or three times a week?

Not setting yourself up for future success is a guaranteed way to ensure that you fail. A simple reality needs to be realized: people do not change overnight. Once the first week of motivation is gone, resolutions go by the wayside one at a time. Because of this, another year passes by that people are let down by themselves—the worst kind of failure.

Not only are people's goals too large but they tend to be too broad—just a large unmeasurable and unspecified amount of change that will occur. It is hard to follow through with these types of goals. Goals need to be both specific and meaningful to give you a better life.

According to Jeff Haden, an editor at Inc. Magazine, "the key is to create a process that guarantees a series of small improvements."

It is not so much about the goal itself but about creating a pathway and a plan that can be carried out to achieve the goal. It is so much easier to hold yourself accountable when there is an actual plan. The alternative to setting a plan is "winging it," which makes it easy to cheat on, because there is nothing to hold you accountable. The first important thing to realize with New Year's resolutions is that they need to be achievable.

Another absurd thing about the New Year is that everyone makes it a big deal; it is literally a day on a calendar like any other. It's slightly restricting that we can't improve a day or a week before the new year. Every day is a new 24 hours, a new 1,440 minutes, a new 86,400 seconds and for some reason, people must wait until midnight on Jan. 1 to begin changing.

Why is it that people should continue living lives that they have already deemed unfulfilling for the remainder of the year just because society believes that a new year is a good time to start reflecting? In reflecting and creating New Year's resolutions, people are deciding that they are not perfect and there are things that they wish would change or that they are going to seek to improve. If that is the case, it doesn't make any sense to continue suffering in those shortcomings until a specific time or date.

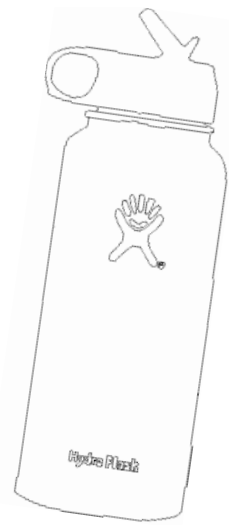
Jan. 1 feels like a fresh start, and therefore it makes it easier to begin. People prefer to start on a Monday rather than a Thursday, or a new month rather than Jan. 17. But if you know what you want to change, start now before the seconds on the clock have all run out. Life is short, and people should constantly be seeking to improve themselves, not just when the clock strikes Jan. 1. This world is so volatile and fast-paced that there is no time to waste when it comes to becoming a better person.

From a Christian point of view, this is even more important. Every second Christians should be striving to be like Christ. The Bible says in Philippians 2:5 "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." Jesus also calls on his people in the sermon on the mount to be perfect as God is. Christians are not called to find what to work on and then to wait to fix the problem until a specific moment in time, but to constantly be seeking to be as Christ-like as possible.

Resolutions are not a blatantly bad thing. To recognize flaws and seek improvement is a natural and healthy thing for every human to do. To wait, however, for the perfect moment or time to change is fruitless. The timing will never be right, there will always be an excuse and something will always be holding you back.

Do your future self a favor and get rid of today's excuses.

Start now. Right now. Before it is too late.



10 Signs You Are a Student at APU



By: Channing Reid



1. Birkenstocks

These precious footbeds are here for us! It's pretty likely that you will not be able to go through one day at APU without seeing a pair of Birkenstocks. They are everyone's favorite whether they are hand-me-downs or bought brand new! For those long treks between campuses or the occasional late-night trip to Paws N' Go, these iconic sandals are likely the most popular choice of footwear.

2. Patagonia Quarter Zips

There is no better time than in college to be a trendsetter. With the amount of fuzzy, colorful outerwear worn by college students from Patagonia, I think it's safe to say that APU has many trendsetters! When the temperatures get chilly or even when the temperatures are in the 80s, the quarter zips have a big presence on campus.

3. Flannels

Flannels are big everywhere, let's be real. But what makes them so special to APU? The majority of flannels somehow go well with the brick and black colors of the APU logo. They are comfy and warm for those long three hour lectures in a cold classroom. Also, they are undoubtedly the most common form of apparel for the singers and musicians on the chapel bands and we love it.

4. Mantra Coffee

Freshmen and transfers at this point may not have been to Mantra, but there is no doubt that they have at least heard of it! Mantra Coffee Company has been a staple in APU student life for several years. Many can reminisce having romantic—leave room for Jesus—dates there or just a weekly study session! Even with the new Starbucks on East Campus, the hipster off-campus coffee scene will not be coming out of the APU bubble anytime soon.

5. Hydroflasks

Cue the loud sound of a Hydroflask falling to the ground
As hydroflasks have become a necessity for college students, it seems like when someone drops their easy-to-dent, futuristic and trendy water container, APU goes into shock for a hot second because the sound is so jarring to the ear. Not to mention this somehow always seems to occur during chapel, in a quiet classroom or waiting for food in the Den.

6. Eno Hammocks

Is APU a school, or a campground? Sometimes when the outdoor vibes are just right, you have to take advantage of it and move all your study materials there. APU students know that all too well as these popular hammocks have been seen lounging around in all manner of disarray. If you don't own one, you've most likely seen them around Trinity and Engstrom Halls, by Seven Palms or at your friend's apartment.

7. Jon Wallace Stickers

Jon Wallace stickers have been spotted on laptops, water bottles, hydroflasks and the tables and chairs on Cougar Walk. Everyone knows our President and his name! Why are there stickers of his face though? Because we love him and are thankful for his many years leading APU. Why not make stickers?

8. Fearless Squirrels

Watch yourselves. No, seriously. APU students are not accustomed to normal squirrels because our "school pets" seem to always get what they want. As many have witnessed, they can jump, they can climb everywhere and they can attack you. What has caused these rodents to be our second mascot and be so daring?!

9. Abbreviate Everything

Students at APU apparently don't like to spend time saying the full names of terms or facilities around campus or perhaps the acronyms just sound better and roll off the tongue easier. The reality is that other universities most likely have the same amount of their own abbreviations for things but these ones are specific to APU! How many of these abbreviations can you guess correctly?

- FEC
- DTR
- DRC
- UTCC
- OAT
- GMR
- RAR
- UV
- UP
- FYS
- SALT

Oh, the list goes on!

10. Trolley Conversations

Lastly, if we didn't have our trolley system, where would we be (other than walking between both campuses)? Many students can remember their first conversation on the trolley when they were touring APU, making a new friend before class or a simple "hello" turning into a relationship a couple months later. Surprisingly, there are a lot of things to talk about to make a juicy conversation in the average six-minute trip from east campus to west campus. The next time you are sitting next to a person you do not know on the trolley, try speaking up. You never know what could happen from there. Or you could sit back and silently listen for something humorous to post on "Overheard at APU".



Photo by: Erika Kaler

IN THE WAKE OF TRAGEDY, HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

By: Charissa Enns

Khalid stated in a twitter post, "My prayers go out to everyone affected by the Santa Fe School shooting. Something needs to change. Kids should not have to fear for their life while going to school, they should feel safe. We need control."

There is a wrong way to do this. The responses to tragedies can often dehumanize the people involved in them. A response to a shooting can turn political or hurtful instead of focusing on the fact that lives were taken.

The need to comment on tragedy is all around us, even at Azusa Pacific University. It happened after the shooting of a minor in Azusa on Overheard at APU, a private Facebook group.

On Jan. 8, two men were shot and killed on Sixth Street. One of them was a minor, named Daniel Zeledon, who passed away at the age of 15. Later that night, somebody posted an article on the shooting to keep everyone updated on Overheard at APU.

"Not surprised. Lived in Glendora for 18 years and everyone from around here knows Azusa is no bueno. Hide ya kids, Hide ya roommates," it stated in a comment below the post.

This is exactly the response we should not be having as a Christian community. This response points out a fatal flaw in APU's culture: we are in a bubble. We only focus on the community that we have on campus and not on the greater community to which our campus belongs. In the process, we hurt the very community that we live alongside.

After the Overheard at APU comment, a post was seen on social media saying, "I've lived in Azusa my whole life. Azusa is my home. So let's think before we label somebody's home as bad/ghetto/dangerous or a no bueno place. APU Students—we constantly use the word 'community.' So let's start putting it into practice instead of just saying it. Azusa is not just the name of your school, Azusa is a city, it is a community filled with beautiful people. The

world is crazy and there is danger everywhere. I'm not saying to not take precautions, I'm just saying we should think about how our words might affect others around us."

Do our comments devalue somebody's tragedy? This is the question we should be asking before posting on social media. Death is not something that should be taken lightly or brushed to the side. We must all think outside of ourselves.

Darincka Vargas, a junior communications major, a native to Azusa and Azusa Senator for SGA said, "I can see Azusa and I can see a beautiful canyon, I see amazing people, I see history and I see community; students on campus see Azusa as the grim reaper of hell."

Danger is everywhere. Even in a place that is labeled as safe. Thousand Oaks was considered the third safest city in America before the shooting that happened there, according to Insider.

About three months ago on Nov. 7 at Borderline Bar and Grill, 12 people were shot and killed. It was a regular night in a place where many college students went to have a good time. However, this night rocked the Thousand Oaks community.

Natalie Pagan, an English major and honors student and native to Thousand Oaks talks about how it was a surreal feeling for her. "You never think your hometown is going to be global news for a shooting."

She was away from home at APU when the shooting happened and talked about how she got most of her information from the media which made it hard for her. In situations such as these, it is important to hold loved ones close. It is imperative to recognize the people involved, rather than a political agenda.

"People try to use shootings to push a political agenda but I think the fact that the shooting was in my hometown made me realize how many articles and social media

posts were focusing on arguing the issue of gun control over the fact that 12 people lost their lives at Borderline that night," Pagan said.

This does not mean that action should not be taken to combat the rise of gun violence in our country but posting about change right after a shooting can take away from the tragedy itself. A tragedy such as a shooting is as complex as the people involved in it and social media posts tend to make the issue look two dimensional. Addressing something as just an issue of living in a "no bueno" place or gun control laws is not recognizing the tragedy.

According to the University of Washington counseling center, "no two people are likely to experience grief in the same way."

Pagan stated that many people in Thousand Oaks needed time and space. As someone on social media commenting on it, it is important to respect the community's needs.

When comforting a person experiencing these tragedies, it is critical that we listen to what they need. The same goes for a social media post about a shooting; look beyond the generalization and see something for what it really is. See the tragedy and acknowledge it but know that towns are three-dimensional like the inhabitants in it. These towns are more than the tragedies that have happened there.

"There are good things that our town should be known for, like the leaves that change color on Lynn Road and the rabbits that are always everywhere," Pagan says about her home in Thousand Oaks.

Emotional intelligence is an important skill that seems to be downplayed by the culture we live in. Having a high emotional intelligence can help in a myriad of ways. I encourage us all to stop and think about the people involved before posting something that might make a tragedy look like less than what it is to those who are grieving.

"These towns are more than the tragedies that have happened there."

WHAT VIDEO GAMES HAVE TAUGHT ME

By: Candelario Plascencia



When video games come into a conversation, most people think about the violence they spread or how they are a huge waste of time. However, when I hear “video games” come up in conversation, I think of what I’ve learned from all of them.

Growing up, my favorite video game franchise was “Pokémon” and when the first movie came out, I walked out with one of the best lessons I had ever learned.

“Pokémon: The First Movie” is about natural and human-made creations. The Pokémon in this movie face off against evil clones of themselves. However, Meowth, a member of Team Rocket, decides to talk to his clone instead of fighting.

“How can I trust you? You was born different,” Meowth says.

After hearing this, his clone makes a comment on how they have so much in common, to which the original Meowth responds:

“You’re right, we do have a lot in common. The same earth, the same air, the same sky. Maybe if we started looking at what’s the same instead of always looking at what’s different, well, who knows?”

To me, this speaks loud and clear. In today’s age, it is easy to look at someone and see what is different about them. Maybe they have different colored eyes, different clothes or a different skin color. Whatever the case may be, the differences people have with each other always seem to take a priority when there’s so much we do have in common! The same hobbies, favorite TV shows or even the same God. It’s just like Meowth said; if we started focusing on what we have in common instead of using our differences to disagree, maybe we could start to move away from racism, sexism, classism and so many other horrible issues in our society.

Another video game franchise that has taught me a lot was “The Legend of Zelda” series. These games taught me that everyone has something valuable to say.

Both game series show this in the same way. You may need to speak to someone to advance in the game. You may need to talk to them to find secret items. You may have to ask them for directions. Nonplayable characters (NPC’s), from “The Legend of Zelda” and “Pokémon” games range in color, size, age, gender and so many other factors. I believe this reflects our world perfectly.

Our world is filled with many different cultures. So many in fact, it can be a little overwhelming to keep up with them all. So instead of talking to each other, people

decided to shut out those who were different. In times like these, I have learned that we all have something valuable to say. I have learned so much from expanding my horizons and speaking to people who come from different places. My Cuban roommate has taught me about cooking, a Hawaiian friend has taught me how to engage with their style of dance and a professor from Nigeria has helped me become the writer I am today. Attempting to make friends with someone who comes from a different place has worked out greatly for me. Who is to say it won’t work out for you? They could lead you into a new outlook on life or you may meet the person you’ll spend the rest of your life with. An endless amount of possibilities can come from one small and simple action: listening to others. We all have something to say.

One of my favorite video game genres is open world games. “Minecraft” and “The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild” are examples of this genre where there is a whole different world to discover. While discovering the pre-generated world is exciting and fun, exploring the physical world you live in is much more fun.

Earth is a place filled with many exciting places, from the loud cities of Los Angeles and New York to the quiet and calm farmland of the low desert (Coachella, Indio, etc.). Whatever your personality may be, there’s a place in the world to match and I encourage you to set out on a journey to find it.

You may be able to find your place in ways you may have never considered. Explore the world by going on an Action Team, or on a trip with Mexico Outreach or even studying abroad. This upcoming summer, I will be exploring the world on an Action Team to the Philippines. Whatever you choose, pick a place you have never been to or have been wanting to go to; you may find something worth your while.

Finally, one last thing video games have taught me is that a little relaxation time never hurt anyone.

College life can be a stressful thing. Myself and many others find relaxation in video games. Whether I am peacefully exploring the world of Minecraft or working on becoming the next Pokémon master, video games help me destress.

Though video games have cost me hours of sleep, more stress on assignments than necessary and huge dents in my wallet, I still value my relationship with them. Video games have been an outlet for me for as long as I can remember. I am proud to say that the video games I played growing up—and still play—have helped me become the person I am today.

WHY ALL-STAR GAMES

By: Carli Ricker



NO LONGER WORK

What started as a showcase for the best talents across the big four American sports leagues has turned into an overhyped event.

In theory, All-Star games sound like a sports fan's dream. The best players across every league assembling in one city to form super teams and show off their skills in competitions designed for flashy performances and big personalities. The reality though? Often times these All-Star games leave some of the best talents behind, put players at risk for injury and become nothing more than events designed for public relations teams rather than fans.

Every year the four big sports leagues, the NFL, NBA, MLB and NHL, host All-Star games where the top players from across the league spend a weekend playing games and participating in various skills competitions. The player roster is typically determined by a mix of league executives and "fan votes." While the roster is under construction for All-Star games, fans are typically encouraged by teams to go online and vote or tweet about players using customized hashtags. Of course, league superstars are practically guaranteed an invitation to the games but almost every year fans are left confused as to why certain players are left watching at home.

Now let's talk about the games themselves. Each league hosts the games at different points of the year but no matter what one thing never changes: for the athletes, their bodies are their jobs. For an athlete, injuries are extremely serious as they can potentially take weeks, months or even up to a year to rehabilitate. This plays into an All-Star game performance because no athlete is going to put forth as much energy and sacrifice into a game that essentially means nothing. Winning an All-Star game doesn't put them any closer to a championship or grow their contracts, but it could put them at risk of a serious injury which could result in lost playing time and money. This lack of effort leads to overly cautious play and disinterested fans.

Most fans can understand why athletes might not give their full effort to a game meant for fun, but the premise of the games is still to entertain. While certain segments of All-Star games have caught on as pop culture tradition, such as the NBA dunk contest, most years the games are fairly uneventful. That's not to say there aren't great plays or highlights in player performances, they just don't hold the same weight as they would in an in-season game. Most games end in lopsided scores and uninspired performances but that doesn't stop leagues from finding one moment to put on an endless social media promotion.

This is an ongoing problem for the NFL's Pro-Bowl, as the numbers for TV views reveal. In the 2017 Pro-Bowl, the game brought in 7.4 million views and fell seven percent in ratings and TV views compared to the 2016 game. Then in 2018, the Pro-Bowl reached 8.6 million people. What could have led to the jump in views? The 2018 Pro-Bowl had more effort and the excitement of a regular season game. While the play was still under par compared to an in-season game, there was more of a defensive presence and a come from behind victory. The close game and greater effort from players translated to a higher audience, proving that fans will still watch their favorite players, they just want a little bit of a show.

The NBA dunk contest is an example of the strategic work of team and league public relations staff during All-Star games to create excitement. In 2011, the NBA All-Star Weekend Dunk Contest found itself in controversy over supposedly fixing the contest to ensure center Blake Griffin, who at the time played for the Los Angeles Clippers, won. Leo Florkowski from Bleacher Report chronicled the contest and moments he felt were obvious attempts of underserved scores for Griffin in the early rounds of competition. But that didn't stop every Twitter account across the league from overwhelming timelines with pictures, videos and updates on Griffin's winning dunk over the hood of a car.

Even three-time dunk champion Nate Robinson claimed Griffin's victory was fabricated by the league. In an NBC report, Robinson said, "Of course. They set it up like that. They set it up for Blake to win it like that..." Robinson's rationale behind a guaranteed Griffin victory is all about appeal factor.

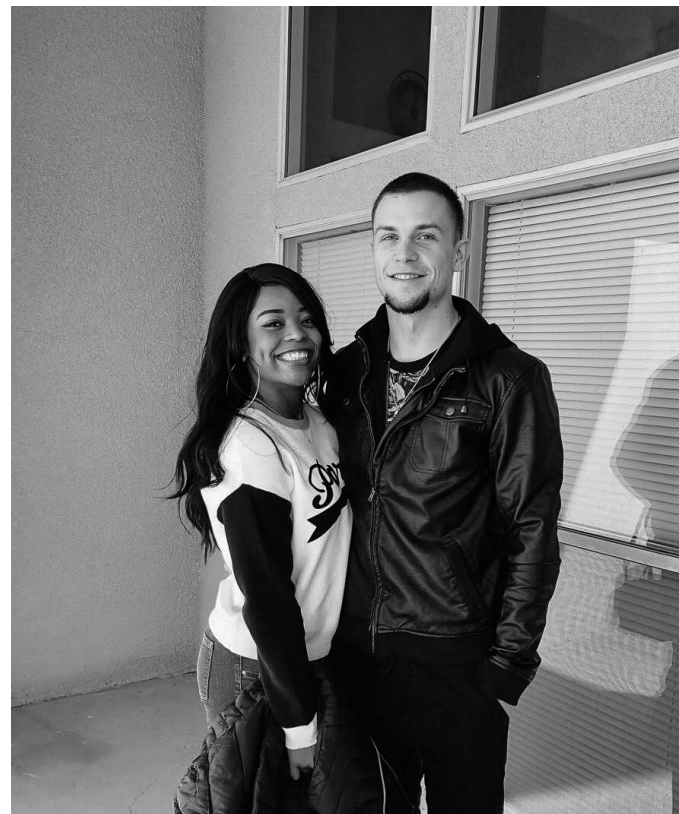
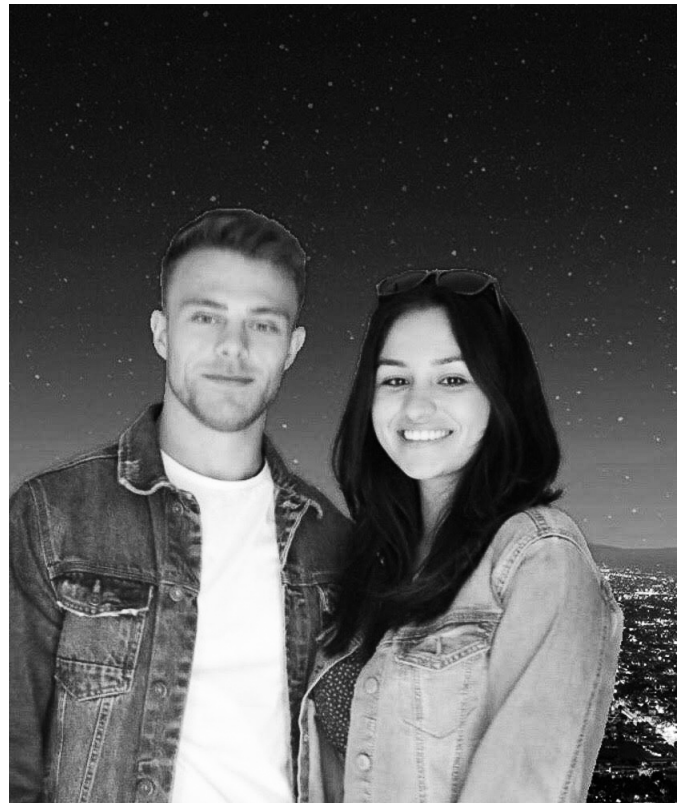
"B-b-but why would the almighty 'they' do that? Because it's in L.A.? Because Griffin is the likely Rookie of the Year? Because he finally has given the Clippers a budding star with national and global marketing appeal?" Robinson told reporters.

While fans were not necessarily upset Griffin won, as he had proved throughout the season he could make incredible dunks in games, the frustration arose more from losing trust in the league and integrity of the competition.

The biggest problem in All-Star games lies in the unentertaining events and over-hyped promises of leagues. Fans understand that All-Star games are meant for fun and flashiness but it feels as if the event has turned into a tradition forced by league commissioners to try and make more money. For all the time, money and effort leagues use to create the games, it seems as if fans leave more disappointed and disinterested each year.

INTERRACIAL RELATIONSHIPS ON CAMPUS

By: Brianne Guerra



Telling family and friends about a new relationship always comes with its own worries and concerns. Will they like the person? Will they approve of my choice? Will they get along? Thinking about these things can be nerve-racking and anxiety-inducing for many couples but for interracial couples, many of these emotions and concerns are amplified. In addition to the learning experience that is a new relationship, those in an interracial relationship often face the added challenge of adapting to and learning about different backgrounds and cultures that differ from their own. They are handed the unavoidable responsibility of normalizing interracial relationships in the eyes of a still somewhat-segregated society.

Interracial relationships are becoming increasingly common but that does not negate the fact that some people still hold prejudice against those that are in them. From judgmental stares to voiced comments, it is clear some people are still getting used to the concept of such integration.

Nisa Seals, a black senior at APU majoring in marketing, is in a romantic relationship with Joey Walsh, a white sophomore studying psychology. Seals stated that though she often doesn't acknowledge or even notice it, she will occasionally see someone stare at the couple.

"Every once and again I'll notice someone kind of look, especially when it comes to African-American males," Seals said. "They look at me, then they'll look at him."

Though the majority of those around them are supportive, Seals went on to say that the couple has experienced a bit of backlash in regards to their relationship.

"I have recently gotten into some heated discussions with people about interracial relationships," she shared. "I don't think it affects us [me and Joey] directly together but it affects me because I find myself more and more having to defend interracial relationships and us."

In today's climate, with the heavy presence of "us versus them" in terms of race, it can be difficult to even know where to begin to remedy such an issue, especially when in a relationship. Seals and Walsh propose constant communication as a solution, saying that conversation about difficult topics and gaining an understanding of the other's point of view is key.

Similarly, Michelle Ortiz, a Hispanic senior studying communication at APU, is in a relationship with German citizen Daniel Siebert. Though Siebert speaks fluent English, the occasional language barrier still exists, and is occasionally accompanied by a cultural barrier. Ortiz stated that being open, asking questions about the other's culture and

finding shared hobbies or activities helps them maintain their relationship and overcome any obstacles that may be faced because of cultural or racial differences. Though these hardships do exist, there are innumerable positives that make any sort of negative seem insignificant.

Ortiz shared her feelings about the benefits of being in an interracial, intercultural relationship.

"We each bring something different to the plate," she said. "He has shown me German music, food and different aspects of their culture. I think it's really cool learning about a completely different culture than we're used to."

Intercultural relationships enable us to broaden our perspective and worldview. A person can gain an in-depth experience of different walks of life, customs, and norms by having a close relationship with someone outside of his or her usual scope.

Similarly, Walsh expressed, "Being in an interracial relationship, you get to experience both cultures at the same time and really get to see how amazing they are. When you put them together, it can be something even better."

Seals agreed saying, "I learn a lot more about both sides of my own culture and his from him."

Instead of segregating ourselves by race, we should be appreciating and learning from those around us with different stories, backgrounds and cultures. Each person has something different to offer which allows us to grow as we are able to more closely view one another's experiences; quite often, the result will be something much greater than that which arises from us remaining in our comfort zones. Such relationships allow us to discover and understand more about ourselves and others which aids in perpetuating the true understanding and cordial relations we desire to see in our society and everyday lives.

Lastly, the couples offered some advice for those in interracial relationships that may be faced with obstacles.

"If you guys really care about each other, then don't care about what other people think," Seals said. "I know that can be hard, especially when it comes to the family aspect of it, because you want your family to be accepting of whom you choose to love; but at the end of the day... they're going to have to get over it or get used to it."

Overall, race, background, culture or the like should not matter as long as the two people in the relationship care about each other. We cannot expect any change, normalization or bridges to be built until we first work on our minds and hearts in regards to one another.



ETHIC-ALLY: THE CASE FOR ETHICAL CONSUMERISM

By: Micaela Ricaforte

In a society that constantly pushes commercial messages and altered images, millennials are characterized by their search for authenticity. This is reflected in the current movement toward mindful practices and the rise of ethical consumerism.

Because our generation is so highly connected through technology, we are more aware of social and global issues like environmental concerns and human rights. We hear about these problems through the media and we search for ways we can reach out to help. Ethical consumerism is about intentionally using economic capital to make real, positive change in the world.

In a capitalist society that relies heavily on consumer spending, the idea is that buying from ethical brands and boycotting others will drive brands to change the way they produce their goods. Ethical brands produce nontoxic goods and are made without exploiting workers, testing on animals or harming the environment.

The Huffington Post reported last year that millennials will represent 75 percent of the workforce in 2025, giving this generation the majority of the purchasing power.

"Having grown up in a world of globalization and economic disruption, Gen-Y holds a different worldview from their predecessors," the Huffington Post article said. "They seek meaning, look for authenticity and like to rally around important causes."

A study run by the National Union of Students in the United Kingdom revealed that two-thirds of participants said that their purchases were influenced by ethical or environmental practices.

Environmental stewardship, human and worker rights and animal welfare are some of the main causes championed by ethical consumers.

The textile industry alone is a major cause for concern regarding the environment and worker conditions. Producing one ton of fabric to make clothing takes 200 tons of water, which is enough to fill several swimming pools. Water, air and soil pollution, as well as wildlife extinction and global warming, are also results of industrial textile production.

There are reports of factories in Bangladesh and Cambodia collapsing, killing thousands of people. Though they have since made efforts to change, Zara once produced their clothing by Bolivian workers in unacceptable conditions.

In his book "Unequal Freedoms," economist John McMurtry argues that "no purchasing decision exists that does not itself imply some moral choice and there is no purchasing that is not ultimately moral in nature."

Every decision we make, no matter how small it may seem, has an effect on others; no individual exists in a vacuum. Because of this, every action we take has a moral consequence. Purchasing decisions are no different. When we buy items that were manufactured by people in sweatshops, we are supporting that company and condoning their practices.

Instead of this, take the time to research where the products you're buying come from and how they are made. Brands like Everlane, Patagonia and Eileen Fisher are committed to transparency, carefully overseeing their supply chain to ensure fair working wages. They also ensure their factory's integrity and maintain ethical production practices, revealing their true costs and sharing the factory and production stories behind the items.

The Art of Simple's website has an ethical shopping guide that links to ethical brands for clothing, accessories, food and drink, home goods, furniture and toys. Another app called Good On You helps you shop ethically while on-the-go. Buying organic produce from local markets is also recommended. You can also begin to do your part to support animal welfare by making sure your health and beauty products are made by companies that don't test on animals or use animal products.

Buying pre-loved clothing is another fun form of ethical shopping. From flea markets to thrift stores to clothing swaps, buying second hand allows you to shop sustainably and save money. It also allows you to build a more unique wardrobe than if you bought from fast-fashion, mass-market retailers who utilize cheap labor to rapidly produce trendy clothing.

Do these practices actually yield results? Though the ethical consumer movement is just now hitting the mainstream, a study by Forbes shows that "87 percent [of millennials] would be more loyal to a company that helps them contribute to social and environmental issues."

With the majority buying power that millennials possess, companies would be smart to adopt ethical business practices and be transparent about how their goods are produced. Many millennials are stepping up and showing responsibility by holding businesses accountable for their practices. If our entire generation started making similar positive choices, we can begin to have a big impact on the world around us.

"87% of millennials would be more loyal to a company that helps them contribute to social and environmental issues."

In a society where “Keeping up with the Joneses” is more prevalent than ever, two new supercars from two of the world’s most recognizable car brands unveiled their new models this past year. With an industry that plays like a chess game, the Lamborghini Urus and the Rolls Royce Cullinan have tried to checkmate each other with their new supercars. These two cars are much more than just new models; they have impacted the car culture in multiple ways and perhaps changed how other car brands will unveil their new models.

When the Lamborghini Urus was unveiled, aka the “Lamb Truck,” on Dec. 4, 2017, car lovers and celebrities from around the world couldn’t wait to get behind the wheel. It took over a year for owners who pre-ordered the “Lamb Truck” to finally get them. On Oct. 5 2018, famous Atlanta rapper Offset crowned himself the first person in America to have the brand new Lamborghini Urus. The “Lamb Truck” was a gift to his then-wife, female rap artist Cardi B. The birthday gift from Offset sent shock waves through social media and it wasn’t hard to tell how much of an impact he made. Offset’s posts and Instagram live with the car gave viewers a look at what it was like and sparked immediate envy. Other notable stars that have shown they got the Urus include jeweler Ben Baller, rapper Rich the Kid and rapper Blac Youngsta. Recently, rappers like Future and Gunna have been referencing the Lamborghini Urus in their songs.

“New Lamborghini, the Urus, it came in all orange, it look like a pumpkin,” Gunna raps on the song ‘Unicorn Purp.’”

The specialty of the “Lamb Truck” is that it runs just as well if not better than the regular coupe models. With a top speed of about 190 mph and a 0-60mph in just 3.6 seconds, this car is an absolute monster. The only drawback to the Urus would be its fuel economy, which enables it to get about 14 miles per gallon in an urban area. Even though it’s not the most fuel efficient, when someone is behind the wheel of a \$450,000 supercar, the fuel consumption of the car may not be the biggest worry. Lamborghini’s website emphasized the performance of the vehicle and its ability.

“Lamborghini Urus integrates a V8 bi-turbo engine with a maximum power output of 478 kW / 650 HP, the best weight-to-power ratio on the SUV market. For this reason, Urus’ performance level is unrivalled,” according to Lamborghini.

SUPER CARS

By: Anthony Gex

LAMBORGHINI



ROLLS ROYCE

While the “Lamb Truck” was made for performance, the Rolls Royce truck on the other hand had a different approach on the SUV model.

The Rolls Royce Cullinan began taking pre-orders in 2018 before finally giving out some of its first models in the latter half of the year. It is unclear who got the first Rolls Royce (RR) truck, because the release was talked about more than the “Lamb Truck.” According to posts on Twitter, Rapper Yo Gotti, might have been the first known celebrity to get the Rolls Royce Cullinan. In comparison to the Urus, the Cullinan is designed for all-terrain and luxury. The top speed for the Rolls Royce truck is 155 mph but has the fuel economy of about 19 mpg. An interesting feature of the Cullinan is its ability to go from an all-terrain SUV to roaming around the city streets. Not to mention the “two viewing seats” that pop out from the truck with a touch of a button. The Cullinan is truly a luxury supercar that a lot of celebrities have been seen getting. Other celebrities who have been pictured or talked about with their RR truck include DJ Khaled, 21 Savage, 50 Cent and Lil Baby.

Both of these cars could be anyone’s dream car and it would be tough to choose just one over the other. If a buyer wants performance then they have to go with the Urus. It truly is a one of a kind car because of just how strong and big the car is. Matched with its features, it is safe to say that the Urus will be moving tremendously fast on any road.

If someone is looking for more of a comfortable, luxurious and sophisticated look, the RR truck is gonna be their supercar. It has a mini fridge for whiskey and champagne in the back seat for crying out loud. As Rolls Royce has always been about luxury and design, their first SUV is truly a special experience.

These two innovations in the car industry are sure to cause all the other car companies to start upgrading their SUV models because these two new supercars have set the bar high. The SUV standard will now have to be about performance and luxury. The way these supercars are able to perform has put tremendous pressure on the rest of the car industry to see what they can come up with in response to these models.

Are Podcasts the New Wave?

By: Bryce Ronquillo



College students, of all people, understand the importance of convenience. Amazon allows a worldwide marketplace to be at your fingertips and Netflix gives a database of entertainment so no one has to pay for overpriced movie tickets. This level of convenience makes the busy life of a student easier.

In an age where on-demand content is as important as it has ever been, podcasts have emerged as the go-to source for entertainment. One would think that visual content would surpass audio in a landslide. Podcasts connect with young people by offering free on-demand platforms and a variety of topics that fit all interests.

In a study conducted by Edison Research, the term "podcasting" was known by 64 percent of the American population in 2018 and 40 percent of those Americans have listened to a podcast before. Both these statistics are up four percent from 2017. According to podcast insights, there are over 630,000 podcasts available for listening.

There is no shortage of podcast topics. Here is a breakdown of podcasts that have been successful in their respective genres.

NEWS and POLITICS

With digital content dominating the market, publications have been forced to adapt or lose viewership. "The Daily," by The New York Times, is a 20 minute, five-day-a-week podcast which puts a new spin on delivering the news. It is hosted by political journalist Michael Barbaro. The focus of the show is on delivering the news from the perspectives of the journalists at the Times.

What sets The Daily apart from other news and political podcasts is that the journalists discuss their stories and comment on what they wrote that day. This show caters to people who are on the go but want to stay up to date with current events without picking up a hard copy of the newspaper.

In 2017, Times reported that the "The Daily" surpassed 100 million downloads. If on-the-go news is what you are seeking, The Daily will satisfy that.

CRIME

Serial is an absolute must listen when it comes to podcasts. Serial debuted in 2014 and has since etched itself into the Mount Rushmore of podcasts. According to The New Yorker, the show reached number one on iTunes charts without a single episode being released.

The podcast is told from the perspective of an investigative journalist played by host and creator Sarah Koenig. She investigates crimes that have already taken place in real life. Audio from the real people involved is used with Koenig as the interviewer.

The story is nothing new. There are a lot of crime documentaries to choose from. However, Serial captures the story perfectly without the need for a visual. Episodes can range from 30 minutes to an hour. Serial is great to listen to while driving in the car to pass by the time.

SPORTS

In every major city in the country, you will find a sports talk radio show. These shows cater to the sports interests of the local population. The problem with live radio is that there is no way to listen to your favorite show if you don't tune in at the right time. With the transition to podcasts, live shows can be recorded and posted later for anyone to listen.

"The Herd with Colin Cowherd" offers great coverage on national sports with a host that is not afraid to take an unpopular view on topics. The Herd airs on Fox Sports radio, though it was previously an ESPN show before a falling out between Cowherd and the network after he made comments about baseball players from the Dominican Republic and their education level. Cowherd later apologized for his comments and on a later show explained his move to Fox was a better career move. He has since relocated to Los Angeles and hosts one of the most downloaded sports podcasts in the country.

Cowherd has made a name for himself through his strong opinions. Not all are well received by fans which makes The Herd good for debate and controversy.

There are many podcasts to choose from when it comes to sports commentary. The interest in the show depends on the sport fan's interests and different teams they want to follow. For good national sports coverage, The Herd will keep your attention.

GAMING

The culture of gaming is similar to the sports world because there are plenty of genres. For a podcast that produces up-to-date analysis on the latest games and comedic dialogue, the Giant Bombcast fits that criteria.

Being one of the more well-known podcasts, the Giant Bombcast has been airing shows since 2008. Their niche is game reviews, discussing the latest news in the industry and humorous commentary about video games that resembles arguments between buddies while playing games in the living room. That is, if you and your buddies were professional video game journalists.

The downside of the show is that they are typically an hour and a half to two hours long so it takes time to get through an episode. However, there is no substitute for good content and the Giant Bombcast is good content at its finest.

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ZU Magazine is a publication of ZU Media, a multi-media student voice of undergraduate Azusa Pacific University. Our stories seek to bring people together while impacting our readers. We provide narratives, inquires and dialogue in a Christian academic setting that value individuals' stories as well as community concerns. Our writers are student journalists interested in crafting articles that connect with readers and challenge them to grow as people.

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