

# opinion

## “Golden Girls”: Being golden has no expiration date

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News Editor and Reporter

For the few people that have not been graced with the opportunity to view “The Golden Girls” (starring Bea Arthur, Betty White, Rue McClanahan and Estelle Getty), it revolves around four older single women who are sharing a house in Miami. Widows, Rose and Blanche, share the home with divorcee Dorothy. In the pilot episode, the three are joined by Dorothy’s 80-year-old mother, Sophia, after a fire destroyed her retirement home.

“The Golden Girls” released their first episode on Sept. 14, 1985. The first episode, while incredibly funny, managed to tackle serious topics.

This episode sets the groundwork for this incredibly progressive show and the topics that are to be tackled in episodes to come. According to “The Golden Girls” page on IMDb, by the time the finale aired on May 9, 1992, “The Golden Girls” received 68 Emmy nominations, securing 11 wins and is currently one of the only four shows in television history whose principal actors all won Emmys for their roles.

Here at AU and in the U.S., LGBTQ, immigration, discrimination, race, poverty and people who have disabilities are always a topic of discussion. Arguments start over it: we’ve been down this road and back again.

### LGBTQ

One of the main examples that comes to mind is Blanche’s younger brother, Clayton. He not only opens up about being gay, he announces that is going to marry is boyfriend, Doug.

Blanche says that while she does not understand what he is doing, she will try to respect his decision to marry Doug.

Sophia has a quote that, I believe, is the reaction the younger generation is trying to teach the older generation: “If one of my kids was gay, I wouldn’t love him one bit less. I would wish him all the happiness in the world.”

Another example is Dorothy’s friend, Jean.

Jean is staying with the girls, but they do not know she is a lesbian. Throughout the episode, Blanche and Rose figure out how to deal with this information in their own ways.

Both of these episodes deal with issues that are realistic and are situations that could happen to anyone. With a show like “The Golden Girls”, it addresses these issues with a sensitive and vulnerable nature, all the while keeping the mood light.

### Immigration

Mario Lopez stars as one of Dorothy’s gifted students who writes an essay about what it means to be an American. Dorothy enters his essay into a writing competition and he wins. His achievement lands him in the newspaper,



The Golden Girls crowd around their nightly cheesecake while listening to one of Rose’s stories.

but also catches the attention of the Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services.

He is deported for being in America illegally.

He does not blame Dorothy for entering his essay in the competition and he does not fight the court’s decision. He understands that he needs to go back until the proper procedures are followed for him to come back to America.

### Discrimination

Rose encounters age discrimination when she applies for a new job after her career as a grief counselor came to an end.

Alongside this age discrimination, one of the long-running themes throughout the show centers around aging. How to do it gracefully, stay sharp and get back out into the dating scene — lessons that do not only pertain to the ‘80s and ‘90s.

### Race

Dorothy’s son, Michael, brings home an older African American woman named Lorraine. He says that they are going to get married and her family walks in. During the episode, the families try to find ways to get along.



It is not until the couple decides to elope that their differences are put aside and the families rush to the chapel to explain that they can get along in the future.

### Poverty

Sophia donates an old jacket to charity, but does not realize that a winning lottery ticket is in the pocket. Once this comes to light, the girls try to track down the missing ticket. Their search leads them to a homeless shelter where they pretend to be homeless to find the ticket.

The ladies start to converse with the other homeless people. As they talk, they realize that one of the men has a degree, but there is a lack of jobs, and another man was fired from his work due to the fact nobody wants to train people his age.

After listening to their testimonies, the ladies decided to donate the ticket to the homeless shelter.

Poverty is often depicted in television shows, but “The Golden Girls” “decided to take a more human approach to the topic. Not everyone becomes homeless due to their actions. Poverty is often a product of the economy, discrimination and other personal issues.

### Disabilities

Disabilities are not overlooked in this show. Your disability does not define you, that comes from your character. Judging someone based on their disability is not only dumb, it just does not make any sense.

Rose’s blind sister comes for a visit and learns how to take care of herself. After a small fire in the kitchen, Rose and her sister come to the serious realization that she can no longer live by herself and she gets a service dog. Pouring lemonade and getting dressed is one thing, but being in a kitchen surrounded by dangerous utensils and fire is another.

Rose also dated a man with dwarfism and was always aware, and even embarrassed at some points, that people were staring. He asks her to dinner and says that they need to have a serious talk. She panics at first, thinking he is going to propose, and ends up realizing that she loves him and would say yes.

But he breaks up with her...because she is not Jewish.

The last example is Dorothy’s boyfriend, Ted, who is in a wheelchair. She gets past her insecurities about going out in public with him, only to find out that he has a wife. Again, people are people, no matter what size, shape or color.

So picture it: America, 2019. There is a warmth in the air and getting along is a little easier. Well, it is a lot easier with cheesecake.

## A time for friends, a time for giving: Friendsgiving

**AVAERIE FITZGERALD**  
AU-Live Managing Editor

Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce and that sweet, sweet pumpkin pie mark a special time of the year — Thanksgiving. What was once remembered as the days we pretended to help out in the kitchen by dumping different ingredients in the bowl, we now experience in a whole new light.

College is that awkward time in between being an adult with a career and being a kid who still relies on their parents for every little thing. We have relied on them to make Thanksgiving meals for the past 18-plus years and now it is time to break out the apron and oven mitts and get down to cooking for ourselves.

All this pressure on college students and young adults can be a lot, so naturally it is better to have friends around. That is how a new spin on the classic Thanksgiving holiday, called Friendsgiving, was started.

Friends gather from all around to visit each other for a new holiday tradition where everyone can enjoy the company of each other without hearing the usual conversations of politics and family drama. Everyone also contributes a dish for a massive Thanksgiving feast, which is typically celebrated before or after the actual holiday.

For many friends that do not see each other much outside of college, or want to catch up in their adult life, Friendsgiving unites them for one day out of the year. It stands to be a day that friends can forget all of the stress of college and careers and get together to eat.

In the spirit of giving, Friendsgiving is one of the most beloved holidays by millennials now. What can we credit to the success of the day other than the impeccable organization and collaboration though? Pinterest.

So for anyone wanting to host and make their Friendsgiving successful and jolly, here are the steps for a flawless day:

It starts with the turkey. Determine who is go-

ing to be responsible for the bird, and make sure it is a trustworthy friend who knows their way around an oven. This is the most important part of the meal for a majority of the population and requires the most patience.

The person cooking the turkey is typically the host as well, because that bird has to cook forever.

Second, get those sides dished out! Set up a group chat and add all of your friends so you can keep in contact about the event and progress on food. Give the group a list of dishes to choose from to ensure all of the necessary foods are covered.

Important note: do not let the slackers bring a cheese platter.

Next step, drinks! If you and your friends are all of age, make sure you get a complimentary wine with your dinner, or if you prefer something reminiscent of your childhood, opt for some sparkling juice.

When all of the important things are done and covered, you can move on to the location. The host’s house.

Find a banner or make your own banner that says, “FRIENDSGIVING.” This secures the legitness of the event.

For an added effect, decorate with pumpkins, leaves, namecards, turkey cutouts and a glorious centerpiece.

While guests enter, it is your job as the host to arrange all of the food in a nice, organized manner. People want easily accessible foods.

Last but not least, enjoy yourself! The event was made to spend time with your friends and let loose. Do not stress about the small things. No event can be perfect, and if you are among friends no one will even notice.

In the end, there really is only one more step to make sure your day is perfectly planned out: Pinterest. Gain more food inspiration or find out different ways to decorate, but make sure you are having fun while doing it.

## the Collegian

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## Arts Management

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