

The end of an era: Panic! At the Disco is no more

REBECCA ROBINSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Panic! At the Disco announced they “will be no more” online Jan. 24 crushing the middle school version of many. Frontman and remaining member Brendon Urie has used the name Panic! At the Disco as a solo project after other members parted for other endeavors or projects.

In the announcement Urie said: “I am going to bring this chapter of my life to an end and put my focus and energy on my family.” He and his wife are expecting their first child together.

“The prospect of being a father and getting to watch my wife become a mother is both humbling and exciting,” Urie said.

The band was formed in 2004 Las Vegas. Pete Wentz from Fall Out Boy was impressed by their early work sent to him from LiveJournal he then signed them to his label Decaydance.

September 27, 2005 was the release date for their first album “A Fever You Can’t Sweat Out” Members Ryan Ross, Spencer Smith, Brent Wilson and Urie. Wilson was later fired from the band and replaced with Jon Walker.

The album was produced with a \$11,000 budget. The reception of the album was fairly mixed. The lead single “I Write

Sins Not Tragedies” received massive airplay and even won “Video of the Year” for the MTV Video Music Awards. Love it or hate it this album is essential to emo music history.

In 2008 the band released their second album “**Pretty Odd.**” The album debuted at number Two on the US Billboard 200 chart and spent 18 weeks on the chart. Both fans and critics were mixed and confused with this album but overall it received positive response. The lead single “Nine in the Afternoon” was certified double platinum by the RIAA.

Later in 2008 the band released their first live album “**... Live in Chicago**” which was released with a concert film as well. Noteworthy about this release is the band dropped their signature exclamation point from their name and released the album as “Panic at the Disco.”

Following their live album in 2009 members Ross and Walker announced their departure from the band on their official website. Later Ross explained that it was due to creative differences between him and frontman Urie.

“**Vices & Virtues**” was their third studio album which was released in 2011. During this time Dallan Weekes joined as just a touring band member with Urie and Smith. Weekes did not actually perform on the album he did however

help create the album cover and was the masked man in the background. The first week of the release the album sold 56,000 copies in the U.S alone.

“**Too Weird to Live, Too Rare to Die!**” was worked on by Urie, Smith and Weekes as an official member and was released in 2013. Smith departed from the band due to addiction. This was the last album Smith was featured on.

“**Death of a Bachelor**” was worked on by Urie and a team of writers. This album was the first that was released as a solo act in 2016.

Bassist Weekes stepped down from member back to touring member during this time. After 8 years of performing with Panic! Weekes ultimately left the band in 2017 and began focusing on his time as frontman of I Don’t Know How But They Found Me. This is arguably where Panic! This Disco should have officially ended.

Panic! At the Disco wasn’t the band they used to be and frontman Urie used the name to keep making music and Panic! Transitioned to a solo project. The last three albums under the name were their second live album “**All my Friends We’re Glorious**” in 2017 and two studio albums, “**Pray for the Wicked**” in 2018 and “**Viva Las Vengeance**” in 2022. Though I would say some long time fans dropped



PHOTO COURTESY OF BILLBOARD
Panic! At the Disco at the MTV Video Music Awards after their win in 2006.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PANIC! AT THE DISCO
Panic! At the Disco for their fourth studio album.

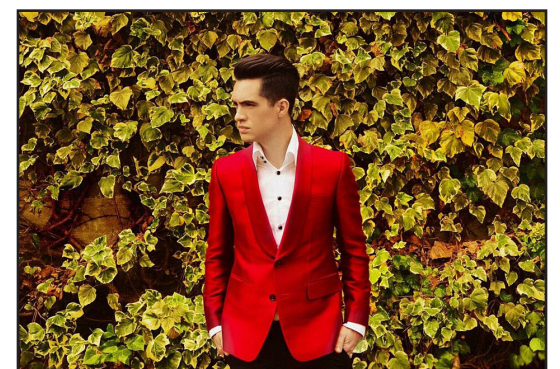


PHOTO COURTESY OF IHEARTRADIO
Frontman Brendon Urie.

off after the releases of the “Too Weird to Live, Too Rare to Die!” or “Death of a Bachelor” the fan base took a noticeable dive with the release of “Viva Las Vengeance”.

The announcement was inevitable but like others I will still be reminiscing on their albums for the next couple of weeks for nostalgia’s sake. If your friends with anyone

with box dyed hair or a nose ring check in on them this week. Love them or hate them Panic! has earned their spot in our “House of Memories.”

THIS WEEK’S POP PICK

RACHEL RUDD | NEWS EDITOR

“LOVE FROM THE OTHER SIDE” FALL OUT BOY



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

This week I got to indulge my 12-year-old, alternative-music-loving self with Fall Out Boy’s new single “Love from the Other Side.” They were one of like two bands I enjoyed at that age, so to see that they are still releasing good music brought me so much joy.

This song opens with some nice piano before transitioning into a killer guitar riff. I’m a complete sucker for great, somewhat aggressive guitar and I will just loop it to get myself pumped up.

The entire song is incredibly catchy and it has already looped in my head so many times. It has some poetic lyrics which put a unique spin about a relationship before and after a breakup like “we were a hammer to the statue of David / we were a painting you could never frame”

and “a summer falling through our fingers again / you were the sunshine of my lifetime.” However, it’s the chorus I truly love. “Sending my love from the other side of the apocalypse / and I just about snapped / don’t look back / every lover’s got a little dagger in their hand” has been stuck in my head so many times, a testament to how well it’s sung. These lyrics are delivered in a somewhat somber, bitter and angry way, perfectly encapsulating how both parties feel after the breakup.

After a well written and performed bridge, the song concludes with another amazing guitar riff. It has an air of finality as the singer finally gets over the breakup and is ready to move on. The angry feelings might still be there, but they have faded into the background.

This song is a must-listen for anyone, alternative music fans or not. Not only is it deeply relatable to anyone who has experienced a breakup, even if you haven’t, the lyrics and instrumentals create an amazing listening experience that can be looped for hours.

A-State Hot Takes with Lucky and Harry

A-State student’s Lucky Gilmore and Harrison Warren have been seen around campus carrying a small microphone around the Student Union asking students to answer random questions and give their “hot takes.” The pair post on both Instagram and TikTok. They started A-State Hot Takes in October of 2022.



Left: Harrison “Harry” Warren, a senior political science major from Poplar Bluff Missouri. Right: Lucky Gilmore, a junior Political Science major from North Little Rock.

Q: What was your New Years Resolution and how is it going for you?

A: Chloe Pilgrim, Junior Nursing major from Jonesboro, AR. said: “My New Year’s resolution was to be less stressed out and it’s going completely awful.”

A: Landon Ballard, Freshman Sports Management major from Jonesboro, AR. said: “My New Years resolution is to get in the gym more and I’m not doing a very good job.”

A: Parker Ferguson, Junior Nursing major from Hornbreak, TN. said: “Well, I didn’t make one cause I never keep them. So it’s going great!”

A: Jaden Flanagan, Junior Sports Management major from Jonesboro, AR. said: “My resolution is to drop two EPs and an album this year. With two EPs dropping in February and in March, and an album coming along in August. So it’s going well.”

A: Kaleb Webb, Senior Political Science and Global Studies from Cabot, AR. said: “My New Year’s resolution was to go to sleep earlier but Saturday night I didn’t go to bed until 5 a.m.” To watch the full video watch @astatehottakes on Instagram

Life

Bilingual students at A-State

LAILA CASIANO

STAFF WRITER

In 2022, Arkansas State University saw an increase in enrollment for first-time international students (up by 5%) and the enrollment/transfer of the Queretaro campus (up by 3%). Many of these students are international, first attendees or transfers and have helped improve the campus' numbers and better diversifying the voices, cultures, races and ethnicities of the pack.

Heidy Bulbarelá-Hernández, a sophomore in graphic design and native to Stuttgart, Arkansas, speaks both English and Spanish. Bulbarelá-Hernández is of Latino descent, with Spanish being her first language and learning English when she began early education in Pre-K, as well as going through ESL lessons which lead her to become fluent in English later in her elementary school years.

Student life has been rewarding for her since coming to A-State, having joined Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Incorporada this past fall and Hermana y Hermano as a mentee during her first year and now, part of the Co-Social Chair and mentor. Within her student life she mostly speaks English, but Spanish when she returns back home.

"I feel closer to my culture when I am around my peers and feel understood. By speaking a different language, you create a bridge to that culture and form a bond with native speakers," Bulbarelá-Hernández said.

When discussing career and academic opportunities as an individual who can fluently speak in two languages,

Bulbarelá-Hernández said, "Being bilingual in graphic design is beneficial because I can better communicate and understand an audience with my work and am open to more job opportunities."

Shiqi Zhong, a junior in graphic design, was born in Guangdong, China. When Zhong moved to the United States and transferred to A-State, she said it was scary and nerve wracking; everything was a new experience for her. She learned about A-State through a program back in her high school, propelling the move to America, and though it was exciting, it held future problems.

"After I came to America, I needed to figure out problems by myself. For example, I don't know how to get a SIM card and where to get it. All the small problems have become big problems for me," Zhong said.

Zhong's first language is Cantonese and she later learned Mandarin. She learned English when she was 6 years old, but never had talked to foreigners in English before, so it made her wary of engaging with others at first. She speaks Mandarin to her Chinese friends, since back in her hometown in Guangdong, speaking Cantonese isn't universal.

"For me, learning languages is also learning a country's culture. I'd love to learn more languages if I can," Zhong said.

Emiliano Ceballos is an international-transfer student from Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico. He spent his first couple of years in the Queretaro campus, majoring in strategic communication and minoring in marketing. He felt that the initial move for



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

college was great yet different as he'd moved to another state away from his family, but with the friendly and inviting people and atmosphere there, the move was the first step in a successful new school year.

But Ceballos' transfer process from Mexico to the U.S. wasn't as scary as some would think. He said it the travels and packing were exhausting, but the initial move was familiar as he had been to the States many times for travels and for school, as he before college went to a boarding school in Texas.

The decision to transfer over from the Queretaro campus to Jonesboro was the desire to learn communication but not wanting to stay in his

hometown, "There you learn, you grow and then you stay. But, I didn't want to stay, I wanted a new challenge."

Ceballos had seen an A-State advertisement promoting the U.S. campus that led him to researching on his own and readily preparing for the move to continue on his junior year.

Post-move in, with his first two weeks here at A-State, it's been great. Ceballos praises the faculty, as professors are helpful with giving him the resources he needs. His initial reason for majoring in strategic communication came in handy as he likes to engage, interact and see new people and environments. "I wasn't as outgoing in

high school, so in college I said: 'Let's try new things!' Been improving myself, trying to make new friends and setting goals and challenges." He still communicates to his friends back in Mexico, even interacting with the few who transferred last year to the Jonesboro campus as well. Still with any move, especially one to a new country, there are still some challenges. The cultural shift and language barrier are a part of it.

Ceballos had been learning English in his home country, learning the grammatical accuracy and rules, but there are complications that arise with slang and personalized ways of speaking and accents

in the way from fully learning the language. But as he attended boarding school here in the U.S., it got easier as he was actively speaking to others in English and being helped by/helping others.

"It's good to know another language, especially for the people (who come from different parts of the world) who come here. Not specifically Spanish, but other languages. America is a country of diversity, a lot of people come here for school, for jobs and people should learn another language to make the others feel more comfortable," Ceballos said.

How to college: getting all of your class readings done

COLUMN BY ANNA COX

COPY EDITOR

Reading is not for everyone. Even as an English major myself I have felt myself dragging through a book like I was walking through quicksand. For classes, it is even worse because you have to be able to discuss the material for the class. Maybe you might even need to write something over the reading too. For this I have some tips, I have been in your shoes and know how to speed up the painful process of reading something you do not like.

For starters, annotating is something that is incredibly important. Every professor will tell you how important it is and I am only redrilling this fact into your head; however, it is again another part of the painful process. The majority of professors might say "Paraphrase every paragraph" or something along those lines, but don't. If

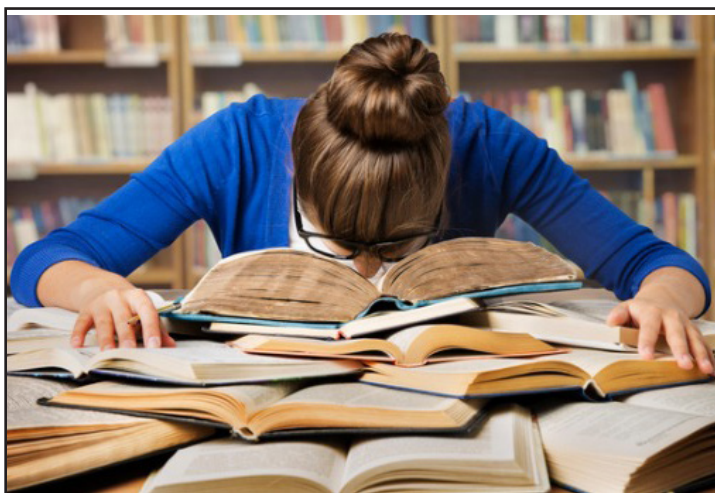


PHOTO COURTESY OF CNBC

you hate the reading that will only make you hate it more.

Instead, read a page, or two, and write the important thing that just happened on those pages. This way you will write less but also have the important information written down for the next class.

Next and most importantly, **DO NOT CRAM THE NIGHT BEFORE.** This is a do as I say not as I do moment but trying to do 20 pages of reading right before

your class is only asking for the pop quiz to be that day.

If you hate reading, do it in increments, read for 15 minutes, write down the information then do something else for five minutes. Pick a small assignment that's low stress and do that in your breaks if you want to multitask.

If you try to do at least one of these tactics, your reading experience will be bound to do better.

Year of the Rabbit

KARA CAMPBELL | LIFE EDITOR



PHOTO COURTESY OF READER'S DIGEST

January 22, 2023 kicked off the Year of the Rabbit. The Chinese New Year, or Lunar New Year, usually falls on the second new moon after the winter solstice. The animal for each year is based on the 12 Chinese Zodiacs: the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. There are several stories about why these animals were chosen, but the most popular version is about the Jade Emperor. To give a quick summary, on the Jade Emperor's birthday he gathered all of the animals and had them race. The order they placed is the order that each year now takes place.

Each zodiac animal also has its own characteristics from the story that define how their year will be. The rabbit finished fourth, so it is the fourth in the rotation. The rabbit represents peace, good fortune, and patience in Chinese Culture, so this year should focus on reflection and relaxation.