

DATELINE

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Is the Gator statue by METRORail line actually a crocodile?

BY MONICA GOMEZ

The mascot that embodies UHD spirit is an alligator or Gator. We have Gator statues throughout our campus, such as the one on the South Deck, the one on the southside of the Shea Street Building, and northside of the Science & Technology Building.

Many people have been speculating that the statue by the South Deck is not an alligator but a crocodile. Even though both species are similar, shape of features distinguish the two.

Alligators have shorter and rounder snouts while crocodiles have longer and tapered snouts.

Gators and crocodiles also have distinct sets of teeth. When their jaws are closed, alligators always show their top teeth, whereas

crocodiles show their bottom teeth. The Gator on the South Deck has a long pointed nose compared to the other Gators around campus. The top teeth do appear larger even though the mouth is open.

While discussing the Gator statues with UHD students, the debate of the appearance of the Gators tends to differ.

A current student, Mia Norfleet, said it is hard to determine which is which from a lay person's perspective.

"However, if my years of watching and reading National Geographic have prepared me for anything it's this," Norfleet said.

"I think the [statue] on the side of the OMB is an alligator because it has a narrower mouth. The [statue] in front of the business building is a crocodile because the mouth

is flatter and wider."

Another current student, Yumn Khan, said the tails look different.

"The positions make them appear different," Khan said.

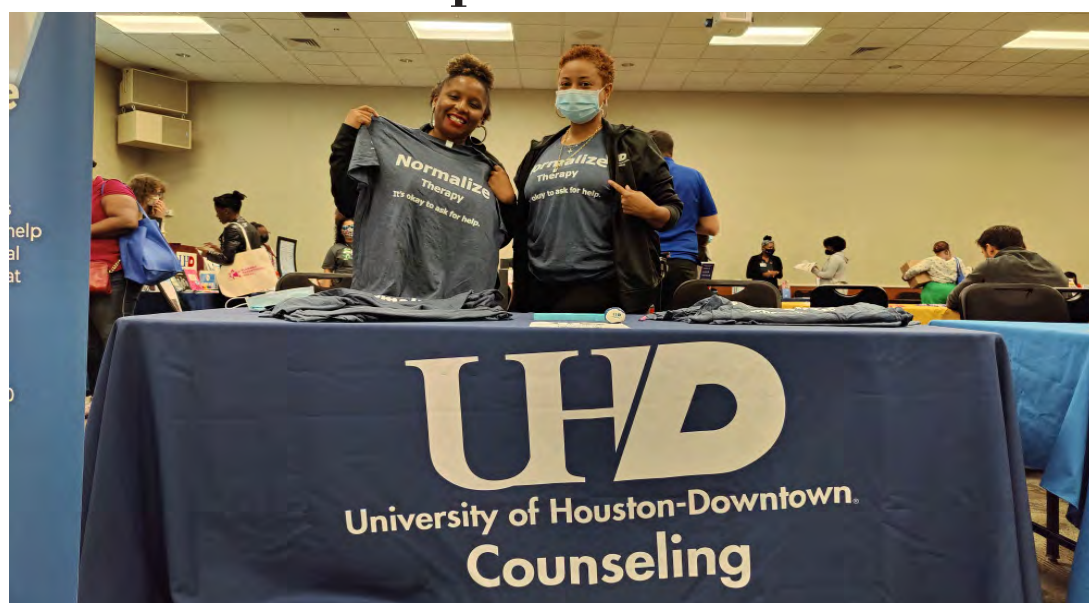
With the different opinions, it is hard to conclude if the statue on the South Deck is really an alligator. There is not a clear distinction of it being an alligator compared to the other statues.

Our current administration does not have the authority as of now to review or process the standing of the statues. They were made under the former administration, so it is hard to conclude the final say of this debate.



The Gator statue by the METRORail depicts an impostor not an alligator. Credit: Edward Saenz

UHD Health Fair provides information and resources for Gators



Hope Pamplin (left) and Tamera Davis (right) at the fair to provide information UHD Student Counseling Services. Credit: Diana Ambrosio

BY DIANA AMBROSIO

UHD held a health fair for students, faculty, and staff on Nov. 17. At this event held every semester, various organizations tabled to provide information and resources.

UHD Sports and Fitness, the Wellness Committee, and Houston Food Bank sponsored the health fair.

This event is meant to educate the university community on health issues and promotes healthier living by informing on health and wellness services.

Many of the organizations provided informational material for students to collect as needed. There was information material discussing mental health services, physical health services, and other services.

Organizers emphasized on providing students with as much information as possible. The organizations that tabled included both on campus and off campus resources.

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Credit: E.S.

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FIND US ONLINE!

UHD Police hosts Thanksgiving food drive to help families in need

BY ANITA GOOLCHARAN

The holidays are a special time of year. Meal planning, travel planning, and shopping fill our schedules as the holiday season approaches.

Thanksgiving symbolizes a time where people gather with loved ones to enjoy a delicious meal and reflect our gratitude. However, for some of the Houston community, it can be a struggle to have food on the table.

During the Christmas season, some families may not have the ability or funds to celebrate the occasion.

UHD Police Department recognized the hardships families may face during the holidays as they decided to start an initiative known as the Adopt a Family program. The program began in 2016. Lieutenant Trinity Delafance started the initiative when he was a sergeant. UHDPD pooled funds to sponsor a Thanksgiving meal from Luby's for a family in need.

The family was found with the assistance of a local radio station. A single mother and her six young children were able to have a memorable Thanksgiving because of this initiative. Since then,

the program has been held annually to help families in need.

The program has transitioned from donating hot meals to giving groceries. In doing so, the program can have more impact as more families can be fed with the funds and donations available. The Adopt a Family program accepted food donations beginning early November through Nov. 22.

This year the initiative helped seven families have Thanksgiving dinner and raised roughly \$400. Delafance aims to inspire the community through UHDPDs' food drive.

"We don't just serve and protect, we give too," Delafance said.

UHDPD continues their efforts through the Christmas season with the Holiday Toy Drive. They are accepting unwrapped toys for elementary age children and gift cards for restaurants that can be used for lunch by middle and high school students.

The toys and other donations will be dispersed to Houston ISD schools. The deadline for donations is Dec. 20. Volunteers are always welcome on distribution days and to help wrap the presents.



Lieutenant Trinity Delafance shows off funds collected for the Thanksgiving drive. Credit: Anita Goolcharan.

Steps to avoid seasonal affective disorder during winter days



Credit: Nichole Dukett

BY ANITA GOOLCHARAN

Halloween, Diwali, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa are all packed into the last few months of the year. These holidays mark the beginning of fall and transition to winter. While most people look forward to joyous occasions, for some, this time of year brings

up seasonal depression. Seasonal affective disorder can affect anyone; however, the most common age group to experience SAD are people in their 20s or 30s.

SAD is a subset of major depressive disorder. The disorder was first described in 1984 by Dr. Norman Rosenthal, a retired doctor of the National Institute of Mental Health. After

he moved from South Africa, Rosenthal began researching the topic and started his residency in New York City. He recalled the long days, and his "boundless" energy.

Rosenthal and his colleagues later determined that the further someone lived from the equator, the more likely they were to experience symptoms of SAD.

Dr. Rosenthal found that 1.5% of Florida residents experienced SAD in contrast to 10.2% of the New Hampshire population. The studies revealed reduced levels of sunlight can affect an individual's serotonin, a neurotransmitter that affects mood. In other words, increased exposure to sunlight can increase serotonin production. Rosenthal estimates that 6% of the U.S. population is affected by SAD.

Another factor that may cause SAD is an increased production of melatonin, a sleep-related hormone. This hormone is produced in the dark, therefore, daylight saving time, where the sun sets earlier can negatively impact someone who is dealing with SAD. SAD can occur at any season or transition of seasons, but the fall and winter seasons are the most common times SAD is experienced.

Symptoms of seasonal depression are like the symptoms of depression, which can make it difficult to

distinguish which type of depression someone is dealing with. Common symptoms of seasonal depression that indicate themselves from depression include increased appetite with carbohydrate cravings, excessive sleepiness, and weight gain.

After two consecutive occurrences of SAD, a diagnosis can be made by professionals. Treatment plans for seasonal include phototherapy, which consists of artificial bright lights to simulate sunlight and antidepressants.

As the winter approaches and we settle into daylight saving time, many implement the Danish practice of "hygge" (pronounced hoo-gah) to combat the effects of seasonal depression. The term hygge originates from the Norwegian word for well-being. The concept is abstract and does not have a specific set of rules. The idea revolves around focusing on comforting and soothing things important to an individual, highlighting

self-care. This can range from creating a cozy environment with string lights and candles to making a comfort meal to taking a drive to see the nearest Christmas lights. The point of hygge is to do something that decreases stress levels and improves mental health.

Hygge does not need to break the bank as the practice promotes the separation of materialism from a person's well-being. Hygge prioritizes a person's mental health during a season that may cause stress or misery. Hygge advocates romanticism of everyday tasks to help ease the emotional drain this time of year may cause.

While this lifestyle may not cure seasonal depression, implementing steps to create a warm environment or celebrating simplicity may help some get through the season.

Ring ceremony memorializes attainment



UHD student Savannah Mims flashes her graduation ring at the ceremony on Nov. 13. Courtesy: Savannah Mims

BY SAVANNAH MIMS

UHD recognized Gators who said yes to commemorating their graduation from UHD with a ring ceremony on Nov. 13.

The event lasted a couple of hours and included a moving speech from President Loren J. Blanchard. He jokingly said that it was his first time inside the auditorium with the participants and others from the various colleges at UHD to congratulate the ring class of 2021.

While the inside was a

plain and standard collegiate auditorium, the energy of those in it, such as the recipients, parents, and faculty, genuinely made it a lively time, worth the time. Several hundred students celebrated taking their first step at the ring ceremony and are closer to celebrating the second half of their journey by graduating at NRG Stadium on Dec. 18 with even more energy and grandiose.

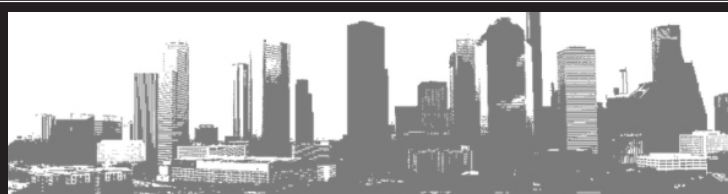
Once the ceremony concluded, the ring recipients and their families were

treated to a reception in the Skyline Lounge and a private toast out on the South Deck, which was headed by Dean of Students Meritza A. Tamez.

A giant ring offered recipients and their families a place to take photos. It was a beautiful morning to celebrate with UHD Gators and all of those who wanted to partake in the memorable ring ceremony.



Gators cross the Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson stage on Nov. 13. to receive graduation rings. Credit: Savannah Mims.



THE DATELINE

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Submission Policy

The Dateline staff consists of students from UHD who complete all tasks required to produce the newspaper, which serves all UHD campuses. The opinions and commentaries expressed within reflect the views of the contributing writers. No opinions expressed in The Dateline reflect the viewpoints of UHD, its administration, or students.

The Dateline reserves the right to edit or modify submissions for the sake of clarity, content, grammar, or space limitations. All submissions become property of The Dateline and may not be returned.

All paid writers must be currently enrolled students at UHD. All paid writers must also complete vendor registration with the University of Houston System prior to contributing.

Press releases, story ideas, news tips and suggestions are always welcomed. We encourage all students to contribute. Any student interested in joining The Dateline staff may request more detailed information sending an email to Editor Indira Zaldivar at editor-dateline@downtown@gmail.com.

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Philanthropist Angel revives Houston's charity bar



Angel Share HTX owner Mary Ellen Angel stands in front of a mural of her idol, Dolly Parton. Credit: Shaheryar Khan

BY SHAHERYAR KHAN

“You can only control yourself.” With all the bad news and tragedy in the world today, people can overcome these problems by helping others and giving a hand. This is the philosophy of Mary

Ellen Angel, the owner of Angel Share HTX, Houston's charity bar.

Formerly known as Organized Kollaboration on Restaurant Affairs, or OKRA for short, it was a collaborative project of 26 restaurants and bars that are

all iconic Houstonian establishments. Some notable bars and restaurants included Poison Girl, Grand Prize, and Anvil.

OKRA was later sold to Angel, who was one of the original general managers of the bar. She changed the name to Angel Share HTX.

“New name; same concept: Drink for a cause!”

The name of the bar is a homage to the new owners' last name “Angel” and the industry term of “angel's share,” which is when whiskey is distilled and a portion of it is evaporated in the air.

Originally from Magnolia, Texas, Angel recalls that her perception of the world was limited to the borders of Montgomery County. After she graduated from high school, she moved to Austin, Texas and met a person who said they just got back from a country called Croatia.

From that point on, Angel decided to work and set a goal to travel as much as she could, and her first destination

was London.

“Travelling helps open people's horizons,” Angel said as she explains her reasoning to travel. Once she started to explore different places around the world and was introduced to different cultures and traditions, she started to question her own perspective.

While working at Benjy's Restaurant here in Houston, Angel came across Bobby Huegel, who would later become owner of Anvil Bar & Refuge, Better Luck Tomorrow, Tongue-Cut Sparrow, The Nightingale Room, and OKRA.

Huegel offered Angel the general manager position at OKRA and she takes a leap of faith and accepts Huegel's offer, becoming one of the founding members.

After almost a decade of operating under OKRA Charity Saloon, due to the coronavirus pandemic, Huegel and the other owners needed to tend to their other businesses, passing the torch to Angel, who renamed the charity bar, Angel Share HTX.

With every drink or food purchase, a customer receives a ticket to vote for one of the four Houston-based charities that are nominated for the month. After the bar pays their rent and employees, and saves money for safety funds, all the remaining proceeds go to the charity with the most votes at the end of the month.

Since Angel's start in 2013, when the bar was still OKRA, she has been responsible for contributing over \$1.3 million towards local charities in Houston. Apart from giving back to the community and making a positive difference, their drinks and food menu is not something to rule out.

They offer amazing cocktails to choose from as well as high quality food to accompany their drinks. A special “charity menu” lists products from brands that support their mission.

The bar staff are very friendly and take the time to get to know customers. Overall, they make sure everyone has a great time.

Angel makes sure that she takes care of the people that work at the bar. All employees are paid livable wages and receive health insurance.

Angel wants to emphasize that “this is still OKRA,” and that they are “still a charity bar.” She is often asked by people if she makes a lot of income running a charity bar and her reply is: “how much money do you need?”

Helping others and hospitality in general is something Angel craves in her daily life.

“One person can't do it, we have to do it collectively,” she stressed as she continues to work with many amazing non-profits to raise awareness for their respective causes.

“In this world we live in, why not spread some joy and take care of one another? We're all we've got.”

Angel Share HTX is located on 924 Congress St. and is open Sunday to Wednesday: 4 p.m.–12 a.m.; and Thursday to Saturday: 4 p.m.–2 a.m.

UHD Health Fair (continued)

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As some cannot access all services, tablers described alternatives. Hadidja Talamumba, UHD engineering student, was glad to see various UHD organizations included. This gave her the opportunity to find out about the free counseling services provided.

There was information and resources ranging from therapy to STDs prevention and testing. Some of the tables at the event included UHD Student Counseling Services and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion.

UHD Student Counseling Services tabled to bring awareness about the services provided by the university. Counselors are available to help students in their college and personal life for free.

Students are able to have recurring one-hour sessions with a counselor to discuss anything they would like. Students must first fill out an intake form to be able to do this.

The Center for Diversity and Inclusion's table had information about transgender

topics. This was due to it being Transgender Awareness Week (Nov. 13-19). The table displayed books meant to teach students more about transgender people and the issues that befall them.

Rhode Villarreal, a student at UHD, wanted there to be tables to measure the attendees' vital signs and discuss the results. According to her, there “could have been a table for measuring blood pressure and sugar levels.”

Overall, she felt that the event was very informative and enjoyed attending.



Michael Rossi (left) and SAGA President Brynn (right) display Transgender Awareness Week, UHD Center for Diversity and Inclusion, and Sexuality and Gender Alliance resources. Credit: Diana Ambrosio

Jury finds perpetrator not guilty of Kenosha shootings

BY SERGIO PRESA JR

Kyle Rittenhouse has been found not guilty on all charges that were brought against him in the Kenosha shootings in Wisconsin during August 2020.

Rittenhouse, who was 17 years old at the time of the shooting, was charged with homicide, attempted homicide, and reckless endangerment after he shot and killed two men, Joseph Rosenbaum and Anthony Huber. He also wounded another man, Gaige Grosskreutz with a semi-automatic weapon. Rittenhouse claimed self-defense. The shooting happened during a night of protests triggered by the shooting of Jacob Blake; a Black man shot by a white police officer in Kenosha.

If Rittenhouse had been found guilty on the most serious charge, first-degree intentional homicide, he could have been sentenced to life in prison.

Rittenhouse testified saying that Rosenbaum was chasing him, grabbing at his rifle, and threatening to kill him.

"I was running from him," Rittenhouse said. "I pointed it at him, and it didn't stop him from continuing to chase me." Shortly after, as Rittenhouse ran towards the police, Grosskreutz and Huber began to chase him. Huber beat him with a skateboard and Grosskreutz held a loaded pistol pointed towards Rittenhouse.

Rittenhouse said he went to Kenosha intending to protect property from rioters. He said that he came under attack while he was in

Kenosha and feared for his life. Rittenhouse's defense attorney Mark Richards said after that "he wants to get on with his life." Longtime civil rights leader, Rev. Jesse Jackson, said the Rittenhouse verdict throws into doubt the safety of people who protest in support of Black Americans.

"It seems to me that it's open season on human rights demonstrators," Jackson said. Former President Donald Trump congratulated Rittenhouse on the verdict saying, "if that's not self-defense, nothing is." President Joe Biden said that even though the case "will leave many Americans feeling angry and concerned, myself included, we must acknowledge that the jury has spoken."

House committee continues to investigate Jan. 6 insurrection

BY SERGIO PRESA JR

The legal battle for the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection is heating up.

The House committee is fighting to obtain documents from former President Donald Trump's administration. Many of former President Trump's aids are not showing a willingness to cooperate with the investigation. Mike Meadows, the former White House chief of staff, has made it clear that he will not cooperate. Subpoenas have been issued by the committee to people who worked under Meadows at the White House. Steve Bannon, a former aide to for-

mer President Donald Trump, was indicted on two counts of criminal contempt for defying a subpoena from the House committee. It is possible that aides to former Vice President Mike Pence could fill in the gaps of information where Trump aides will not cooperate. It is also possible that the committee could get testimony directly from Pence himself.

Trump has tried to keep the documents private from the committee by asserting executive privilege, which is a right of a U.S. president to keep communications confidential in certain situations. U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan criticized Trump's exec-

utive privilege claim. "Presidents are not kings, and the plaintiff is not president," Chutkan wrote.

Trump appealed the ruling and a federal appeals court then temporarily upheld Trump's request to delay the release of documents. The case is likely to end before the Supreme Court for a final decision. President Joe Biden has waived most claims of privilege made by Trump. The House committee has subpoenaed almost three dozen people, consisting of Trump allies, former White House staffers, and people who assisted in organizing the rally near the White House on Jan. 6.

WHO says new coronavirus variant poses 'very high risk' of infection

BY SERGIO PRESA JR

The World Health Organization said that the new omicron COVID-19 variant poses a "very high" risk of spreading globally. Early evidence suggests that the new strain could cause surges that have severe consequences.

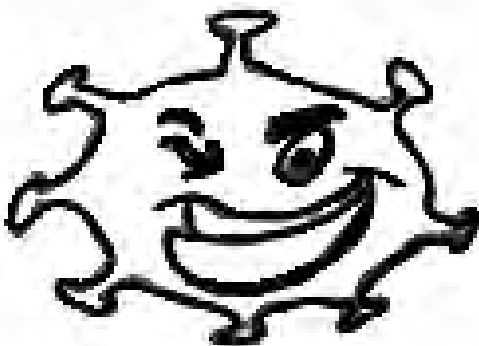
The omicron variant was first identified in South Africa. As cases of the new variant began to pop up in more countries around the world, many have enacted travel bans in hopes of limiting the spread of omicron.

Preliminary data points to the possibility that due to the variant's mutations, it could have a boosted ability to spread and evade immune response, even that of which is

triggered by vaccines. The WHO emphasized that countries should ramp up vaccinations as much as possible to combat the new variant. Omicron has not been linked to any deaths or severe cases yet.

Scientists are working to understand how severe the variant may be. However, in South Africa and Europe, all the omicron cases have been mild, according to experts.

Only 7% of Africa's population is vaccinated, which means it could be a breeding ground for new COVID-19 variants, given the low vaccination rate. The head of Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations Dr. Richard Hatchett said the emergence of the omicron



Credit: Shaheryar Khan

variant has "fulfilled in a precise way the predictions of the scientists who warned that the elevated transmission of the virus in areas with limited access to the vaccine would speed its evolution."

President Joe Biden called the variant concerning but "not a cause for panic." He also said he is not planning a widespread lockdown across the U.S. in response to the variant. Instead, the president

urged vaccinations and masking. Biden's urge for vaccinations comes as a federal judge blocked his administration from enforcing a vaccine requirement for healthcare workers. CDC Director Dr.

Rochelle Walensky strongly encouraged Americans 18 years old and over to get booster shots.

"Strong immunity will likely prevent serious illness," Walensky said.

Beto O'Rourke returns to campaign trail, touts progressive ideas



Beto O'Rourke speaks at Discovery Green. Credit: Carolina Valdez

BY CAROLINA VALDEZ

Beto O'Rourke visited Houston last month on the first leg of his gubernatorial campaign across Texas. In his speech, he touched on topics ranging from natural disaster relief, the spirit of Houston citizens, and the importance of unity.

The winter freeze of February 2020 is the vessel that carries most of O'Rourke's criticisms of his opponent, Gov. Greg Abbott. He highlights the failure of the Texas government to strengthen the power grid, even after the disastrous consequences Texans endured earlier this year.

O'Rourke also addressed the extreme legislation that Abbott signed this year. He deemed the laws on

abortion, voting restrictions, and gun ownership as unnecessary and shed light on other issues that still need attention in the state.

Expanding Medicaid, better funding for public schools, and the legalization of cannabis were issues he described as "common interests" for all Texans. Overall, it seems that O'Rourke pushes the idea of bipartisanship for this campaign.

"We never ask 'are you a Republican?' before I help you. 'Are you a Democrat?' Before I chip in to make sure your home is okay," he said of local Houstonians helping one another in times of crisis.

O'Rourke not only asked the crowd to go out and vote on Election

Day, but he also encouraged them to participate in the campaign and become more aware and active with local politics. His language in his speech alluded to looking beyond the political divide and focusing on the problems Texans face.

As a Democrat running for Texas governor, many news outlets reported O'Rourke's bid as ambitious. Texas has not had a Democratic governor since Ann W. Richards in 1995.

Patrick Svitek with the Texas Tribune described him as an "underdog," even with Abbott's approval rating being at his lowest. O'Rourke losing the Senate race in 2018 and the Democratic presidential candidacy in 2020 are dark shadows

that linger this time around.

O'Rourke "is now well-known to Texas voters, and polls show more voters have a negative opinion of him than a positive one," Svitek reported.

O'Rourke has a lot of work cut out for him in this election. Only time will tell if he can keep this energy up throughout the next year. He will return to the Houston area this month with an event in Sugar Land on Dec. 6 and one in Galveston on Dec. 8.

The primary election for governor will be held on March 1, 2022, and the election for governor will be held on Nov. 8, 2022.

POST Houston captures Houston's city life and diversity

BY MONICA GOMEZ

POST Houston is the newest attraction located in downtown Houston. Previously known as the Barbara Jordan post office, it has since been transformed by Lovett Commercial to be used as a commercial space for hosting events, providing a workplace, and vendors that covers approximately 550,000 square feet.

713 Music Hall is a new music venue that has emerged from the rise of POST, which will enhance the music experience in downtown Houston. This venue recently welcomed Mexican band Mana in late November.

Indira Zaldivar, The Dateline's editor, attended the Mana concert at 713 Music Hall on Nov. 26. Zaldivar said she enjoyed beautiful music, a spectacle of lights and a "cozy" indoor atmo-

sphere at the new music venue.

"The fact that this music venue is at a walking distance from UHD makes my college experience richer," she added.

Along with the venue and commercial space, a sky lawn features a rooftop park and farm. It has a 5-acre rooftop that integrates with Buffalo Bayou Park.

POST Market currently hosts 30 vendors with food varieties from over 10 cultural backgrounds that highlight what represents Houston. Nicole Morris, the owner of Lucy Pearl's Sweets is one of the vendors at POST. It has a great selection of bakery items that includes pies, cakes, cookies and other bakery goods.

"We bake for the love of sweets and people can taste the care and love we put into

each bite of our cakes," Morris said about her business motto.

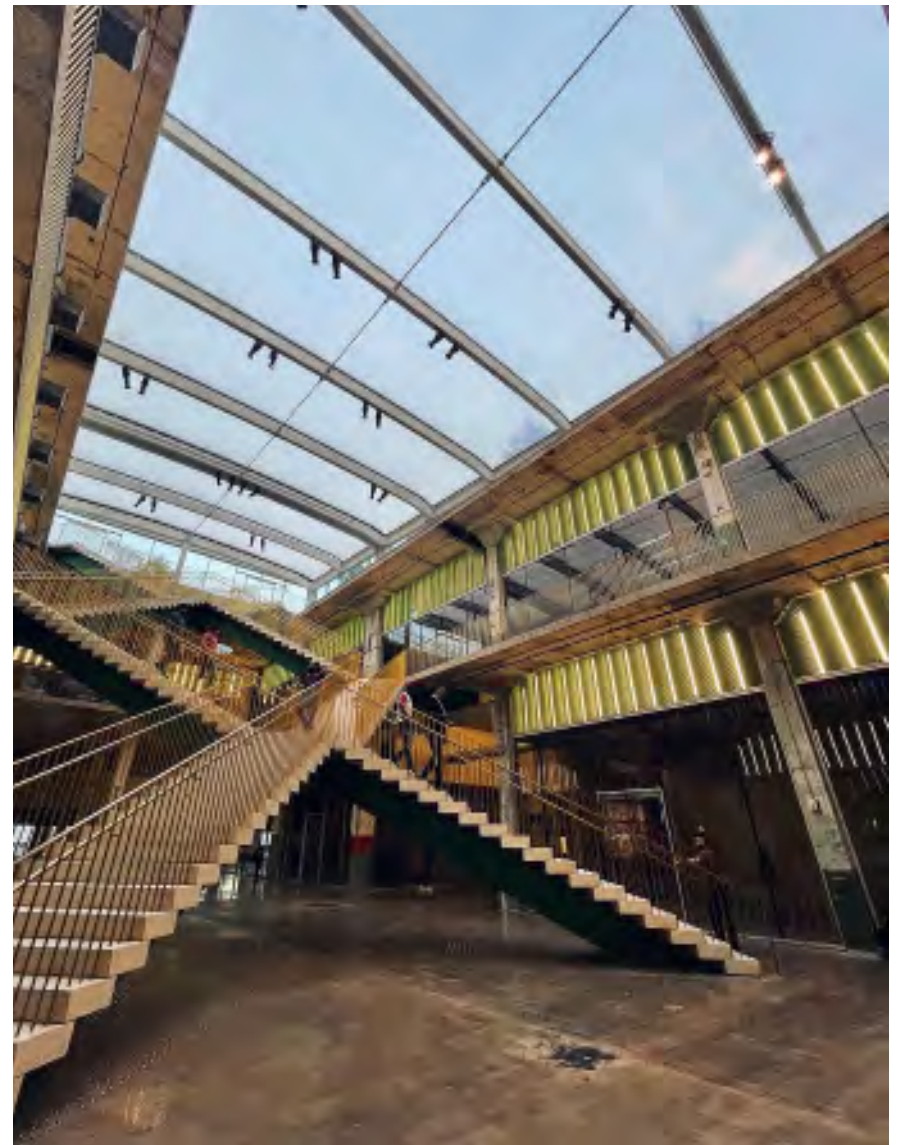
Morris named the business after her mother, Sherry Lucille who she later called Lucy.

"She was a gem, so she ended up as Lucy Pearl to me and her friend called her sweets, so it was how we bake for the love of sweets was a play on words."

Vendors like Lucy Pearl's Sweets are about to showcase their products. With POST, they are able to have Houstonians to try out a diverse selection of foods.

"The POST will bring the catalyst for us to be a good household name for baked goods," Morris said.

With the diversity of Houston, this attraction is a great place to check out the newest events and try out foods. POST is currently open Wednesday through Sunday.



The stairs inside POST Houston. Credit: Monica Gomez

Bats need Houstonians to understand their ecological role

BY MCKENZIE BREWER

It's not too far off to assume that some Houstonians do not get to see bats often or maybe have never seen one. After all, bats are not the most common thing to see flying in the sky, especially during the day. It makes sense why some people may not be familiar with bats.

This is ironic coming from a state that is home to 32 species of bats out of the 47 species found in the U.S. According to Texas Parks and Wildlife, this makes Texas the "battiest" state in the nation! In fact, we are home to the largest bat colony in the world. Just outside of San Antonio in the Bracken Cave are 15

million bats hanging around. But San Antonio isn't the only city in Texas home to bats.

There are exactly 12 cities in Texas where you can see bats, Houston being one of them! That's right, Houston has its own colony - two actually. Although not as many as Austin, with their 1.5 million bats at Congress Avenue Bridge, we have around 250,000 bats under the Waugh Drive Bridge along the Buffalo Bayou. There are also around 100,000 bats under Watonga Boulevard Bridge.

Unfortunately, there is not a lot of conversation around about bats, mainly because of the many misconceptions surrounding

bats. As the world saw during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, some blamed the rapid spread of the virus on bats.

For years, bats have been portrayed by the media and film industry as rabies-spreading animals that may or may not suck blood.

In the 2011 film, "Contagion," the cause of the deadly global pandemic was traced back to the moment an infected bat transmitted the virus to a pig, which ended up getting passed to a chef handling the slaughtered pig.

The virus is finally passed to patient zero that contracts the virus via a handshake with the chef (who didn't wash his hands).

The film ends leaving the audience to ponder the fact a bat had caused the death and destruction to the world all because it had a virus. Because of social media's portrayal of bats as disease ridden mammals and the dramatic narrative films put around bats, many people today probably have a lot of misconceptions about bats and their importance to our ecosystem.

Thankfully, we have our very own mammalogist here at UHD. Associate Professor Amy Baird, who has a doctorate in ecology, evolution, and behavior, was willing to shed some light on bats. Baird reassures that "as long as you leave them

alone, you are not at any danger of contracting disease from them."

Emphasizing the need to spread awareness about all the good bats do for us, Baird went on to explain how every night bats can eat their body weight in insects, which is a considerable amount. Imagine if we didn't have bats at night to eat all those pesky insects and dreaded mosquitos for us?

This makes bats exceptional pesticides, which is what our farmers need. Baird added that farmers could benefit the most from their feces, calling it, "an amazing fertilizer."

Unfortunately, every year bats lose their natural homes

due to construction and urbanization, an explanation for bats starting to pop up under certain bridges. Baird shared how bats can find "very narrow openings along the bottom of the bridge," creating an ideal home for colonies, which has led to the intentional construction of such bridges.

Bridges are a wonderful solution found in metropolitan areas that can see just how beneficial bats are. That is why Baird encourages people to take a trip to the Waugh Drive Bridge and watch the bats fly out.

"Just seeing that will change your perspective and show how beneficial they are to humans."



Credit: Giselle Oviedo

GA-38 attacked people with special needs, restricted accommodations



BY MICHAEL KOWIS

A federal judge ruled on Nov. 11, 2020 that GA-38 is in violation of both Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1977.

Some of the plaintiffs in this case had cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and down syndrome. The order stated in part by Judge Lee Yeakel in the written opinion reads that updates to executive order

No. GA-38, including the Sept. 17 update, “reiterate GA-38’s mandate that public schools are not permitted to require students, staff, or visitors to wear masks in their facilities.”

Within the context of primary and secondary schools, mask mandates are not necessarily for the betterment of every student (although they mostly are).

However, in this case, mask mandates are used by the school in question alongside the development of an Individualized Education Plan so that the school can provide the most appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities, including disabilities which otherwise put their immune system at risk.

According to Cy-Fair ISD Superintendent for Communication and Community Relations Leslie Francis, an Individualized Education Plan “is a plan for students who require specialized support and services based on a standardized assessment.” This plan is usually built with input from a general education teacher, a special education teacher, the student’s guardian(s), and a person from academic leadership.

As someone who required IEPs for school, I was in those admission, referral, and dismissal meetings. It is during these meetings where we would discuss what accommodations I would need to function on par with my otherwise normal students. At UHD, they

are called academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, but they are still the same concept.

Mask mandates in this specific context should be thought of as accommodations meant to enable students who need them to function on par with their otherwise normal peers. What the mask ban did was make it so that schools could not enforce this part of an individual’s IEP. Without any enforcement mechanism, this places students with disabilities, particularly those with conditions that affect their immune system, in a position wherein they cannot safely attend in-person learning.

This has the effect of denying appropriate educational services to those who need them.

For example, my partner and I had to receive speech pathology services to help with our speech when we were young.

Denying this service puts the responsibility of finding and paying for private services on the parent, which may not be economically feasible. It certainly would not have been economically feasible for my family.

Furthermore, the denial of these services is a violation of the Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the ADA.

Lee Yeakel noted that Congress found that individuals with disabilities “should be assured ‘equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.’”

Both the ADA and Section 504 also prohibit exclusion from participation, denial of benefits, or other kinds of discrimination.

GA-38 was an unintended attack on those with special needs. Although there were no indications to revise GA-38, I hope that one day they do revise this order.

Additionally, I commend Disability Rights Texas for standing up to this kind of attack and bringing light to an otherwise dark corner of the intersection of politics and discrimination.

Discrimination can take many forms. I would like to thank their legal team for performing and standing up to those who would deny us “equality of opportunity.”

THE DATELINE ALWAYS WANTS NEW WRITERS!



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Credit: Edward Saenz

Dateline writer offers advice on maintaining mental health while in college

BY JORDYNN GODFREY

We've all heard it said in one way or another that having a degree is an invitation to the party that is the workforce. The Association of Public & Land-Grant University states that the evidence that a college degree "significantly improves one's employment prospects and earnings potential is overwhelming."

Employees with bachelor's degrees are half as likely to be unemployed as their peers who only have a high school degree. Bachelor degree holders make "\$1 million in additional earnings on average over their lifetime."

Unfortunately for some, that invitation often comes with increased stress, anxiety and depression.

While I must say I have enjoyed my time in college, it did cause me to struggle with my mental health. If I underperformed academically, I would panic and convince myself that I was not good enough for the major I was studying. Other times, the amount of work expected of me would tempt me to drop out and give up.

I often found myself asking if this was worth it? I worked from 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., then spent the rest of my day going to class and doing homework. The "normal" schedule for a full-time student is incredibly demanding, and, when paired with a full-time work schedule, is overwhelming. I lost many nights of sleep, often forgot to eat and had several mental breakdowns a week.

Additionally, I live about an hour away from UHD. When I was taking in-person classes, the commute to and from was often traffic-filled, turning that hour into an hour



Credit: Giselle Oviedo

and a half – sometimes longer. Not to mention that Houston drivers are not the most considerate. In fact, Metromile.com ranked Houston, TX as one of the cities with the worst traffic in the US. Because of this, I would show up to campus tired and stressed before my classes even began.

According to a recent survey conducted by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 64% of students drop out of college due to mental health issues and 73% of students reported having a mental health crisis while in college. Some of the factors contributing to their mental health struggles included pressure to perform academically, overwhelming amounts of school work, uncertainty on what career path to choose, lack of support from faculty and family, and the stress caused by ever-rising tuition prices.

In fact, according to data retrieved from The College Board, CNBC reported that college prices have increased over 25% from 2008-2018.

UHD prides itself on its diverse student population, as it should. However, most of UHD's population is made up of non-traditional students. The American Council on Education states that nontraditional students scored "significantly higher on life stress, anxiety and depression" than traditional students. The Dateline conducted a poll in which 80% of UHD students that participated answered that college had indeed negatively affected their mental health.

Over the past decade, universities have responded to the student mental health crisis by increasing the free mental health resources they offer. The COVID-19 pandemic only made

mental health more of a priority amongst universities. However, according to Inside Higher Ed, only 15% of students engaged in their school's counseling services, with 47% of students saying that they could have used more support from their institution.

While it is clear that universities attempt to offer more services for their students, it does not seem to be enough. Students are struggling more than ever, and the majority do not seem to find universities' efforts beneficial yet. I do not have a solution, but I do hope that universities and experts continue to try to reduce the number of students experiencing mental health crises while in school.

Although I include myself in the number of students who blame college for their mental health struggles, I did find ways to make my higher education journey more beneficial.

Since I work full-time, I found that two to three classes a semester, rather than five, was much more manageable. As a result, my academic performance improved. This also made tuition prices easier to manage, reducing my financial anxieties.

I also made the switch to fully online classes, which eliminated the challenging commute to school and freed up a lot of time in my schedule. When it came to destressing, I decided to start investing in some hobbies such as coloring, finding new anime to watch, and stretching.

Committing 100% of myself to school and work was arguably a worthwhile investment. However, it led to burnout, leaving me socially unavailable and unhappy. When I started making time for things I enjoyed, I found I was happier and even had more energy. Now, I can honestly say

that college has been an enjoyable and worthwhile experience.

As a senior approaching her last semester in the spring, the best advice I can give is to not overwhelm yourself with a heavy class load, especially if you are working full-time. Reach out to professors and tutors for academic help as much as you need, and consider reaching out to peers for emotional as well as academic support.

Most importantly, remember to make time for yourself. Allow yourself to unwind and take part in things that you enjoy. Working hard is important, but taking care of yourself should come first. Additionally, taking advantage of UHD's free resources, like Counseling Services, may be beneficial for those who need a listening ear and additional support.

Harry Styles comes to Houston after a series of cancellations

BY YASMEEN AMMOURAH

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the live music industry took an economic toll. Concert lovers everywhere were afraid that shows would never return with all the venue closures, social distance mandates, and tours being rescheduled. After a year of waiting, shows finally started approaching and festivals started reopening to the world of music listeners.

Harry Styles fans were ecstatic when he announced his scheduled performance at the Toyota Center in Houston on Aug. 10, 2020. Unfortunately, within a month of this announcement, he rescheduled the show to Sept. 13 of this year after the WHO declared COVID-19 as a global pandemic.

While fans lined around the corner in the morning for the closest possible spot

in the pit and waiting to buy merch, a downpour of rain began as Hurricane Nicholas arrived in Houston that day. With flooding arising, Harry Styles released a statement rescheduling the show for a second time for safety reasons.

Finally, on Nov. 23 the doors opened at 6 p.m. and after two hours waiting inside the stadium, Styles appeared at 8:30 p.m. Excitement arose as the lights shut off, and with over thousands of screams in the stadium, he opened the show with the first song in the “Fine Line’s” album, “Golden.”

During the show, the audience participated in jokes that Styles would jest around. For example, in the middle of a show, a poster declared that Styles call a fan’s ex-partner and convince the caller to take back the fan. Interestingly, Styles

did just that and created an echo of screams in the stadium.

After the two cancellations, there was anxiety among attendees that the show was simply never going to happen. Scheduling conflicts was also an issue for concertgoers.

“I had to make sure my schedule was clear for the concert,” Styles fan, Haley Wilson, said about her dilemma.

“But it was hard when I didn’t know when it would be. With school and band, I didn’t know if I would even be able to go until about a week before the concert.”

While she was one of the lucky fans able to go, others had to sell their tickets after waiting over two years. Though this was an inconvenience for many fans, Styles proved that the night was worthwhile and one to remember.



Styles points mic to the crowd during song “Only Angel.” Credit: Yasmeen Ammourah

Cold weather beckons hotpot lovers from across Houston to Chinatown

BY MEGAN TRAN

The sharp, cold wind whistling through the trees is seen through the windows of a cozy restaurant. This heightens the warmth in your stomach and heart as the pot gently bubbles, swirling with flavorful broth and healthy nourishment. Your friends and family take turns taking ladles of hot broth into their own individual bowls, sharing the delicious meal. This is the culture of hotpot.

Hotpot is a Chinese family-style shared soup served in its

namesake. A Chinese style pot, split in two halves for different broth flavors, is put over a gas stovetop at the table. Raw meat, seafood, vegetables, and noodles are cooked in the broth to infuse them with flavor. When the ingredients are done cooking, they are taken out and put into individual bowls for eating.

This experience has been around for at least 1,700 years, according to Sichuan Cuisine Museum Director Richard Zhang.

“At first, it was popular in the cold north of China, and people used it to cook all kinds of meat. Further developments in cooking technology led to the development of more variations of hotpot.”

Since it is a dish that requires a lot of preparation, it is common to eat on the weekends as a treat. The warm savory flavors cap off the end of a long week with a comforting meal.

There are many locations in Chinatown that offer hotpot, such

as Happy Lamb Hot Pot and Niu Jiao Jian Hot Pot. One that offers traditional style hotpot is a restaurant called Tan Tan.

Tan Tan’s hot pot comes in three different protein combinations, seafood only, shrimp and beef, and seafood and a combination of meats. There are two traditional broth flavors, one savory and one spicy. There are many sides to pair with the base meal and one hotpot feeds a family of four. Tan Tan’s traditional style hot

pot ranges from \$36 to \$39, a dish best had for especially cold nights with your close family.

However, for those looking for a more modern spin on hotpot, a restaurant chain named Liuyishou Hotpot is soon to appear in Houston’s Chinatown. This hotpot chain is more expensive, but the fun presentation and deeper customization offers a unique experience. The house broth’s stock cube is in the shape of their mascot, Niu Niu, a smiling cow wearing a bowtie.

When served, the waiter pours hot water over the stock cube, creating a fun interactive experience of watching the mascot dissolve into broth. They also serve their meats in a halo around the pot, making for a truly picturesque meal.

Tan Tan and Liuyishou both serve excellent versions of hotpot, with different varieties appealing to different tastes. Either version of the dish offers a memorable experience to share with family and friends.



Custom table with hotpot ready to serve. Credit: Megan Tran



Bowl of ready to eat hotpot soup. Credit: Megan Tran



Reviews

'Spencer' depicts royal family's toll on late Princess Diana

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

Spencer is a 2021 fictional historical drama about Princess Diana's last Christmas with the royal family. The film stars Kristen Stewart as Princess Diana. The title refers to Diana's birth name "Spencer." The film had a limited release on Nov. 5.

The film takes place during the '91 Christmas holidays with the British royal family. Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day are shown through Diana's perspective. Diana was a victim of intense pressure from her public life as a princess. The film expresses her projected emotional state while mulling over a highly problematic divorce.

Diana starts to experience strange visions which play out onscreen as stress induced hallucinations. Only a handful of people in Diana's daily life offer anything resembling moral support. Apart from her Royal Dresser Maggie, portrayed by Oscar winner Sally Hawkins.

There are strong supernatural elements to "Spencer." The premise in the film's opening explains that the story is told as a fable. Diana regularly sees the ghost of Anne Boleyn.

The second wife of Henry VIII, Boleyn was England's Queen from 1533 to 1536. After multiple miscarriages, Boleyn failed to produce a male heir, and Henry VIII took one of her maids of

honor as a lover. Boleyn was unjustly accused of incest, adultery and treason and beheaded in 1536.

After Diana finds a book about Boleyn in her room, she experiences what she believes to be Boleyn's ghost. The princess' horrifying hallucinations are shown onscreen. One scene shows Diana eating her large pearl necklace after violently ripping it off at the royal Christmas dinner. Another has her throwing herself multiple stories down a dilapidated staircase.

Stewart disappears behind the large pearls and extravagant gowns. She really does look just like the late princess. Iconic outfits and a distinct hairstyle

assist Stewart, and she does a tremendous job with her British accent, something Stewart admitted to having trouble perfecting.

"To prepare I watched the available documentaries. I sort of blew through 'The Crown' in three days," Stewart told MTV UK.

Spencer was helmed by Chilean director Pablo Larrain. He is also known for his Oscar nominated 2016 film "Jackie." The films "Spencer" and "Jackie" are similar through their strong female leads, both of whom were political figures and enjoyed worldwide notoriety. Larrain does an excellent job expressing the emotional suffocation Diana was feeling.

Constant pressure from the royal family as

well as her own public perception were major stressors in Diana's life. Tabloid magazines and broadcasters constantly commented on her body image which led her to develop a serious eating disorder. This is evident onscreen, the character secretly throws up every meal in the restroom.

When her husband, Prince Charles, openly begins an affair with Camilla Parker-Bowles, it is the final straw for the embattled princess. "Spencer" shows Charles openly flirting with his lover at the Christmas Mass, right in front of Diana as well as his own mother, Queen Elizabeth (Stella Gonet).

"Spencer" is a good bet to receive some love during the award seas-

on. Fall movies are immensely popular at the Oscars, and it is possible Stewart will receive her first nomination. Her performance was chameleonic and she looked and sounded like Diana's proverbial twin sister. Stewart's uncanny resemblance is one of the best parts about the film.

"Spencer" is worth viewing. The film's dark elements blur the lines between drama and thriller. The film was not intended to be an authentic or real reflection of what happened but an artistic interpretation of a stressful event in the life of a beloved but criticized princess. "Spencer" is now playing in theaters and will be available on multiple platforms to stream at home.

'Ghostbusters: Afterlife' reboot does not disappoint

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

Just in time for the holidays, "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" was released on Nov. 19. The film is a science-fiction comedy and a reboot of the 1984 original.

The reboot deals with the grandchildren of the Harold Ramis character from the original movie, Egon Spengler. After his death, his grandchildren attempt to solve the mystery that cost Egon his life. Through the course of the investigation, the kids also pick up the mantle of the Ghostbusters.

Summerville, Oklahoma serves as the film's main setting, a small farm town filled with mostly ordinary people. Callie Spengler (Carrie Coon) moves into her late father's

home with her two children, Trevor (Fin Wolfhard) and Phoebe (Mckenna Grace). While at first the town seems boring, the kids soon find that Summerville is a hotspot for paranormal activity.

Phoebe finds and restores the Ghostbusters' old traps, ghost detectors and proton packs. Trevor fixes up the converted ambulance Ecto-1, the Ghostbuster equivalent of the Bat-mobile. The appropriate ride and gear enable the kids to start their own supernatural investigation.

The performances are all well-acted. The kids do a wonderful job of anchoring the story. The new characters are all believable and unique. Paul Rudd portrays the town's uninterested science teacher who quickly

changes his attitude when the kids bring him Summerville's spectral evidence.

Rudd's character Gary Grooberson is the hilarious stand-out in "Ghostbusters: Afterlife." His idea of proper teaching techniques shows him screening horror movies for his class. "Cujo" and "Chucky" are both included in the class syllabus. Grooberson is old enough to have remembered the Ghostbusters when they were practicing paranormal business.

"Ghostbusters: Afterlife" is directed by Jason Reitman, known for his films "Juno" and "Up in The Air." Reitman's father, Ivan, produced and directed the first "Ghostbusters" film as well as "Ghostbusters 2" in '89. It is a sweet notion to have

the multigenerational series be produced and directed by Reitman's son. By keeping the franchise in the family, the resulting film is genuine and sincere.

What works well in the film is the way the filmmakers honored the source material while creating their own story. The reboot acts to both continue the story of the original film while leaving the door open for sequels. Many callbacks to the original exist in "Afterlife." Expect plenty of easter eggs in the form of Twinkies and troublesome anthropomorphic Stay-Puft marshmallows.

The special effects in the film look fantastic. The effects never become a distraction and allow for the suspension of disbelief. The dog-beasts

resurrected from the '84 version are some of the coolest creatures in the film. The creatures return in a mix of practical and special effects just like in the original "Ghostbusters." Computer graphics have since replaced the stop motion claymation done at the time.

Without spoiling who returns from the original film, the worst thing to say about "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" would be the lack of a Rick Moranis cameo. Moranis played the character Louis Tully in the first two films though he has long since retired to raise his kids after his wife's death. Moranis is still active in drama, though now does so as a college professor.

The original "Ghostbusters" was written by both Dan

Aykroyd and Harold Ramis. Ramis died in 2014, when the "Ghostbusters" sequel was still mired by pre-production issues. His character was the brain behind the whole operation. Ivan Reitman and Ramis collaborated regularly and were close friends. It was fitting that the director provided Ramis both a proper send-off and a deeply touching tribute in "Ghostbusters: Afterlife."

This entry to the "Ghostbusters" series will please fans both old and new to the franchise. "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" functions as a standalone film. No homework required, though the '84 version is a classic and not to be ghosted.

Reviews

'Jujutsu Kaisen' depicts dangerous world but maintains comic relief



Jujutsu Kaisen cover. Courtesy: Fandom

BY JORDYNN GODFREY

"Jujutsu Kaisen" has everything anime fans could want: a balance of drama, action and comedy, highly stylized animation, super interesting monsters, even cooler magic, and a perfect pace. "Jujutsu Kaisen" is a Shōnen anime, which means that it is marketed to young teens, particularly boys, featuring a male protagonist on a heroic journey.

This Japanese show is centered around high school students, Jujutsu

Sorcerers and cursed spirits. The story follows high school student, Yuji Itadori, who swallows a rotting finger, which turns out to be the finger of a powerful cursed spirit Ryomen Sukuna making Itadori Sukuna's "vessel." Itadori must find the rest of Sukuna's fingers to keep them from falling into the wrong hands but runs the chance of only strengthening Sukuna if he cannot control him.

The balance between drama, action and comedy is perfect.

Itadori is a naturally powerful Jujutsu Sorcerer, and his powers are only enhanced when he becomes Sukuna's vessel. However, he is the goofiest character in the show. Like the popular Naruto, he is over-confident and silly.

Itadori's joyous character provides comic relief as he faces challenges. This helps move the show along in a way that is not so depressing – because there is a lot of gore, death and tragedy, which is typical of anime.

Another character like Itadori is Gojo, a powerful Jujutsu Sorcerer of his time. He is like Gandalf from "The Lord of the Rings." Whenever he shows up, the viewer knows the battle is won and the day is saved. Just like Itadori, he is goofy and confident, making him a charming and fun character. The animation of "Jujutsu Kaisen" is highly stylized. As with most modern anime, the design of the animations is impeccable especially when it comes to close ups of things such as eyes and other highly detailed objects. The animations of abstract ideas such as domain

expansions are particularly well-done.

Domain expansions are the highest ability of any jujutsu user, sorcerer, or cursed spirit. The user uses a barrier technique to create a separate space to trap their opponent inside, ensuring that any attack issued by the user is a guaranteed hit.

The animations of these domains are done in a way that emphasizes not only the power of the user, but the vastness and complexity of such an idea. It is outer space mixed with twisted alternate dimensions.

Sometimes characters are shocked senseless, in which they're animated as simply white, flat paper people. It doesn't sound like much, but it is effectively comedic. These animations could have gotten old quick, but they were used sparingly with impeccable timing.

The monsters, or cursed spirits as they are called in the show, were the coolest aspect. Cursed spirits, or simply curses, are a manifestation of cursed energy that result from the negative emotions that flow out of humans.

A curse exists to bring harm to humanity, so a Jujutsu Sorcerer's job is to find and exorcise curses.

The curses range from harmless to extreme, terrorist-like threats. For example, one of the smaller curses in the show repeated things like "do you have the time?" to represent the small fear of being late. Small curses like this usually aren't intelligent and are not much of a threat to Jujutsu Sorcerers. Then there are curses like the forest curse, Hanami. It is explained in the show that forests are a massive fear of humans as they are a large home to many harmful creatures.

Hanami also makes an excellent point that the forests are dying, increasing the negative energy surrounding forests. As a result, Hanami can talk, is incredibly intelligent and an extreme threat to Jujutsu Sorcerers – so much so that the sorcerers must work together to even have a chance of exorcising Hanami.

The most dangerous curse is Sukuna, who mostly remains quiet throughout the

show, leaving the characters and viewers of the show in suspense of his plans.

As of now, there is only one season of "Jujutsu Kaisen." There has been speculation that the second season may be announced Dec. 24 of this year, but other accounts are saying that it may not be released until 2023. There has been no confirmation from the creators on a second season yet.

Fans of the show are hoping the second season comes soon. There were many loose ends left untied, the main one being Sukuna. Not all of Sukuna's fingers have been found, and Itadori is still his vessel. And if Sukuna really is an even greater threat than the other curses, there is no telling the trouble these characters will face.

Overall, the pace of this show is great as it thrusts you right into the dangers of curses, then reveals information in the most entertaining way.

Stream a dubbed version on HBO Max or a subbed version on Crunchyroll.

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Reviews

Netflix's 'You' shines light on the darkness of the male gaze

BY SHAWN AWAGU

Debuting this past October for its third season, the Netflix original "You" has been one of the platform's most popular titles. Based on the book series by Caroline Kepnes, the show is narrated by the series' protagonist Joe Goldberg (Penn Badgley) in his quest to find the perfect love. Dashing handsome and witty, Goldberg provides a gripping and biting sarcastic view of those around him, often mirroring the viewer's own thoughts. However, there's a problem: Goldberg is defined by his obsession with women, often resorting to violent and disturbingly creepy methods to win the heart of the

object of his pursuit. Spoilers are ahead.

Goldberg's patterns are virtually the same throughout the three seasons. First, he meets a woman whom he identifies as interesting. Then, he becomes obsessed with her, finding out who she is through extreme means. He then isolates her from her support system and establishes her dependence on him. Finally, he plays a game of deception that is ultimately unraveled at some point, forcing him to murder her and others in the process.

Most, if not all of these behaviors, are the sickening hallmarks of an abuser. But in Goldberg's case, his patterns are also emblematic of

the male gaze taken to its logical conclusion.

The male gaze typically refers to the way in which women and the worlds they inhabit in art, movies, and TV shows are reduced to objects of pleasure by heterosexual males. In plain language, it is the systematic way in which women are displayed in media as useful for little more than short skirts, topless scenes, and sexy secretaries who bring coffee to the male protagonist who is not-so-subtly ogling them. This art is often an imitation of real life sexism. Objectification is problematic enough, but "You" correctly illustrates its deadly consequences when the male gaze

goes unchecked.

Goldberg often stalks his victims, breaking into their living space and stealing watches, journals, and even undergarments. In a patriarchal society, the transition to being viewed as an object is followed by devaluing and possessiveness. Since Goldberg sees them as his alone, it makes sense to him to confiscate their items for his own use and pleasure. Controlling behavior is exemplified in the real world by another of his behaviors: isolating victims from friends, family, and support systems.

This portrayal in the show is compelling, as his first victim, Beck (Elizabeth Lail), did

have several friends who arguably held her back more than they helped her, but that was her decision to make. Goldberg slowly whittles away at her support system until he is the only one in her life, and then she becomes dependent on him.

This is often the stage where the most violent and domineering behavior happens. The illusion of ownership and control entices abusers like Goldberg, inviting them to trap their targets in cages of their making, sometimes literally as with Goldberg. The same can be said of organizers of human trafficking, or of abusive households where the abused has no income or safe

means of escape.

When this fantasy is broken, Goldberg kills his victims. This is the central issue: to reduce a person to an object of fantasy guarantees violence and harm once that delusion is broken or deviated from.

People, especially women, who challenge the delusion become targets and are at risk of violence. While "You" doesn't elaborate on this point, it bears serious discussion. How is the status quo to be challenged when the consequences can mean serious harm? The first step is to deconstruct media like "You" to understand the male gaze and its consequences.

'Resident Evil: Welcome to Raccoon City' boasts horrific authenticity

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

"Resident Evil: Welcome to Raccoon City" is a reboot based directly on the first two video games in the "Resident Evil" game series. The 107-minute survival horror film is a gore filled authentic adaptation of the source material

When the big pharma company, the Umbrella Corporation, leaves the town of Raccoon City after fostering years of prosperity to the area, the resulting effects to the residents are horrifying. Claire Redfield (Kaya Scodelario) returns to expose the company's secrets.

Umbrella has covertly experimented on the town orphans, specifically through bioengineering. The t-virus took a heavy toll on the town. Optic bleeding and hair loss

are some of the minor symptoms. The major symptoms include an insatiable hunger for human flesh.

Rotting wood and rusting metal make up what is left of Raccoon City. The Umbrella Corporation poisoned the town with secret genetic experiments, then seemingly split. The twisted company quarantined the city by using its own military.

Much of the film involves the characters fighting the infected. The "lickers" from the game make an appearance: wall-crawling creatures with exposed brains and sickle-like claws. The creatures also sport a prehensile spiked tongue, hence the name. The screenwriters also included the iconic infected Doberman, a staple in the video games.

Kaya Scodelario is a talented actor and has

become a true scream queen in the past few years. "Welcome to Raccoon City" is her third horror film. She had an excellent performance in the Andre Aja alligator horror film "Crawl." Scodelario also appeared in the Netflix film about Ted Bundy, "Extremely Wicked Shockingly Evil and Vile."

Original characters from the games appear in the film. Chris Redfield (Robie Amell), Jill Valentine (Hannah John-Kamen) and Albert Wesker (Tom Hopper) are all important characters.

The pernicious villain, Dr. William Birkin, (Neil McDonough) is a mad scientist who is subtle and focused. His search for a cure for his daughter has led him to infect a city with a hazardous virulent disease.

The Umbrella fund-

ed militia is the largest threat to the protagonists. Even more than dangerous creatures or zombified Raccoon City residents. This was also an interesting aspect of the video games where the virus, as well as Umbrella serve as dual antagonists.

The film was directed by Johannes Roberts. Roberts is also known for directing the shark films "47 Meters Down" (2017) and "47 Meters Down: Uncaged" (2019). Both were low-budget films that more than doubled their box office returns.

Having to follow up a seven-film series in "Resident Evil," Roberts was up for a challenge. "Welcome to Raccoon City" was able to work on its own by moving closer to the source material. Acclaimed sci-fi director and producer Paul W.S. Anderson brought the

series to audiences 20 years ago. His take on the game focused on the Umbrella Corporation headquarters situated beneath Raccoon City itself.

The 2002 version of "Resident Evil" was all big sets and bigger action. "Welcome to Raccoon City" is much different. Smaller sets and a steady survival horror pace differentiates the two. Roberts' film takes place in the setting of the first two "Resident Evil" games, the mansion above Umbrella headquarters and the Raccoon City Police Department building.

The sets look great but could have used better lighting. The practical effects look realistic from what the audience can see. Raccoon City is supposed to be a town in a steep decline, and it shows in the film's final product. The image of persistent

hungry hordes of mutated zombies makes the virus look truly ghastly.

This is a thematically and visually dark film. The lack of light works as a plot element, though sometimes you cannot see what the actors are doing at all. This is like the actual games, though it is not a visually gratifying film tactic. For some reason nobody in the Raccoon City Police Department owns a flashlight.

Fans of the video games and original series will appreciate the film which is an entertaining survival horror film. The characters all reflect their in-game counterparts well. The story of "Resident Evil: Welcome to Raccoon City" holds up as a genuine adaptation of the perennial game series.

EDward Gaming crowned League of Legends World Champions

BY EDWARD SAENZ

China's EDward Gaming have finally broken their world championship curse. On Nov. 6, they became the third Chinese team to obtain League of Legends' most coveted award, The Summoner's Cup, and a cash prize of \$500,000.

EDG as an organization has a long and interesting history. One that includes both being considered one of the best teams in the world and being the laughing stock of China at the same time.

In late 2013, Chinese real estate millionaire Edward Chu approached the head coach of China's most beloved team, World Elite, about creating a new Chinese super team. The coach would depart the team, and take two of its star players to form the new EDG line-up. In doing so, EDG would become the most hated team in China and, by extension, the world. Despite the negative attention, EDG hit the ground running.

The newly formed team would win their first event in 2014, and proceed to win nearly every tournament in China for the next two



L-R: EDG players JieJie, Flandre, Scout, Meiko, Viper with trophy. Courtesy: Redbull

years. In 2015 they made history winning the Mid-Season Invitational, a smaller version of the World Championships held in mid-May. In doing so, EDG became the first non-South Korean team to win an international event since 2012.

Despite the domestic and minor international success, performances at the World Championships alluded the team for over seven years. In 2014, they squeaked into the quarter finals of the tournament, only to lose a close series to a fellow Chinese club. In 2015 and 2016, they once again failed to make it past the quarter finals.

At the start of the 2016 season EDward Gaming made a questionable roster decision. They bought a South

Korean player by the name of Lee "Scout" Ye-chan from SK Telecom. SKT are the single greatest organization in League of Legends history. The club has, among many titles, three world championships, and has fielded many of the games most recognized players. SKT signed Scout in early 2015, referring to him as "Korea's next prodigy." Scout, however, failed to live up to the hype.

In 2017, the organization went through massive structural changes after finishing in last place. The entire coaching staff was fired and many of the players were sold, benched, or traded away, except Scout. Despite this, the team entered the 2018 world championships with hopes of decent placement only to exit

in the quarter finals once again. Following several more roster overhauls, EDG failed to qualify for either the 2019 or 2020 World Championships.

EDG made another roster overhaul and entered the 2021 season with a roster made up of several newcomer talents, something that shocked analysts. For an organization with the financial backing of EDward Gaming, going after newcomers instead of buying talent from other teams was a major gamble.

Their gamble paid off. The team ended the spring season by finishing second in the regular season and third in the playoffs. The team would keep the momentum going into the summer season by once again finishing second in the regular

season and winning the summer playoffs. In doing so, EDG would secure the number one seed for China heading into the world championships.

Once the playoffs started, only two Chinese teams remained. EDward Gaming and Royal Never Give Up drew each other in the Quarter Finals. EDG beat their compatriots 3-2 and made it to the Semi-Finals of the world championships for the first time. Where they played the South Korean team Gen.G. They would win the series 3-2 and advanced to the Grand Finals.

EDG had already beaten Royal Never Give Up before and Gen.G was not considered a top tier Korean team, however, EDG's final opponent was a different beast alto-

gether. South Korea's Damwon Gaming were considered the best team in the world coming into the 2021 world championships. They won both Korean seasonal leagues that year, and more importantly, were the reigning world champions. EDG had their work cut out for them.

EDG silenced the nay-sayers in Game 1, taking a commanding lead in the first 15 minutes of the game and never giving it up. Games 2 and 3 would be nail-bitingly close but would go the way of Damwon Gaming. Going into Game 3 the consensus was a 3-1 victory for the Koreans. However, the newcomers of EDG fought back in a crazy Game 4 and EDG would take the victory and force a fifth and final game.

In Game 5, EDG's franchise player, "Scout" put on a career-best performance and reminded the world why he was at one point considered "Korea's next prodigy." EDG took an early lead and refused to give it up, taking Game 5 and finally becoming world champions.

Faze Clan set to go public on US stock exchange in 2022

BY EDWARD SAENZ

North American esports organization Faze Clan announced they will go public on the U.S. Stock exchange in early 2022. The organization announced on Twitter it had entered a \$1 billion partnership on Oct. 25 with SPAC B. Riley 150, a special purpose acquisitions company that specializes in finding unusual or unique privately-owned companies and helping them become publicly tradeable.

Esports organizations going public have become something of a trend since late last year. In December 2020, Danish esports organization Astralis went public on the Danish stock exchange, and seven months later in June, they went public in the U.S. Astralis stock in the U.S.

In July of this year, legendary Swedish esports organization Ninjas in Pajamas, announced they too would go public on the U.S.

stock exchange. NiP announced a merger with Chinese investor with plans to expand into both China and the U.S. markets.

This trend has raised questions on the sudden interest of esports organizations and the stock market. In esports, teams are not well monetized. Esports organizations have massive overhead costs including salaries, travel expenses, and offices. In addition, revenue streams for teams

are not very high. There are no team-owned stadiums or TV contract deals, and revenue sharing plans are few and far between.

While esports organizations going public is a new thing, several sports clubs are also publicly traded. The most decorated soccer club in England, Manchester United FC, is publicly traded with a current stock price of \$16.34. Italian soccer club Juventus FC is also public with a stock

value of about 72 cents.

In the U.S., the New York Knicks and New York Rangers are public with stock values of \$200.59 and \$79.43, respectively. The 2021 World Series Champions, the Atlanta Braves, are also public with a stock value of \$30.19.

Associate Professor Kevin Jones, of the Marilyn Davies College of Business, explained why esports and sports teams would be interested in going public. Jones said that one of

the main reasons is to "provide an infusion of capital," or a way to cover costs such as stadium expenses and finance future projects. He also said that esports organizations could choose to go public simply to pay their bills in the short term. However, he discourages that strategy because going public "will not help most esports teams survive in the long run."

Counter-Strike returns esports to pre-pandemic norm

BY EDWARD SAENZ

For the first time since December 2019, fans of the video game Counter Strike Global Offensive were treated to a long-awaited sight: a full in-person stadium event with fans, and what better way to return to normality, than with a “major.”

The majors are CS-GO’s most prestigious events. Unlike most traditional sports and other esports that have one big event to round out the year, CSGO has two world championship-style events a year. They happen every six months. The champions of the game receive one of the highest prize payouts CSGO has to offer and earn the right to call themselves world champions.

Taking place at the Avicii Arena in Sweden, the Stockholm Major was not only the first major since

the Berlin Major in 2019, but it was also the first pre-pandemic style international event for CSGO and esports since February 2020.

Despite CSGO’s global appeal and financial infrastructure, the game did not see consistent international play for over a year, despite many other esports managing to pull off multiple NBA-style bubble events across the world. Riot Games managed to host the 2020 League of Legends World Championship in Shanghai and hosted both their 2021 events in Reykjavik, Iceland, while Blue Hole was able to pull off the 2020 PUBG Global Championships in Incheon, South Korea. Meanwhile, Activision managed to pull off the Call of Duty League finals in Los Angeles with a small, vaccinated audience.

In July of this year,

sponsors, tournament organizers, and teams came together and managed to hold just one international event. Taking place in Germany, the community came together to get 24 of the best teams in the world into a hotel in Germany to host one of the game’s most beloved events, IEM Cologne, unanimously regarded as the most important event to win outside the majors.

While traditional sports have been able to return to having full stadiums, esports has been struggling to hold stadium events. Unlike traditional sports, where the fans will come from the surrounding areas, and the players are all based in the country, esports are a true global event.

The Stockholm Major brought 24 teams totaling 142 players and coaches all to Sweden, with over 27 countries

represented, which was no small feat with many countries still going into lock-down or not allowing travel. Due to extreme travel restrictions, Vietnamese teams from across esports have not appeared in international competitions since 2019.

The event itself still felt the effects of COVID-19 restrictions. The first two stages of the event did not have fans and took place in a hotel that housed all players and staff and the broadcast crew was not on site until the playoffs started. All teams and staff were under strict rules to not leave their hotel rooms and were bused to and from the hotel and arena all event long.

Once the event did move to the Avicii Arena, there were no player signing events or meet-ups allowed. All attendees needed to provide proof of

vaccination or present a negative COVID-19 test from the past 72 hours.

Despite all the negatives, the first event with fans in attendance was rewarded by breaking every viewer metric in CSGO history, the grand final peaked at just over 2.67 million live viewers and over 15 million unique viewers tuned in across the entire tournament.

The event was won by Russia’s Natus Vincere. Having achieved every other trophy and accolade possible in CSGO, the two-decade-old organization has been longing for a major trophy since the inception of the events in late 2013.

For the past two years the esports industry has felt stagnant, just hoping, and waiting for international events to happen. Each time one was promised and failed to deliver

the community would become increasingly jaded. The Stockholm Major was a massive sign of hope, not just for CSGO, but esports, that an end to what the community has dubbed the “online era” is finally near.

Ahead of the grand final, the official Counter-Strike Twitter tweeted that they, like us, have missed the crowds and watching the best teams in the world compete.

“Today isn’t just a celebration of the teams in the major or just about the CSGO community,” CSGO tweeted. “Today is a celebration for the entire esports community. Whatever game you play, whether you’ve played it for 20 years or 20 minutes, you are part of this community.”



Texas Call of Duty organizations announce merger

BY EDWARD SAENZ

North American esports organizations Optic Gaming and Envy Gaming announced the two will merge under a joint parent company. Following weeks of rumors, the merger was made in the last moments of Optic Gaming's docu-series, "The Process," on Nov. 9.

Call of Duty fans have no doubt heard of both organizations, or at the very least, have seen either of the two logos before.

Optic Gaming has long been considered one of the most popular esports organizations in the world and has a large ecstatic fan base. The organization also has one of the games' largest trophy cabinets, which includes a world championship and two X-Games gold medals.

For their part, Envy is a highly decorated organization in Call of Duty, with two world championship titles to their name. The two



Seth Abener (left) and Anthony Cuevas-Castro (right) will be the faces of the new Optic Texas team. Credit: Dexerto

organizations combined hold 11 finals appearances across every Call of Duty World Championship alongside countless trophies in other Call of Duty events.

Prior to the merger, both organizations fielded teams in Activision's Call of Duty League.

Envy owned the Dallas Empire brand, and Optic the Chicago Optic brand. Going forward, the two organizations will consolidate into one team in the Call of Duty League

and will re-brand as Optic Texas. The Chicago team will be sold off. Previous rumors hinted that Washington Ventures wanted to acquire the slot and move it to Washington D.C, however, the sale did not go through.

In an interview with Dexerto, Michael Rufail, CEO of Envy Gaming, talked about the "viable interest in the slot at this time," and was convinced it would sell.

Recent rumors have hinted that fellow

Texas-based organization Complexity, owned by the Dallas Cowboys, are interested in buying the slot and re-locating it to Houston, Texas.

As a part of the deal, Hector Rodriguez, owner of Optic Gaming, will become a shareholder in the parent company Envy Gaming. Rodriguez will continue to operate all of Optic's ventures. Meanwhile, Rufail will also continue to operate the Envy brand.

Texas has in recent years attempted to

become the premiere North American esports city. In late 2017, Dallas won a quiet bidding war with Atlanta for various esports endeavors. The city then built the Arlington Esports Arena, a 100,000-square-foot theater capable of holding 3,000 spectators.

To go along with it, the city managed to get both Optic Gaming and Envy Gaming to move their headquarters to the city. It was later announced that with the help of the city, Envy

& Optic managed to acquire the \$20 million to pay for franchises in Blizzard's Overwatch League. Envy acquired the Dallas spot, and Optic acquired the Houston spot, which also covered both San Antonio and Austin.

Two years later, both organizations would also spend the \$25 million to enter the Call of Duty League.

When asked about the merger and why it happened, both Rodriguez and Rufail discussed the future of esports as a whole. Rufail said the industry is at level 3 of 100. This merger was long overdue and will be just a "blip in the history of esports."

"Everything we've built so far in the history of esports is just one brick in the actual foundation of the industry," Rodriguez said. "This merger is to set us up for the decades to come"

A BOWLFUL OF COLLEGE



Credit: Jeremy Jones