

**Music**  
**Top 10 Albums of 2014 (So Far)**  
 Page 6



**College Life**  
**New CHSS Study Abroad in Africa**  
 Page 9



**Artist Profile**  
**Houston's Hip Hop Culture**  
 Page 5

*"Keeping an eye for news"*

# DATELINE

# DOWNTOWN



THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON - DOWNTOWN  
 Sept. 8 - Sept. 21, 2014

[datelinedowntown.com](http://datelinedowntown.com)

STUDENT RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE VOLUME ONE

Volume 53 Issue 2

## U.S. Now Talking Tough Action Against ISIS



(Courtesy of Creative Commons / Flickr)

### International

by Ted Shull  
 Editor-In-Chief

Fierce debate over appropriate military action erupted in the U.S. following the brutal public execution of two American journalists in Syria since August 19th.

In early August, the Obama Administration began humanitarian "air drops" of food to refugees fleeing ISIS militants in northern Iraq, and limited airstrikes to protect the American Consulate in Erbil.

With the success of these early operations, the U.S. has escalated to offensive air operations in support of the Iraqi military and Kurdish

peshmerga forces battling the Islamic extremist group on the ground.

Americans were angered by the casual response evoked by the White House concerning ISIS last week, particularly after President Obama's admission last week that "we don't have a strategy yet."

Members of Congress of both sides of the aisle have advocated to go further by launching airstrikes against ISIS sanctuaries in Syria, even arming Syrian rebel groups who are also fighting the Islamic State.

While U.S. forces have been invited to aid

(continued on page 11)

### News

## University of Houston-Downtown celebrates 40 Year Anniversary



Academic Building (Dustee Torres / Dateline Downtown)

by GeRoyal Jackson  
 Staff Reporter

As thousands of new students flooded the University of Houston-Downtown campus for

classes this fall, few if any, had any idea of the great legacy of the university they had chosen.

The first four-year degree offered by the new university was a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, as early university programs focused on meeting the needs of Houston's diverse and dynamic workforce. At that time, tuition for resident students was only \$4 a credit hour.

In 1979, only five years after the founding, the 66th Texas Legislature established University of Houston-Downtown College as "a separate and distinct

(continued on page 3)

### Houston

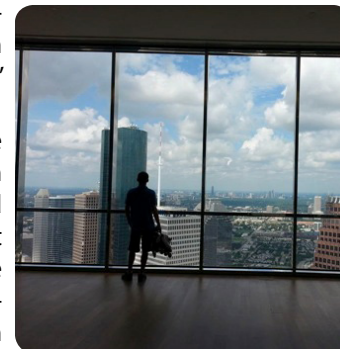
## Resurrection of Cougar Newspaper

by Jason Rivas  
 Staff Reporter

Welcome to the new world order of the newspaper business. For some time now, the newspaper industry has been reading its' last rites. Gone are the days when black and white print brought life to the headlines and in its place is

the birth of social media, where breaking news stories are delivered one tweet and/or Facebook post at a time.

The situation is even direr in student-run collegiate newspapers, where publications are less distributed because of the specific audience they cater to. Take The Daily Cougar,



(Jason Rivas / Dateline Downtown)

(continued on page 10)

### INSIDE THIS EDITON:

Opinion.....2	Arts/Entertainment.....7
News.....3	College Life.....8
Editorials.....4	CollegeLife.....9
Arts/Entertainment.....5	College Life.....10
Arts/Entertainment.....6	Arts/Entertainment.....11

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## National Opinion

# Getting Home: A Marine's Struggle



Mark Steven Caffey  
Staff Columnist

The sun slowly rises over the mountains near El Hongo prison. Andrew quietly sits in his cell, alone and depressed. While battling weight loss and the effects of war, he patiently waits for a miracle – intervention.

Andrew Tahmooressi has been imprisoned in Mexico since March 31st – over five months. He was detained by Mexican authorities for crossing into Mexico with loaded weapons.

The 26 year old Marine served two tours in Afghanistan, now in the Reserves. He recently moved to San Diego from Florida with all of his possessions, which included legal, purchased weapons, were in his vehicle when he crossed the border.

Tahmooressi began his initial treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in San Diego. After leaving the clinic, he drove to the border. Tahmooressi planned to stay the night in Mexico. After parking his vehicle, Tah-

mooressi walked across the border.

He checked into a hotel but soon felt unsafe there. With that unsecure feeling, Tahmooressi left the hotel and returned to the United States and back to his vehicle.

Tahmooressi started down the Interstate. He accidentally went south instead of north and arrived at a Mexican checkpoint. Tahmooressi informed the Mexican border patrol that he made a wrong turn, was lost and had registered weapons with him.

He was arrested and not permitted to turn around. Managing to make a 911 call, explaining his situation, but was told that nothing could be done - he was no longer on American soil.

Mexican prosecutors claim Tahmooressi crossed into Mexico with weapons on different occasions and was involved in selling weapons. I don't believe he was involved in weapons trafficking. It seems plausible that Tahmooressi made a wrong turn and ended up at the wrong place.

Crossing into Mexico with loaded weapons is a serious crime. Tahmooressi was first detained at La Mesa prison in Tijuana. Tahmooressi's mother, Jill Tahmooressi, claims that her son was stripped naked and chained to a bedpost - becoming so weak that he could not walk. She also claims that he had been shackled. If these atrocities are true, the United States government should intervene and take a hard line on getting Tahmooressi out of Mexico.

In contrast to Jill Tahmooressi's claims, the Mexican attorney general's office stated, "From the moment of his arrest, Mr. Tahmooressi's fundamental rights have been respected, including the rights to due process and personal integrity."

After attempting to escape twice from La Mesa prison, Tahmooressi was moved to El Hongo prison in Tecate. He now lives in private quarters, awaiting trial, allowed to visit with pastors and has extended phone privileges. Last month, he was allowed to see his mother in person.

Jill Tahmooressi has been extremely passionate and very active to get her son released. "A foreign prison is worse than any experience I had with him serving two tours in Afghanistan", she expressed. "He was willing to die for his country as a Marine. Where is his country now when he needs it the most?" She has been pressing the White House for action. "I would say please President Obama, escalate that level of urgency that you say you're asking Mexico to expedite, because one more day is one day too many."

Texas Rep Representative Ted Poe said, "It is ironic that this administration can deal with the Taliban to secure the release of a POW, but we will not do the same for a Marine imprisoned in Mexico. It is time for the White House to act."

For years, I have admired Ted Poe for his leadership and conservative values. But he must realize that Tahmooressi is not active military and he was not illegally abducted.

He was found on foreign soil with military grade weapons and ammunition. This act is prohibited by a Mexican statute. Mexico has a right to detain and try Tahmooressi for this crime. It would be optimal for out two governments to resolve this diplomatically but I don't see that happening. This incident will run its course through the Mexican legal system.

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Deliver submissions to room S-260, email them to [dateline.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:dateline.editor@yahoo.com) or fax them to (713) 223 7466. Letters to the editor may be edited for space. They will be edited for spelling, grammar and malicious or libelous statements. Submissions must be the work of the writer and must be signed. All submissions become property of Dateline Downtown and will not be returned.

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World

# ISIS Militants Become Global Menace

by Joshua Burgman  
Staff Reporter

The door opened for ISIS in Iraq when the US, in 2011 pulled the last of its combat troops from the country, leaving in its stead a coalition government lead by Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Al-Maliki, who is also a Shiite Muslim, made matters worse as he purged the coalition government of any Sunni and Kurdish politicians immediately upon the US's exit. By removing the remaining Sunni and Kurdish politicians left in his government, al-Maliki would once again incite the sectarian violence that led to the US's protracted stay in the country after the defeat of Sunni President Saddam Hussein. Along with the absence of the US in Iraq, ISIS benefited from the trouble that Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad faced as his country descended into civil war calling for his resignation. Because the al-Assad regime focused on maintaining a firm grip on some of its key cities, like Aleppo and Damascus, the focus on securing its borders



(Creative Commons / Flickr)

and other cities of strategic value were put on the back burner. ISIS seized upon this opportunity, and moved into Syria seemingly overnight.

Although ISIS maintains the façade of a religious group that accomplishes its goals through coercion and sheer brutality, there is a method to their madness; which is probably why the U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck. Hagel also claims that ISIS is "beyond just a terrorist group." What

we have seen from ISIS does go beyond brutality. Along with its cruel nature, ISIS has proven that they can be great community leaders, given the community they are leading conforms to their strict ideologies. In Sunni areas of Iraq and Syria, where support for ISIS is strong, the group has setup schools and free clinics, and have proven themselves to be a friend of the people. What has become really alarming is their popularity among Sunni youth, but the

leadership within ISIS has worked hard to establish an organization that has excellent recruitment skills. Those skills were put to the test as ISIS accepted all of the Sunni citizens and politicians that were being ostracized in Iraq after the departure of the US.

It's unknown what can be done to stop ISIS, although the US has relented and began assisting Iraqi ground troops with continued air strikes, ISIS continues to make its way across the

Middle East, although more cautiously, at an alarming speed. University of Houston- Downtown Professor Dan Pascious who teaches history believes that, "[ISIS] is a not too pleasant reminder of why there should be US intervention abroad," stating that, "if we aren't there, someone else will be."

In this case, that someone else is ISIS. Clearly ISIS is a group that will continue to be in the forefront of the news for some time to come. As we look on as concerned spectators from the US, it is important to remember the historical aspects of this crisis we see before us, and maybe it will help us to understand the position the world finds itself in today. ISIS will remain on the tail ends of history, creating new history every day. And while they may be "unlike anything we have ever seen," they are also exactly like what has been seen. History has a habit of repeating itself, and hopefully it will be history that helps the world to rid itself of the evil that we know as ISIS.

## 40th Anniversary (Cont. from page 1)

institution of higher education" under the University of Houston System. Two years later, the school cemented their university status by buying its first and last student dormitory, known as University Center, at 101 Main Street. The University Center would later be demolished in 1991 due to the deterioration of the building.

During this time, the school continued to progress alongside Houston's boom, by adding more degree programs, the school was able to get the Merchant and Manufacturers Building, declared a Texas and a national historic landmark, and tuition increased to \$12 a credit hour. By then it had become clear that the University of Houston Downtown College was more than just a "college". On April 26, 1983 "College" was subsequently dropped from the school's name, and it became the University of Houston-Downtown or UHD, we now know. Another great achievement of the 1980's was the beginning of the UHD Red Rose Ball, which became a signature fundraiser.

The 1990s saw UHD achieve the status of the third fastest growing university in Texas. The university underwent changes to become "a premiere metropolitan university [appealing] to traditional and non-traditional students and working professionals," according to the school's official

online history.

The school began partnering with various local community colleges such as Lone Star College to provide curriculum and credits to students further away.

Additionally, the school implemented the Weekend College Program for students who were also working professionals and opened the new Academic Building, the Willow Street Pump Station, the Commerce Building (home of the College of Public Service), and the Jesse H. Jones Student Life Center.

By the end of 1990s, UHD earned full approval from the Texas Legislature and the Texas Education Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer graduate degree programs.

In the 2000s, UHD has continued to grow in physically, by enrollment numbers and in advancements in higher education. Today, University of Houston-Downtown educates nearly 13,000 students annually and claims over 30,000 alumni.

On UH-D's historic 40th Anniversary, Sociology major and senior, Christal Eve Sublett, had this to say:

"I'm excited about the university's 40th anniversary. The fact that the University has been an educational

cornerstone of Houston is definitely worth celebrating. As a scholar of UHD, I feel honored to be a part of this Houston legacy."



Shea Building (Dustee Torres/Dateline Downtown)

# Midterm Elections Overshadowed by 2016 Presidential Prizefight

by GeRoyal Jackson  
Staff Reporter

If you are like most college students, myself included, the term, "Midterm Elections" probably does not hold a lot of meaning to you.

In fact, for a majority Americans, the National Midterm Elections are just the boring elections sandwiched between the Presidential Prizefight every four years. This is a trend in American politics the even precedes the Civil War, dating back to the 1840s. According to the Pew Research Center, voter participation in the last Midterm Election in 2010 was down to 37% from

the watermark high of 57% in the 2008 Presidential Elections.

Which basically means that come Election Day this November, most of us will be doing anything other than voting. However, contrary to popular sentiment, the Midterm Elections are important. The critical question in this year's Midterms is whether the Democrats can hold on to the Senate, or if the Republicans will overturn the Senate, and complete an all Republican led Congress.

The stakes are high, if Democrats retain the Senate they may be able to assist the President in his agenda as well as Presidential appointments and continue the battle with

the House of Representatives to pass substantive legislation, or basically keep the status quo.

However, if the Republican are able to control both the House of Representatives and the Senate, it is likely they will begin passing a lot of legislation that obstructs the Presidential agenda for the remainder of his term and advances Republican priorities.

Several major national issues of the next couple years will hinge on the outcome of the Midterm Elections such as judicial appointments, Immigration Reform, Healthcare Implementation, the Deficit, Entitlement spending, Supreme

Court nominees and much more.

Current projections from Real Clear Politics predict the Republicans with an early advantage in Senate seats, with a Kansas Senate race already leaning Republican and 9 other seats that are still a toss-up. Here in Texas all 36 Congressional Districts are up for grabs, as well as an election for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Republican John Cornyn and of course, the Texas Governor's race.

If any of these issues matter to you, then get involved. You can find your congressman at [house.gov](http://house.gov), by typing in your zip code. Find out

the issues by reviewing candidates and determining if they share your values and if they are really committed to making a difference. And most importantly, VOTE!

Regardless of your political stance or lack thereof, our right to vote is our right to voice our concerns in the Democratic process. Don't take your voice and your right for granted during the Midterms this year, because your vote could be the difference in a country where you're disappointed in our leadership or proud of the direction our country is headed.

## College Fashion: Styling on a Budget

by Ashley Donamaria  
Staff Writer

As college students, we try to learn how to manage our money well. Whether saving up for certain items or trips, a lot of students seem to put a great deal of effort into their style. While college is not cheap nor is fashion, budgeting is a big factor.

Simran Singh, a Biological and Physical Sciences major, says there are many ways she goes about finding affordable stylish trends for the fall semester. "I love shopping with coupons, it's like printable money" Singh states.

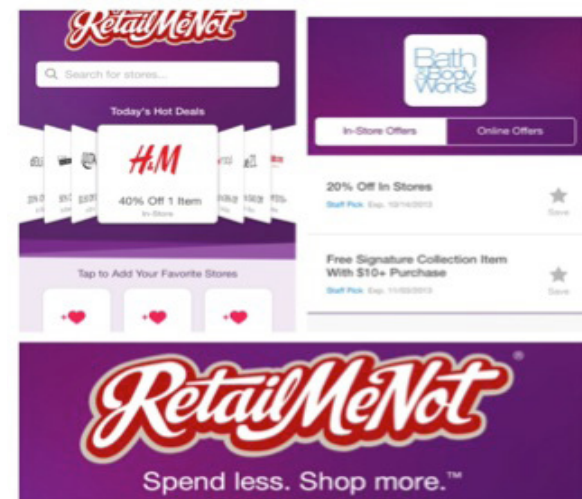
"When I stand in line, I Google coupons for whichever store I am currently in. Ways that I can find to save money makes the purchase a whole lot more satisfying at the end of the day. Websites like Retail Me Not and subscribing to store emails offer exclusive deals that help me save as well."

Sabih Rehman, a junior, likes waiting for holidays where shopping savings are greater than usual. "I like waiting for certain sales, like Labor Day and Black Friday" Rehman says. "On those days, I am at least guaranteed a good sale or a certain percent off good items; this is where I take advantage of

most of my shopping. Online sales usually offer free shipping along with great deals. The comfort of shopping from the comfort of home and avoiding long lines is very appealing to me."

Another way to go about saving and do not mind taking the second-hand clothing route is thrift stores. Stores like Buffalo Exchange and Plato's Closet offer the "Buy, Sell, Trade" option.

Regardless of your needs, thrift stores can make fashion affordable for any college student.



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# Rap Is The Music, Hip-Hop Is Our Culture



Artist Johnny Davis (Jason Rivas / Dateline Downtown)



by Jason Rivas  
Staff Reporter

What is Houston's hip hop culture? Is it a hoedown hootenanny at a country bar full of hopped up cowboys, dancing skirts, and hipster mechanical bulls?

No, Johnny Davis believes local hip hop is an expression of one's own vision and thoughts of Houston, and wants to help cultivate its growth, one panel at a time.

Johnny is an independent artist who believes an emcee's message can be further developed through comics. I sat down with Johnny to ask about his thoughts and projects with Houston's urban scene.

- Dateline Downtown: Thank you for your time Johnny. First question, what are your thoughts on the current state of Houston's hip hop scene?
- Johnny: I think it's becoming more relevant now as more attention comes to Houston, most recently thanks to Drake and his Houston

Appreciation Weekend (HAW). The underground and mainstream scenes are flowing steady, and the two competing radio stations are trying to appeal more to the scene.

- DD: Are you developing any projects to help promote the scene?
- Johnny: I'm creating a fictional comic book called Hip Hop Avengers, about five local artists coming and working together against Kanye West, an egotistical villain who's out to make riches off Houston's scene and artists, dead or alive, while taking all their credit.
- DD: Have you reached out and/or worked with any local emcees?
- Johnny: I have met a couple of them and the other ones that I am just fans of. One of who, Beat King, I helped design the cover of his most recent mixtape, Beat King- Club God 3, which was featured on Vibe.com.
- DD: If the "spotlight" fell on Houston,

do you think the local emcees can shine under it?

- Johnny: All of them actually like Uzoy Like the Gun and Fat Tony, who has already been developing himself some buzz. Fullmetal FDot, who talks about playing video games, walking around Bissonnet, etc., as well as Lyric Michelle, and Beat King are all rising artists who stay true to themselves and who can shine in the spotlight. Some people are skeptical when it comes to new artists, especially if they are not acknowledge on a major broadcast format. That's why I put them in this comic, which is free when finished.
  - DD: If a beat drops and no one hears it, does it make a sound?
  - Johnny: What... Who drop the beat...? Depends on who drop the beat, that's the question...? Inception.
- Find more illustrations on Facebook at "Drawings by Johnny Davis/TheArtist."



## Latest Sin City Still Has Some Life

by Mohammed Zain  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Nine years just might be long enough for a graphic novel-gone-film fanbase to stop caring for another entry in a series, but "Sin City: A Dame To Kill For" invites you to drown in its sex-drugs-booze-n'-gore added

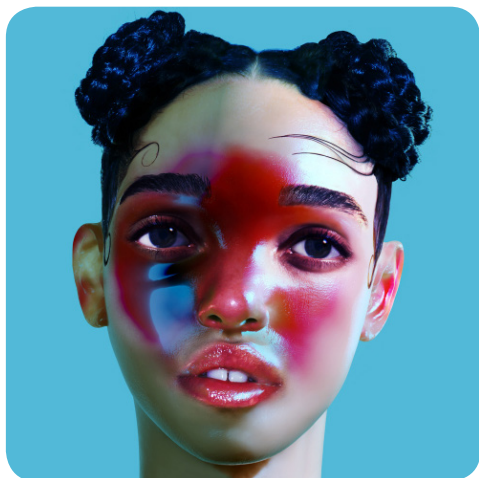
nightmare, provided that's your singular, exclusive craving.

With a reduced list of storytelling accomplishments and artistic finesse, "A Dame to Kill For" arrives posing as yet another passion project under Texas director/grind-house junkie Robert Rodriguez's belt, however fails to land near its predeces-

(continued on page 7)

# Top 10 Albums of 2014 (So Far)

by Mohammed Zain  
Arts & Entertainment Editor



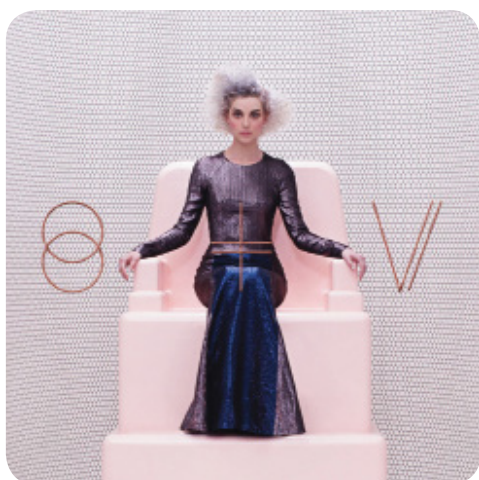
## 1. FKA Twigs - LP1

This year's music prodigy comes from the experimental R&B world with the much-hyped debut album delivering a lush, twisted soundscape darker and sexier than Beyoncé or The Weeknd's wildest dreams.



## 2. White Suns - Totem

A profoundly electrifying noise rock project yielding some nightmarish, almost feverish tracks suitable for the most rigid, masochistic music tastes; a bizarre contender for the year's best album, I'm aware.



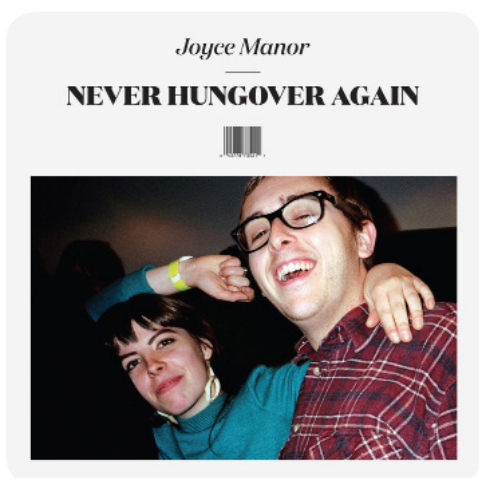
## 3. St. Vincent - s/t

Some people go to church, I listen to St. Vincent records. Art rock goddess Annie Clark returns with her 4th solo LP, taking cues from David Byrne, delivering yet another ingenious concept album fitting snug in an otherwise impeccable discography.



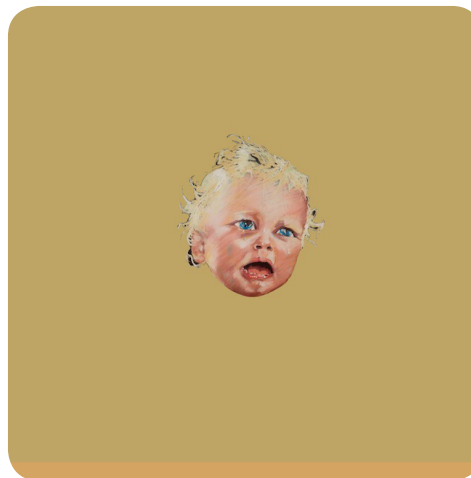
## 4. Mica Levi - Under the Skin

I'm calling this the best film score of the decade so far. Front-women of Micachu and the Shapes takes charge behind this art-house thriller and makes it a psychologically menacing auditory trip.



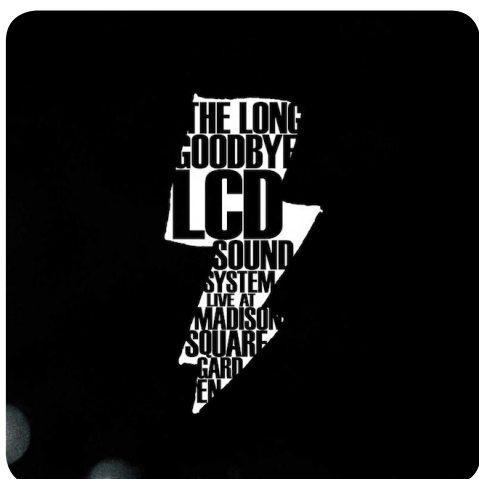
## 5. Joyce Manor - Never Hungover Again

If there's a bone in your body that yearns for 90's indie rock/punk, Joyce Manor can offer your childhood back under its 20 minutes runtime; it'll be the most fun you'll have this year.



## 6. Swans - To Be Kind

For many brooding rock snobs, Swans created a masterpiece record this year. For everyone else, "To Be Kind" is a deeply rewarding, subversive challenge for those bored with the all-too-familiar.



## 7. LCD Soundsystem - The Long Goodbye

A tremendous send-off live album for one of the most original artists of this generation. This stands both as a perfect starting or ending point to get into James Murphy's dance-punk legacy.



## 8. Tobacco - Ultima II Massage

Imagine if experimental hip-hop group Death Grips did their rendition of the 80's synth pop Drive soundtrack, directed by David Lynch.



## 9. Rodrigo Amarante - Cavalo

Lost in obscurity, "Cavalo" is a gem of a singer-songwriter record. Singing in four languages, Amarante proves himself in spades as one of the most heart-melting voices and dynamic instrumentalists of the year.



## 10. A Silver Mt. Zion - Get Free We Pour Light on Everything

From the Godspeed You! Black Emperor family of side projects comes this year's most emotionally potent post-rock album. A must listen for fans of the genre.



-sors tightly woven and dynamic film noir structure.

Sin City's investment in telling twisted, near iconic short stories through a fresh perspective gave it the power to transcend a niche genre and appeal to masses. While the obsessively stylized, gritty fetishization of vice in "A Dame To Kill For" is as rampant and intoxicating as before, the borderline campy sequel quickly reveals to be devoid of any screenwriting bite; leaving only diehard fans and pulp fiction cravers in its rightful audience.

We're far from boundary-pushing film-making here, but enough tried and true moments of bloody, righteous revenge are produced so the entire ride never feels like an entire waste. Thankfully much of the film keeps its gaze on the perfectly casted Eva Green and Joseph Gordon-Levitt who exude effortless performances that chew up the scenery as trademark femme fatale and city slicker characters, respectively. The film's ambitions are set considerably lower, yielding for less room to be disappointed. This falls under Rodriguez's latest streak of directorial laziness to opt the B-movie route; falling back on visual frills and primal thrills

while ignoring challenging opportunities to develop richer thematic moments.

It's painless to get lost in the breezy, expert pacing of "A Dame To Kill For". At a point, the core action-drama washes over as easily as an AMC mini-series: haplessly episodic and mildly impressive. Through the strained directing and some uneven ensemble performances (Jessica Alba and Mickey Rourke are painfully lackluster), the thick of "A Dame To Kill For" ultimately stands as a slightly-at-par fodder of Tarantino/Rodriguez legacy. It's a shame "A Dame To Kill For" didn't grab us while Sin City stayed fresh in our minds.

Rating: 3/5 Stars



## Farewell to Soto Summer



by Mohammed Zain  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Let's be honest today, art is dead for new generations.

If you drew direct comparisons of what the physical art medium meant to us as a species in past centuries (20th included) compared to our current post-modern intellectual viewpoints, many would guffaw at modern art and actively do. It's hard not to Snapchat friends with snarky, ironic retorts at sexually charged paintings, bizarre multi-media sculptures or just a white balloon in a box (an actual Museum of Fine Arts Houston artifact). Modern art has been wholly dismissed by mainstream culture, leaving niche audiences to relish seemingly outlandish trends in an otherwise deeply invested scene.

It's a breath of fresh air to see warmth and sincerity in conversations about Soto: The Houston Penetrable, the magnum opus of contemporary art legend Jesús Rafael Soto. The iconic, larger-than-life interactive piece consists

of 24,000 PVC painted tubes, creating a euphoric, sensory experience of traversing an intimate yet vast landscape. Taking Houston by storm, Soto went unsurprisingly viral: with its eye-catching aesthetic, dreamy color scheme and unprecedented viewpoints. Attracting crowds of many demographics and age groups, Soto found itself as a cultivated hot-spot of Houston's latest artistic achievements; leading an almost celebratory attitude for the city and, like the two-story long tubes, the sprawling range of our culture.

It's a 21st century rarity that contemporary art still holds potency to bring a modern city's denizens together in celebration to cherish the nuanced textures in life. This past summer in Houston truly deserved the title "#sotosummer".



(Photos by Mohammed Zain)

## NFL Preseason Review



By Sean Syed  
Staff Writer

NFL.com confirmed that Commissioner Goodell handed his go-to wide out a one-year suspension for smoking a joint while he gives a division rival in Ray Rice a two game suspension for domestic violence.

Another controversy in the league right now amongst spectators and speculators in the media is the fact the St. Louis Rams were the first team to draft

and cut an openly gay player in Michael Sam. There must be two sides on why he got cut, we will make sure to report it in the next issue.

Lastly, the case with Houston trading a sixth draft pick to the Patriots for Ryan Mallet and cutting hometown hero, Case Keenum, in the process. The news is pretty heartbreaking for UH students, faculty, alumni and many Texans fans that supported the young gunslinger.

# UHD Dining's Labor Chronicles

by Sierra Lawson  
Contributing Writer

Happy Labor Day weekend. A day off to celebrate the end of summer is always a nice treat, the long weekend gives us the time we need to really get ourselves prepared for the upcoming semester. But, how many of you actually know why we celebrate Labor Day?

The Labor Day holiday was created out of the labor movement in the late 19th century. During this time, average Americans worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks in order to meet a basic living. Because of these long hours, unsafe and unsanitary working conditions, and poor treatment by management,

labor unions organized and workers began holding strikes and protest rallies. We have come a long way, have we not?

The purpose of our soon to come series of articles is to let you fellow students, professors, and staff know that we too, are just like you. I'm a current employee through University of Houston-Downtown dining and I want to take this opportunity to let you guys know that we are not just human-like dispensers of products you need to get you through the day. We enjoy our jobs in serving you guys, but although we do indeed serve you, we are not your servants.

Our goal is not to bash anyone, as we understand not every day will be sunshine, lollipops, and rainbows. But I feel if we provide some background information and fun facts about a lot of the staff; perhaps you will take some time to realize that we indeed are human too and go through a lot of the same worries, goals, and life experiences as most of you.

We take pride in establishing connections and building relationships with our customers and by treating each other equally, it can enable your college experience and makes our jobs much easier.



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## Resurrection (Cont. from page 1)

the pride and joy of the University of Houston since 1928. The paper announced last week that it will no longer publish a daily periodical and revert to a once-a-week publication, renamed the Cougar. Times have not been kind since their heyday.

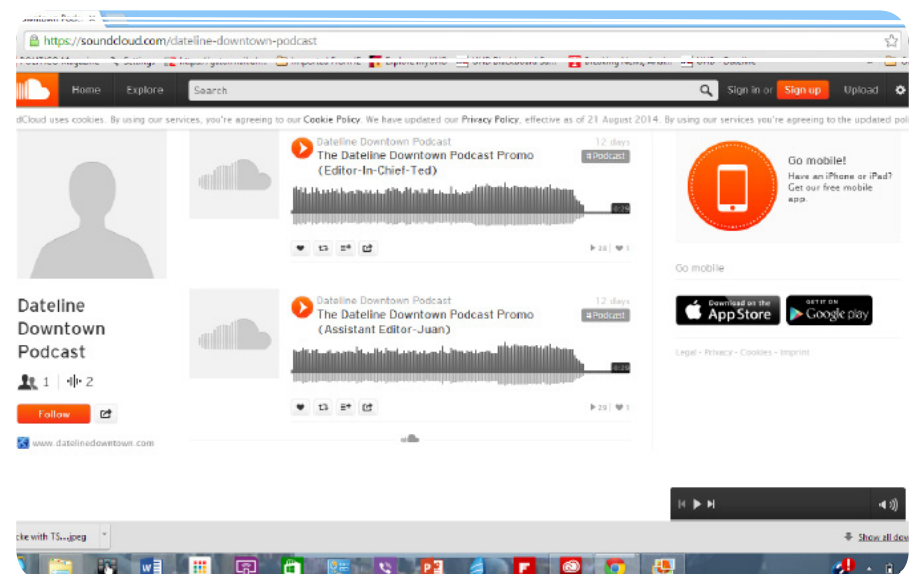
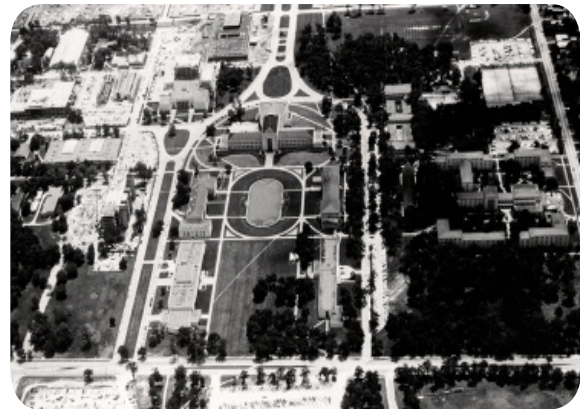
The Houston Chronicle recently did a story about the Cougar's change in which they received enlightenment of the situation from two sources: Matt Dulin, UH Director of the Center for Student Media, and Editor-in-chief Cara Smith.

Mr. Dulin informed the chronicle of the financial plight the Cougar faced with depleting ad revenue since its height in 2007. The ad revenue covered such costs as printing the paper. The stipends for the students dedicated to publishing The Cougar is currently covered by the \$40,000 taken from yearly student fees. Dulin believes that the demise of a

daily paper will benefit the online distribution of the paper, as UH's students continually receive news from various online websites.

Ms. Smith wrote in a letter recently that "The Cougar is alive and well, albeit in some new packaging, but the one thing that will continue to remain for our 86th year as UH's premier student paper is our relentless passion for this University and its students, faculty and alumni," She then assured readers that a physical copy will be made available every Wednesday, with specific stories intended to illicit critical thinking while daily updates and stories will be featured online at the [thedailycougar.com](http://thedailycougar.com).

As for the question of the future of collegiate papers, "the answer is blowin' in the wind." Online is the key to the resurrection of the student-run papers of yonder, for the burgeoning minds of tomorrow.



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(Chelsea Conaway / Dateline Downtown)

by Chelsea Conaway  
Staff Writer

While most University of Houston-Downtown students were getting ready for Fall classes to begin, 11 Gators embarked on the adventure of a lifetime to UHD's newest study abroad destination: Ghana, West Africa.

The trip was the latter half of two courses that took place during the Summer III semester. The first was African American Psychology, which was taught by Dr. DeFreitas, professor in the Department of Psychology, and the second was Studies in Fiction, taught by Dr. Robertson, professor in the Department of English. Students spent two weeks in Ghana during which time they had the opportunity to immerse themselves in Ghanaian culture and history.

"UHD has had limited experience with study abroad trips to Africa. More pronounced, the CHSS has never sent students to study in Africa. There-

fore, I believed that it was very important that we create an opportunity for students to visit and study various African cultures since it holds such a significance in the American consciousness and to many UHD students particularly," said Dr. Robertson.

Prior to embarking on their journey to Africa, students spent two weeks studying Ghanaian culture and history in the two courses taught in conjunction with the trip. Their time in Ghana offered them the ability to expand their knowledge and learn about Ghanaian culture in a way that would not have been possible in the classroom.

"There is an aspect of learning that makes it real. The cool thing was that it made history real for me. There are life lessons that I will carry with me through my UHD journey and beyond," said Amanda Trinity, a UHD sophomore and Fine Arts major who took part in the trip. "The study abroad program provides a hands on experience and a

bonding with your fellow classmates that you will not get in the classroom."

Dr. DeFreitas believes that the trip to Ghana provided students with experiences that will have a lasting impact on the way they view themselves and the world around them. "[Students] were able to compare their own culture to the Ghanaian culture.

This allowed them to see that many of the stereotypes that they had of African cultures were actually not valid. It also allowed them to see that there are actually some similarities. It makes the world a little smaller.

Also, students challenged themselves to go outside of their comfort zones. Many students are now interested in travelling to Africa again and plan to do work that impacts the community in a positive way.

Finally, students were able to connect to each other and UHD in a profound way so that they will always have great memories of this trip and

how it has changed their perspective on people, what poverty is, and culture," she said.

For many students who went on this journey, getting from the first interest meeting to setting foot on African soil was a long and stressful process. However, this should not deter students from participating in future study abroad opportunities.

"I would always encourage students to participate in study abroad. It is an excellent opportunity to learn and grow. I believe many students hold back because of their fear of the cost and of the unknown. It can be a life changing experience and is worth the effort," said Dr. DeFreitas.

UHD's Summer 2014 trip to Ghana was an unforgettable and life-changing experience for all involved. Students will have the opportunity to take part in this memorable experience during UHD's next trip to Ghana in Summer 2015.

## New Hope Yields for Texans this Season



by Mark Steven Caffey  
Sports Columnist

It's been a hell of a ride for Houston Texans fans.

For several seasons, we have been on a roller coaster of emotion. Our Pro Bowl MVP quarterback turned into a pick-six disappointment. Linebacker Brian Cushing has been sidelined with injuries. Running back Arian Foster injured his back last year.

In one year, we went from 12-4 to 2-24. The worst team in the NFL.

Not to worry Texans fans. Lady Hope is

alive and well in Houston. In the off season, we hired a new head coach, obtained linebacker Jadeveon Clowney and most importantly made a big league deal with defensive end J.J. Watt.

Recently, Watt agreed to a six year, \$100 million dollar contract. He is the highest paid non-quarterback in the NFL. And he is worth every penny.

The 25 year old was taken by the Texans 11th overall in the 2011 draft. For two seasons, Watt has been a force for the Texans. He has 41.5 career sacks in both the regular and post seasons. He has become a leader and catalyst for his team.

Watt is an athlete - a monster on the field. His presence alone gives the Texans a distinct advantage. His teammates feed off his energy and perform above and beyond their capabilities. Native to Wisconsin, Watt was born in Waukesha and grew up in Pewaukee. His life in the Midwest focused on family values, hard work and respect. He grew up playing football, baseball and basketball. He finished his college football career as a Badger at the University of Wisconsin.

Like many professional athletes, Watt is very active in the community. He founded the Justin J. Watt Foundation which provides support to after-school athletic programs in both Texas and

Wisconsin.

In April 2013, Watt held the J.J. Watt Charity Softball Classic. It rose over \$300 thousand dollars for after-school programs supporting athletics for children.

He's appreciative to his fans, always willing to give an autograph or a hug; constantly looking to give words of encouragement.

Watt is a viable role model for the young and old alike. He is a well-mannered, hardworking and charitable man. It is refreshing to see a genuine, all-American, Midwestern kid become a lasting symbol of the Texans and the NFL. Watt is a player to look up to and admire. His example, both on and off the field, helps us believe in ourselves and strive to be better people.

As far as the 2014 season goes, we have hope. New coaches occupy the sideline. Clowney is ready to join the SWAT team. Cushing and Foster are both healthy and ready to go.

# International Business Association Profile



IBA Treasurer Jennifer Hernandez (Jennifer Hernandez)

by Jason Rivas  
Staff Reporter

Last year, the “Wolf of Wall Street” painted certain aspects of the business world run by morally bankrupt men chasing fast cash, ripping off suckers, engaging in vices and exotic pleasures, all while evading authorities.

Jennifer Hernandez would like to inform the readers that there is a difference between Hollywood and the real business world. She is an officer for International Business Association (IBA), while pursuing her Bachelor’s in International Business.

• Dateline Downtown: Thank you for your time Jennifer. What is IBA and their ideology?

• Jennifer: IBA is an association that offers educational field trips to various local businesses, as well as guest speakers to meet and talk to our members about their stories and successes. They range from business and community leaders, public officials, etc. IBA also encourages inter-cultural relations among students who may benefit from interaction with the various students within the University of Houston-Downtown.

• DD: Why did you join IBA?

• Jennifer: I felt like I needed to be involved in something at school and it so happened that my friend Jenna (current

IBA Treasurer) was a part of IBA and encouraged me to join.

• DD: What is your role at IBA?

• Jennifer I am in charge of fundraising for the activities of our organization.

• DD: And what are some of the activities that members participate in?

• Jennifer: Last semester, we had various field trips to businesses such as St. Arnold Brewing Co and Farouk Systems Inc. We also participated in charity events like Peelin’ For Peepers, which benefited the local chapter of the Foundation Fighting Blindness.

• DD: Did you find IBA helpful towards any of your classes while pursuing your major?

• Jennifer: It has given me a better perspective and understanding of how my classes can be applied towards my career path.

• DD: Any final thoughts to share?

• Jennifer: IBA welcomes all students, regardless of major, to join and take part in our network of friends and classmates and share in our growth at UHD.

• DD: Do you know Leonardo DiCaprio, and could you get his autograph for me?

• Jennifer: If I knew Leo, I would snatch it up and keep that autograph!

## First Annual White House Internship Interest Meeting

by Joshua Burgman  
Staff Reporter

What started out as one student from the University of Houston- Downtown applying and being accepted into the most competitive internship program in the country, has turned into a movement that aims to gain support from the universities administration for future students to have the same opportunity as the first.

UHD student and White House intern, Tarah Taylor, began her journey to the White House being motivated by a friend who believed she had the potential and qualifications to work for the nation’s busiest home and office.

“I didn’t believe I could do it,” Taylor said, “but when I applied I put my whole heart into it.”

After being accepted and getting over the initial excitement of becoming a White House intern, Taylor began to realize that the cost of being an intern was more than she had expected. White House interns are not paid, and they are expected to be re-

sponsible for all cost associated with being an intern and living in Washington D.C. without any type of public fund raising.

Because of this, and also because of the cost associated with being a full-time student at UHD, Taylor has pledged to gain support from the school administration for future students who also wish to serve the nation at the White House. “It won’t work if the school doesn’t get behind the students and support them,” Taylor declared.

Following through on her promise Taylor flew back from D.C. and held what she hopes to be the first annual meeting of former White House interns, as well as those hoping to become interns at the White House. During the first meeting held on August 20, 2014, Taylor’s presentation outlined what it would take for students to apply and be accepted into the internship. During the presentation Taylor also explained, for future interns, what it would be like to live and work in the nation’s capital.

The students at UHD are very lucky to have someone with



Miss. Taylor’s experiences and vast knowledge, which is also willing to come back and give back to the student body. Before closing her presentation Taylor issued a caveat to the students who have plans to apply for that internship.

“It was the hardest thing I’ve ever done in my life,” Taylor said of the internship, “so be prepared to work long hours without pay, but to also [reap the benefits] of working in the White House.”

# Five Must-See Fall Films

by Mohammed Zain  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

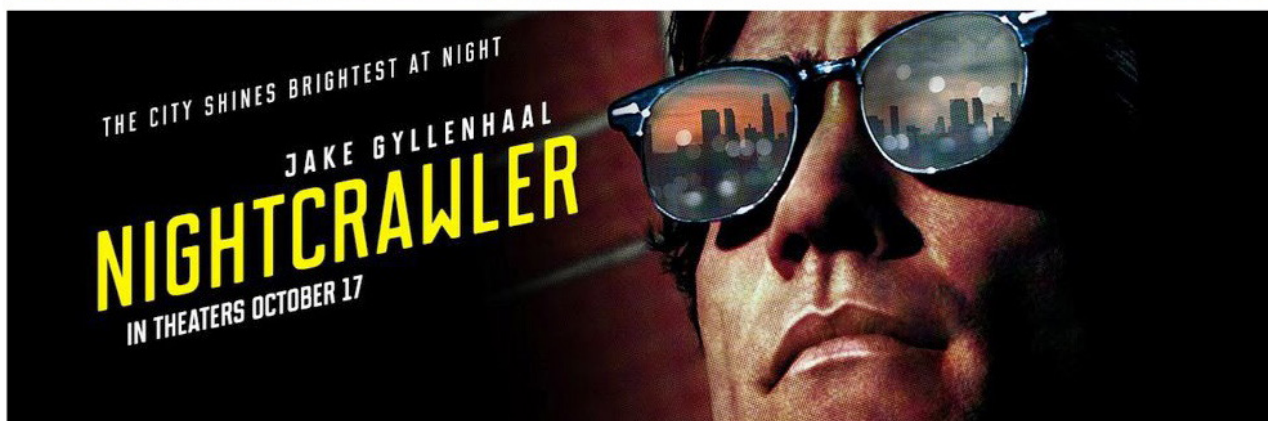
## Gone Girl (Oct. 3)

The latest transgressive adaptation from critically acclaimed director David Fincher (*Fight Club*, *Social Network*) adapting yet another one of the boldest thriller novels in recent years, starring Ben Affleck.



## Nightcrawler (Oct. 17)

Mistake it not for the comic book character, Jake Gyllenhaal's latest hard-boiled manic thriller comes for the likes of subversive action films: *Drive*, *American Psycho*, *L.A. Confidential*. >



## Interstellar (Nov. 7)

Departing from his regular genres, director Christopher Nolan returns with a highly ambitious, yet humanistic drama set in Texas and space, all the while channelling Terrence Malick.



## Whiplash (Oct. 10)

Starring Miles Teller (*The Spectacular Now*) and J.K. Simmons (*Spider-Man*), watch one of the year's tensest films unfold as a jazz drummer student and teacher go head to head in this psychological thriller.

< Playing the role of a desperate, borderline psychotic journalist hungry for work, Gyllenhaal drowns in the nocturnal dangers of the Los Angeles crime scene.

## Foxcatcher (Nov. 14)

Based on a true story about Olympic wrestling, Channing Tatum and Steve Carell star in highly anticipated career-changing dramatic performances already yielding Oscar buzz.



# America on ISIS (Cont. from page 1)

Iraqi Forces, who were mostly trained and equipped by the American military, President Obama proceeded more carefully in regards to direct Syrian intervention.

The old adage of "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" has much broader implications with Syria. The U.S. doesn't want to be seen supporting the despotic regime of Bashar-al-Assad: one of the primary players in the ISIS fight within Syria. While the CIA acknowledges supplying the Free Syrian Army (a group fighting both ISIS and the Assad Regime), it has avoided more moderate rebel groups which could be influenced by Assad by implementing a rigorous vetting process for receiving U.S. supplied munitions.

While many foreign policy experts agree that ISIS poses a formidable challenge, they also believe its defeat is not impossible. "Eliminating ISIS would demand a greatly expanded and continuous strategic campaign from the Obama administration, though it could be achieved with minimal numbers of U.S. combat troops" according to

intelligence officials. Obama's initial cautious approach could prove very useful, as it seeks to build a strong international coalition, similar to George H.W. Bush's strategy following Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait.

This cautious, deliberate approach may be the key to success against ISIS, despite those who would prefer swift and decisive presidential action, and Obama has stepped up his commitment to the cause. The President took a more aggressive tone at a news conference in Wales today saying "We are going to degrade and ultimately defeat ISIL, in the same way we went after Al Qaeda."



## The Most Innovative Comic You Aren't Reading

by Mohammed Zain  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Like the cracked logic of a dream from a heartbroken genius who watches too many art-house films for their own good, Ales Kot's *Zero* has a nuanced specificity and resonance to it.

Published by Image Comics, *Zero* tracks the sprawling effects of militant spies on a psychological, emotional and political scope. It keeps an unsettling potency as it reflects on harrowing truths of post-modern industrial complexes, potentially posing as larger soliloquies for Middle Eastern conflicts.

Not unlike hard-boiled spy novels, Kot's dialogue writing keeps a razor-sharp rhythm. By embedding every gesture and word with

deep value, Kot immediately distinguishes himself as one of the most economical, yet formidable writers in his medium.

Featuring a new artist almost every issue, *Zero* captures the rarefied feeling of constant evolution with changing art styles in the same comic book series; featuring some of the most eye-catching cover art to be found on Image.

Often gritty, heartless in sentiment and gruesomely violent, *Zero* comes not for the faint of heart, but for audiences just as tired of a lack of honesty and forwardness towards crucial subjects. Following suit under films like *The Bourne Ultimatum* and *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, *Zero* is destined to join the canon for the modern spy genre.

Currently on Issue #10.

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