

THE CHRONICLE

APRIL 2024

Midnight Metro
with the DMACC
Fashion Program



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...



Kennedy Ballinger

Managing Editor

What they say is true. Time really does fly by when you are having fun. I remember the beginning of this semester like it was yesterday. I was so excited to start my classes and to kick off another great semester working for the Campus Chronicle. I was eager to begin my new role as the managing editor, and to work with a team of amazing students to produce as many newspapers and stories that we could possibly handle.

The semester started off

strong and ended just as good. We were able to produce two full newspapers and create over two dozen stories. The first newspaper featured a story about artificial intelligence at DMACC, and the second featured the DMACC Criminal Justice programs National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which I was honored to be a part of. If you have not had the chance to read them, you can find the newspapers in most buildings around campus.

Anyways, back to my story. I promise I have a point here. A little after halfway through the semester we were given the task to do something different; a magazine. I cannot lie, the thought of that task was intimidating at first. We needed to create double the amount of content in the same short amount of time. At first I actually declined the idea, and I wanted to stick with the usual 12-page newspaper.

It is a lot of work after all, but after some time thinking, I decided we should go for it and shoot for the stars. If we did not write enough content we could always just make a regular 12-page newspaper. But that did not happen. The Campus Chronicle team was able to pull through with great success, and produce you all a magazine that I am very proud of.

I have had such an amazing semester with the Campus Chronicle team. It is bittersweet because this is my last semester at DMACC, but I have gotten to have a lot of fun and share a lot of laughs while being a part of this newspaper. It has been a busy semester, but it has been so rewarding.

I am so very proud of the Campus Chronicle team and I am pleased to present you with an amazing magazine with even better stories. This issue features amazing photography and great stories, including Q and A's, interviews, an overview of the DMACC fashion show, and so much more. It truly has been a great honor working for the student newspaper and I am so excited for our work to hit the newspaper stands. Enjoy!

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HEAD OVER HEELS OVERVIEW

Special to the Chronicle Kaylynn Bousman explores and reviews DMACC theatre departments performance of Head Over Heels.

DMACC BISTRO REVIEW

Writer Dashae Engler reviews the DMACC Culinary Institutes Bistro and shares photos that will make your mouth water.

WELCOME TO MIDNIGHT METRO

Writers Bella Perez and Lara Jones overview the DMACC Fashion Departments annual fashion show.

TRENDING TATTOOS AT DMACC

Take a look at the different tattoo trends found on campus here at DMACC. Writer Riley Dickerson explores the world of ink to present you with ideas and culture surrounding tattooing.

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Photo by Kennedy Ballinger

Robert Denson

Life as an attorney

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DMACC's President Robert Denson was a trial attorney for 16 years before shifting careers. In a sit-down interview, I got to ask him some questions about his law career, and what advice he would give to aspiring law students. Here is the interview:

Note: This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Could you give me a little bit of background about what it was like being an attorney?

Denson: Sure. I was working for the University of Florida in charge of leadership orientation and discipline. So I went to law school part-time while I was going to work full-time. Then when I graduated from law school, I went to work for the University attorney's office doing patent licensing. There were a lot of other administrative law-type things, but primarily, I did patent licensing with the university's technology. I did that for two years. Then I went to work for a local law firm doing plaintiff's personal injury work. And then a year later, I opened up my own practice. And basically, I represented people that were hurt in accidents. I did a fair amount of farm litigation. Farmers that had gotten ripped off by somebody, but most of those people who had been hurt in some kind of an accident, were there. I did that for 16 years.

Was there anything that made you specifically want to choose that type of law practice?

Denson: I went to law school not wanting to practice that kind of law. But again, you don't

know what you don't know. But while I was working I got recruited by a personal injury trial firm in Gainesville, Florida, where we were living, and started working for them. I really liked it because I liked the clients I was representing. I mean, they are just people who did not want to be in an accident, but they got hurt. They weren't being treated fairly by the insurance company, whatever. So it really was fun, fast-moving. And I got to learn a lot of different areas and every case had interesting attributes. And a lot of it is just how much time you are willing to spend.

I watched a representative, another lawyer's mother, who was a teacher, get fired from her school. And they said it was because of financial reasons, so I asked to see all their files. And I went into a room about three times as big full of file cabinets. We didn't have computers. And I mean, I spent several days before I found documents that prove that they were not telling the truth. That, you know, at the same time, they're telling her they don't have money. There, their accountant had just given them a record about how well off they were. I mean, that's just fun stuff.

I represented two women in child custody cases, I did not do divorce. I did two cases but I hated them. Because one side would always put the kids in play, and I just didn't like it. But I did like representing women whose husbands quit paying child support, you know, so I got into the husband's records and found out they were moving all this money around. And I mean, the judges hated that too. I never lost one of those because everybody wants to do the right thing by whatever parent has children.

What was your favorite type of case to take on?

Denson: I probably like worker's compensation the best. It is an easier, more relaxed brand of law. The judge in a normal court case doesn't care. I mean, he or she just wants a fair result. But in a work comp case, the judges really are pretty much on the injured person's side, making sure they get their medical bills paid, they get their right amount of workers comp wages, etc.

So that was fun because you really became a partner with the judge. Wanting to do the right thing doesn't mean I always won, but I hardly ever lost because again, plaintiff lawyers, they talked about frivolous cases. Plaintiff's lawyers don't take cases that are frivolous, and you can't because you know, most of the time it's the lawyers' money that's paying for the entire case. Yeah, if you don't win, you don't get, you don't even get your money back. So you couldn't afford to take a case that didn't have pretty good merit. So I like workers comp.

I don't think I ever had a client I didn't like because, you know, if you didn't have a good relationship with your client, you'd send them down the road because it wasn't going to work out because, again, all the money that's paid for that case is my money until the end. But I really like the helping aspect of it.

It sounds like you did a variety of cases and just a variety of work in general, what specific law degree did you get?

Denson: Just a regular I mean, it's, it's just the Juris Doctor. No, but I did medical malpractice, I did construction litigation, I represented a dairy farmer who had gotten a

bad deal with a company that provided the milk to him for his calves. A lot of workers comp united two divorces hated both, you know, and a few child custody cases.

You mentioned medical malpractice, that's something I'm looking into myself, what was that like for you?

Denson: Very expensive to do. But again, somebody got hurt. It's some kind of a medical procedure. Really, all the cases are basically the same, you've got to prove negligence in some way or another. So you hire an expert, you're taking lots of depositions. It's high stakes, you know, and they're talking to you about limiting liability.

It's a big deal in a lot of states, and medical malpractice reform. Well, I represented several doctors, who had malpractice in their families, and they didn't want to limit damages. I mean, nobody intentionally wants to hurt anybody else. And most people, if you hurt someone, you've probably got insurance. And you really want to make it as right as you can. Because I think most people are very, very good. I run into very, very few bad people in my life.

What was something that made you want to become a lawyer?

Denson: Actually, back then I was, you know, I worked for Iowa State, I worked for the University of Florida. In order to move up in that business, you have to keep moving every few years. And I wanted to have a small town desk law practice, where I represent real estate and those kinds of things, just a small business.

So that's where it started. And even when I went to law school, I didn't really understand personal injury litigation. I just happened to have an opportunity that came up. But, you know, I just really wanted to have my own business. I probably wanted to come back to Iowa since Pat and I are both from Iowa and just opened up a small-town practice. I mean, never got to that point. But you know, I've always had good opportunities.

What was owning your own practice like?

Denson: Very, very gratifying. I had two lawyers working under me and a couple of secretaries. I paid them extremely well. And we were a big team. So I had my own building in Gainesville, Florida for 16 years. It was a lot of work, but everything was managed and I had accountants working for us. It was good. Good. Probably not, not unlike any other business owner.

What was your biggest takeaway from that experience?

Denson: Work hard. The secret of life is hard work. And, you know, again, I think you have to take care of your people, and everybody works hard and you have to be responsive.

I really was happy when all this technology came along, you know, the computers, databases, you know, I had developed my own database for tracking clients. I mean, it's really saved a lot of time. And I had a lot of clients, but I was in court a lot. So it was a pretty hectic operation.

What was being in the actual courtroom? Could you tell me a bit more about the environment?

Denson: It was stressful but enjoyable. You know, and it's like getting up to give a speech, because, you know, you're doing opening arguments, you're picking the jury or questioning witnesses. It was like, kind of a battle, because, you know what information you want to get out of the witness, but many times the witness didn't want to tell you that. And you've already taken their deposition.

You would just be on pins and needles the whole time because things are going to go south very quickly. And then you got six jurors sitting there watching you. So you have to make sure that you present the case in a way that they understand.

I actually served on one jury, it was a criminal case. I just wanted to experience it. I was unbelievably impressed by how hard the jury worked. Everybody on that jury wanted to do the right thing. It was fun. I learned a lot about being a trial lawyer, but by looking at and experiencing what juries go through. You know, a lot of lawyers never see the inside of a courtroom.

Now if you become a lawyer, you need to practice law. I see too many people coming out of law school and immediately going into work for politics or something or as a lobbyist, whatever. Go to law school or actually get a job and practice law for a while that will perfect your craft.

What was the most rewarding case you took on? Either for whoever you were taking it on for or for yourself?

Denson: Well, it's two different things. I think the case where I was representing the couple and the Arizona baby, yeah, that was probably the most rewarding, and also the child support cases, whatever it is that women with their husbands quit paying that those are to me, you just feel unbe-

lievably good and judges feel good. So that went very well.

I also had a \$3 million verdict, which was the largest verdict I had and that was a dairy farmer that I mentioned earlier. He came up with a way to raise veal calves. The industry was raising them in pretty dark barns tied, in a small crate, seemingly very inhumane. And there was a conspiracy to run him out of business which the feed company did. So I represented a man in that case that we got a \$3 million verdict, that was my biggest verdict.

So how did becoming a lawyer shape who you are today?

Denson: I think the main thing is because of the litigation cases that I had, I have a fairly good sixth sense for issues that could arise. Doesn't mean I'm that smart, but I just saw enough of it.

So I'm going to shift gears a little bit and talk about your law school experience. I

just want to know, kind of your perspective, what was it like?

Denson: What my law professor told me on the first day of class is that it is an endurance contest. Yes, clearly, you have to study hard, you have to read a lot of material, you have to pay attention. But it's, you know, like any other subject matter. It just takes time to learn it. And you really have no, you know, you don't

have any choice. But it's a decent process, but it's no different and probably going to med school. It's just, you gotta get through.

And then my last question is, what advice do you have for students who want to become a lawyer?

Denson: I would say, if you could, job shadow, and or work in a law office for a summer or something. A part-time job is just to get number one to get to know the gizmo lawyers, but also really experience what they do. Because I mean, you'd see you'd quickly learn how to do some research and develop that interest in it. Yeah. But I think that would be the don't watch lawyer shows. Yeah, I would not worry about that. But, you know, just try to work for a law firm for a little bit. If you don't have to work, don't work because law school is full-time.

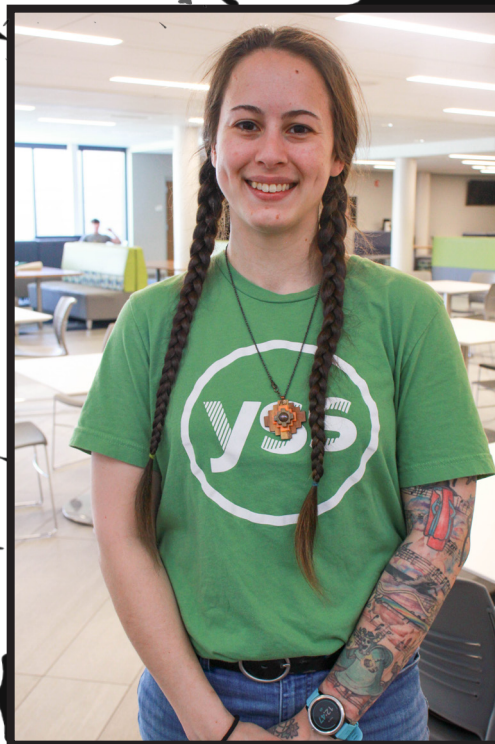
“Work hard. The secret to life is working hard... Everybody works hard and you have to be responsive.”

TATTOOS



Dashae Engler
Clive, Iowa
Communications Major

“Do your research on the artist, look at their work, and be ok with the art being on your body for the rest of your life.”



Rebekka Reuter
Ames, Iowa
MLT Program



“Don’t overthink it, It’s art. It is more fun if you don’t overthink it and can look back and say that was important at that time of my life.”

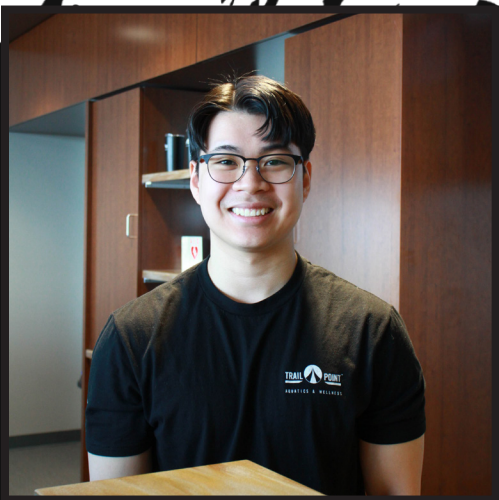


Amy Potter
Leon, Iowa
Vet Tech program



“Make sure it’s meaningful. Think about whether the tattoo will have the same meaning in five to ten years.”

AT DMACC



Adam Le
Des Moines, Iowa
Kinesiology Major

"My most recent is lilies wrapped in a snake. It represents me and my girlfriend and how far we've come."



Jordan Hills
Ankeny, Iowa
Cosmetology Major

"If you want to get a silly tattoo, get a silly tattoo. I think people put too much pressure in thinking about their first tattoo."



Cory Paul
Ankeny, Iowa
Business Administration Major

"Make it mean something. The tattoo will be on you for life, so make sure the tattoo reflects your core values. Make sure 10-20 years from now you won't regret the tattoo."

Q&A with

Anthony Arroyo

Dashae Engler

Writer

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Note: This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Former Campus Chronicle photographer Anthony Arroyo graduated from Drake with a Digital Media Production degree. Originally from Des Moines, he's been a portrait photographer, commercial photographer for brands like Raygu, and has done freelance work for Drake. He also made portraits for Grammy President of the Midwest and Grammy nominee artist J Ivy.

He currently works for Mittera, doing commercial photography for grocery stores like Hy-Vee and Schnucks, as well as the National Pork Board.

You actually attended DMACC, so could you tell me a little about how DMACC prepared you for Drake?

I played football in high school and had a full ride to multiple schools. I decided to stay here in Des Moines and go to Grandview. I did fall camp, and I hated it. I knew I liked football, but I didn't love it. So, when I got there, I realized this was not what I wanted to do for four years.

So, two weeks later, I decided to quit. Two days before the semester started at DMACC, I showed up, picked my classes, and I was going to school. At DMACC, I had no idea how nice the Ankeny campus was or anything. I showed up and I was pleasantly surprised. A lot of other surprises were how suburban it was. A lot of the time, I'm the only person of color in the classroom. So, the next semester, I would take some classes at the Urban campus that made me feel much better.

I remember that in my first year, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. However, I thought, "I'm at school and doing something." That first semester was cool. I joined the Campus Chronicle, which gave me some stability. I bought my first camera at that point. I was using my iPhone for everything. That's when I got a job in the

marketing department at DMACC too early. They shouldn't have hired me. I was 18, and I barely even knew how to use this camera.

You were so good at that's why they hired you right?

I don't know. I was prepared for the interview, and they're like, "Yo, this kid is passionate. Somebody just hire him." I made so many mistakes, and they couldn't keep having me make those mistakes. I was hired in October 2017, and they fired me in March or April 2018.

What was being fired like?

They called me and said, "Yo, you messed up on this thing?" Looking back, they were hiding things that I messed up on but didn't tell me. It built up, and they said we have to find someone else who knows what they're dealing with. I understood I didn't know what I was doing. I'm just glad young people experience failure. Especially in that way. At the end of the day, who cares?

That first year was just a lot of learning. I have changed a lot about who I am now because I left that identity as an athlete. Am I a journalist? Am I a photographer? Am I both? What do I want to do?

So, going into my second year of college that summer, I was like, I'm going to learn everything I can and get good. That's what happened; a huge, exponential growth occurred that summer. I just dove into YouTube videos and started taking a photography class.

In that second year, I finally took a class, and it was studio photography. I learned about lights, and honestly, that class has changed my life. I wouldn't have the jobs that I've gotten in the last six years, and I wouldn't be in this studio, Mainframe Studios.

I graduated from DMACC. Two months later, I got a commercial photography job at Raygun. Should I go to Drake? Why not go to Drake? That's where I made decisions.

What are the good things that happened there? How does it compare to DMACC?

That first semester at Drake was just a lot of growing pains. The workload was a lot different than DMACC. There is much more material to go through than at DMACC. I

had to get better at studying. Luckily, I had a really good advisor. I appreciate that about Drake. My advisor at Drake, Chris Snider, was amazing. I knew him when I was in high school.

What I loved about Drake's first semester before COVID happened was in a group called La Fuerza Latina. We can discuss my upbringing in my projects, but I'm Mexican American. Growing up, my parents kept me away from certain family members because they were up to no good. They isolated us, and it was for the best. Honestly, they did that with good intentions when I think about it in hindsight.

I think about the good and bad aspects of that decision. I go back and think, this situation happened because I wasn't around these kinds of people. Now that I'm older, when I went to Drake, I told myself I wanted to make sure I hung out with people who looked like me, making my experience much more diverse. Drake in itself is not diverse, but the people I chose to be around were. We all struggled because there were few of us on campus, so we should be around each other. So that was really nice, too.

I had a conversation with someone who once ran Crew Scholar, and he said to me, "Anthony, you need to understand you're a rare breed on campus. You're a Latino, and you're a male. Think about all the other male Latinos on this campus. There are about three other ones. Just know, if you need help, you can reach out."

He then told me that transfer students, especially transfer students of color, tend to work on campus, and you go to classes, and that's it. So he told me that when I first got to Drake, I tried to be involved as much as possible because I was working a lot of free-

**"Take the risk
Do it. Don't do
you are not goi
well. And if you
ish it. Ask for**

lancing, Ray Gun, and the marketing department at Drake. So I was doing a lot already. I ended up being on the executive board for La Fuerza Latina and doing Drake Mag, too. So I was just being super involved until then a pandemic happened.

You have a project on your website called The Home I Never Knew. Can you give us details on that?

The project, “The Home I Never Knew”, was when I went to Oaxaca, Mexico, for the first time in twenty years, from December 2020 to January 2021. And it was the first time I met my aunt. My grandma has come up, so I met her a few times here in the States, but I’ve never been down to the ranch that my dad

grew up on. So it was just me taking photos.

I had no intentions of making a book, it was all shot on film. We went because it was my aunt’s wedding. So that’s the wedding

you are talking about. I photographed the whole wedding, both digital and film, but it’s the film parts. I’m super Americanized. I’ve grown up until college. I felt so disconnected from my Mexican roots. So going there and how they accepted me was like, We love you. They brought me along for things and always kept me a part of all the activities. It was so nice to know that I have another place in this world that I can go to and be fully accepted. Yeah, it was great.

I noticed some type of isolation—I don’t know if isolation is the right word—but there’s a oneness like there’s always a focal point of something in all your photos.

I like to call them liminal spaces. You look at something, and you really feel the world with-

in that frame. There’s so much happening in some of these, and some of them are a lot calmer. You look at a couple of subjects or a singular one. Honestly, it’s probably the best one I’ve taken in my life.

Any work you want to leave us with? What do you want everyone to know?

Take the risk now. Go fail. Do it. Don’t do anything if you’re not going to do it well. And if you start it, finish it. Ask for help. It’s so good to ask for help. That’s been one of the hardest things I’ve had to learn. It took me tearing my Achilles to get good at asking for help. You can change. I’ve changed three or four times at this point.

Do you like who you are now?

I love who I am, but I want to continue changing. I see other people stay the same for years. And I’m not even the same person I was this time last year. So, if you’re not evolving constantly, you’re doing something wrong. If you’re stuck, change, do something different. If you’re doing the same stuff and expecting change, that’s crazy. People will push their perspective of you onto you and will make it hard to change. I have to let that go, and it’s tough.

Other people expect certain things from you. When you stop doing those things that they expect, it confuses them. I’m really lucky that at eighteen, I quit football. It was the best thing I did for myself. I let down a lot of people, I guess. Looking back now, though, it’s super insignificant, like who cares if I played football or not?

All that matters is what I want, what you want. I’m going through a transition right now. This feels like a really different year, where a lot of things are going to change, and I’m going to get really uncomfortable. I’m not going to feel as safe as I’ve been feeling for the last two years. So yeah, go get it, get uncomfortable.

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Photos taken by Anthony Arroyo



Three sold-out shows for Fashion Institute's "Midnight Metro"

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The DMACC Fashion Institute hosted its 10th Annual Fashion Show on April 18 and 19 in the Building 6 Black Box Theater.

This year's theme was "Midnight Metro," featuring an eclectic crossover between city nightlife and everyday commuters on the subway in the city that never sleeps, New York City.

All three Midnight Metro shows were sold out. The Black Box Theater was transformed into a New York City subway station, creating an immersive experience for the audience. The mock subway was equipped with working doors that would reveal the models and allow them to walk the runway.

Ann Gadbury is the fashion professor who oversees the show and over the years she said one of her favorite parts is seeing the confidence the students gain.

"The students who break out of their shells go into their careers with less fear because of the skills and confidence they were able to find from the show or the program as a whole," Gadbury said.

Second-year student Jaelie Noglo, from Togo, is the director of this year's fashion show.

For Noglo, fashion has been something that has been a part of her life since childhood. She loved playing dress-up and would watch award shows to see what celebrities wore. When she got to DMACC and started in the fashion program she realized how it was one of the only things she felt passionate about and saw as a career.

The passion and inspiration behind her pieces come from Zendaya and her stylist Law Roach. She talked about how they have become an iconic duo throughout their careers and are continuing to grow with each other as they evolve as people.

"They come out with something incredible every time and I hope one day I can reach that level of fantastic in the future," Noglo said.

Noglo said the biggest struggle she has faced in producing the fashion show was the fear she felt over having to lead and direct the show.

"In the beginning, I was scared to go out for the opportunity but it has now allowed me to realize that I can do things as a leader."

Despite her fears over the show, she said is still excited to see everyone's final piece and for the public to see how everyone's hard work paid off.

Sal Ludwig is one of the designers whose pieces will be displayed in the show.

Their passion for fashion comes from how it allows people to express themselves. They talked about how it's often the first thing you notice about someone when you meet them and it also allows you to understand a lot about a person.

Ludwig found inspiration for one of their pieces from two Beanie Baby stuffed animals. Ludwig said the animals are friends who wanted to be friends forever and by incorporating them into their design they were able to do just that.

For students involved in the show, the biggest struggle has been trying to balance the show, other classes, and everyday life. But despite that, they are looking forward to seeing what everyone has done and having the show come to fruition.

Kaylie Coggins is the show's community and vendor coordinator, and she also contributed pieces for the show.

Coggins has been interested in fashion since she was a kid. She began by drawing dresses and making paper dolls. The fashion show gave her an opportunity to pursue her passion into something greater.

She found inspiration in her designs from nature. She talked about how she is quite the homebody and that is one of the reasons she felt drawn towards nature. She pulled ideas from things like trees, the colors found in nature, and the overall feeling she has while outside.

Her biggest struggle had been time management between regular classes, the show, and making sure her design was done in time for the show. Despite that, she stated that the end result would pay off in the end no matter how stressful.



"It's a little cheesy but our team has been really great and it has been inspiring to see how hard everyone has been working," Coggins said.

Dre Guhnics is both a designer and model in this year's show.

He talked about fashion being something that allows him but also everyone to express themselves in the truest form.

"Fashion is mad cool and it's an outlet that allows you to use your imagination to do whatever you want," Guhnics said.

His inspiration for the show comes from British fashion designer Vivienne Westwood and the feeling of being free. Guhnics said the feeling of being free in general comes from having confidence and feeling good about what you wear and not caring about what others think.

His biggest takeaway from the show as a whole is the experience it gives him. He said going forward, he will be able to use the skills he has acquired over the last couple of months.

The show ended with the crew thanking everyone who had helped them along the way and who made the last ten years of fashion shows a reality.

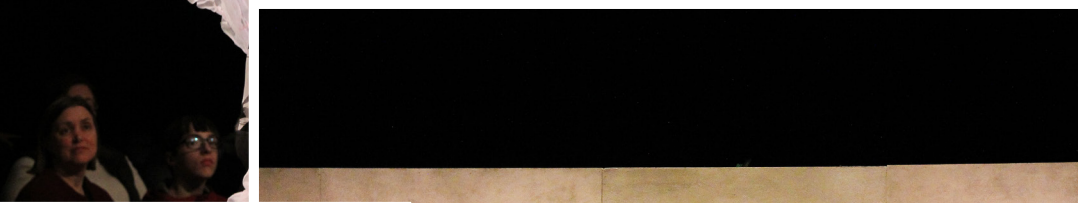
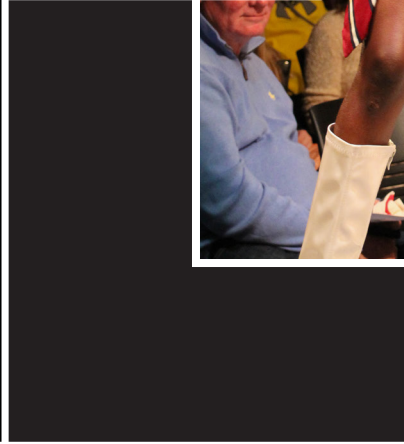
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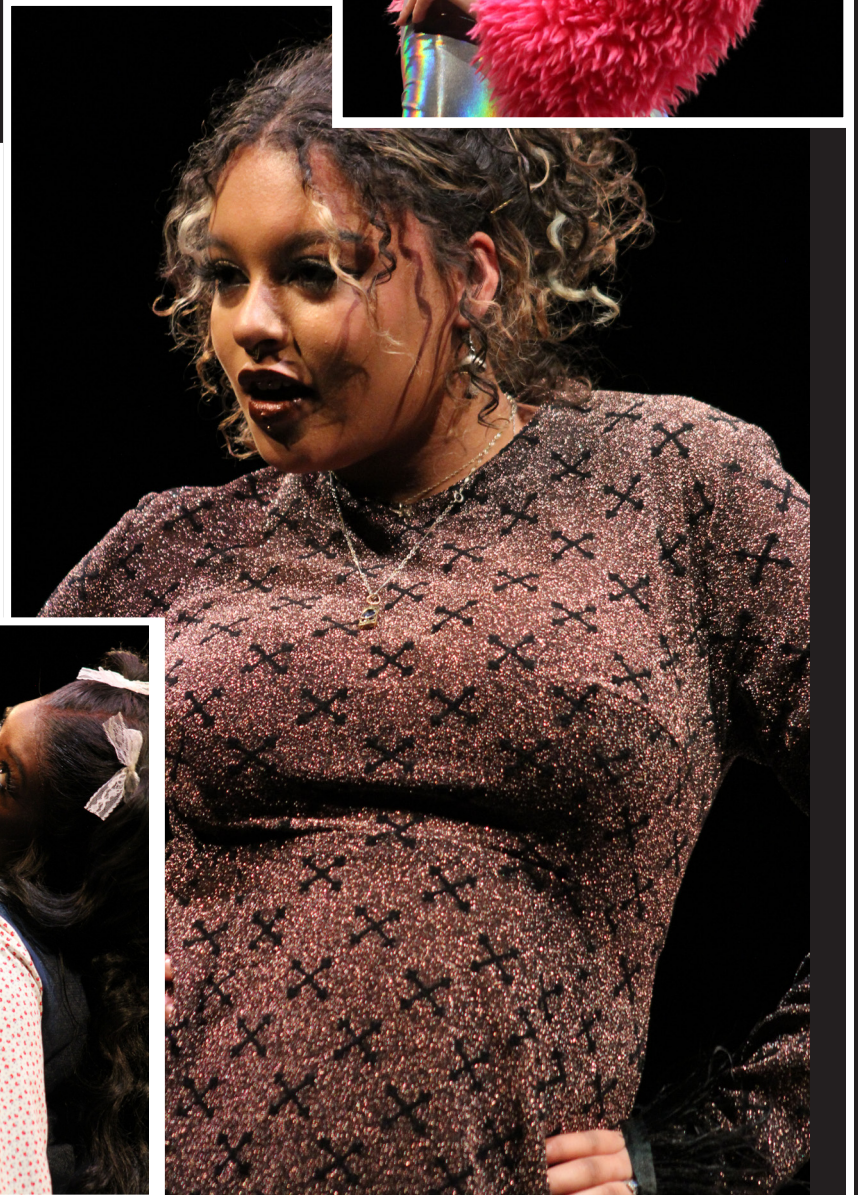
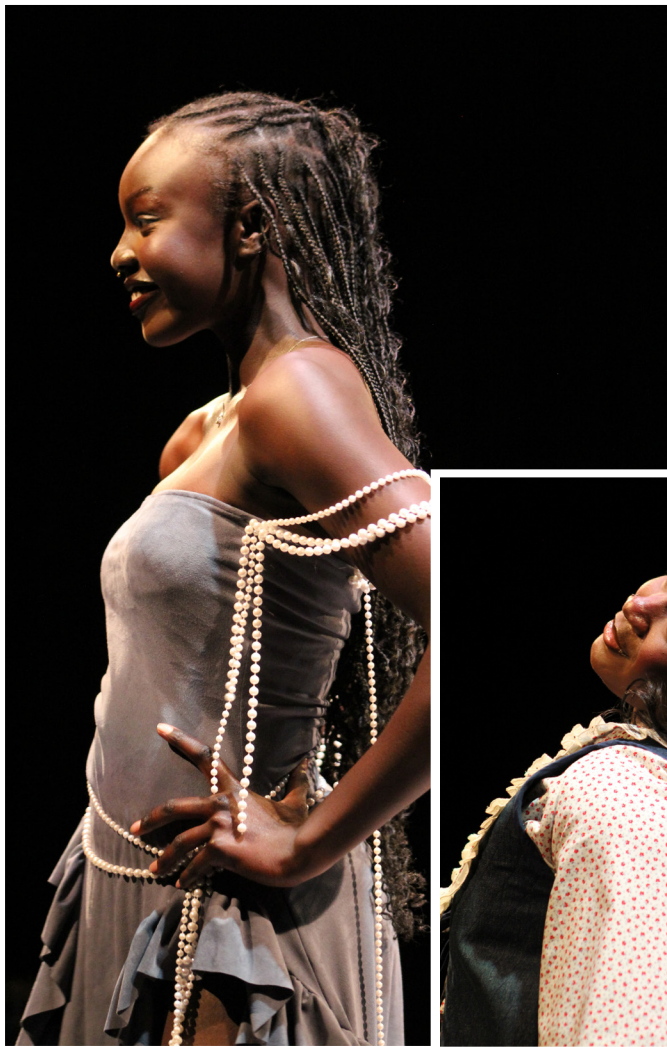


MIDNIGHT METRO

Photos by Lara Jones







The Chronicle visits the

Dashae Engler

Writer

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Bistro



Bistro dishes clockwise from top left: Boursin Arancini, Orange Blueberry Salad, Kimchi Risotto and Scallops, Korean Fried Chicken with Asparagus, and Apple Fritter with Whipped Cream and Raspberries. Opposite page: Korean Fried Chicken with Spicy Slaw.



On a rainy Friday before spring break, Professor Andrew Langager, Kennedy Ballinger, and I visited the Iowa Culinary Institute at DMACC's Bistro. Our server was friendly and very informative. The servers are first-year students and wear blue shirts. First-year culinary students get experience in the "front of house" as servers while second-year students work in the back and prepare the food.

The Bistro's lunch is a three-course meal. There is an appetizer, main course, and dessert, all for \$15. The menu changes from time to time. The week we went, we ate Korean-style food. I had a seafood allergy, and they accommodated that. If you have any allergies, let them know ahead of time. They like to cook and use different ingredients to substitute for certain allergies.

The menu was limited to seven entrees and three starters but had a really good variety. It didn't, however, have any vegan or vegetarian main entree options. The menu on the website had vegetarian options, so this can vary.

One thing I wanted to talk about is the scenery. It is located in Building 7 and has a modern, simplistic look. It's nicely sized, spaced out, and has a relaxed atmosphere. The most eye-catching part is the big windows. The window shows how beautiful the landscape is; I can only imagine how lovely it looks at night. Now, let's get into the food!

My starter was a Boursin Arancini. It was a risotto fried in a bread-crusted ball with cheese. When it came out, I cut my ball in half. It was fresh and hot. It was a light and texture-heavy starter. It wasn't overly greasy, which is good because my main dish was fried. It was very cheesy, which is a plus for me. There were three balls, and I thought it was a good starter. The green sauce was on it, but I

didn't think it influenced the dish flavor-wise. It did, however, give it some color.

My main dish was Korean Fried Chicken, which consists of crispy chicken, gochujang sauce, and spicy slaw. I had to get an alternative side because the gochujang sauce was made from scratch, although it probably didn't contain shellfish. They used fish sauce and wanted to be extra cautious. So they changed my sauce along with my side dish. Professor Langager got the original, and I got the modified version. I can't tell you how they differ, but I did enjoy mine. It had a tangy barbeque taste. I believe that is why they substituted my side dish with asparagus. The slaw would have too many flavors battling. It was a smart move. The asparagus was sauteed well, and the dish was great! The star of the plate was the chicken. It was seasoned well and not too greasy. I didn't feel like I was missing out with my alternate version.

Lastly, they came out with a cart so we could pick out dessert. I liked this touch and found it a fun way to present the last meal. We had three options, and I picked out the apple fritter. It was garnished with whipped cream and raspberries. The fritter was very good. The crust was flaky, and I liked the portion size.

After eating, I had no leftovers and felt full until it was time for dinner. It is also important to keep in mind these are students. Mistakes can be made, and this is a learning environment. Although I didn't have to pay, I think \$15 is a fair amount for a meal like this. I would recommend it to my friends, and I would go again.

Space is limited. Reservations are required; to make a reservation, you will have to email icibistro@dmacc.edu.



DMACC and Grand View make audiences go “Head Over Heels”

Kaylynn Bousman

Special to the Chronicle

“Head Over Heels,” originally by Jeff Whitty and adapted by James Magruder, is a jukebox musical featuring exclusively music by The Go-Go’s. The musical was showcased here in the DMACC Black Box Theatre as well as at the Grand View Viking Theatre from the end of March into early April. There were eight shows including an ASL-interpreted show on Saturday, April 6.

According to the producer, Professor Carl Lindberg, who is also the head of the Drama Department here at DMACC, this isn’t the first collaboration with Grand View, having previously done Laura Jacqmin’s “Ghost Bike.”

Back in 2018, the two colleges had smaller departments, and working together “was a good way to allow us to produce a bigger cast show.”

Carl and Director Kristin Larson, the Program Chair of Grandview’s Theater Department, came together again for “Head Over Heels” this year to not only have a larger cast opportunity but also to expand the show’s budget. Choosing the musical itself fell onto the shoulders of our Resident Technical Director here at DMACC, Krister Strandskov. Krister brought up the musical in passing when trying to figure out which show to do. The production team liked it for various reasons but, in the words of Carl, “a good ol’ fashioned read a bunch of plays led us to this production.”

Along the way, there were some challenges for the cast and crew but also some great moments as well. While interviewing some members of the production, a common memory they were all fond of was watching Joey Brevik’s character Musidorus/Cleop-hila rehearse his improvised dance to “This

Old Feeling” sung by Basilius, played by Grand View’s Isaac Bleich-Sisco, and Gyne-cia, played by Anika Ernst.

Grand View student Katy Crowley, who plays Pythio, said, “I loved how we all would gather on the sides of the stage to watch him do his dance.”

Brevik, 19, is a first year student at DMACC pursuing his Associate of General Studies Transfer degree on a path to Drake University. With five years of theater experience, it is no surprise that this man captured the hearts of both his cast/crew and the audience.

Attending both openings on Monday, March 25, and Wednesday, April 3, both audiences were packed and thoroughly loved every minute of this bubbly musical. Every DMACC showing was sold out before the April opening night even after Production and Lighting Designer Rachel Trimble added more seating. The entire cast did amazing, were full of talent and came dressed to impress.

During my interview, I spoke with Grand View’s Costume Designer Ella Miner about the struggles behind the scenes of having such an extravagant production with many unique and layered costume pieces. One of the signs of a great team behind you as an actor is when onstage errors go unnoticed by your audience. Ella and their costume team, including UNI graduate Megan Gilchrist and Grand View’s Amber Swinehart, had a decent amount of damage control to do with the quick changes and active choreography.

One main moment Ella discussed with me was the sweater worn by ensemble member Ayden Frisk during the scene with the golden stag. Quick changes sometimes lead to quick fixes. In this case, Ella mentioned how his sweater “had a hole from the elbow

through the armpit down to half of his torso that I had to stitch up.” This happened during the opening at DMACC, which I personally attended, and went unnoticed each of the following nights that I had friends in attendance. Props to the crew for being on top of onstage mishaps and helping the show carry on at peak performance.

The actual show itself was an all-around fun time, even with the serious moments sprinkled in. Lots of jokes, quirky dances, and fun design concepts brought it all together. I was dancing in my seat the whole time.

I have a few favorite moments, like Ayden wearing a “My Job Is Beach” shirt during “Vacation,” an amazing choice made by the designer, Megan. But, my favorite scene personally was the sheep during “Mad About You.” The ensemble bumbled around and “baaa’d” the background vocals in a cute and humorous manner. The audience was floored with laughter especially with the kickline added. Choreographer, Michael Tomlinson really knows how to get your feet moving and shake up the scenes.

A few shoutouts from those I interviewed go out to Intimacy Directory Stephanie Schneider and the Stage Management team Dylan Delagardelle and Assistant Stage Manager Emma Dahle. Stephanie really made the cast feel comfortable with the intimacy on stage according to Joey and Jackie whose characters shared many intimate moments including kissing. Dylan and Emma were raved about in the interview for being there for the cast not just because it was their job, but because they actually cared.

From the bonds backstage to the glorious production put on, this musical really had everyone engaged in “Head Over Heels.”

HEAD OVER HEELS



Dashae's farewell advice

Dashae Engler

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1. Be assertive in the classroom. If there is something you don't like, whether it's your grade, how a professor treats you, or a concept, this is a perfect time to practice standing up for yourself professionally. It might be scary initially, but it teaches you how to navigate the world. Most of the time, it is a misunderstanding, and a simple talk can fix it. A new skill set like assertion also teaches you not to take things personally and see a problem that needs to be solved versus a person treating you unfairly.

2. Tailor your education experience. Have you ever wanted to learn more about an issue but didn't have the time? Now is your chance! Instead of finding easy topics you know about, challenge yourself with a new topic. The nice thing about DMACC is most classes let you pick your writing assignment topics. I have learned so much about the intersectionality of feminism because I have picked topics that align with that.

3. Try to go to class every day. Going to class every day is a hard sell. However, I have this theory that I can't fail a class if I go every day. School isn't an instant gratification, so it is hard to stay motivated. School is rewarding, though, and you will only do as well as the effort you put into it. Sometimes, missing school is your only option, and that is not what I am talking about. If you can, make an active effort not to miss school.

4. Your grades do matter. There is an old saying, "Cs get degrees," but Cs do not get you scholarships. I was fortunate enough to have had the Pell Grant pay for my whole DMACC education. If it didn't, I could have fallen back on my GI Bill from my service in the National Guard, so I would still have been fine. DMACC is also relatively cheap compared to other schools. If you plan on going to another institution, eventually, your grade could make it financially challenging. At the end of the day, passing is passing, but you can set yourself up for a better opportunity.

5. Take advantage of the extra credit. I am a fan of extra credit. If given the opportunity, I will take the extra credit. There is only

one class I don't do the extra credit for every week, and that is because I already have an A. There were classes I wasn't doing so well in, and the extra credit sometimes saved me by a letter grade. The teacher will also work with you if you are close to passing and you do all the extra credit. Another tip is to do the extra credit question on the test. The worst that can happen is you get it wrong.

6. Utilize your professor. Sometimes students find their professors intimidating. In reality, they want to see you succeed. Students get wrapped up in whether their professor likes them or not. It is good to network and make those connections, but it really boils down to your performance in the class.

It is more important to focus on how the professor will aid in your success. Every semester I talk to my professors and ask them what I need to work on. Even if I am already doing well in that class. I prefer to not get comments that are generic like "You are doing great! I have no comment" because that doesn't help improvement. Having this mindset will also prepare you for high-level classes eventually. Asking for help can be the hardest thing to do because a lot of us want to do it alone.

The truth of the matter is sometimes a helping hand can be a savior. It is important to talk to your Professors about issues you are having so they have adequate time to help you. If you're having issues with attendance and classwork they can help you with an action plan.

7. Make friends. Class is more enjoyable when you like the people you are around. In my first year, I would get coffee with a couple of the girls from my Anthropology class every week. They can keep you motivated and be there for support. They also understand unique experiences with certain professors or assignments. Networking is really good and you never know who can help you in the future with your career. I do much better in classes when I am friendly with my classmates.

8. Weigh your options with 8 a.m. classes. I am a morning person, and being anywhere at 8 a.m. is a hard sell for me. It is really hard to have a motivated class early in the morning. You probably won't be able to avoid nev-



-er having an 8 a.m. class, but just try to have your more difficult classes after nine.

Doing this might help with some of the frustration of morning classes.

9. You don't have to take summer classes or take 14+ credit hours. Summer classes are not a requirement to graduate. Most people take them so they can graduate early, this is the same reason people take extra credit hours. Graduating early can be a great and a fast way to finish a degree but it can also cause burnout. It is more important to take your time so you can enjoy life. There is an old saying that school will always be there. That is true, and most importantly you don't want to overwork yourself.

10. Enjoy your time, it goes fast. It is not realistic to always enjoy your time doing something. School is a full-time commitment, and financially it can be draining. You might as well have some fun. Join a club, hang out with your classmates, or go to an event (most are free or relatively cheap). The time you spend in college is a fraction of your life. I personally will miss DMACC. The time went so fast and I wish I appreciated the moments I had there a little more.

“Godzilla x Kong” is a roller-coaster of emotions

Riley Dickerson

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“Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire” takes place in the earth’s center called Hollow Earth and shows where and how Kong is living. The viewer sees how lonely Kong is and how much he wishes he was in his old home. The humans believe he is fine but we see differently. We also get Godzilla’s perspective and how life has been living on Earth.

Jia (played by Kayla Hottle) is the child who people believe to be the last living member of the Iwe tribe. She can sense people are in trouble and see their pain through dreams and visions. We are also introduced to a new character after Kong explores Hollow Earth, Orange Mini Kong, and the main antagonist, Scar King, who leads the savage Gorillas.

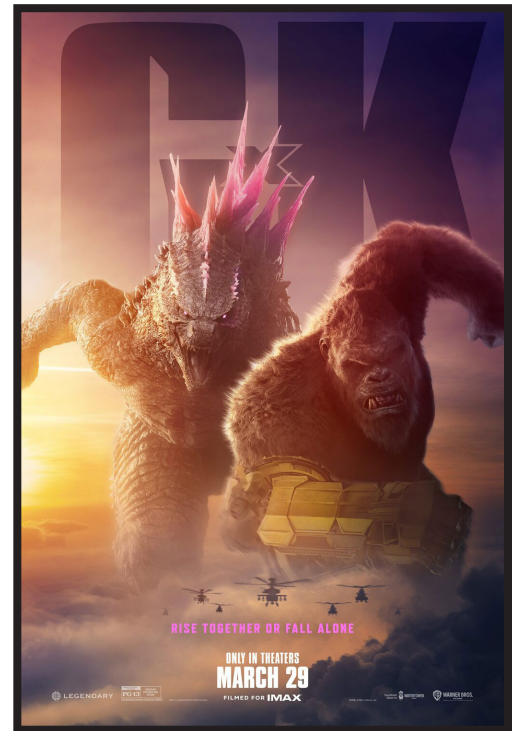
An ice-breathing monster called Shimu, who is controlled by Scar King, wields a blue diamond that controls her actions. She is so powerful that the Iwe people proclaim she caused the first ice age. There is also a giant Moth summoned by the Iwe tribe named Mothra who has the ability to calm all beings and show them the truth. Mothra stops Kong and Godzilla from fighting and shows them that they need to work together to take down Scar King.

There are some great special effects in

this movie as when Dr. Illene Andrews (Rebecca Hall) and her team travel through the portal to Hollow Earth. The effects are mind-blowing. I also enjoyed the fight scenes when we see Kong and Godzilla fighting Scar King and Shimu through the streets of Rio De Janeiro. The effects they use for destruction and the monsters fighting are amazing. I like how they used the effects for all the different parts of Hollow Earth: colorful and full of life where the Iwe live and Kong live, then dark and dreary and full of lava and magma where the Scar King and his servants live.

“Kong x Godzilla: The New Empire” is better than the other Godzilla and Kong movies in my opinion. The plot of the movie is really good I like how they show Kong and Godzilla’s perspective as they find human civilization in the middle of the earth. The introduction of new characters like Scar King and Shimu gives this movie a very interesting twist. My favorite part of the whole movie is when Mothra unites Kong and Godzilla to fight against the greater evil Scar King.

This movie was a masterpiece. We saw a world we didn’t know existed I very much enjoyed the backstory of how Godzilla fought them once and imprisoned the Scar gorillas. And I loved that even though Godzilla was reluctant to join forces with Kong they came together to save Earth and take down the bigger enemy.



This movie is a roller-coaster of emotions. It is tear-jerking yet happy, calm, and action-filled, and delivers a great message: even if you come from different backgrounds and different places you can still work together to achieve something greater than yourselves. I would highly recommend this movie to people 8.8/10.

Visiting the great American ballparks

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When I was a child I made my first journey to an MLB ballpark in Milwaukee to watch the Brewers. I went with my father and grandfather and had lots of cotton candy, and even brought some home. I was also able to experience peanuts and cracker-jacks for the first time and quite liked them. I remember seeing the Brewers mascot Bernie Brewer who had long gold hair and a long gold mustache. He slid down the slide when the Brewers hit a home run.

I traveled to Wrigley shortly after graduating from military boot camp. It is my

favorite ballpark that I have been to. Some of my favorite things at Wrigley were the iconic ivy-covered wall and the iconic baskets above the ivy. I also very much enjoyed the “Go Cubs Go” song after the game when the Cubs won. Wrigley had an electric atmosphere.

Other ballparks that I have been to include Target Field in Minneapolis, which is where my aunt and uncle live. I really enjoyed that park. The field is one-of-a-kind due to the giant luminous “Minnie and Paul” shaking hands.

I’ve also been to Guaranteed Rate Field in Chicago where the White Sox play. I didn’t like it as much as Wrigley though I would say I still had a good experience overall.

I also plan on visiting other ballparks

soon. The ballpark at the top of my list is where the Dodgers play, Chavez Ravine. I am a Dodgers fan and have heard nothing but good things about this ballpark. Another field I plan on visiting is Truist Park in Atlanta. I have a friend who lives in Atlanta and plans on watching the Braves this May when the Cubs come to town.

I really want to visit Petco Park in San Diego and Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia. A couple of other parks that look nice are Busch Stadium in St. Louis and Chase Field in Phoenix Arizona.

It’s one of my life goals to visit every ballpark in America and experience every ballpark’s atmosphere and the unique things they have to offer.

Brands need to tread carefully when using stereotypes in ads

Deni Baird

Special to the Chronicle

It is the late 2000s and my mom has just gotten home from her all-female football league, and my dad is finishing up the Atlanta Falcons football game against a conference rival.

I am patiently waiting to turn our beloved box television to Nickelodeon for reruns of “Avatar: The Last Airbender” when the newest Dr. Pepper ad airs across the screen.

Filled with wild adventures and serene landscapes the commercial concludes with the tagline, “It’s Not For Women.” This is an ad campaign that perplexed me for nearly a decade as someone who was brought up in a traditional, yet gender non-conforming, household.

Surprisingly, the primary reason for this campaign is not as blatantly sexist compared to the typical 2000s tagline. Back then, men were not as interested in low-calorie sodas, but why?

Low-calorie, “better for you” soft drinks did not appear “manly” enough. The marketing team for Dr. Pepper aimed to corner this new target audience for the low-calorie drink.

Brands still do this today, from Coke Zero to probiotic sodas that place the words “Pro gut health!” or “Better for you” on their packaging. This particular target audience seemed to have been reached successfully for about 10 years before disappearing around the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

I grew up in a rather genderless house - not intentionally, but it coincided with the change in social and cultural

norms in the United States. The way I perceived the ad as a preteen was similar to the journalists covering the campaign. I couldn’t figure out why uplifting men’s health meant putting everyone else’s down.

As a politically active member of society who drives a Subaru Outback, and attended multiple Bernie Sanders rallies in my youth, I have been accurately stereotyped more times than I can count. I view it as harmless, as none of the stereotypes have stopped me from getting a job, being accepted into a school, or interfering with my everyday life. However, campaigns that isolate women/non-male audiences do not seem like risks worth taking in advertising. Gender-based stereotypes have interfered with my everyday life and contributed to hindering me from joining “boy’s sports” during the same time the ad was airing.

Stereotypical marketing still brings in money, as we collectively observe year after year the “pink tax,” a strategy that allows companies to charge more for items marketed directly to women.

Gender in advertisements has proven to be successful when it is not being used against any one gender. During the 2024 NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament, Dove and Nike debuted their “#KeepHerConfident” campaign, a community-based approach to keep preteen girls from dropping out of sports over body confidence challenges by encouraging communication between guardians and coaches surrounding puberty. Ten years prior, Always, a P&G company, launched their “#LikeAGirl” campaign that emphasized a



societal approach to keeping young girls in sports by erasing the stigma around the outdated phrase. Both campaign messages were rooted in uplifting young women, without pressing down on anyone else.

I do not think the “It’s Not For Women” Dr. Pepper ad would do well in the 2020s. I do not remember it doing great numbers when it came out, either. Stereotypes can be lighthearted based on the perception and boundaries of the people on the other end, I think Dr. Pepper looked past this point. This campaign is reminiscent of Burger King’s “Women Belong in the Kitchen” campaign aimed at inspiring female chefs. Both, I feel, missed the mark. Harmful stereotypes are still used today, and still fuel discriminatory actions - using them for playful

Women belong in the kitchen.

Fine dining kitchens, food truck kitchens, award-winning kitchens, casual dining kitchens, ghost kitchens, Burger King kitchens. If there’s a professional kitchen, women belong there.

But can you guess who’s leading those kitchens these days? Exactly. Only 24% of chef positions in America are occupied by women. Want to talk head chef? The number drops to fewer than 7%.

This is where the new Burger King H.E.R. (Helping Equalize Restaurants) Scholarship comes in. It’s a commitment from one of the biggest restaurants in the world to help their aspiring female chefs. Because every woman with a passion deserves the chance to advance, whether it’s in culinary school, a Burger King kitchen or any other kitchen in the world.

ad campaigns might have intentions to bring light-heartedness to them, but when both sides are laughing, one side is still winning.

Goodbye minimalism, hello dopamine decor

Lara Jones

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Over the past few years, there has been a rise in an aesthetic dedicated to being simple. You can find it in fashion with types of clothing that match the “clean girl aesthetic” and you can also find it in home furnishings with lots of houses embracing an all-white beige look both inside and outside. Even architecture has taken hold of this boring look and its modernization has made this era of houses the most forgettable. Go through any recently constructed neighborhood and an overabundance of white houses with black trim. Some people have embraced this look but I’m not sure where to stand.

Whenever I see these types of places it always confuses me. How can you look at a gorgeous house that you own and instead of making it a work of art you transform it into a bland white wall? It’s disappointing, it’s your

home you have all the tools at your disposal, and instead, you create an asylum-looking place that no child should ever be allowed in because they will disrupt the pristine look of your home.

Celebrities might be the cause of this trend. People like Kim Kardashian have taken this look and transformed their lives. Her whole house looks like an alien spaceship from the movie “Arrival.” All she needs is Amy Adams and she’s set for a perfect reenactment. Although I have a distaste for minimalism, it is important to note that its influence in our world can be a positive for how society is faring

Right before the minimalist era started there was the 2010s which were all over the place. Galaxy print and owl motifs were everywhere. Millennial chic was wearing an outfit that was in your face with loud colors or even louder accessories. If you weren’t aware this has been linked to financial



issues in the economy. After the recession, people were trying to make things better than they were. We also saw this right before the Great Depression in the 1920s when fashion became more glitzy and outlandish. This is why we should be concerned about the slow vanishing of minimalism.

Over the past few months, more people have been taken by something called “dopamine decor,” and while the name is fun it also has another: maximalism. Everything is colorful,

fun, and camp. We’re abandoning minimalism and that could spell trouble for the world. The further we try to overcompensate for how happy we are through our clothing there is a good chance that it means we are on a downward spiral, and if you’ve kept an eye on the news these days it’s becoming more apparent how deep this spiral will take us. Keep your eyes peeled because as fun as maximalism is, it could be a harbinger of things to come.

The lasting legacy of Nirvana

Bella Perez

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April marked 30 years since the death of Kurt Cobain and the subsequent end of Nirvana. I first became aware of Nirvana in middle school. As a self-proclaimed emo in 2016, stores like Hot Topic and Spencer’s were a sacred place for my angsty middle school self.

Browsing these stores for pop culture and band tees exposed me to a black shirt with a bright yellow smiley face. I would quickly become very familiar with that iconic logo and the music that came with it.

It seems Nirvana has been inescapable ever since. Even if you don’t know much about Nirvana chances are you’ve

heard a song, know what Kurt Cobain looks like, or at the very least have seen a shirt adorned with that smiley face on it.

I feel there is a divide between those who know Nirvana as the band and then some who just know them because of their shirts. People on Tik Tok take this idea as far as to joke about how Nirvana is their favorite clothing brand. And the idea of gatekeeping and people’s protectiveness over something they love is really what prompted me to write this. I work at Altar’d State, a faith-based clothing store at the Mall, and I found it very interesting when we began selling Nirvana t-shirts. And it’s not to say that people who shop at our store can’t simultaneously be fans of Nirvana, but the aesthetic of our store and the

band just don’t match.

This is really when I realized how this band has achieved something I feel not many other bands have been able to do, which is to be musical icons but also pop culture icons separately appealing to two demographics. I think it is very telling that kids and teens born twenty plus years after the ending of Nirvana are still talking about and repping this band’s merch. Whether you agree with 10-year-olds wearing their neon pink Nirvana sweatshirts I think it’s undeniable proof that this band has made a cultural impact that has yet to slow down.

Instead of being so critical of younger generations for wearing band tees of older bands we can really see this as a good thing. With people still



getting exposed to these bands it allows their legacy to live on much longer than the band themselves may be around. We focus so much on protecting what we love from people we don’t think it aligns with but if anything they are just carrying out a lasting legacy. Truth be told, if I hadn’t seen that black and yellow t-shirt eight years ago, who knows if I ever would have gotten curious and started listening to Nirvana.

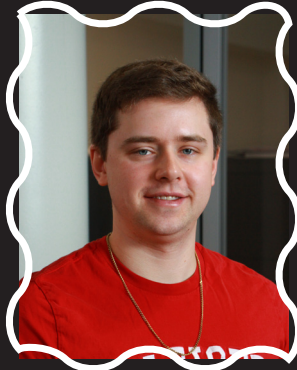
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