

Club Spotlight: Anime Club

LOGO DESIGNED BY REED WHITAKER



JORDAN HEARRING
LIFE EDITOR

Joining a club is one of the many college experiences that students can look back on fondly. It can improve social skills, communication skills, time management and even academic involvement. It can ease the transition from high school into college, allow students to make friends with similar interests and give students a chance to have a

voice and a support system. A-State offers over 150 student-led organizations and this segment in The Herald will spotlight one of the many diverse clubs on campus. This week, I am putting a spotlight on the Anime Club.

The Anime Club originally started as the Sci-Fi Club, which Dr. Robert Lamm, Anime Club faculty sponsor and professor of English, said it formed just before 2000. The Sci-Fi club held dual interests

with anime and science fiction and eventually transitioned officially to the Anime Club in September of 2008. The Anime Club today functions as a social group that discusses and watches various forms of anime and manga. They also host various outings such as bowling nights and board game nights. There are 16 members involved in the club, which is quadruple the numbers the organization had when the COVID lockdown began in 2020.

Various members of the organization have regarded the Anime Club as a positive experience. Madison Sanchez, a sophomore English major from Jonesboro, said "It's always fun to watch anime, but meeting the people there made it all the more fun. Coming to a club where everyone holds a similar interest makes me feel more comfortable to talk to and be myself around others."

The Anime Club has also attended conventions in the past, especially before COVID impacted the group's involvement.

Jacob Copeland, a sophomore computer science major from St. Louis, talked about his involvement in the club. "It's a really positive experience where we all get along and share our passion for anime and manga," said Copeland, "We sometimes attend conventions, which is always a blast."

One of the Anime Club leaders is Sarah Kinnison, a master's of mathematics student from Conway. She serves as the vice president of the club and has been a member for 4 years. Reed Whitaker, a senior engineering technology major from Paragould, serves as the president of the Anime Club and has been a member for 3 years. Both officers have been actively involved in the Anime Club and lead discussions regarding the anime they watch during their meetings. The group decides whether they want to watch the anime "subbed", which is the original language with English subtitles, or "dubbed", which is the English voiceover

of the anime. They follow up the episode with a group discussion and critiques.

Dr. Lamm also spoke on the ways that the Anime Club serves A-State students. "It meets different needs for different people. Some people come that don't normally talk but want to work on talking with others, and it's a great way to connect with others and make friends with similar interests. There are three main ways that the Anime Club contributes: social values, entertainment values and scholarly values."

The Anime Club meets once a week on Mondays in the St. Francis River Room in the Reng Student Union and

uses Discord as the main form of communication between the officers and the members. In the Discord server they can make announcements about meetings, play games and discuss anime. The club continues involvement over the summer and winter breaks and welcomes any and all new members.

For more information regarding the Anime Club reach out to Reed Whitaker at reed.whitaker@astate.edu and Sarah Kinnison at sarah.kinnisio@astate.edu. For a full list of the registered student organizations at A-State visit www.astate.edu/RSO.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH KINNISON

A Trip to Berlin (or Eine Reise nach Berlin)

COLUMN BY
NOAH ROBINSON

COPY EDITOR

After nineteen hours of cramped flights, chair-kicking kids, claustrophobic middle seats and basically no sleep, I've finally done it. I've landed in Berlin, Germany. I stretch my crooked back, grab my single gray backpack (filled with everything I need for my week long excursion) and waddle off my final plane with the rest of the weary eyed passengers. It's 8 a.m. I'm tired, but there's a fire in me ready to adventure.

Berlin, the capital of Germany, is a city ripe for exploration. With over 170 museums and a major monument on every third block, Berlin is a rhythmic clash of new and old. Reunified as recently as 1990, it is a city that has been scarred, shaped and bonded by many other cultures, as well as

its own dark past. This is what intrigued me about Berlin (that and a shining recommendation from a good friend of mine), leading me to spend my spring break in the lovely city.

Sadly, I did not get to explore much on my first day in Berlin (dang professors making assignments due during spring break), but I was able to settle into my airbnb near the city center. I was, however, able to get my first taste of the local dishes with the oh so delicious döner kebab, a Turkish street food served on what seems like every corner. When I tell you how good these things are, fill them up with good sauce and fresh veggies and your first will be divine.

Alexanderplatz in the city center, the heart of the city, is the home to street performers. Trolleys and pedestrians dance

through the plaza as the World Clock ticks gently and the Fountain of Friendship trickles quietly with the tempo of the crowds. The plaza connects to the nearby Museum Island, which holds seven of the city's most notable museums (each of which you could easily lose your whole afternoon to if you're not careful) as well as the most mesmerizing Berlin Cathedral.

A bit south, in the district of Kreuzburg, you can find the sobering Jewish History Museum Berlin. The museum is extensive and free, I don't think I'll ever be able to forget the "Holocaust Tower" or "Fallen Leaves" exhibits. Nearby you can find Checkpoint Charlie, a famous crossing point of the still partially intact Berlin Wall that you may touch and even purchase pieces of.

A long journey through the

Brandenburg Gate to the east will have you pass the beautiful and serene Großer Tiergarten, a massive public park, and the towering Victory Column. At the end of the journey (with a turn onto Otto-Suhr-Allee) you'll find yourself at Schloss Charlottenburg, a small palace with a garden that just begs you to be rested in with a good book.

Berlin is a city teeming with places just waiting to be discovered (more than you could discover in a lifetime). It's a city of movement, culture and technology with a storied history. I will always hold my time there close to my heart and wholeheartedly recommend the same wild leaps to adventure to any who will listen.



Interested in reporting? Join us every Monday at 5 p.m. in room 224 in the Communications Building.

Best Bathrooms on Campus

COLUMN BY GARRETT PARTAIN
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

A-State is a large place. People constantly come and go out of a multitude of buildings, traveling across campus in a hurry, all with diverse wants and goals. In the end, though, we all have one thing in common: the need to go. And with that need comes a necessity of a space where we can go. This space goes by many names: the lavatory, head, commode, john, loo, latrine, the porcelain throne or more commonly, the bathroom.

As anyone who went to a public high school can tell you: not all bathrooms are created equal. In fact, most bathrooms outside of one's own home are tolerable at best, with a large portion of the rest being completely unusable to anyone that values a proper restroom experience. A-State has a unique approach to this issue. The style and number of bathrooms on campus are as diverse as the students and faculty who call it home, leading to there being a bathroom for almost everyone. Or rather, it would mean that if I hadn't come up with a method to empirically test the quality of all bathrooms on campus. That method being my opinion.

I have rated every bathroom on campus that I have felt bothered to on four criteria; cleanliness, privacy, space, and convenience. Each of these categories are on a scale from 0-5, with 0 being the worst score a bathroom can

get in that category and 5 being the best. A better score, though, does not necessitate a higher position on the list, as there are other compounding factors that may affect the bathroom's rating. With that being clarified, here are the top 5 bathrooms on campus.

#5, 3rd Floor Humanities

Cleanliness: 4
Privacy: 4
Space: 3
Convenience: 4

While all bathrooms located within the Humanities and Social Sciences building are the same layout and construction, save for the Family Restrooms, the 3rd floor restroom strikes that perfect balance of being so out of the way for most students that you rarely find yourself having to share it, while also being still easily accessed in cases of emergencies. This balance also eliminates the need to use any of the Family Restrooms in the building, allowing one to avoid the guilt of taking up a Family Restroom. What holds this restroom back, though, is its utilitarian nature and its space. While the space in stalls is more than adequate, it just isn't No. 1 material. The same goes to the fact that the restroom is good all-around, but not outstanding.

#4, 3rd Floor of LSW

Cleanliness: 4
Privacy: 5
Space: 4
Convenience: 2

Lab Science West isn't the most orthodox of rankings. As someone who has a major that keeps me exclusively in the Humanities building for classes after I completed my basics, it is strange for such a location to receive high praise, I admit that. Not only this, but looking at the lavatory on face value makes it seem like a particularly average, and even outdated facility. It houses just two urinals, a



GRAPHIC BY RACHEL RUDD, NEWS EDITOR

single stall and a traditional individual rectangular mirror in front of every sink. It is even the only restroom on the floor (as far as I can discern.) This seems like a recipe for disaster, but the devil is in the details. Its outward demeanor seemingly actively deters foot traffic even during the floor's busiest hours, as if the lack of facilities makes it to where everyone just assumes it is full, when it is completely empty. The single toilet stall's length is equal to that of the width of the entire restroom, giving some of the

most room on the entire campus.

#3, RESTROOM 2206

Cleanliness: 5
Privacy: 5
Space: 5
Convenience: 3

On face value this is the perfect restroom. Located on the second floor of the Student Union near the Card Center, this restroom is full size: two urinals, a stall, multiple sinks, ample floor space outside of the range of the waste depositing zones. It even has a lockable door, as it has seemingly been retrofitted to be a Family Restroom. Beyond its very miss-able location, it should be perfect. But the fact that it is a full size restroom obviously meant for people with young children can make one feel extremely guilty, especially when using it for a long time. So, despite it being a technically superb experience, the moral pressure brings it down from #1 spot consideration.

#2, 2nd Floor Library

Cleanliness: 4
Privacy: 5
Space: 4
Convenience: 5

Technically on the third floor of the library, this bathroom's beauty comes in its simplicity. A single person, one toilet restroom has an elegance to its simplicity, and the fact that it is easily accessible from the moment you step into the library makes it all the better. Despite it being a family style, one

person restroom, there is no guilt in using it due to the fact it is the only kind of restroom on the floor. This, much like entry No. 4, does not hinder it much. Having to wait on this restroom to become unoccupied is a rare occurrence, as the student population is well distributed throughout the building beyond the first floor, which has its own restroom. All in all, it is a quality commode with very little else needing to be said on the matter.

#1, ???

Cleanliness: 5
Privacy: 5
Space: 5
Convenience: 2

The top spot is a bathroom that is relatively out of the way compared to the other picks on the list but is certifiably the best restroom on campus. The lack of traffic makes it one of the most serene latrine-going experiences a person can have. Which is exactly why no more details can be divulged. I do not wish for my favorite commode to go the way of vacation spots posted to Instagram, that is, overcrowded. So, I have decided this secret will follow me to the grave, left in my will to ensure that only a select few in future generations know truly the best bathroom on campus. Or at least until the new building gets finished or I find a better one. Whichever comes first.

THIS WEEK'S POP PICK

REVIEW BY LILY CABIBI-WILKIN | OPINION EDITOR

Kyogen



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE JAPAN TIMES

Japanese singer Ado released her first album, "Kyogen," in January. The album has 14 tracks, all in varying styles and genres. Ado discovered her love of music in 2014, when she listened to music on the video-sharing website NicoNico on her 3DS. She first began singing as an "utaite (internet cover singer)" at the age of 15, recording covers in her closet. She made her solo artist debut in 2020 with "Usseewa," a song which exploded in popularity among the utaite, vtuber and vocal synth communities. Several of her singles, which have been rereleased on this album, such as "Usseewa," "Gira Gira" and "Odo," were written by Vocaloid producers (respectively syudou, teniwoha and a combination of Giga, DECO*27 and

TeddyLoid). In addition, some of the songs on the album are connected to pieces of media, such as "Aitakute" being featured in the movie "Kaguya-sama: Love Is War Final" and "Kokoro To Iu Na No Fukunai" being the theme song for the drama "Doctor White." "Kyogen" has something for everyone, from soft ballads to fast-paced dance music to hard rock. Ado's control of her voice is nothing short of amazing, and she hits a variety of tones with ease. For example, "Gira Gira" showcases both her gentle falsettos and her powerful growls.

Despite their different deliveries, many of the songs on the album have similar themes: Dissatisfaction with life, reluctance to grow up, the mundanity of life and heartbreak, while fighting all of that and boldly facing your problems.

The album has 14 different tracks on it, and 11 so far have music videos with English subtitles available on Ado's YouTube account. The most recent was "Domestic De Violence" which was posted on March 26. Her music can be found on Spotify, Pandora, Apple Music and other music streaming services.

Weekly Horoscopes

ALEX CLARK • MYSTIC CORRESPONDENT

Aries

March 22 - April 19

Don't become lazy. You may not see results now, but that doesn't mean your work won't pay off.

TAURUS

April 20 - May 20

Sometimes you have to put others first. Be considerate in your approach.

GEMINI

May 21 - June 20

Things won't always go your way. Be mature about it.

CANCER

June 21 - July 22

It's a good time to be generous. You never know how much your kindness may help someone.

LEO

July 23 - August 22

Don't disconnect from the people you care about. Be vulnerable and open and accept their help.

VIRGO

August 23 - September 22

Do not give too much of yourself. Right now you need rest and comfort.

LIBRA

September 23 - October 22

You don't have to root yourself in reality constantly. Take a chance to chase your dreams.

SCORPIO

October 23 - November 21

You might need to accept defeat. This does not mean you should give up completely.

SAGITTARIUS

November 22 - December 21

Find comfort in being loved. You deserve the affection you receive.

CAPRICORN

December 22 - January 19

Your exhaustion is making you second-guess your goals. Don't give up yet.

AQUARIUS

January 20 - February 18

You need to take off your rose-colored glasses. Not everything is as perfect as it seems.

PISCES

February 19 - March 21

Stop holding yourself back. Jump on the next opportunity you get.