

# state press magazine

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The Generation Issue





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# state press magazine

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## Editor's letter

Time is a commodity — especially in an age where information is spread at the press of a button and technological advances are made with each new day, it feels like time couldn't pass faster and we're all just reaching for it while it remains at our fingertips. But sometimes, we need to stop looking ahead and remember where we came from — where anything ever came from. Time is separated by generations, but there's a thread connecting us all, and once we understand that, only then will time fall into the palm of our hands, allowing us to shape and mold it into our futures. This is State Press Magazine's 25th volume, marking a quarter of a century of its storytelling, so let's celebrate this milestone together with The Generation Issue.

In this issue, our writers explored cross-generational dialogue and acknowledged that everything comes from something. Some looked at the roots of music, alternative fashion and financial habits and applied it to Gen Z. Others looked within, analyzing a hatred of their birthday or sharing the thoughts they had while moving out of their apartment. One writer spoke with Palestinian students about their family's history with war. Finally, our feature story compares love across generations.

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Report

# Echoes of the past

Why older music resonates with Gen Z

by Bella Mazzilli  
Illustrations by Paulina Soto



**T**y French has music playing in his headphones whenever he can. For the sophomore studying emergency management and homeland security, it's a comfort thing. During long and tough days, he finds solace in artists like Pink Floyd, Creedence Clearwater Revival and Led Zeppelin.

If it wasn't clear, French's love for music came from his parents and their generation. He grew up engulfed in classic rock, listening to his home state of Virginia's WSLQ 99.1 radio station, which played the music of bands from the 80s and 90s.

Even though French would argue that music before the 2000s is better, he still recognized the cultural influence of modern artists, in which he named The Weeknd, Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars. However, he did mention that a lot of

modern artists draw inspiration from older artists.

"[The Weeknd] takes a lot of ... Michael Jackson's traits [from] back when he was in his prime, especially [in the] 80s," French said.

Even Apple Music describes The Weeknd by saying, "His swaggering pop hooks, effortlessly low-key vocals, and game-changing songwriting nod to King of Pop Michael Jackson and cosmic superstar David Bowie."

For some Gen Zers, music before the turn of the century can be a murky fog of confusion and distaste. But for many, the music of the past is as much a part of their listening habits as modern music, if not more.

In addition, what's considered popular is constantly redefined by each

generation, giving each decade a distinct sound and genre that grasp music listeners for various reasons.

### **Oldies but goodies**

Rock was one of, if not the most, popular genres in the 70s, 80s and into the 90s. The genre has more specific subgenres, such as Jim Croce's folk rock of the 70s and the metal-tinged grunge of Soundgarden in the 90s.

But, when 2000 dawned, so did a new era of music. Popular music was shortened to simply 'pop music,' and the onslaught of glittery 2000's pop dominated the market. Britney Spears' "Oops!... I Did It Again," released in 2000, is a prime example of the hits of the era.





Then, 2010 came with less glitter and more diversity. Hits like Katy Perry's "Roar" in 2013 and Ed Sheeran's "Shape of You" in 2017 brought catchy refrains and karaoke-prone choruses into the mainstream.

For Gen Z, the generation that began in 1997, music before the turn of the century really is 'old music.' However, music today would not be the same without the work of artists past. Music before 2000 laid the foundation for the work of the Y2K era and beyond.

There are a few reasons for this. For one, sampling has become more prominent. According to an article by Ego Expo, an Australian platform that celebrates street culture, sampling in recorded music started in the 80s as hip-hop broke into the music scene. As it grew in popularity, it also grew in controversy, resulting in a "sample clearance system, in which producers must seek permission from the copyright holder and pay a fee to use a sample." With the system came clearer rules on if and when an artist could sample, making the sampling world more accessible and easy to navigate.

Other reasons came with the growth of technology. Access to music has grown along with the digital age, prompting inspiration to be drawn from different eras. Also, music creation tools have modernized, making borrowing and reworking more accessible.

Nicholas Shea, a professor in Herberger's School of Music, Dance and Theatre, said the influence of electronic dance music, or EDM, is more powerful than the average music listener can imagine. According to Shea, the beat of a chorus is just as vital to its earworm quality as the actual words of the chorus.

"I think the thing that has changed recently is that popular music has become more and more accessible in a variety of ways," Shea said.

So, how exactly did music from the past shape the 2000s and music today?

Laufey could not have been able to play the Hollywood Bowl without the

work of jazz pioneer Ella Fitzgerald, and The Linda Lindas could not have rocked with Green Day on tour without Courtney Love breaking musical ground with her work in Hole.

The Beatles brought their pop-rock sound across the pond to millions of Baby boomer fans, who then passed tattered and well-loved vinyl records on to their Gen X children. Gen X parents heard similar uniqueness in Led Zeppelin and passed that on to Gen Z kids. Younger individuals might find Greta Van Fleet to be a touchstone of reference for their parent's Zeppelin tendencies.

### **How tastes are shaped: mom, dad and home**

'Dad rock' originated from what it sounds like — dads everywhere subjecting their children to the likes of Steve Miller Band or Guns 'N Roses. Whether your mom was into Wham!, or you found your dad rocking out to AC/DC, you've probably heard some of the music your parents loved in their youth. But on a deeper level, why do some of us connect with the music of other generations more than the music made by our own?

Many traits are shaped by parental figures, taste in music included. The familiarity of such tunes can create an affinity for older music. Madison Willacey, a senior studying music therapy, believes her parents and her upbringing were fundamental influences on her music choices.

Raised by a Jamaican-Belizean father and a Honduran-Italian mother, Willacey's music preferences include everything from Tyler, the Creator to Erykah Badu.

"A lot of soul music and gospel was heard in the house, especially on Sundays when [we were] cleaning," Willacey said.

Her mother's love of 80s music also shaped her taste. A love for artists like the Gipsy Kings keeps bringing her listening habits back to those sounds and that era.

For Olivia Zeitlin, a senior studying German and communication, older music is what she listened to the most

throughout her childhood. As a kid, her parents took her to many live music events, from large festivals to intimate concerts.

Hair bands of the 80s such as A Flock of Seagulls and Whitesnake were Zeitlin family classics, shaping her musical preferences and prompting her to further explore the music of the past. On this journey, she found grunge groups such as Hole and Veruca Salt and ran with the genre from there.

The geographical soundscape of one's upbringing often shapes one's taste in music into adulthood. The dreamy sounds of Laurel Canyon passed down from mothers and grandmothers might be fundamental for someone from Southern California, whereas a native Texan might find themselves relating more to classic country tunes.

Zeitlin's upbringing in Atlanta, Georgia, led her down the path of indie music. But despite her best efforts, country music seeped into her taste. She named Kacey Musgraves and Faye Webster as artists with country and soul influences that she enjoys, respectively.

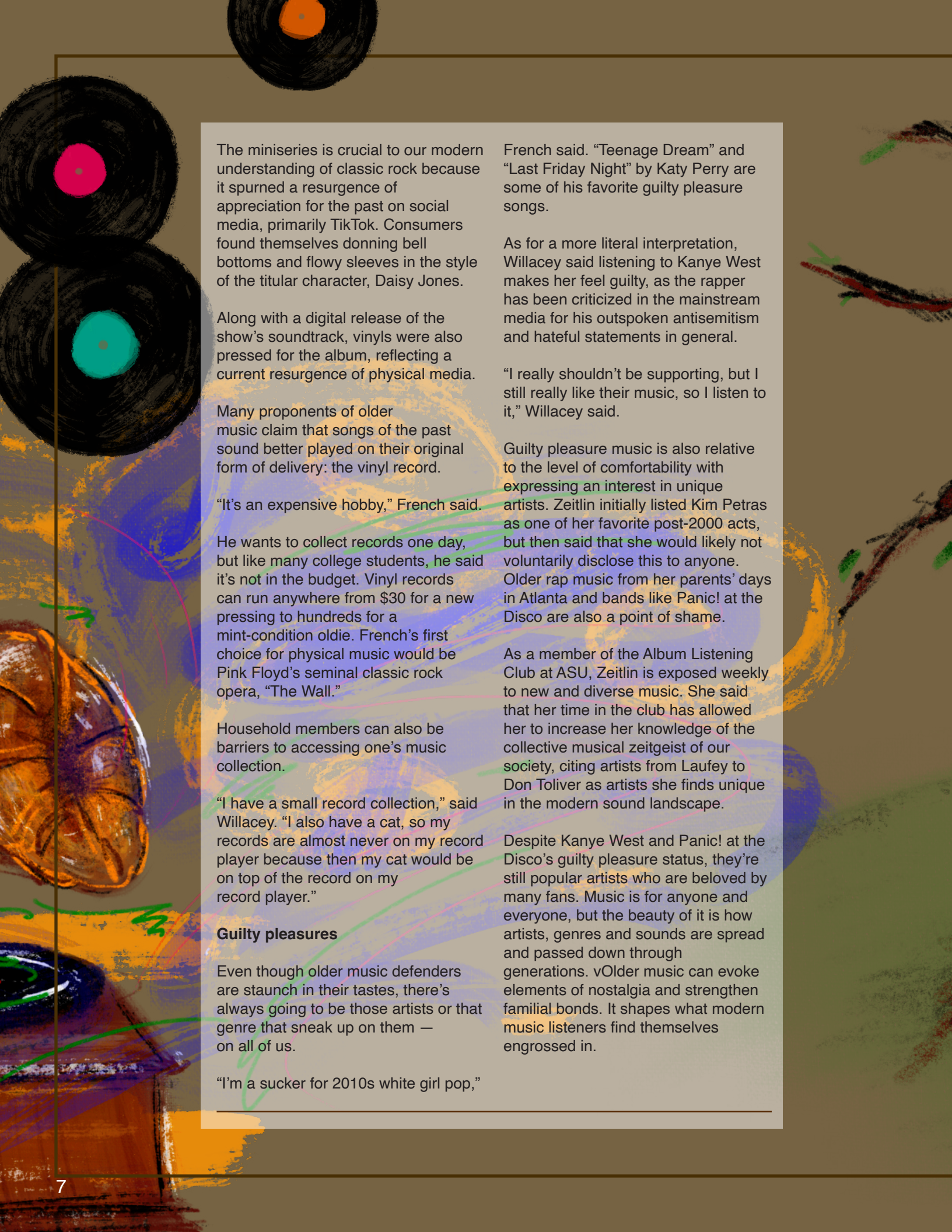
French, whose father is from Tennessee and a fraternity brother of country artist Kenny Chesney, said Southern rock and country music were large parts of his musical upbringing. Though French grew up in Virginia, his father introduced him to that music from a young age through live music.

As for Willacey, who grew up in Las Vegas, Elvis Presley shaped the sounds of many local sporting events throughout her childhood. Presley's 1964 hit "Viva Las Vegas" was a big part of her childhood.

### **It's coming back**

The resurgence of classic rock in mainstream media can be found in Taylor Jenkins Reid's 2019 cult classic novel, "Daisy Jones & The Six," which was adapted into a limited Amazon Prime Video series in 2023. The novel and miniseries are loosely based on the rifts in Fleetwood Mac during the recording of the 1977 classic album "Rumors."





The miniseries is crucial to our modern understanding of classic rock because it spurned a resurgence of appreciation for the past on social media, primarily TikTok. Consumers found themselves donning bell bottoms and flowy sleeves in the style of the titular character, Daisy Jones.

Along with a digital release of the show's soundtrack, vinyls were also pressed for the album, reflecting a current resurgence of physical media.

Many proponents of older music claim that songs of the past sound better played on their original form of delivery: the vinyl record.

"It's an expensive hobby," French said.

He wants to collect records one day, but like many college students, he said it's not in the budget. Vinyl records can run anywhere from \$30 for a new pressing to hundreds for a mint-condition oldie. French's first choice for physical music would be Pink Floyd's seminal classic rock opera, "The Wall."

Household members can also be barriers to accessing one's music collection.

"I have a small record collection," said Willacey. "I also have a cat, so my records are almost never on my record player because then my cat would be on top of the record on my record player."

### Guilty pleasures

Even though older music defenders are staunch in their tastes, there's always going to be those artists or that genre that sneak up on them — on all of us.

"I'm a sucker for 2010s white girl pop,"

French said. "Teenage Dream" and "Last Friday Night" by Katy Perry are some of his favorite guilty pleasure songs.

As for a more literal interpretation, Willacey said listening to Kanye West makes her feel guilty, as the rapper has been criticized in the mainstream media for his outspoken antisemitism and hateful statements in general.

"I really shouldn't be supporting, but I still really like their music, so I listen to it," Willacey said.

Guilty pleasure music is also relative to the level of comfortability with expressing an interest in unique artists. Zeitlin initially listed Kim Petras as one of her favorite post-2000 acts, but then said that she would likely not voluntarily disclose this to anyone. Older rap music from her parents' days in Atlanta and bands like Panic! at the Disco are also a point of shame.

As a member of the Album Listening Club at ASU, Zeitlin is exposed weekly to new and diverse music. She said that her time in the club has allowed her to increase her knowledge of the collective musical zeitgeist of our society, citing artists from Laufey to Don Toliver as artists she finds unique in the modern sound landscape.

Despite Kanye West and Panic! at the Disco's guilty pleasure status, they're still popular artists who are beloved by many fans. Music is for anyone and everyone, but the beauty of it is how artists, genres and sounds are spread and passed down through generations. Older music can evoke elements of nostalgia and strengthen familial bonds. It shapes what modern music listeners find themselves engrossed in.





Report

# My shiny inheritance!

**Financial inheritance doesn't just come in the form of a house or a trust fund. It's also the habits and values we learn from those around us.**

by Jude Banihani

Illustrations by Andrea Ramirez and Paulina Soto



“I find [student loans] difficult to understand. I feel like now that I’m learning more about accounting and finance it’s easier to understand, but as a freshman in college or a senior in high school, transitioning into college is very confusing if you don’t have that background,” Ysabella Bilbo said.

Bilbo is a sophomore studying digital marketing at the W.P. Carey school. She is a dedicated student who commutes an hour and a half to ASU’s Tempe campus every day. She is also one of the many students who navigates the student loan process in order to pursue higher education.

Today, Americans have \$1.7 trillion in student loans. That is a 10,265% increase from 1990, when Americans were in \$16.4 billion of student loan debt.

On top of that, more and more young people are seeking car loans and

opening credit cards that are often attached to high interest and low returns on investment. As Bilbo mentioned, navigating the finance world isn’t immediately taught or simply grasped, leaving many young people to rely on financial inheritance, or the routines, mannerisms and patterns that are learned and passed down from family members and those around them.

### The cost of being a student

Taking out student loans is a complicated process, and it is often the first significant financial decision you will make as an adult. At just 17 or 18 years old, you can sign paperwork to borrow thousands of dollars from a bank with the expectation of paying back every last dollar, including an interest payment.

Student loans are either public or private. Public loans have the potential to be more lenient with debt

forgiveness and lower interest rates, whereas private loans can be more permanent and binding.

While universities and high schools offer resources to explain loans to students, many students like Bilbo find themselves more comfortable seeking advice from close relatives. Bilbo also consulted ASU alums in her community about their experience with paying off loans before she took the big leap.

“My mom and dad helped me with the financial process, they’ve been a key part of the process,” Bilbo said. She also received an invitation from ASU to a website with free courses that explained the public and private student loans available, but she still found that family was a key component in making her decision. Now, Bilbo pays for her tuition through ASU’s New American Scholarship, as well as FAFSA loans.





Lena Raad is a junior studying supply chain management at the W.P. Carey school. Raad was a biology major on the pre-dental track but switched to a business major after considering current and future finances. She covers her undergraduate tuition through scholarships and out-of-pocket payments but knows that loans will be necessary for graduate school.

Raad, the daughter of two Lebanese immigrants, is a first-generation American. Being first-generation often leaves students without family support or advice when it comes to the loan process since their parents are not familiar with the U.S. system. But, having two older siblings familiar with the loan process, she looked to them for guidance.

"My siblings went through student loans for graduate school," Raad said. "It negatively impacted them, it was stressful. It was worth it in the end now that my sister is a cancer researcher, but it was still a lot of stress."

Arpan Goyal is a recent graduate from W.P. Carey's business analytics master's program. After completing his bachelor's degree in his home country of India, Goyal decided to pursue his master's degree abroad in the United States.

"I took a loan from the State Bank of India, and they didn't allow my parents to get the amount in our account. They're like, if you want to pay fees, you'll have to give us access to ASU's finances or something," Goyal said.

Since Goyal wasn't able to give the bank access to his ASU finances, he paid his tuition installments in cash and presented the receipt to the bank, who then reimbursed him. Although

he had secured a loan from a bank, paying over \$10,000 in each installment was still stressful.

### Healthy spending habits

Attending university costs more than tuition. Many students move away from the homes they have grown up in or commute long distances to school. As young adults, students are often expected to pick up expenses on food, bills and personal expenditures.

As an international student, Goyal was in a different environment than the one he grew up in, and this came with a different price tag.

"If you want to go for lunch [in India], you have lunch for five bucks, and that's a pretty decent place, but in the U.S., you can't do that," Goyal said. While still getting financial support from family for monthly expenses, he found it difficult to participate in some social activities given the financial impact. During his time at ASU, Goyal met other international students who were able to subsidize their expenses through on-campus jobs. But given Goyal's accelerated nine-month program, he was not able to do the same.

Bilbo is a part-time shift lead at Salad and Go, and as a commuter, she spends about \$100 per week on gas. Even though she manages her checking and saving accounts well, using Rocket Money, a budgeting app, to help, she also leans on her parents for financial advice outside of student loans. "When tax season comes around, they are on it. They have an accountant and they are on the bills," she said.

"I think that family advice and interference is important. I think it's nice to always have someone to rely

on. It's nice to have someone that's older and wiser that has experienced financial troubles and prosperities," Bilbo said.

Raad's family, especially her siblings, have played a large part in her financial perspective. "My dad is very intentional with money, he doesn't care about impractical things. ... So it rubbed off on me, even in small ways. ... My siblings give me a lot of advice, they always tell me to save, save, save and stop buying unnecessary clothes," Raad said.

While Raad works part time at Alo Yoga to help cover personal expenses, she considers her mindset for the future as well. "I think once I'm married, I'll definitely go toward a house and a car and help my husband and myself save for what matters," she said.

As a junior in business school, Raad has gained knowledge on financial management in a business and personal sense. "Inflation, what we've learned in econ, supply and demand, once price decreases demand increases ... it taught me how to think more practically and connect class with real life," she said.

### An economist's perspective

Kartik Verma, an economics professor at the W.P. Carey school, is more familiar with the financial burdens of Gen X. Verma is from India but moved to the U.S. to pursue his Ph.D in economics. Moving abroad can be a difficult process, especially while having to learn a new financial system. Verma explained that his knowledge of the American credit card system came from a good friend of his.

"Debt is a part of life, we shouldn't fear it," he said.





While debt is oftentimes stigmatized, economists and financial advisors generally believe in the concept of good debt and bad debt. For example, taking on debt to increase your human capital is a rewarding financial decision. Increasing your human capital could be attending university, going to trade school or moving to a new city for better opportunities. Mortgage loans are also seen as an increase to your personal wealth. Most economists agree that bad debt would be considered car loans and high interest credit card payments.

Verma said as long as you complete your degree, student loans are worth the cost, but he warns against potential distractions, including overworking yourself.

"You have a work ethic [outside of school], which is very nice, but don't let that distract you from going through college," Verma said. If you spend more than four years at college, your delayed graduation will add to your opportunity cost and an increase in loans.

Verma also said it is important for students to understand credit cards. Not all young adults at university choose to open credit cards, but those who do should be warned against the potential

consequences, both good and bad, that come with a line of credit.

"A credit card is not free money," Verma said.

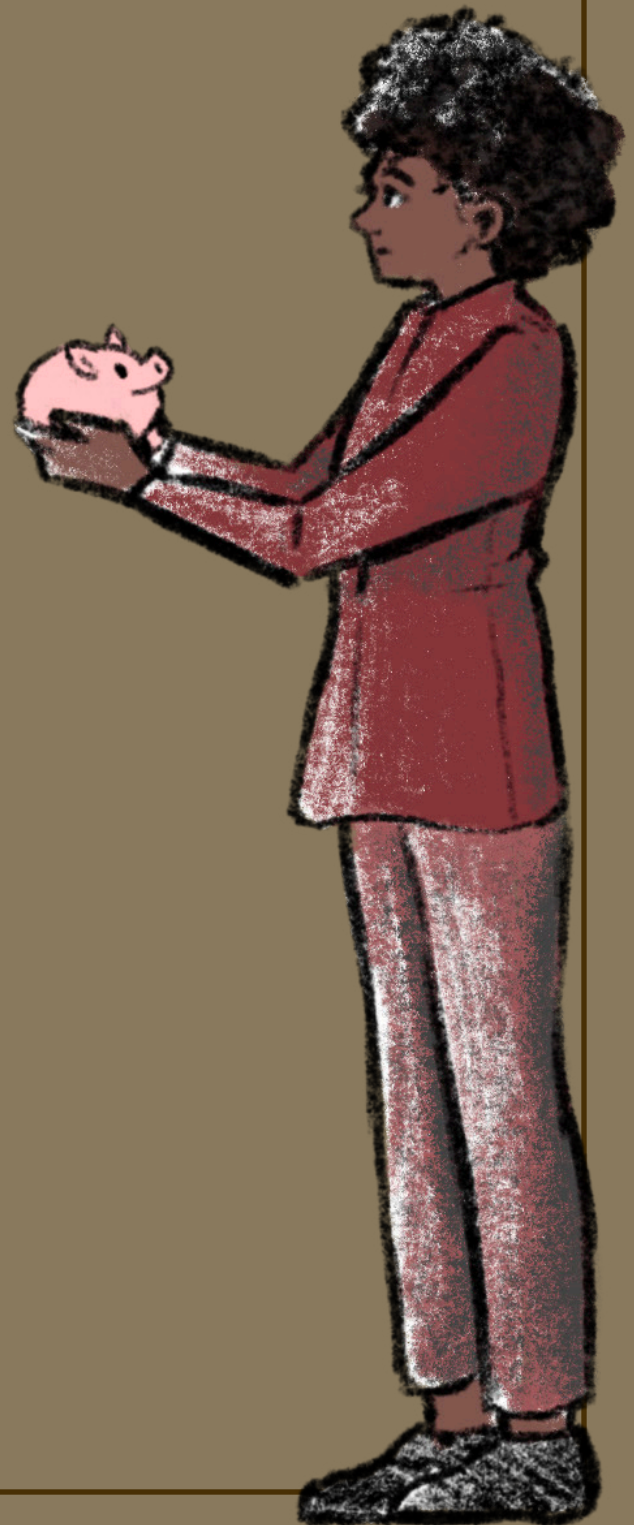
### Words of wisdom

Although guided by her family and professors, Raad, like many others, feels pressured by social media to spend money. Her advice to other students would be to avoid social media's excessive influence on financial health.

"Don't get too influenced by social media. I feel like there's a lot of products I've bought because of it [that] I don't even use anymore. ... It's just unnecessary," Raad said.

Goyal grew up in a home where making investments was encouraged. "My dad would invest in stocks and fixed deposits, we got a house, and he always supported my decision to do undergrad in the field I was interested in. Same with masters," he said. He believes it is important to take financial risks if you believe there is a payoff.

Bilbo also shared advice for commuters or others having difficulties at university. "I've put school before myself many times, and I've had to learn that it's ok to get that sweet treat sometimes," she said.









# I hate my birthday

A look into a life spent dreading one of the most important days of the year

by Gib Manrique

Illustrations by Andrea Ramirez

Photo by Ollie Slade

I hate my birthday.

I know that in my typical narrative pieces, I tend to joke around a lot. But this, unfortunately, is not a joke. I wish it fucking was.

It feels like every other person on this planet holds deep excitement around their birthday — at the thought of balloons displaying their brand new age and a cake with their name in frosted cursive.

Even some of the most pessimistic people I know love their birthday. I mean, I feel stupid. It's a day literally celebrating my own existence. It's a day meant to be all for me. It's the one day I could get away with anything I want, like eating five slices of pizza or vehicular manslaughter. Y'know, fun birthday stuff.





But I can't. The idea of sitting in a restaurant surrounded by my loved ones, waiting for everyone to sing me happy birthday makes me feel sick to my stomach. Every June, this nauseating feeling of anxiety lingers. I literally have panic attacks the day before my birthday.

I don't plan anything. I specifically request the people around me to not plan anything either.

I haven't had an actual birthday party for myself since I was a kid. And it's not like nobody would come. Every year, my friends ask what I am planning on doing, and I always say, "I have no idea" because saying, "probably crying and nothing" sounds pathetic.

People are usually surprised by this because I definitely don't seem like the type of person to hate their birthday.

One reason is because I love other people's birthdays. I have this special thing I do for my friend's birthdays — I post this giant collage of photos of them on Instagram. This might seem basic, but you must understand, this is a big deal for me.

I can't use the same photos from the year before, not a *single* one, and every inch of space Instagram gives you for a story has to be covered. Along with the photos, I meticulously place gifs of that person's favorite animal. I have folders in my phone for each friend for this occasion. The whole ordeal takes up to an hour. I am known for my birthday posts. I started a trend among my friends. I take this shit seriously.

Another reason is that I am a bit of an attention whore. I am a loud person, and when I can't think of anything to say, I start telling rapid-fire jokes. I don't have social anxiety and talking in front of a crowd has never been a problem for me. I also love myself. I think I'm the shit.

So why would an attention-seeking, overly talkative person who seems to love everyone else's birthday hate their own? It's the one day of the year when all the attention is on me. I don't need to force people to look at me; they're supposed to.

It doesn't make sense, and I feel like I am the only person who feels this way. I want to get to the bottom of this. I want to feel normal.

I've decided to psychoanalyze myself, and all the readers of the State Press Magazine are free to poke around in my mind. I, Gib Manrique, am being vulnerable.

### **"Fragapanophobia"**

The word above means "fear of birthdays." This idea is discussed in a Sydney Morning Herald piece by writer Mary Ward, in which she talks to Melissa Norberg, an associate professor at Macquarie University's Centre for Emotional Health.

Norberg said she had never heard of anyone experiencing this phobia and that it may be a symptom of other issues, such as "a social anxiety disorder or generalized anxiety disorder."

Who the fuck is surprised? Mr. "One of the most severe cases of generalized anxiety disorder my therapist has ever seen," isn't. (That's me, by the way!)

Norberg discussed how this fear could stem from the stress of a birthday party and what that means socially or the idea of one's mortality and the passage of time.

This gives me some clarity. It makes perfect sense that the issues may not be the actual birthday itself, but what the birthday

represents or is associated with. There are two main aspects of a birthday that give me anxiety, which is important to note so no one thinks I'm running away in fear of Party City streamers.

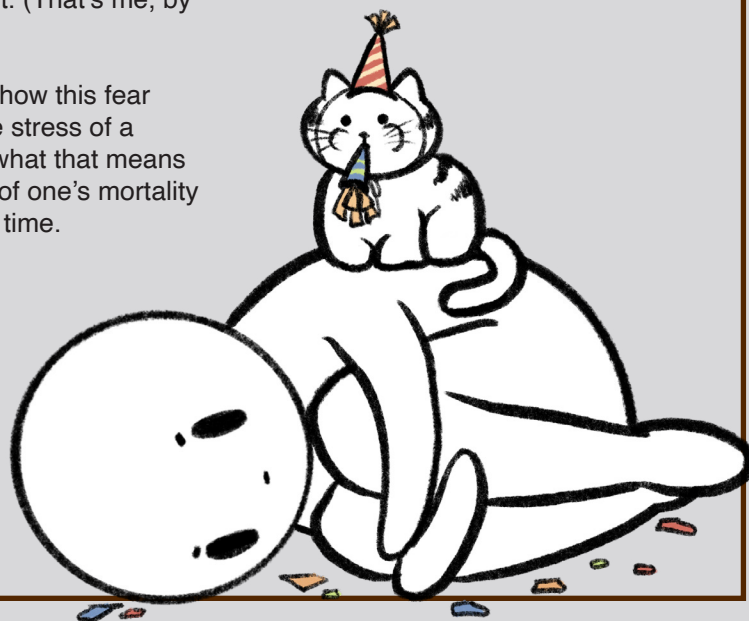
### **'The mortifying ordeal of being known'**

If you were active on the social media site Tumblr circa 2013-2014, you have probably heard this quote before. It comes from a New York Times article by Tim Kreider titled, "I Know What You Think of Me." The piece is about Kreider's complex feelings with knowing that the people around you are perceiving you and your actions at all times — a realization he made after accidentally receiving an email that was about him and some goats.

The piece blew up on Tumblr and became a running gag among users for years, as I got this information from the very credible source [knowyourmeme.com](http://knowyourmeme.com).

This is absolutely one of the most terrifying things of all time.

ME?? BEING KNOWN???  
PEOPLE KNOW DEEP THINGS  
ABOUT ME???????





That's the worst. My issues with actually letting people in can probably be attributed to a few things, like hiding from everyone that I was transgender for a decade and a half or feeling like a freak among my peers growing up because of early onset childhood mental illness. Both are equally fun options.

Without any real connections with people, my life didn't feel worth celebrating. I was terrified that because I didn't let anyone in, no one would actually care enough to celebrate my birthday with me. It would always be an afterthought.

Why would someone drive to my house to celebrate me, a person they barely know?

In hindsight, this is bullshit. Every year of my life, I have always had people wishing me well and wanting to hang out with me on my birthday. I have always had people who really knew me, or at least thought they did. There are people who truly understand every aspect of who I am, but is the real me even good enough to celebrate anyway?

Whatever. Obviously this fear isn't prominent in all aspects of my life, considering I'm opening up to a bunch of random people who picked up this issue from a newsstand. Most of the time, I know

I'm super cool and awesome and if people don't like me, that's their loss.

There's just some sick little twisted part of my brain that gets activated every June. I always feel like I have to spray it with water like a cat every time these negative thoughts creep back in. Sometimes, it also feels like I'm beating it to death with a pole.

### **WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!!!!!!!!!!**

The movie "All Dogs Go to Heaven" taught a 5-year-old me the concept of death. Which is soooo fucked up.

I remember watching the end of the movie where the main character, Charlie, a talking dog, dies and goes to heaven, distraught from having to leave the little girl he became friends with. I remember sobbing and running to my dad, begging him to bring the dog on the TV screen back. He said we could just replay the movie and the dog would show up on the screen again.

That wasn't what I wanted, but how the hell was I supposed to explain to my 32-year-old dad he unknowingly traumatized the fuck out of his first child. I seemed to develop a fear of death that consumed me every time I closed my eyes. I would spend hours awake at night replaying this idea in

my head. I get a pit in my stomach thinking about this movie 15 years later.

This, of course, was not my dad's fault. I love my dad dearly. He just happened to have a child with a debilitating anxiety disorder. C'est la vie or whatever.

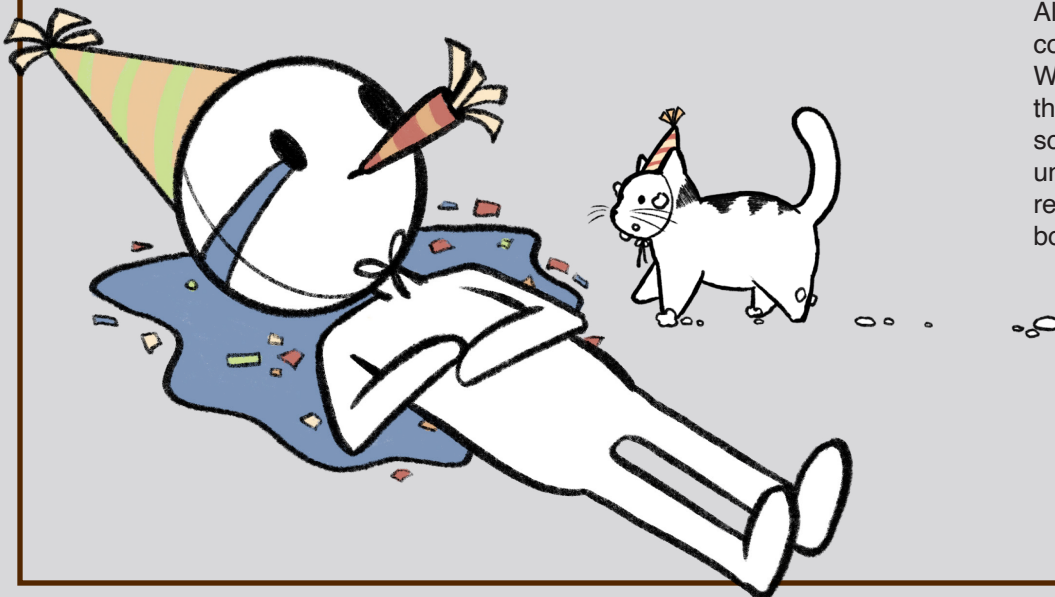
It's not like I was scared of the act of dying. I didn't lie awake at night fearing it would be painful if I got run over by a train or that someone would kidnap and kill me. None of that really mattered in the end.

What mattered to me was what happened after. How was a 7-year-old kid supposed to cope with the fact that one day, all the thoughts that constantly play in my head, darting and fleeting, would just stop?

My anxiety was kind of stopping me from doing much else, so all I had was this bullet train of thoughts keeping me wired all the time, causing me to pace so much I left an indentation in the shag carpet in our living room. This bullet train in my head was keeping me going, and someday it would just pull into the station. Permanently.

I basically just freaked the fuck out. I was having a midlife crisis when I was nine.

All this goes to say that the concept of death is terrifying. Whether you're scared of pain or the existentialism of it all, it is a scary-ass thing to think about, and unfortunately, a birthday can represent another year before that bomb is dropped.





## The reward of being loved

I have something to confess. I have a horrible and terrible and disgusting and quite honestly appalling thing to confess.

This year, on my 20th birthday, I was happy.

*WHAT? YOU WERE HAPPY? MR. I HATE MY BIRTHDAY?*

Yes, I know. I have betrayed all of you. I had a really good birthday this year, and not once did I have a panic attack in a bathroom or cry myself to sleep. I am just as shocked as you are.

I was on vacation with my family. I woke up, and my parents had decorated the hotel room with cartoon dog streamers they got from Target. We went to the zoo, and then we went to a nice dinner. We walked around a beach, and my siblings and I pushed each other into the sand.

Does this sound like the birthday of a 7-year-old boy? Maybe. But I don't care. I was genuinely happy and excited.

I wish I could pinpoint why on this birthday, specifically, I decided to be happy. I think it had something to do with being on vacation, so that fear I had about none of my friends being with me to celebrate was eliminated because they physically couldn't. I think it also had to do with the fact that it was my 20th, and I felt like I owed it to my younger self to be happy.

I also decided that none of it mattered, but like in a non-depressing way.

I feel like part of the reason people are so scared of death is because they're worried about running out of time — that they can go through life without ever knowing the

meaning behind it.

I have my own idea of what it all means.

Going back to the whole concept of "the mortifying ordeal of being known" — within my 10 years of knowing this phrase, I never considered the entire piece. I only focused on that one key element without really thinking about the point of Kreider's article.

The full quote in the article reads, "If we want the rewards of being loved we have to submit to the mortifying ordeal of being known."

Since being on medication and finally coming to terms with who I am, I have never felt more loved in my entire life. I have a fabulous relationship with my parents and siblings, who accepted me with open arms. I have deep connections with my friends and can finally be open about my interests and emotions. I have a partner and best friend who understands me better than I have ever been able to understand myself.

Being known is, in a way, being loved.

I am loved and I love, wholeheartedly. So why does any of it fucking matter? Who cares if I am secretly embarrassing or some random girl from sophomore year of high school didn't wish me a happy birthday?

This terrifying idea of ceasing to exist is nullified because if people know who I am and can tell stories and remember me and what I did in my life, then I will never really stop existing. If I can exist in the memories of those who matter, then I can stay alive forever.

If I die tomorrow, I can at least die knowing I am loved. I can die

knowing people will keep my memory alive. I have the privilege of forming true human connection and being understood for who I am, and that's what I believe to be the meaning of life.

So in a way, the thing that kept me so terrified of my birthday cured my fear a little bit too.

It's not completely gone. I don't really like seeing my friends on the day of my birthday, but I'll see them the day after. We can have a cake they decorated for me, and I can get presents that are probably knock-knacks from Goodwill that made them think of me.

Maybe in 10 years I'll throw a massive party in a New York penthouse. I'll be shot through a cannon and have my full name in lights or something. You're all invited.

But for now, I can keep waking up to cartoon dog decorations and going to the zoo with my family. And that's enough for me.





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# All my love

Exploring dating through the generations

by Abigail Wilt

Photos by Abigail Wilt and courtesy of Lacy and Lafe Chaffee









“Do you want to tell her the real reason you liked me?” Fred Birch asked his wife, Gale Birch.

“Well, he’s a fabulous dancer. I didn’t think he was so great until he took me to a dance,” Gale said.

Fred (88) and Gale (84) are residents at Mirabella at ASU, a retirement community in Tempe. They met when they were students at the University. Fred was 21, Gale was 19 and they were both in the marching band. Fred played clarinet and tenor saxophone, and Gale was a baton twirler.

It wasn’t until Fred enlisted in the Air Force that their relationship truly began. Gale was dating both Fred and another man at the time. With the Vietnam War looming over Fred, he gave Gale an ultimatum: “Marry me or I’ll see you later, kid,” as he put it.

“Well, that was the most unromantic proposal. So, I thought about it for about five minutes and then I accepted,” Gale said.

Gale followed Fred as he was moved to different bases during his time in the Air Force. They lived in several states and then in Okinawa, Japan, where Gale worked as an English teacher. They went on to have kids and grandkids and now they live in their Mirabella apartment with their dog Patches. They enjoy living on their old campus, seeing students and staying involved in the community where they first met.

Fred and Gale appeared in the half-time show with the marching band during a Sun Devil football game this year on Nov. 9. Gale assured Fred that she still intended to throw her baton 25 feet, or even 50 feet, in the air and catch it.

“I’ve been so lucky to have someone like Gale and the way that she’s supported me all these years. It’s hard to explain,” Fred said, his voice full of warmth and admiration, as he

walked me out to the elevator.

“I hope to find someone like that one day,” I responded.

“I hope you do too, sweetheart,” he said.

It’s stories like Fred and Gale’s that inspire young people to seek connections of their own. Wanting love and the pursuit of it isn’t new. Whether we admit it or not, we desire human connection. It gives us purpose, powers our creative musings and shapes who we are as people.

As time passes, love is repackaged and repurposed in the name of finding connection faster and with less recoil for rejection and heartbreak. With the advent of dating apps and transactional dating, romance has adapted.

Few men feel the need to arrive at their date’s house, flowers in hand, pining for parents’ approval. Certain conventions have phased out, for better or worse. As we listen to stories from our grandparents and parents, we are forced to reflect on how love stands the test of time and how our stories might take shape.

### **Baby boomers: Jim and Carol**

Jim and Carol McFadden were married in Danforth Chapel, next to the Memorial Union, on Nov. 24, 1979. This year, they will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary.

They were both pursuing graduate degrees in social work at ASU and met at the Arizona State Hospital in the children’s and adolescent unit. Jim was a counselor in the adolescent locked ward and Carol was a counselor in the adolescent girls open ward.

“We both remember the first time we saw each other,” Jim said. “She was coming around the corner, and I saw her and thought ‘wow.’ She had a

boyfriend at the time and eventually, I took her away from her boyfriend.”

Living off little money, Jim and Carol were creative when it came to their dates. They would see free movies at ASU, get into football games for free at halftime and eat steak dinners at Monti’s La Casa Vieja — where they also had their wedding reception — after they got paid on Fridays.

After quickly moving in together and dating for two years, they decided to get married. Forty-five years later, they moved into their Mirabella apartment, down the street from Danforth Chapel, where they reflect on how their love has grown and deepened throughout their lives.

“My favorite thing now is how we connect and how she’s my friend besides being my lover,” Jim said.

“I kind of knew [I was falling in love with him] right away. I’ve always enjoyed his company. We laugh together and the intellectual stimulation is important,” Carol said.

When thinking about younger couples, Jim and Carol expressed the importance of communication and having fun together.

“Make sure you really like each other. You don’t have to have all the same interests, but you need to be able to be together and enjoy each other,” Jim said.

### **Millennials: Lacy and Lafe**

Lacy (40) and Lafe Chaffee (42) grew up in the same neighborhood in Mesa, Arizona. They went to the same high school and met through mutual friends.

Lafe, who had always liked Lacy, was set to leave for his mission trip to Sydney, Australia, but Lacy had a serious boyfriend at the time.





While in Australia, Lafe received a letter from one of his friends with updates about life back home. In the letter, he read that Lacy had broken up with her boyfriend. He was optimistic that he had a chance but wanted to soak up the final weeks of his mission.

The day after he returned home, he ran into Lacy while out for lunch with his friend. Lafe remembered her big smile, brown eyes and confidence. It made him want to ask her out on a date, and a month later, he did.

Lafe showed up an hour early for his date with Lacy. She panicked because she was still getting ready, so she asked her parents to stall for her. Lafe ended up going to Wendy's to get a Frosty and chicken nuggets for Lacy before they left for their date.

They chatted nonstop on their way to the ice rink. While they were skating, Lafe asked Lacy if she wanted him to slingshot her across the ice. She agreed, so Lafe held her hand, raced across the ice and let her go. In rapid succession, she flew across the ice and then landed face down into it. Lafe was mortified, but Lacy laughed it off. They got ice cream after, talked and then Lafe drove her home where they played vinyl records and listened to music. They still like to

listen to music on vinyl and dance from time to time.

They got married in 2005 after a six week engagement. Lacy was 20, and Lafe was 22. Lacy was finishing her undergraduate degree in journalism and Lafe was working on his degree in exercise and wellness, both at ASU.

Now, they have five kids and still live in Mesa. As they watch their kids grow up and seek relationships of their own, they reflect on how dating has changed.

"We met by going up and talking to each other. We didn't have dating apps and used our phones to call, not text," Lafe said.

"Dating was a very common thing and everybody was going on dates. Now, that's shifted. We have friends who are paying their kids to ask people to go on dates," Lacy said.

Even though dating has changed, Lacy and Lafe know that younger generations will continue to find connections like they have. After 19 years together, Lacy and Lafe share what has kept their connection strong.

"Learning how to resolve conflict and repair things is an important skill.

I also think it's important to find a balance with technology and being present with people," Lacy said. "You don't fall in love once. You choose each other over and over and learn to love that person the way they want to be loved and appreciated. You allow each other to be their own person," Lafe said.

### Gen Z: Geno and Sierra

Before Sierra Boyd, a junior studying business, came to ASU, she would browse the @asuclassof2026 Instagram in search of a roommate. One day, she stumbled across Geno Ploeger's profile. She was drawn to his pictures showing his unique hobbies like magic and golf, which she said helped him stand out, so she followed him.

After Sierra followed him, Geno, a junior studying theatre and marketing, took the next step and messaged her. They developed a friendship and talked constantly for three months until Sierra flew to Arizona from Oregon and met Geno in person for the first time. The two officially started dating after they met and maintained a long-distance relationship until Sierra started at ASU in Fall 2022. They've been dating ever since.







Getting to know someone romantically online comes with pros and cons. It's something unheard of for previous generations. For Gen Z, meeting someone online is the new norm.

"Trust issues when you're never seeing the person are magnified tenfold, so that was a little hard at the start," Geno said when talking about some of the challenges he faced when getting to know Sierra.

"You never really know someone's intentions. Sometimes you can, but other times, it's hard to read a person through a screen," Sierra said about the challenges of dating online.

While dating online can have its

cons, the digital barrier can thwart some of the awkwardness that comes with first dates and flirting. Sierra found that it was easier to talk to Geno when they were texting.

"If you're a socially awkward person, it might be easier for you to text," she said. "That's how I was in high school. I kept to myself and was very introverted. I was definitely one of those people who could talk to you over the phone, but I was more awkward and nervous in person."

Geno and Sierra don't think they would have met without social media. Geno is more outgoing and talkative while Sierra is the opposite. Online communication helped them find each other and laid a foundation for

their relationship. They're grateful for the part social media played in their meeting.

"I knew I loved her before we ever said it to each other," Geno said. "We were probably a month and a half into our talking stage, and I was in London for spring break. She was in Oregon, and she would wake up at 3 a.m. her time just to talk to me. Every time we talked, I got so excited. There's not that many people that would do something like that."

"It was like an adrenaline rush when I would be around him and see him, and that's how I knew [I loved him]," Sierra said.



## Best of luck

When all efforts are boiled down, romance comes down to luck. Happening upon someone who you feel on an innate level, understands you and subsequently wants you in return, is not as common as the movies might make it seem.

Now, I come out from under my rock. Me — a single. I've always been a fan of love. I have been known to cling too tightly to the romance genre's promises. What girl doesn't want to be picked out of a crowd or desired so deeply a man overcomes any obstacle to be with her? I certainly want that.

As I've aged, I have been humbled by the dating process. In the past

year, I've been led on, ghosted, broken up with after two weeks by a man who "needed to work on himself," licked on the face by a man who tried to kiss me, catfished by a man who was not only shorter than me (I'm 5'1") but also had a chipmunk voice, and that's not even half of it. It's rough out here.

I'm no stranger to disappointment, and I am also no stranger to a place most disheartened romantics encounter on their journey — the fork in the road between knowing you're enough and doubting that you are.

I don't have a perfect solution to this fork. I find myself often leaning toward doubt. I also don't have a solution for the single people who find themselves with more love to

give than people want to receive. Sorry.

I can say that being romantically apathetic is much easier than remaining on the front lines of an honest search. Hope and acceptance, while hard, are more rewarding options. Also, less is more. Maybe ... chill? I don't know.

If you can take one thing from this article, it should be that the people who want love have a way of finding each other. While timing and circumstance can vary, some of the best stories are unconventional ones. It was only fitting to end this looking forward to the love stories in waiting, written for the next generation to hear, preserving the pursuit of human connection.









# Secret lives of Utah fit checks

How alternative fashion and aesthetics have lost their meaning

by Andrew Dirst and Natalia Jarrett

Photos by Ollie Slade

**B**uzzed, bleached hair. Scuffed Doc Martens. A Fjällräven Kånken backpack lined with punk pins: Green Day, Bad Brains, Black Flag. And a MAGA hat.

If you saw this guy anywhere but a Charlie Kirk and Bryce Hall campus pop-up, donning his conservative political attire, you would — rightfully — assume he's anything but. Maybe he sits in front of you in class or you see him at the library. He's probably holding a skateboard.

The baggy jeans, the hair, the overall aesthetic is without a doubt “alternative,” right? And these characteristics *scream* liberal, Democrat, leftist — whatever you want to call it.

But that's not the case anymore. Fashion, and specifically alternative fashion, has been a tool and symbol of politics, social justice or insubordination in some way or another over the last century, but the difference between its modern wearers is becoming harder to discern each day.

You can't judge a hippie, granola, skater or any other aesthetic at face value now. And that might not be a bad thing. Do conservatives and liberals even dress differently anymore? And does a culture or aesthetic's origin or meaning still matter in the age of the internet?

## A history of countercultures

Counterculture has been around since there's been *culture*. Where the early 1900s had aristocrats and

bohemians, the 1950s had conformists and beatniks. Since the 60s, hippies, punks and skaters have made it their goal to rage against the machine or avoid it completely.

Whether that meant engaging in hedonistic activities, protesting or making radical music, one thing has remained consistent between each subculture — their clothes. While every underground movement will tell you they care more about the cause than the clothes, you would never catch a hippie wearing a pantsuit, just as a 90s grunge kid would never go without baggy jeans.

The purpose of this wasn't just to look cool. Scrappy clothes and combat boots were cheaper alternatives to what was being sold at the average Macy's, and thrift stores were rampant with leather jackets and safety pins to hold rips together.

Most countercultures were anti-consumerism, meaning they didn't want to spend more than they had to, and they didn't want to *look* like they worked an office job that would support a consumerist lifestyle.

But their real goal was sharing the core values of the subculture, which typically meant avoiding spending money on unnecessary things.

“I don't think that you're inherently not a punk if you choose to spend \$200 on a leather jacket, or if you spend however much money a month on hairspray as a goth,” said

Sage Kingsley, a video producer with a background in fashion and alternative subcultures. “That doesn't make you any less of a member of the subculture, so long as you're fully engaged in what it represents.”

But now, new participants in these subcultures are straying away from what being ‘alternative’ truly meant as the styles become the norm.

The ultimate purpose of being a part of the counterculture was exactly what it sounds like. Being alternative meant rejecting the life your conservative parents made for you, loving whoever you want and fighting for progress.

So, when you eye the guy in Hayden Library wearing eyeliner and a septum piercing, why is his outfit topped off with a Confederate flag patch? Do subcultures no longer represent what they used to?

According to John Ortved, a New York Times and Vogue fashion contributor, it's not far-fetched to assume, or even a new phenomenon, that conservative, straight, white men assimilate themselves into those they oppress.

“In the later stages of the French Revolution ... there was a movement where amongst rich people, they started dressing poor — they started dressing as the laborers, as the *sans-culottes*,” he said. “They started dressing like poor people because it was the cool thing to do.”



Ortved said this occurrence has happened time and time again throughout history, citing Jimmy Carter as the first president in office to wear jeans, a symbol of rebellion and the American working class.

Obviously, no one owns the sole right to wear denim, but progress can be halted when the system becomes indistinguishable from what, or who, is trying to oppose it. Everyone looks the same.

“Do I think buying your entire alternative wardrobe from Shein does make you a little less punk? Yeah.” Kingsley said. “Because that’s just not mindful consumerism.”

### Is it authentic?

Now, conservative teens look alternative too — whether it’s cropped ‘granola’ shirts and flare jeans, or an arm tattoo, camo, mustache combo. And while they aren’t the majority, the presence has grown significantly in the last few years.

Cairo Bailey is one such conservative teen, decked out in an oversized shirt and baggy jorts, paired with a MAGA bucket hat to attend Former President Donald Trump’s rally at Mullett Arena on Oct. 24. She said her style is inspired by her brother, Dublin Trail, who is teaching her how to skate.

She said there isn’t really a difference in how conservatives and liberals dress. “Whatever you’re into — it can be similar on both sides.”

This is fair, especially when it comes to skate culture in particular. What’s wrong with conservatives wanting to learn how to ollie too?

Though it has improved, historically skate culture has been male-dominated and unforgiving to anyone who identifies as queer. But at its core, skating has anti-establishment and nonconformist roots that are essential to understanding its history. Although it can be simply seen as a hobby, many skaters believe being conservative is the antithesis of the open-minded,

anti-police culture that skating has cultivated.

Now, the clothes themselves have become the selling point rather than the overall subculture. Most new people trying on skate-inspired outfits of baggy denim and oversized graphic tees don’t care about skating. They just think the clothes look cool — and most of the time, they get them from thrifting.

“It’s to the point where I’m hearing people describe [thrifting] more as a hobby than even fashion itself,” said Eli Babb, a sophomore studying tourism development management.

Like most parts of alternative culture, thrifting used to be relatively exclusive to certain subcultures. But this isn’t the case anymore.

“Rarely do people know the actual names for fabrics and styles of clothing or things like that,” Kingsley said. “They just look up aesthetics because it’s less about the article of clothing trying to express something, and more about just trying to copy a certain look, to fit into a certain aesthetic.”

And as these internet-driven aesthetics become more popular, it gets harder to tell who is really a part of a group and who just thinks the clothes look cool.

But it’s certainly not all bad. Thrifting has inherent ties to sustainability, and as it becomes more popular, it can reach those who likely wouldn’t practice sustainability otherwise. Though some subcultures may lose their roots, the Earth’s might grow.

Cassidy Max, a junior studying fashion, said Gen Z’s push to thrift, upcycle or support eco-conscious brands usually aligns with more left-leaning people and is “not just their style choice, but a statement.”

Though the sustainable nature of the hobby originated in liberal circles, it’s now attracting all kinds of new people, and left-leaning students don’t see any issue with that, especially when it

ultimately helps their cause.

“When it comes to thrifting, there’s more than enough for everybody,” said Pierce DeVoe, a fashion influencer with over 130,000 followers on TikTok. “So I actually think it’s beneficial that people are getting into it: Even if you’re reselling it, at least you’re trying to sell something secondhand, move it to communities, and then maybe put a little bit more change in your pocket. You can be a little more self-sufficient.”

Sometimes, clothes are just clothes.

“I think whenever anybody tries to branch into something that makes them feel more themselves, that’s their thing,” DeVoe said. “I don’t really think it matters where it comes from. If you just like what you’ve got on, then I think it’s fine there.”

Another culture with alternative roots that has been subject to appropriation is hip-hop. Artists like Public Enemy and N.W.A, who rap about the Black experience in America, racism and police brutality, are often misunderstood by some of the white members of their audience. And if not misunderstood, completely ignored.

While this issue of appropriation without appreciation is extremely common in Black culture and subcultures, it also represents a broader loss of care and respect as new people flock to aesthetics and subcultures they’ve found online.

“It’s a lot less authentic now, and there’s a lot more that’s being pushed in front of people’s faces, rather than things that they’re finding because they genuinely love it,” DeVoe said. “It’s more of a combination of the internet and then fast fashion capitalism.”

Although clothing doesn’t tell you everything about a person, and wearing a band’s merchandise without knowing their work isn’t the worst thing a person can do, it wasn’t that long ago that someone would get called a poser for not being able to list three songs from the artist on their shirt.



"My professor was saying that she could tell [who someone was] based on how they wore their clothing [or] if they had a band tee on and if they like that music," Max said. "I've worn band tees before where I didn't even know the band. I just got [it from] Urban Outfitters when I was younger."

### Cost as a statement

As these neo-alternative aesthetics have become the norm, and every upper-middle-class teen you know is starting to dress like a TikTokker in Utah, the fashion industry has promptly responded.

Fashion ebbs and flows as trends rise and fall, with new brands and vaesthetics grasping out at the market through new avenues like Temu or TikTok Shop.

But even as these often genuine, well-meaning creators and small businesses sell their own perfect version of the boxed tee, cropped button-up or baggy denim, the price tag attached begins to shift the meaning of the aesthetic altogether.

Again, these looks and subcultures were founded on a combination of need, provocative style and low costs. They were meant to be cheap and thriftable, and the oversized look usually represented not having money to tailor clothes as well as not wanting to appear too high class.

So do \$200 JNCO jeans or \$600 pre-distressed Golden Goose sneakers, despite their quality and value, count as purchases that align with a certain subculture?

Ortved said he believes anything bought with the intention of revamping an entire wardrobe for aesthetic purposes only brings into question the validity of the person's place in the subculture.

"Everything in terms of culture gets commodified so quickly that I have not in my lifetime seen any kind of activity with a group of people that I would identify as a subculture," Ortved said. "I think it's all geared toward money so

quickly that the authenticity is immediately questionable."

### Where to go from here

At this point, in the age of Depop, the internet and fast fashion, it seems that all remnants of a working subculture have vanished. And if they do exist, they can no longer be divided by political orientation and style.

It doesn't matter that Charli XCX tweeted "kamala IS brat" — someone who voted for Trump can still be seen walking around campus in "Sweat Tour" merch.

Ortved said because liberals and conservatives are no longer distinguishable from each other,

instead of guessing what the other side looks like, it's time to start being observant.

"Maybe by the time we get to the next presidential election, liberals will have smartened up to the point where they will actually notice what conservatives are wearing and not just assume," Ortved said.

"Maybe this is a good wake-up call to look at what these people are actually wearing, as opposed to just assuming that someone who is wearing a button-up and khakis is a Republican or someone in the Charli XCX shirt can't be."







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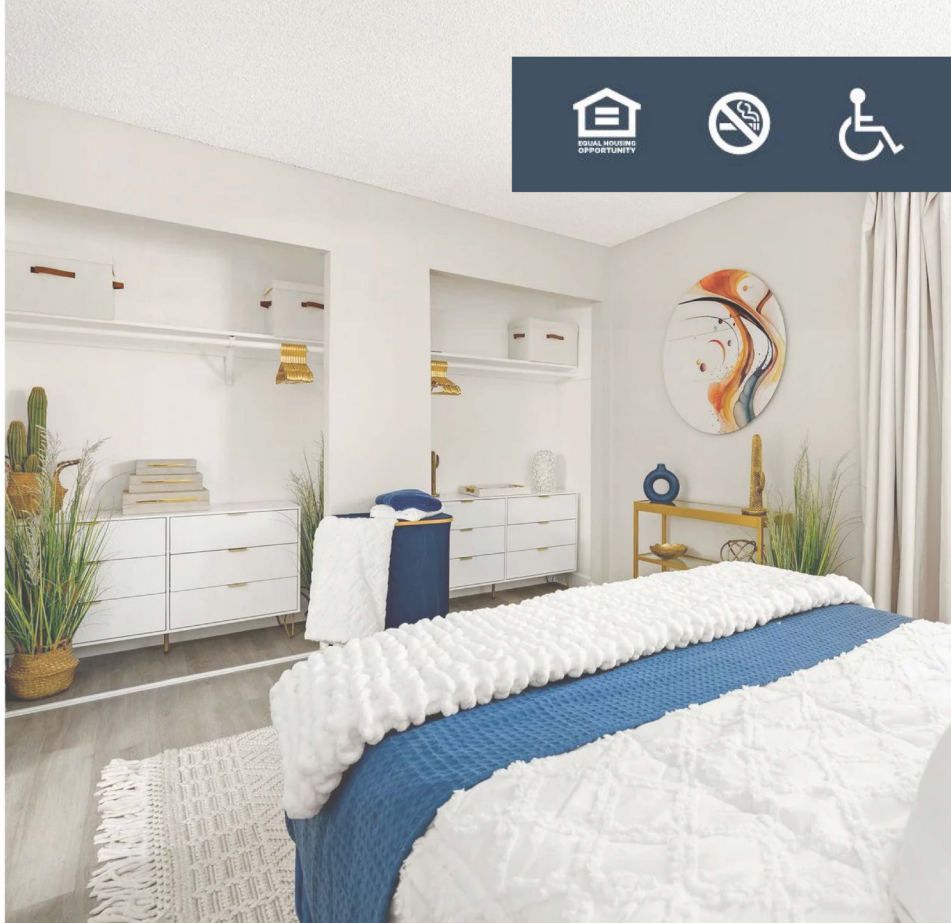


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# **‘I have to cling onto what is still there’**

**Palestinian students at ASU share their personal and familial experiences through generations of war, death and displacement**

by Evan Silverberg

Illustration by Lavanya Paliwal



**L**yth Shahin is a graduate student studying law. Their father is from Palestine and their mother is from Jordan. Many of their family members live in the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank, which has been under siege by the Israeli Defense Forces for many months.

"I have multiple family members with medical issues regularly in the hospital," Shahin said. "I have a family member who's an EMT. They're all regularly besieged by IOF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. ... I'm going to class sometimes having lost contact with my family and not knowing whether or not they're okay. But I know if I miss class I'm risking getting kicked out of law school."

Shahin said hospitals are often one of the first points of attack for Israeli troops. IDF — or IOF for some Palestinians — soldiers often surround the hospital in Jenin to prevent paramedics from conducting surgeries. One of Shahin's cousins is paralyzed and gets physical therapy at that hospital. "One day I was facetimeing my cousin, and he was sitting in the hospital courtyard right after his appointment waiting to get picked up," Shahin said. "And then you hear the fighting in the background — like the tanks rolling."

"I get off the call, and an hour later I see on social media [at] that exact courtyard where he was, they're lining people up ... and placing them all at gunpoint against the wall."

Shahin said these experiences are not uncommon. "I had an extended family member end up in the hospital in critical condition after getting shot by the IOF," they said.

But bombs, tanks and guns aren't the only thing they're concerned about. "Infrastructure in the Jenin area has been completely destroyed, so a lot of my family isn't able to reliably get food or water or power," they said.

For many ASU students, these

escalations may seem distant and unimportant in how they go about their daily lives. But for Palestinian students attending the University, the conflict has forced itself into their lives and their families.

### Then and now

Nuha Jabbar is a sophomore studying political science. She was born in the United States to a Palestinian father from the West Bank but moved to Palestine in 2016, where she lived until returning to the U.S. for college in 2022.

Growing up, Jabbar was often frustrated when dealing with checkpoints spread across Palestine, where Palestinians looking to come or go must be granted passage by Israeli soldiers.

"I've been interrogated all my life, from the day that I moved there," she said. "From age 13 to age 21, I was constantly asked where am I going, what's your name and where are you coming from. ... And if they were not in the mood that day to tell you, 'Yeah, you can go home,' then I would just be stuck at school for four hours."

Now, the situation is even worse. "It's probably the worst it's ever been in the West Bank," Jabbar said. "The checkpoints are completely closed off, you can't even leave the town at times now."

She also mentioned the difficulties brought by illegal Israeli settlements expanding in the area. "My town, we have a new Israeli settlement there, and that didn't exist before," she said. "We didn't have settlements. But they're slowly coming in on the West Bank. ... Just the other day, there were settlers that came in and burned a bunch of cars."

Israeli settlers have also made harvesting olives — the primary source of income for Palestinians in Jabbar's town — increasingly difficult.

"[Palestinians] are scared of going around and getting shot at by settlers because settlers are walking around with M16s," Shahin said. "And then beyond that, you have the IOF launching raids, the ministry saying they're going to kick all [Palestinians] off their land."

"I'm just worried if I will have a home to go back to this summer," Jabbar said. She also said she "constantly" worries about her parents, who are still in Palestine.

Her fears have been heightened by the results of the 2024 U.S. presidential election. "We have no clue what's going to happen to Palestine after Trump was elected," Jabbar said.

She cited the president-elect's calls to let Israel "finish the job," among prominent concerns. Days after the election, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich ordered preparations be taken for the annexation of the West Bank once Trump takes office.

### Family ties

Eighty years ago, Shahin's family lived in Sabbarin, a city near modern-day Haifa in Israel. While under British occupation, they were allowed to live, work and travel wherever they pleased without sacrificing their Palestinian identity or facing severe discrimination. The town had a thriving eastern prickly pear fruit industry.

The Nakba, a term used to describe the displacement and ethnic cleansing of Palestinian Arabs, began in 1948 when the newly-created Israeli government displaced 700,000 Palestinians and killed 15,000. Since then, Shahin's family has lived in Jenin.

"My dad was born in the 60s, so he's seen the occupation of Palestinian land begin," Shahin said. "He grew up during the First Intifada, and he has witnessed a lot of revolutionary action in Palestine."



However, this created a generational divide in how Shahin's father has responded to the current climate compared to his children.

"He has become so jaded but also scared, and I think rightfully so because he's seen the backlash and the harm that can befall our family and everything," Shahin said.

"My dad's so scared that he doesn't want [his children] speaking up because sometimes he's scared that it's going to come back to hurt us or that it might affect our family back home. ... Me and my siblings are like, 'fuck that.' We don't care what happens to us. We're out here with survivor's guilt being here in America."

Jabbar also pointed out this disparity. "You cannot blame [older generations] for not being as passionate about not wanting to liberate Palestine because they've experienced a lot more than I have," she said.

Lori Francis, a graduate student who researches refugee mental health, said post-traumatic stress disorder is common among refugees. Francis is also a child of refugees from South Sudan.

Francis discussed the impact of generational trauma on those who have most intimately experienced it. "The way [my parents] grew up, it was more so in a fight-or-flight type of environment," she said. "They were in situations where they always had to think of what's next in terms of survival. ... They were raising us in fight-or-flight mode, but that's not necessarily what we needed."

"Trauma gets passed upon children or family members in a very interesting way because your parents or your caretakers are doing their best in terms of trying to raise their children, but their best might not be the

best for the current environment that they're children are being raised in," Francis said.

Having been relocated to Palestine at 12 years old, Jabbar has firsthand experience being raised in two different environments — that of the Western world and that of the Middle East.

"I went to a school there where everyone there was from America, and they moved to Palestine to learn about their heritage, to learn about their identity," Jabbar said. "That's normal. My father was born in America, but he was taken to Palestine at age six to learn about his people, to learn about his culture."

Francis said isolation from one's people is a major source of poor mental health among immigrants and immigrant families.

"I found community there in Palestine," Jabbar said. "I found my people."

Francis also said different generations of immigrants cope with feelings of depression and anxiety differently.

"In my parents' generation, mental health just wasn't addressed," Francis said. "They were issues that you prayed over, issues that you hoped that God would fix. I still have my religion, I still use my religion, but I also feel like I have tools outside of that to help me."

Now, 76 years after the Nakba began, Shahin said their family in Jenin has been ordered to leave again — this time to Jordan, a neighboring country.

"My family, who has literally been displaced their whole lives as refugees in Jenin ... is being told to displace again," Shahin said. "It's really scary thinking that could happen,

and it's like I don't have the capacity to protect them."

Shahin's grandmother died with the key to her home in Sabbarin hanging from her necklace. "When you see shit like that, it just makes you [think], 'Okay, I'm never going to give up the idea that I can return,'" Shahin said. "And as long as I can't return, I need to preserve that culture and history and make sure people understand it because it's so scary knowing it just can be completely erased."

### Fighting through complicity

Despite their commitment to help their family in Palestine however they can, Shahin described their tuition money as being "soaked in blood," due to ASU's various financial investments in Israeli entities.

One example they gave was ASU's co-operation with Israeli institutions on a multimillion-dollar research grant managed by the BIRD Foundation. According to its website, the BIRD Foundation "supports industrial [research and development] in all sectors of the hi-tech industry which are of mutual benefit to the U.S. and Israel."

"You look at this BIRD Foundation research grant and it's essentially research for energy and other cyber securities," Shahin said. "And that cybersurveillance research goes directly into oppressing Palestinians in the West Bank."

The University also partnered with weapons manufacturer Raytheon last year for an "engineering design hub" less than three miles north of the Tempe campus. "The new engineering design hub will leverage talent in the metro Phoenix area, housing approximately 150 professional positions — 95% of which will be employees new to Raytheon," an article on ASU's website said.



"I feel like I'm betraying my own country by attending an institution that constantly funds genocide," Jabbar said.

Other than financial investments and partnerships, Jabbar and Shahin feel that the University simply lacks awareness of their community.

"I go to law school," Shahin said. "Our international human rights class doesn't talk about [Palestine]. Our prosecuting international crimes class doesn't talk about [Palestine] but will acknowledge Ukraine."

"I think [administration hasn't] directly

encountered Palestinian students," Jabbar said. "We're constantly disregarded."

Shahin said they met leadership from the School of Law last year and members questioned how many Palestinian students attend the University.

"They couldn't even comprehend that we even exist," Shahin said.

Despite what Palestinian students would describe as the University's pitfalls, they feel that the pro-Palestine movement has made strides at

ASU in the past year. "Part of the Israeli settler colonial project is to completely erase Palestinian identity, Palestinian history and rewrite it and create a national identity around this mythos," Shahin said. "That's started to break down completely because of how aware people are now."

Shahin explained why overcoming the fear of speaking out is so important. "I think part of being Palestinian is just ... you've had so much stolen from you that through generations shit gets lost. ... There's so much history that I don't know. I have to cling onto what is still there."

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# Musings on moving

by Claire Geare

Photos by Claire Geare



I'm moving tomorrow. This will be the second home I call my own; away from my parents, away from my old life, away from everything I used to know and think I know now.

My apartment looks like the inside of my brain. A mishmash of posters and pictures and records and old Nancy Drew books. Trinkets and candles and Muppets memorabilia. An apartment fit for a child — or me, I guess. Sometimes I think my apartment looks this way because I relish a childhood I didn't get to have. But that doesn't matter now, because tomorrow, I'm leaving.

As I pack up and leave the life I've come to know so well, I reflect on the lives that have come before me. If I were my mother, I'd have a kid in two years. If I were my grandmother, I would have had a kid two years ago. I remain childless. But in a way, I am both my mother and grandmother. I am the experiences they lived. I'm the child of children who didn't know what they were doing. I definitely don't know what I'm doing.



I've learned a lot about myself living alone. I've learned I don't really like living alone. I've learned that maybe some things are better left unsaid. I've learned to manage my illnesses. Or maybe I haven't. Maybe I'm just stuck, forced to deal with the world's harsh reality. There are car payments and rent payments and insurance payments all due seemingly at the same time. There's no time to be ill.

Then again, illness makes time for itself. I remember when my mother's illness reared its ugly head. Despite her four children, despite our tiny apartment's way-too-high rent. There was no time then just as there is no time now. There's never enough time.

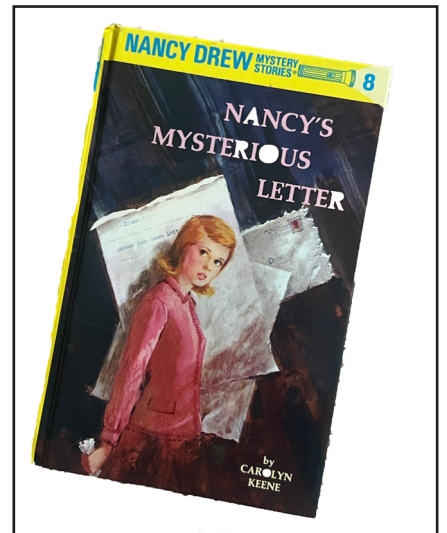
I remember when I first moved in. I had just gotten out of the hospital, and was in desperate need of a change. I had put my life on pause for two months, and it was time to get back to normalcy. I got a job. I moved. I went back to school. I desperately clawed my way back into some semblance of a life. I think I found one. What if it all goes away? What if such a big change knocks me off course? What if I end up where I was this time last year?

Despite my musings, I know the change will do me good. I'm lonely. Most of the time, I just sit in my house, rethinking the day. Going over every little thing I've said and done, analyzing and re-analyzing and spinning around and around until my head hurts. An empty apartment is no place for an already ill mind.



It's tomorrow. I've moved. I've left my old life behind in favor of a new one, and I'm scared. Once again, I don't know what I'm doing. But maybe the world will end tomorrow, and just like that, life will snap closed. Or maybe I'll be happy.



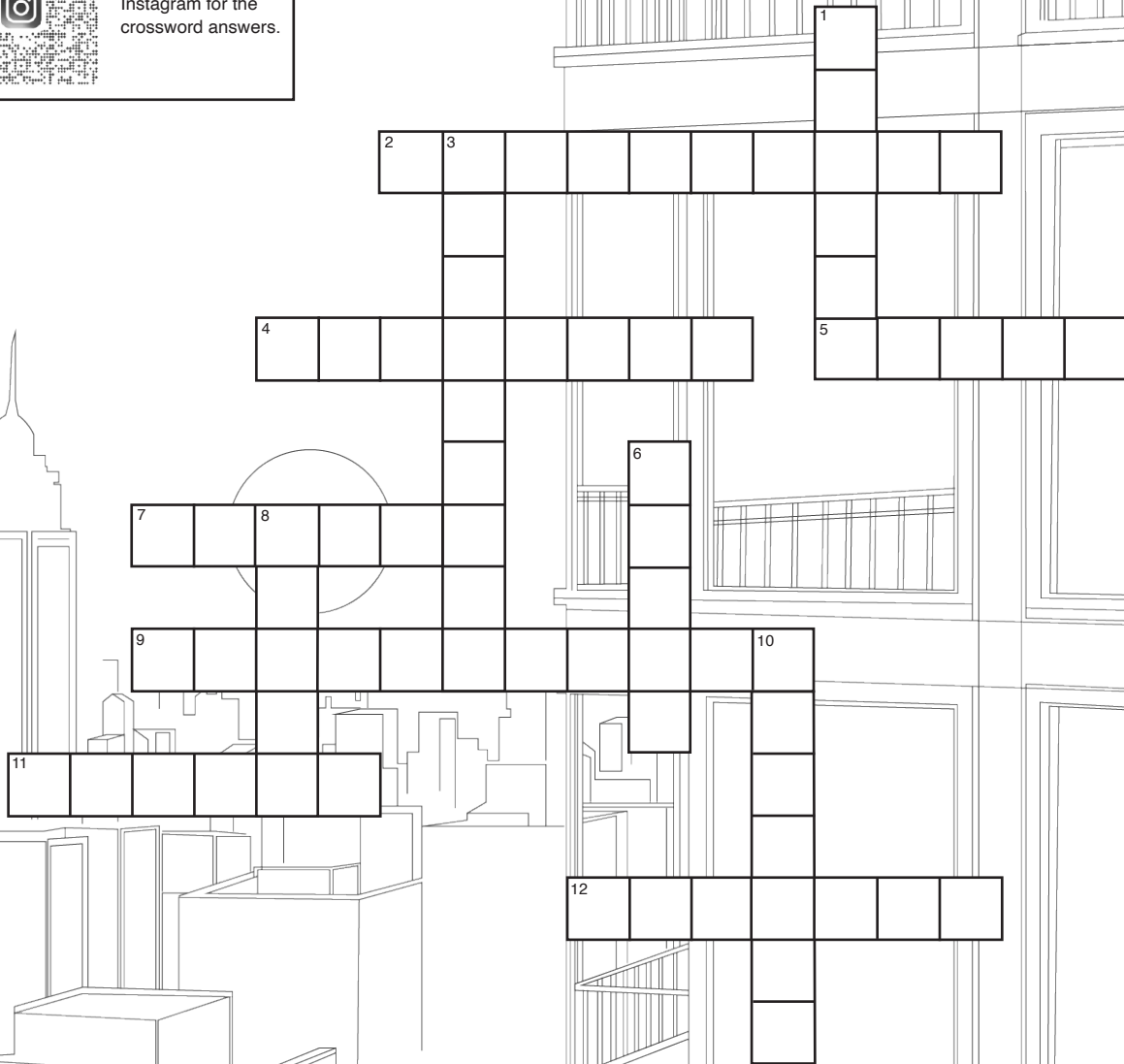




# the SPM crossword

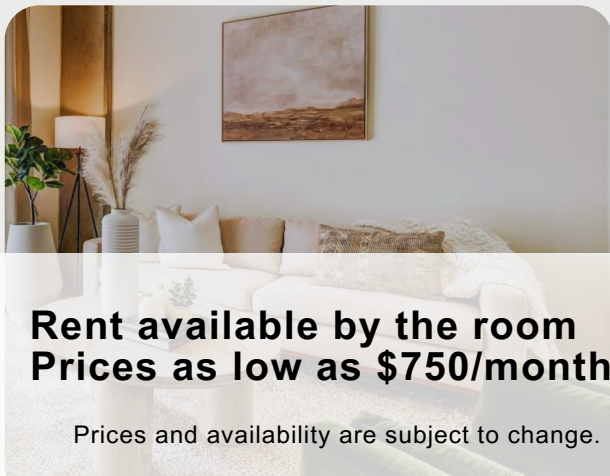
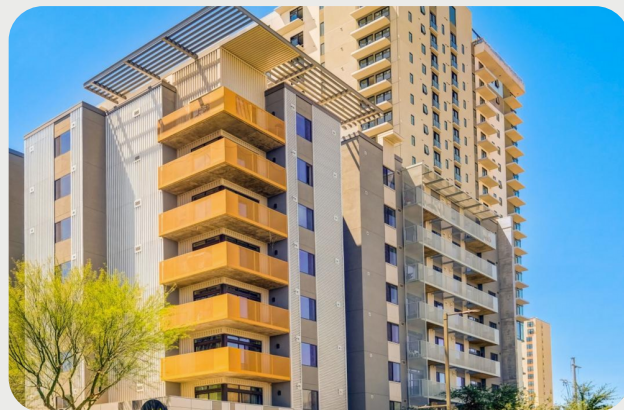


Stay tuned on our Instagram for the crossword answers.



1. In "I hate my birthday," the reporter says the movie "All Dogs Go to \_\_\_\_" taught them about the concept of death.
2. According to "Echoes of the past," singer-songwriter Laufey would not have been able to play the Hollywood Bowl had it not been for this jazz pioneer Ella \_\_\_\_.
3. Sierra Boyd, a junior studying business, met her boyfriend, Geno, through the social media app \_\_\_\_.
4. ASU partnered with this weapons manufacturer last year for an "engineering design hub" less than three miles north of the Tempe campus.
5. This term is used to describe the displacement and ethnic cleansing of Palestinian Arabs.
6. Apple Music describes The Weeknd as taking inspiration from Michael Jackson and "cosmic superstar" David \_\_\_\_.
7. The New York Times article by Tim Kreider titled, "I Know What You Think of Me" gained popularity on this microblogging platform.
8. Ysabella Biblo, a sophomore studying digital marketing, uses the budgeting app Rocket \_\_\_\_ to keep track of her finances.
9. According to "Secret lives of Utah fit checks," most countercultures were anti-\_\_\_\_.
10. Since the 60s, hippies, punks and skaters have made it their goal to rage against the \_\_\_\_ or avoid it completely.
11. Lafe Chaffee bought his wife Lacy a Frosty and chicken nuggets before their first date from \_\_\_\_.
12. According to "My shiny inheritance!," taking on debt to increase your human \_\_\_\_ is a rewarding financial decision.





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