

DATELINE

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Solidarity rally on South Deck concludes Black History Month

BY EDWARD SAENZ

To conclude Black History Month, the Student Government Association hosted a solidarity rally to honor Black lives lost to social injustice through spoken word, song and celebration on Feb. 28 on the South Deck.

Assistant Dean of Students Branton Harris kicked off the event singing a rendition of Sam Cooke’s “A Change is Gonna Come.”

UHD Professor Jonathan Chism was the first to speak, giving an empowering speech. UHD student Sidney Castro followed, reciting a spoken word poem she wrote as a freshman.

The poem was a play on the childhood tale “Little Red Riding Hood,” however it narrated the infamous shooting of Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman who was shot while sleeping in her apartment in March 2020.

The second part of her poem was about the tragic death of Ahmaud Arbery, who was murdered in a racially motivated hate crime while jogging through his neighborhood.

The final speaker was Roshawn Evans, a co-founder of Pure Justice, an organization that uses education and research as methods to help reform institutions and systems that perpetuate social and criminal injustices. The organization aims to improve the lives of low-income and working-class families. Evans opened up about his own experiences with an unfair legal system.

Eddy Guerra, a freshman attendee, explained that the rally helped him understand the concerns and needs of the Black community.

“I am not as aware as I would want to be,” Guerra added.

When asked for his opinion on the event and Black



UHD students and faculty alongside community members at a solidarity rally commemorate Black lives lost to social injustice. Courtesy: Roshawn Evans

History Month as a whole, Kevin Peters talked about the impact it had on him.

“People are coming together and working together,” Peters said.

“This rally was a success. If we hold more events, we can help end [racial tensions].”

UHD Bike Club, Sports & Fitness host yoga class and bike ride



UHD Bike Club founding member “Lex” Perez, Sports & Fitness yoga instructor Carmen Martinez, and Mauricio Perales. Credit: Edward Saenz

BY EDWARD SAENZ

On Feb. 22, UHD Sports & Fitness and the UHD Bike Club partnered up to run a yoga and biking event. The event was open to any UHD students of any skill level in cycling and/or yoga.

Students who attended were treated to a beginner-friendly yoga session. The lesson covered all the basic yoga poses. Participants were prompted to bend over and touch their toes without bending their knees to more

(half fold) to complicated things like trying to balance on one foot while raising your hands up into the air (tree pose).

After the yoga lesson ended, UHD Bike Club founding member, Alejandro “Lex” Perez, took over and led the students on a 3-mile bike ride to Discovery Green.

As he led the group through downtown, Perez talked about how he just wanted to do something light and get everyone out.

“Show everyone the world of biking,” Perez said.

He went on to say how he wants to run events like this every month. “I want to run multiple group rides of different distances for different types of cyclists.

UHD Sports & Fitness runs the yoga class every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:15 to 7 p.m.

The class is taught by Carmen Martinez. The next Yoga and Bike event is scheduled for April 14.



Provost search

4

Credit: G. O.



Ukraine invasion

9



Justice nomination

14

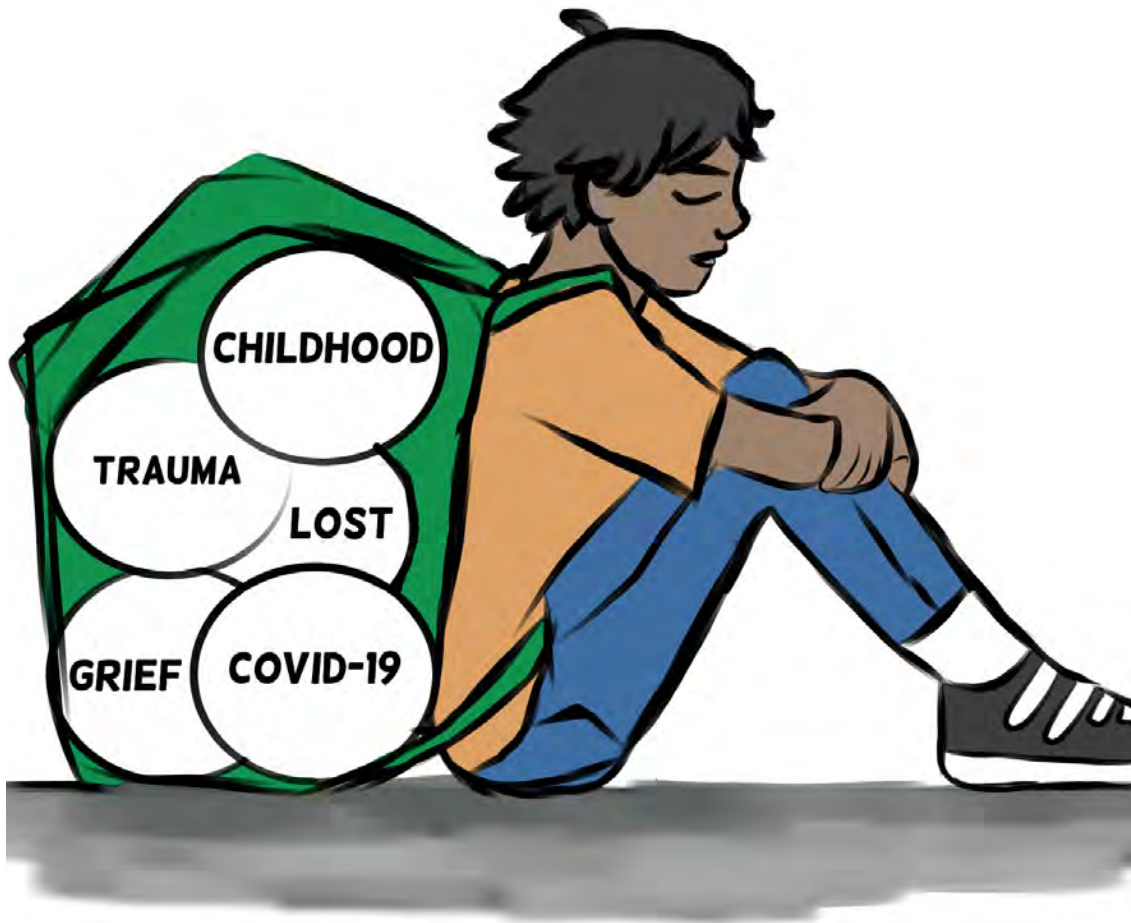
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FIND US ONLINE!

Webinar helps educators identify trauma



Credit: Giselle Oviedo

BY SERGIO PRESA JR

Board certified clinical psychologist Dr. Julie Kaplow spoke about the signs and symptoms children exhibit due to grief and trauma at a webinar hosted by UHD on Feb. 15.

Kaplow’s webinar, titled “Psychological Long COVID: Tackling the Silent Epidemic of Childhood Trauma and Grief: What Every Educator Needs to Know” focused on trauma in children, and the signs educators should watch out for, so they can properly understand what might be going on with a child in their classroom.

Kaplow began her presentation explaining what trauma means and the different types of traumas. She also

noted that trauma can manifest differently in individual children.

Some symptoms of trauma such as hyperactivity can be mistaken for the disorders ADD and ADHD.

In some cases, PTSD and trauma symptoms can manifest physically in children, causing psychosomatic symptoms, which are physical symptoms brought on by a mental health issue.

Reunification fantasies are another possible symptom that a traumatized child can experience.

A reunification fantasy is when a child thinks they will be reunited with their loved one that they lost. However, having these fantasies does not

mean that a child or adolescent is at an increased risk of suicide.

Kaplow also discussed the long-term effects of unresolved trauma. If a child’s trauma goes untreated, they can end up having a smaller brain volume, depression, school performance problems, and other issues.

Grief is also not to be confused with trauma nor something to be pathologized. Kaplow pointed out that grief is a normal feeling. There’s no right or wrong way to grieve or no set time for someone to finish grieving.

One of the ways Kaplow suggested for educators to help grieving youth is to have classmates write out condolences and allow the

student to read those when they feel safe and ready to do so.

Giving the student a jar of condolence cards eases any overwhelming feelings the student might have if they are confronted by all their classmates trying to verbally give condolences.

Another way that educators can support children with grief is to become familiar with and recognize the symptoms and signs of trauma and grief.

Dr. Kaplow says that instead of asking what is wrong with the child, educators should ask what happened that is causing the child to behave differently as their symptoms can be exacerbated when reliving their trauma.

THE DATELINE

University of Houston-Downtown
 1 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002
 Office: S-260 Phone: 713.221.8192
 editordateline@downtown@gmail.com

Spring 2022 Staff

- Editor.....Indira Zaldivar
- Assistant Editor.....Edward Saenz
- Business Manager.....Diana Ambrosio
- Social Media Manager.....Dalila Juarez
- Gator Life Section Editor.....Shaheryar Khan
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- Staff Writer.....Sasha Smith
- Illustrator.....Teodoro Lamas
- Illustrator.....Giselle Oviedo
- Illustrator.....Sarah Ramirez

The Dateline is the official student newspaper of the University of Houston-Downtown. Since its first issue in 1982, The Dateline is proud to be “Student Run since Volume One.” We strive to meet the needs of a growing university as well as the growing metropolitan city that surrounds us.

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.

Always hiring!

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Follow us!

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The Bayou Review plans new issue centered on cultural roots

BY DALILA JUAREZ

The Dateline and UHD iRadio interviewed The Bayou Review in mid-February to speak about what they offer for students.

The Bayou Review is a student-run organization that features a literary arts magazine that includes poetry, stories, and visual art from creative students attending UHD. Students from all kinds of majors can write and submit their original

work. Their goal is to promote creative writing and send readers with inspiration.

The literary magazine changes the theme of their digest every year and the stories revolve around the theme.

They have a different theme for what the stories should be focused on every year. This semester's theme is roots. Students can create stories however they wish if it relates to the organization's theme. It is perfect for

the university since it is diverse with its students.

The Bayou Review's interns Giselle Phalo and Rosemary Miranda provided a re-introduction for students about the organization who are interested in submitting their work. They also offered an example of their version of this semester's theme.

Phalo stated her roots originated from Houston and how the community is more

welcoming to its neighbors. Miranda said her roots are with her Mexican background as a Hispanic, and she enjoys speaking about cultural food.

The spring 2022 issue deadline was on Feb. 27, but students can prepare for next year's issue. The organization offers internships and editor opportunities every year, but they are quick to fill. The positions become open when registration for classes begins, and

students will have to enroll in ENG 3332 Literary Magazine Production: The Bayou Review. The course may be repeated twice.

If you are interested in joining or writing for The Bayou Review, you can visit their office on the second floor at One Main Building, room S250. Their door is next to the UHD Greek Life wall. Email them at editor@bayoureview.org or visit their website at www.bayoureview.org.

Keep an eye out for their spring 2022 literary magazine that will be released through the university campus and online on their website.

Their current featured issue is from spring 2021 is available for everyone to view and be familiar with their content.



The Dateline's Dalila Juarez interviews The Bayou Review interns Giselle Phalo (left) and Rosemary Miranda (right). Credit: Shaheryar Khan

Scan the QR Code that will take you to The Bayou Review's Website

SCAN ME



Make sure to stop at their office at OMB S250 on the second floor!

Credit: Dalila Juarez

Media professionals visit UHD, offer career guidance

BY SHAHERYAR KHAN

Gators had the privilege to gain firsthand knowledge from professionals of the media corporation, Audacy, Inc., at the American Marketing Association general assembly on Feb. 9 at the Shea Street Building.

The event was the first AMA general assembly of the semester and facilitated Gators to network with media professionals and garner information about the perks of becoming a member of AMA.

Michael Pettiette was the vice president and director of sales

at Audacy, Inc., called CBS Radio. Through his network, UHD was able to invite the current representatives of Audacy, Inc.

The guest speakers included Senior Vice President and Marketing Manager Sarah Frazier, Director of Sales Alana Lujan, Brand Manager Melissa Chase of Mix 96.5 and 95.7 The Spot, Regional Sales Promotion Director Yasely Carrizales, and Brand Manager Armen Williams of Sports Radio 610.

During the event, introduced Audacy, Inc. to attendees.

Audacy, Inc. is a multimedia content provider that "brings people together around what moves them, and helps advertisers connect to those audiences."

With over 200M listeners and 230+ stations across the U.S., Audacy, Inc. is a company that has proven that it is for the people. The company provides listeners with numerous content varying from music, news, sports, and podcasts.

During their presentation, the speakers emphasized that "digital is the way," and that the modern form of

information and entertainment services has "untouched potential."

Lujan explained the sales side of the industry and offered insightful information.

"Sales must follow the audience. Before, if you can talk, you can sell. Now, more jobs have emerged, such as creative positions."

This event was AMA's first and not the last event this semester. AMA UHD president Evangelina Vazquez said that the event "exceeded our [AMA] expectations!"

"As AMA President, and even just understanding from a

student perspective, my AMA team and I goals are to open these opportunities to our members," Vazquez continued.

Although AMA is an organization from the business school, they welcome everyone to their events.

"The goal at the end of the day, for all our AMA UHD events, is to help our members receive beneficial resources that are going to help build their skills, not only for marketing majors, but in general in the professional aspect of their careers."

Keep an eye out for their next event on March 23 featuring professionals from Exxon Mobil. AMA is also offering volunteer opportunities for students who are interested in marketing.

AMA is a resourceful organization for students who aspire to enter the world of marketing and business. It is never too late to join their organization. If you are interested in learning more about AMA and future events, follow the organization on Instagram @ama_uhd.

UHD searches for provost, senior vice president for Academic Affairs

BY BRYCE CALABAZA

UHD recently conducted interviews for provost and a senior vice president for Academic Affairs. Looking for individuals to refill positions on campus is not a foreign concept at UHD. Here is why the Gator community should consider the importance of this matter.

Many people are unaware of what the

Provost does and their role at the university. The position “serves as the Chief Academic Officer of the University and works collaboratively with the President, Vice Presidents and Deans to further the academic mission of the institution.” They handle everything from classes to the university’s relations with the students, faculty, and community.

Although the university’s president is above the provost, the president serves primarily as the front man and face of the university. At the same time, the provost works in the background and handles most of the university’s affairs.

UHD has five candidates in this search: Alberto-Ruiz, Ralf Peetz, Shafik Dharamsi, Deborah E.

Bordelon, and Clare Weber. The candidates who are qualified for the position selected have previously been in administrative roles.

Each of their pages shows a quick paragraph about themselves, showing their aspirations and vision for the university. Each candidate had a two-day visit that ended with an open forum for the UHD community to attend.

After each candidate has gone through their visits, the Provost Search Committee can choose one of these candidates, or they could opt not to choose any of them at all. It all depends on if the committee wants to select one of these candidates.

Again, searches like these are not new to the university, and they might not directly affect the students and

faculty. However, everyone at the university needs to be aware of the ongoings of the administrative level at the university. Many people were not even aware of a search going on for such a key position at UHD. Gators need to be aware that these events happen and that more events like these will come in the future.

Dr. Ralf Peetz



- Associate Provost/AVP at the College Staten Island (CSI)
- Professor of Chemistry at CSI and President of the Staten Island Greenbelt Conservancy
- Committed to building collaborative teams and empowering faculty and staff to support university academics

Dr. Clare Weber



- Founding Deputy Provost and Vice Provost for Academic Programs at California State University
- Lead efforts and projects to increase graduation rates and help close the equity gaps
- Serves on the Community Coalition of South Los Angeles Board of Directors

Dr. Shafik Dharamsi



- Senior Advisor to the Provost at New Mexico State University
- Led over 200 staff in East Africa as Regional Director of poverty alleviation programs
- Serves as board member on several local, national, and international civil society organizations.

Dr. Deborah Bordelon



- Provost and Executive President at Columbus State University
- Facilitated and supported the development and approval of multiple degree programs
- Responsible for five Academic Colleges and numerous university departments

Dr. Alberto Ruiz



- Associate Athletic Director of Student Athlete Excellence at University of Louisiana Monroe.
- Served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of College of Education
- Holds expertise in Academic Program Development

Provost Search

Scan QR Code



Credit: Brittany Henderson

Scholar discusses ‘The 1619 Project,’ Black representation in US

BY AMY NGUYEN

President Loren Blanchard hosted the virtual lecture “Inclusive Excellence, the Way Forward: Truth, History & The 1619 Project” with Associate Professor of English and Director of Critical Race Studies Vida Robertson featuring Ida B. Wells Society co-founder Nikole Hannah-Jones on Feb. 9. Coming forth with the effects of racism is trauma that continues for generations, according to Hannah-Jones.

Many questions are yet to be answered, yet are not fully ac-

knowledged despite countless incidents involving people of color.

“The 1619 Project” started as a long-term journalistic project but turned into a book composed of essays from the New York Times magazine founded by Hannah-Jones. The project consists of the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black people as “much of the society we live in right now has been shaped by slavery.” The year 1619 is when the first enslaved Africans arrived in America, and 2019 marked the 400th anniversary

of this significant event, leading to what is occurring today.

During the hour-and-a-half question-and-answer session, over 700 attendees listened to the discussion about the movements from Black people that helped shape society, gaps in the education of critical race theory, the need for reparations, and debunking claims about the 1619 project and her experiences.

As historical works alone do not seem like a viable information resource for many readers, she felt the need to incorporate journalism and history

together for the narrative.

“I wanted to use writing to hopefully change our society, but I had to build in the history of slavery to help us understand how we got where we are – the racial disparity that exists today,” said Hannah-Jones.

With the history of slavery being controversial and revised,

“Our inability to grapple with our past and the way we have obscured the role of slavery and anti-blackness have made it impossible for us to be a country that lives up to our highest ideals,” Hannah-Jones said.

Despite the contributions from Black people to the success of the U.S. economy, not enough reparations are made to relieve pain spanning over centuries.

Hannah-Jones received backlash from former President Donald Trump and right-wing groups about “The 1619 Project” in the remarks of anti-critical race theory legislation that would further distort history.

The air surrounding this discourse may be uncomfortable. However, the more these topics are brought up and acknowledged, the more

likely chance we will have an “equitable and just future.”

The Q&A concluded with a discussion about Black representation in U.S. politics and the meaning of celebrating plantation locations with students in UHD’s African American history and literature classes.

“You control your own excellence,” Hannah-Jones said for closing remarks. “Focus on the things that make you as undeniable as possible. I can only imagine the light you will be for future students.”

UHD alumna credits student involvement for academic success



Staff Spotlight
Sheila Ortega-Calvillo
Student Success Advisor

BY JORDYNN GODFREY

Student Success Advisor Sheila Ortega-Calvillo is a UHD alumna and former member of The Dateline, the Bike Club, and the Student Government Association. She spoke with The Dateline about her time as a student and her current role as a staff member.

Ortega-Calvillo started at UHD in the Marilyn Davies College of business but decided that it was not what she wanted to do.

“The more I thought about it, I was like, I’m not enjoying this,” she said.

Ortega-Calvillo took a communications class, enjoyed it, and wanted to pursue it. After speaking to an advisor, she switched her major and went on to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies

in spring 2020.

“I promote [Interdisciplinary Studies] a lot with my students because it’s the most flexible degree, and you basically get to do most of the classes that you want,” she said. “You get to pick [a lot of] electives, and can still get into master’s programs.”

Ortega-Calvillo graduated at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The university held a virtual graduation for the class of 2020 as all in-person activity was suspended. “It was a bummer,” she said. “It didn’t feel like a legit graduation, but it happened.”

After graduating, she worked for an immigration firm but wanted to get back into higher education.

“My senior year, when I started working as a student worker, I

realized I had fallen in love with higher education and education in general. I wanted to be involved in it and take it on as my career.”

She applied at UHD and is now a student success advisor with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

While a student at UHD, Ortega-Calvillo was heavily involved in student organizations, such as The Dateline, the Bike Club, and SGA.

During her time with The Dateline, Ortega-Calvillo served as a writer and section editor. As most students do, she started as a student in Dateline Faculty Advisor Joseph Sample’s TCOM 4360 class. Once in the class, she got more involved from there.

“I got to learn how [The Dateline] put the paper together and I was like, ‘whoa, that’s way harder than I thought!’ It’s a group effort, and it’s really beautiful,” she said. “I love how creative you can be in the process.”

During her time with the Bike Club, Ortega-Calvillo managed the club’s social media channels. This was a natural position for her to take on as she managed social media accounts for the Office of Student Affairs while

being a student worker. Despite graduating, she has stayed involved in the Bike Club since first joining the club in 2019.

“We’re trying to get it up and moving. We [go on] rides every month and we meet up [for] officer meetings.”

In addition to these two organizations, Ortega-Calvillo briefly served as the executive assistant for SGA.

She credits her student worker job at UHD for motivating her to get more involved. Ortega-Calvillo did not get involved with student organizations until her senior year as she was not on campus often.

“It all started with me setting up my life so that I could have a student job here,” she said. “I said, ‘I’m going to work on campus because I want to find my career one day, and the only way to do that is to explore.’”

She also pointed out the benefits of being involved on campus.

“It opens doors for your academics, you start networking, you start talking to your professors, you go to the computer lab, you find more about resources.”

She credits her time in student organizations as part of her academic success.

“It helped me enjoy college and really helped me do better in my classes. Because I was involved, I felt connected to the institution, so I did better.”

While Ortega-Calvillo recognizes that it is not possible for all students to become more involved on campus, she still encourages her students to get a part-time job on campus.

“You make some money. You do your homework while you’re at the job because student worker positions are meant to be supportive to the student’s success,” she added. “And they create opportunities.”

If you want to get involved in student organizations but do not have the time to participate on campus, check what organizations have virtual options and get involved that way. Some organizations, the Dateline for example, meet virtually over Zoom and utilize Discord chats to stay connected.

As part of her job, Ortega-Calvillo coordinated the Annual 2022 Gator Gala. This gala was a way to commemorate students with a GPA of 3.25 or higher.

Given the unique challenges and troubling circumstances that the COVID-19

pandemic has presented students with, it is a remarkable achievement for any student to have maintained a 3.25 GPA or higher. This was a way to honor students for their hard work and academic achievements despite the circumstances, according to Ortega-Calvillo.

“We want to commend those who made it this far and have a GPA of 3.25. Because kudos to you, buddy. I don’t know how you’re doing it,” she said.

The event also sets an example for the other students to let them know it’s possible and that UHD is here to support.

“We’re here to bring you up so that. If this is not you this year, let’s get you on this next year.”

The Annual Gator Galas invites executive leadership and the deans. Attendees get to enjoy delicious lunch and receive t-shirts and goodies. Even a photo booth was available to create souvenirs.

The 2022 Gator Gala was an invite-only event with in-person attendance. It will take place in room A300, which is on the third floor of the Academic Building, on March 1 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Poet laureate expresses revolutionary passion at virtual reading

BY ANITA GOOLCHARAN

The College of Humanities & Social Sciences’ English department and the Cultural Enrichment Center hosted “A Poetry Reading by Raquel Salas Rivera,” on Feb. 17.

Creative writing professor Lau Cesarcio Eglin extended an invitation to Raquel Salas Rivera to read their selected works.

Salas Rivera’s honors include the Lambda Literary Award, the New Voices Award from the Festival de la Palabra and being named Poet Laureate of Philadelphia in 2018. The poet identifies as a non-binary individual and prefers to be addressed with the gender-neutral pronoun “they.”

One of the poems Salas Rivera read was “Coats Are Not Ex-

changed for Coats” from “Lo Terciario / The Tertiary,” which eloquently articulated themes of revolutionary passion they felt sweeping by at 18.

The poems in this selection draw influence from Puerto Rico’s debt crisis following Hurricane Maria in 2017 and The Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act. The PROMESA Law

transferred the control of Puerto Rico’s finances and outstanding debt to an external control board. The law is often criticized for its representation of American imperialistic culture.

Another theme of this collection was a reconsideration of Marxist ideologies. This collection also offered a decolonial queer critique of social norms.

Salas Rivera read from their previous poetry books and gave a sneak peek of what is featured in their upcoming collection “antes que isla es volcán/ before island is volcano” during the event. Salas Rivera’s new book will be available on April 5.

When asked about their upcoming works, Salas Rivera said the progress is “similar to a diamond coming

from charcoal.”

Salas Rivera continues to express their views of decolonizing and imperialism in their sixth collection of poems. In their latest collection, Salas Rivera reminds us that islands came from volcanoes, and the explosive and burning energy is still within the hearts of Puerto Ricans today.

UHD offers weekly GatorCash incentive for on-campus COVID testing



The Curative COVID-19 testing kiosk is located next to the Student Life Center. Credit: Edward Saenz.

BY JORDYNN GODFREY

UHD is rewarding students, faculty, and staff with \$5 in GatorCash for completing a COVID-19 test on campus.

This is a way to encourage the UHD campus community to get tested often to help prevent the potential spread of COVID-19, so that our community stays safe and healthy.

Student Teddy Lamas registered to participate in this testing incentive and feels grateful for the option to get tested regularly and to earn cash while doing so.

"I feel \$5 in GatorCash is useful to use when I need a quick snack in between classes," Lamas said. "I had been using the testing center regularly to begin with, so I know that I am safe to go home

around my family."

Lamas shared his view on why he feels it is important to consider the safety precautions implemented by UHD.

"We are all exposed to possibly contracting the virus," Lamas added. "I am around different people who could possibly have COVID-19, so to have the testing site on campus makes it extremely convenient as it only takes a few minutes."

To participate in this testing incentive, registering is required to receive GatorCash, and all that is needed is the gator username and password.

Once registered, book your COVID-19 testing appointment at the UHD kiosk located next to the Jesse H. Jones Student Life Center. There are a few requirements to participate in the testing

incentive program.

Participants must be a current UHD student, faculty, or staff member with a current Gator ID Card.

The incentive is only rewarded for testing done at the on-campus kiosk.

Once tested for COVID-19, \$5 in GatorCash will be credited to the Gator ID card and can be used at all on-campus restaurants. Payments will be distributed once a week on Mondays.

The testing incentive is limited to one \$5 incentive per person per week. UHD plans to offer the program through May 22.

If tested weekly, Gators can earn up to \$75 in GatorCash.

For more information, see the infographic and follow the steps.

How To Earn GatorCash



Step 1

REGISTER & BOOK APPOINTMENT

Scan the QR code below, fill out the form to receive the \$5 GatorCash, then book your free COVID-19 test.

You must present a current student, faculty, or staff Gator ID Card to receive GatorCash

Step 2

BRING YOUR GATOR ID CARD

Present your ID card to the UHD Kiosk located next to the Student Life Center, and complete your free COVID-19 test.

Step 3

GO TO THE UHD KIOSK

After completing your COVID-19 test, your \$5 in GatorCash will be applied to your ID card to be used at any on-campus restaurant!

Step 4

EARN GATORCASH!



Credit: Jordynn Godfrey

UHD seeks applicants for next Editor of The Dateline

The University of Houston-Downtown is seeking applicants for the position of Editor for The Dateline, the student-run, bi-weekly newspaper.

This paid position begins summer 2022 (\$425/issue; start date flexible), and the applicants must commit to at least one

semester. Duties include responsibility for the overall operation of the paper. Editors assemble and manage a team of student writers and sub-editors and assign them to cover news and events.

Position requires some familiarity with the use of Adobe InDesign page-making

software. The paper runs stories anticipating campus events as well as reviewing them, including student activities and organizations, academics, athletics and lifestyle, university administration, and student government; also cultural coverage of activities in the theatre, film, music,

sports and arts communities, particularly as they are of interest to UHD students.

Qualifications include at least sophomore standing, at least one semester in residence at UHD, successful completion of basic writing and communications courses, and a current 3.0 cumulative

GPA (3.5 preferred). Applications accepted until position is filled.

To apply, please send a letter of interest indicating your reasons and qualifications for applying for the position. Include your resume as well as an unofficial copy of your UHD transcript. Send these documents to

The Dateline faculty advisor, Joe Sample, Associate Professor, at samplej@uhd.edu. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until position is filled.

Federal judge blocks Biden's climate change cost estimate

BY SERGIO PRESA JR

The Biden administration's estimate for damage caused by climate change was struck down by a federal judge.

Judge James Cain of Louisiana took the side of attorney generals from states that produce a lot of energy. The attorney generals argued that raising the price estimate would possibly drive-up energy costs and reduce state revenue from energy production.

The judge's injunction prevented the Biden administration from using the new estimate. The estimate puts a dollar value on damage caused by every ton of greenhouse

gases that are released into the atmosphere.

On his first day in office, Biden raised the climate cost estimate to \$51 for every ton of carbon dioxide emitted. The estimate was \$7 for every ton under the Trump administration, and that figure only considered damage impacts on the U.S. and not the rest of the world.

Rules for the oil and gas industry, cars, and other industries would be reshaped under a new estimate. It would aim to make the benefits outweigh the costs that companies would have to pay to comply with the new rules.

The estimate is calculated based on the

damage figure created by economic models. The models capture impacts from events such as rising sea levels, droughts and other climate change related phenomena.

Judge Cain wrote that the estimate would cause harm directly to energy producing states. Michael Greenstone, an economist who worked in the Obama administration, argued that if the ruling were to stand, it would show unwillingness from the U.S. to battle climate change.

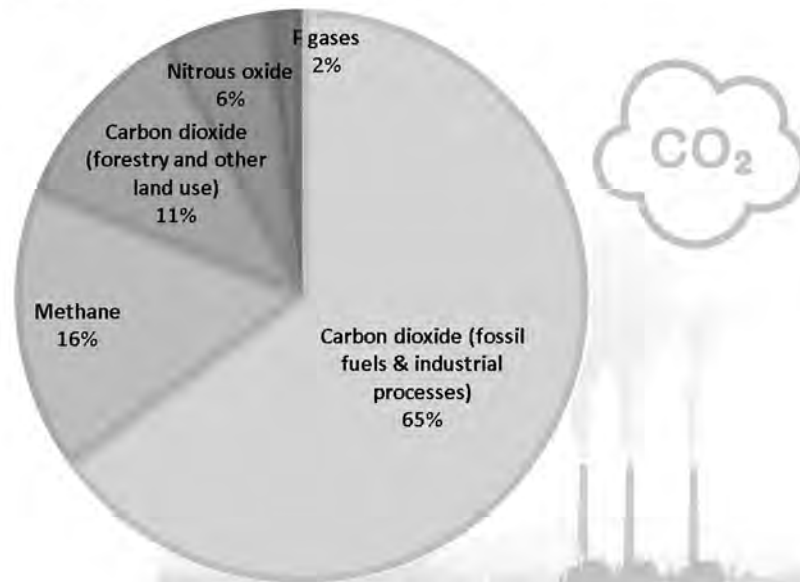
The group of attorney generals led by Jeff Landry of Louisiana said that it was illegal for Biden to raise the estimate, and that the administration did not have authority to

consider global impacts in determining the estimate's cost. Cain's ruling on the matter was called a "major win for nearly every aspect of Louisiana's econ-

omy and culture" by Landry's office. Questions aimed at the White House were referred to the Justice Department.

The Justice Department declined to comment on the questions.

Carbon dioxide makes up most of global greenhouse gas emissions



Credit: Edward Saenz

Judge blocks prosecutions for encouraging mail-in ballots

BY SASHA SMITH

While many politicians debate whether if mailing every voter a mail-in ballot application is constitutional, a federal judge in February sided with local counties who encourage mail-in ballots. U.S. District Court Judge Xavier Rodriguez temporarily blocked several Texas counties from prosecuting public officials who encourage voters to use mail ballots for the primary elections.

Rodriguez rejected the argument from the Texas Attorney General's Office that blocking enforcement of that provision could confuse voters, who had filed for mail in ballots ahead of the state's March 1 primary.

Traditional voting is heading to a local polling location and waiting in line to cast a vote. However due to the pandemic, mail-in

ballots have been on the rise in terms of popularity.

Mail-in ballots are typically provided to those who are in categories that range from seniors to those with disabilities. However, when this option was opened to others outside of the categories of seniors, veterans, disabilities, etc., voting became a bit controversial.

SB1 was enacted to protect election integrity and security, according to Republican officials despite widespread evidence of election fraud. The language says the law aims to prevent fraud in the conduct of elections in the state, increase criminal penalties, create criminal offenses and provide civil penalties.

Due to the increase of mail-in voting since 2020, the interference of votes has been a huge issue for citizens who are casting votes

with the only resource available.

Since this bill took effect, the process to get approved for mail-in ballots has become more tedious and time-consuming. The smallest mistakes like whether that be the identification number being misinterpreted or a number off, can be the difference between an individual who has disabilities getting a chance to vote, or their vote not being counted.

The state has rejected 13% of applications for mail-in ballots because of ID requirements, according to KVUE.

Thirteen percent of these applications came from February, whereas January racked in 22% of rejected ballots. To ensure this does not happen, voters are encouraged to look over documentation repeatedly.

Victoria's Secret introduces first model with Down syndrome

BY SERGIO PRESA JR

Victoria's Secret has made history, bringing on board a model with Down syndrome.

Sofia Jirau is the first model for Victoria's Secret to have Down syndrome. She wants to inspire other people to also dream big.

"I want to tell the whole world that people with my condition, Down syndrome, inside and out, we have no limits," Jirau told NBC news.

Just days after breaking barriers at Victoria's Secret, Jirau scored another contract with a beauty giant. The 24-year-old will also work in her native Puerto Rico with L'Oréal Caribe.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the United States, Down syndrome is the most common chromosomal condition diagnosed.

A person with Down syndrome is born with an extra chromosome which changes how the brain and body develop. Around 1 in 700 babies are born with Down syndrome every year in the U.S., according to CDC data.

Jirau started her modeling career in 2019. She has used her status to focus on empowering others, especially those with Down syndrome to work to achieve their goals.

Jirau often shares the meals she eats and her exercise routines on

her Instagram stories. She also announced her dreams in public and explained to people how she is going to achieve those dreams.

"People who have Down syndrome like me are capable of getting a job, creating their own, business, and working hard like me," Jirau said. "I'll tell everyone to just dream, because every dream can come true."

"You have to work hard. You have to work very hard and more."

Jirau's next modeling goal is modeling in both Paris and Italy.

Texas A&M president orders student paper to stop printing

BY TAYLOR ENOCHS

In an email to The Battalion, Texas A&M President Katherine Banks approached the paper's student body to inform them that the 129-year-old student-run publication would have to cease future weekly printings immediately to move into the journalism department or face complete independency from the university.

"Consider the positives," President Banks told The Battalion. "We're not in charge here, the audience is in charge."

However, if the Battalion were to push against this decision, the student organization would lose all university resources including their office space and faculty advisor.

"One of the biggest concerns for me is the absence of a consultation process in decisions that affect students, staff and faculty," A&M Speaker of the Faculty Senate Dale Rice said. "Why are decisions repeatedly made unilaterally, although some may be chairing a return to the General Rudder era? I do not believe that is the way to lead a university forward into greatness — and I know many of you feel exactly the same way."

Following The Battalion's initial reporting on the decision, students and alumni, and other school printings expressed outrage. #SavetheBatt has been passed around on Twitter to rally support. UT El Paso's The Prospec-

tor, SFA State University the Pine Log, and more student-run papers rallied up in support of The Battalion.

"It has been made pretty clear that the issues at hand extend well beyond what happened to our friends at The Battalion on Thursday afternoon when they were essentially given an ultimatum of sorts to, in a sense, surrender what has worked incredibly well for them for over 125 years without having been involved in a single discussion that led up to that point," said Texas A&M Student Body President Natalie Parks.

"This is a repeated theme that still has the opportunity to be remedied in the time ahead, which I'm hopeful about."

"I care deeply about journalism at Texas A&M," Banks said in a press release.

"The reaction to this plan makes it clear that I should seek additional community feedback on the role of The Battalion and the rebuilt Department of Journalism, while also getting feedback about industry

trends and future workforce needs."

Due to student disapproval and backlash, Banks informed the Battalion that they would be allowed to print through the end of Spring 2022 before converting to an exclusively digital format.

Moreover, Banks has now created a board including two Battalion student leaders, The Battalion faculty advisor, and the Department of Journalism to find a solution that all parties are satisfied with.



Courtesy: The Eagle, Alex Miller

US records fastest rate of inflation increase since 1982



Credit: Teodoro Lamas

BY TAYLOR ENOCHS

Inflation is one of those important words that swims in the news headlines and carries weight in conversation.

Inflation is the general rise in the level of prices in consumer goods and services. Since January 2021, inflation amounted to 7.5%, which is the

fastest rate of inflation increase since 1982 reported by the Labor Department.

Although average hourly wages rose 4.7% last year, wag-

es dropped 2.4% on average for all workers when adjusted for inflation, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

Expenses such as filling up gas tanks, purchasing groceries, shopping for clothes, and paying rent just got more costly for a lot of Americans.

"My biggest fear with inflation is essentials for my children and home. Cleaning supplies became increasingly expensive to where we have had to make our own," UHD student Chandler Grivetti said.

Inflation affects those who have not received a wage increase the most.

"Overall, inflation will push my family into alternative methods to avoid going without if salary increases are not made to accommo-

date," Grivetti said.

Excluding volatile food and energy prices, inflation jumped 6% in the past year, which is the biggest jump in four decades.

By October, the figure was 6.2%, by November 6.8%, and by December 7.1%.

Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell and other chairs claim that it is mostly a "transitional" issue, with many shipment delays and shortages of supplies and workers as the economy begins to rebound from the pandemic recession.

"There's a lot of uncertainty... The past two years have been unprecedented and painful," former Federal Reserve Economist Claudia Sahm said. "We're going to have a bumpy ride."

Even though we saw the biggest jump in October, our economy is showing other strong features such as an increase in jobs and surges in retail sales.

However, because the economy's unpredictability from the pandemic, it is hard to assume what to expect.

There are a few strategies to combat hyperinflation. Stocking up on food and cleaning supplies such as bleach, vinegar, and baking soda can be good essentials to hold you over. Most importantly, stay positive.

While the future of the U.S. economy during this pandemic is uncertain, sticking to loved ones can help maintain a positive attitude to carry through the current unpredictable situation.

Russia invades Ukraine, worldwide backlash ensues



Unknown artist painted “No War Know Peace” over the iconic “Be Someone Bridge” over I-45. Credit: Edward Saenz.

Editor’s Note: Due to the ever-changing nature of this story, some information may be out of date and some may have been incorrectly reported from the start.

BY EDWARD SAENZ

After months of anticipation, in the early morning hours of Feb. 24, Russian soldiers officially crossed the border into Ukraine. Troops and tanks from all sides of the country were sent in and unleashed a barrage of airstrikes across the country.

As the attack commenced, Russian President Vladimir Putin made a public address in which he warned other countries that any attempt to interfere would “lead to consequences you have never seen in history.”

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the government had received information that “subversive groups” were entering the country, in what U.S. officials believe is a blatant attempt by Putin to dismantle the current Ukrainian government and replace it with pro-Russian leadership.

Russia and Ukraine have been in an armed

conflict since early 2014. In late 2013, then Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich rejected a deal to begin economic integration into the European Union. This led to widespread protests in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv. Following a military crackdown on the protesters, Yanukovich fled the country in February 2014.

Capitalizing on a weakened Ukraine, in March 2014 Russia occupied Ukraine’s Crimea region. Following the Russian takeover, Crimea signed a referendum to annex itself from Ukraine in favor of joining the Russian Federation.

Putin cited the need to protect the Russian people and the Russian speakers of Crimea and southeast Ukraine. With heightened tensions, just a few months later the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine declared independence from Ukraine.

In October 2021, Russia began moving military troops and assets closer to the border in droves. By December, satellite images showed more than 100,000 Russian troops were in place along the Russia Ukraine border.

Just a few days later the Russian foreign ministry issued a series of demands, calling for the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to stop all military activity in Eastern Europe. Russia also demanded to stop NATO expansion into Ukraine and countries that share a border with Russia. All demands were denied, and NATO warned Russia of heavy economic sanctions if Russia should invade Ukraine.

In the wake of the attacks in February 2022, Zelenskyy declared martial law and attempted to appeal to global leaders, saying that “if you don’t help us now, if you fail to offer a powerful assistance to Ukraine, tomorrow the war will knock on your door.”

In a press conference, U.S. President Joe Biden announced new sanctions against Russia, saying Putin “chose this war” and had exhibited a “sinister” view of the world in which nations take what they want through military force.

“This is a dangerous moment for all of Europe, for freedom around the world,” Biden said. “This was

never about genuine security concerns on Russia’s part. It was always about naked aggression, about Putin’s desire for empire by any means necessary.”

Biden went on to announce the U.S. sanctions that will target Russian banks, oligarchs, state-controlled companies, and high-tech sectors, however, they were designed to not disrupt the global energy markets, as Russian oil and natural gas exports are a vital energy source for Europe.

In the days that followed the sanctions, the Russian currency fell to the point of being equal to less than a United States cent. Multiple countries have announced they will bar all Russian citizens from entering and all air travel to and from Russia has ceased.

Along with the government sanctions, dozens of companies and organizations across the world have announced they will no longer work with Russia. On Feb. 28, FIFA announced it had suspended Russia from the 2022 World Cup. The Union of European Football Association announced it would indefinitely be banning

all Russian clubs.

On Feb. 25, Formula One announced it would no longer hold its Russian Grand Prix event, and just a few days later Danish esports tournament organizer Blast Pro Series announced all Russian-based organizations would indefinitely be banned from their events.

In response to the global backlash Putin, in a televised address, announced that his nuclear forces were on alert.

“Top officials in leading NATO countries have allowed themselves to make aggressive comments about our country,” Putin said. “Therefore I hereby order the Minister of Defense and the chief of the General Staff to place the Russian Army Deterrence Force on combat alert.”

In response to Putin’s terrifying claim, Ukraine’s Ambassador, Sergiy Kyslya compared Putin to Hitler and invoked him to kill himself.

“If he wants to kill himself, he doesn’t need to use nuclear arsenal. He has to do what the guy in Berlin did in a bunker in May 1945.”

Ukrainian Counter Strike Global Offensive player, Oleksandr “S1mple” Olegovich Kostyliiev gave a speech before his team’s semi-final match at the Intel Extreme Masters Katowice event in Poland in front of his Russian and Ukrainian teammates, as well as a Polish crowd.

“I want you to know that esports is out of politics,” S1mple. “All of you, the players and fans, have nothing to do with government decisions. My whole career, I’ve played with Russian players, I’ve played with Ukrainian players. All of them, great guys. Right now, I stand with my friends, my real friends.”

“All of us want peace for Ukraine and the world. We are all scared. And all of us need to show example in this tournament for the whole world. We need to stand together with our friends, with our fans, and with everyone that will watch this tournament. We are humans first.”

Reviews

'Watercolor Eyes' raises awareness on teen dating violence



Credit: Giselle Oviedo

BY INDIRA ZALDIVAR

Pop singer-songwriter Lana del Rey released a hypnotic new song that gracefully tunes listeners into the experiences of teen dating violence.

The Grammy-award-winning artist wrote "Watercolor Eyes" for the soundtrack to the second season of "Euphoria," HBO's first teen

drama. The song's title illustrates the analogy between painting with watercolor and crying with eye shadow.

"Watercolor Eyes" played at the end of the third episode of the season on Jan. 23, but was released two days before the episode aired. "Euphoria" is known for its R-rated depiction of substance, psychological, emotional, sexual, physical, and digital abuse.

This successful show facilitated the protagonist's, American actress Zendaya, Prime-time Emmy Award in

2020 and doubled in audience compared to the first season.

Fans of the series can easily visualize the troubles of the main characters in Del Rey's first-person, angelic interpretation and narrative. Merging tragic romance with contemporary pop culture is Del Rey's signature move.

The slow sentimental ballad draws in listeners to the affliction caused by an unstable partner within the first verse. Furthermore, the lyrics in the pre-chorus drive listeners into a

roller coaster of polarizing high and low moments that characterize abusive relationships.

The 36-year-old artist points out that abusive partners can be "sweet like rock candy" but snap unexpectedly or from minor incidents. The violence, easily mistaken by love, "stings like blood and a lemon," Del Rey sings.

The theme words, "watercolor eyes," ring repeatedly through the song's chorus via Del Rey's signature angelic high notes. These keywords resonate with the pain felt in the foul play

of love.

The song raises awareness of this problem prevalent among one-third of all American teenagers, according to Love in Respect.

"What if you taste just like heaven that don't make it right?" she sings.

The song motivates listeners to withdraw from abusive relationships. While withdrawal symptoms contrast with the heaven-high feeling of love, Del Rey's lyrics compassionately ingrain that leaving is right.

'Marry Me' showcases warm romantic plot for whole family

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

"Marry Me," directed by Kat Coiro, is a romantic comedy starring Jennifer Lopez and Owen Wilson in their first appearance together in a film. The film involves a famous singer who publicly and impulsively marries a stranger after learning of her intended fiancé's infidelity. Bobby Crosby wrote the source material, a 2020 graphic novel also titled "Marry Me."

Worldwide superstar singer Kat (Jennifer Lopez) discovers her younger fiancé Bastian (Maluma) is cheating on her right before their worldwide broadcast wedding. Deeply embarrassed, Kat panics and gazes into the crowd spotting Charlie (Owen Wilson) holding a large sign reading "Marry Me." Kat impulsively accepts his proposal, and the pair get married on the

spot. In the aftermath, Charlie agrees to the marriage only for the sake of damage control for Kat's public image. He declines all offered payment in lieu of a hearty donation to the math program at the school where Charlie works as a math teacher.

Charlie is directly affected by the newfound fame, constantly getting hounded by paparazzi. Along with his family, Charlie also has a supportive base of friends at the school where he teaches.

Charlie and Kat do not get married because they are in love. The relationship in "Marry Me" functions as an opposite ended marriage where the love comes later. The movie is also an example of a star being pulled into a normal person's life. From the beginning, Charlie explains that Kat must work around his family and work schedule.

"Marry Me" as a title is referential to a song in the film written by Kat and performed by her and Bastian. The song "Marry Me" is a major hit and is repeatedly performed and referenced throughout the film. The song's success acts as a catalyst for the public wedding.

An interesting aspect of "Marry Me" is how well Kat gets along with Charlie's daughter Lou. To protect her, at first, he avoids an introduction, but Lou and Kat immediately connected upon meeting. Lou is supportive and even encouraging of the marriage. Kat did not need to win her over.

Both Lopez and Wilson are seasoned, and established actors. They are sweet together onscreen; their chemistry works. They are also suited to their respective roles. It is not difficult to imagine Wilson as a teacher and

a normal guy.

"That might have been my best acting in the movie, was as a math teacher," Wilson admitted in a featurette for Universal Studios.

Funnily enough, the actor had trouble with college mathematics at UT Austin.

Lopez is a world-renowned singer/songwriter with a Vegas residency and 2020 Super Bowl halftime show performance. She already embodies the character of Kat.

"This movie for me is very personal, I really understood this life," Lopez stated in a featurette for Universal Pictures.

The character of Kat has been married six times, Lopez only three.

Much of the plot is revealed in the trailer, but there is more to the film. "Marry Me" is an enjoyable watch and suitably appropriate for the whole family. Any adult situations



Courtesy: IMDB

are only subtly alluded. The only onscreen violence occurs when Charlie jokingly stomps on Kat's dropped hair extension, mistaking it for a rodent.

"Marry Me" is an entertaining romcom. There was genuine ap-

preciation and a warm in-house audience reception. The theater was packed on the second day of release. This film is an enjoyable feel-good fairytale.

"Marry Me" is in theaters and only streaming on Peacock.

Reviews

‘Moonfall’ impacts reputation of renowned sci-fi director



Credit: Amy Nguyen

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

“Moonfall” is one of Director Roland Emmerich’s worst films.

The film begins with a space shuttle disaster during a routine trip for satellite maintenance. Astronauts Brian (Patrick Wilson) and Jo (Halle Berry) both survive an attack from a swirling, dark cloud which damages their ship and kills their crewmate. Brian is blamed for the incident and is blacklisted by NASA.

When the moon begins to break its orbit 10 years later and float

slowly toward Earth, large scale natural disasters plague the planet. All this had been predicted by social media conspiracy theorist K.C. Houseman (John Bradley). Houseman, Brian, and Jo eventually team up and plan a space mission to stop the destruction.

There is a subplot in “Moonfall” regarding Brian’s troubled teenage offspring Sonny (Charlie Plummer) facing time in jail. Sonny’s character is smart and resourceful. After his release he navigates apocalyptic hazards and protects Jo’s son and his live-in babysitter Michelle (Kelly Yu). With so much action in space, these characters are forgettable.

“Moonfall” has a creative alien origin story, and a plot thread that is unexpected and fresh. The film also explains human origins

on Earth. The fictional theory posited in the film’s plot is interesting yet flawed. Unfortunately, the film’s villain helps to ruin the movie.

There was a lot about “Moonfall” that just did not work. The film’s antagonist is portrayed as a swirling, pixelated mess. This cloud is reminiscent of the film “The Blob” from 1958 as well as the remake in ’88. Whatever it encounters is disintegrated and absorbed.

The films “Moonfall” and “Independence Day: Resurgence,” bear many similarities. For example, both were written and directed by Roland Emmerich. The plot of “Moonfall” is almost a copy and paste of Emmerich’s sequel with only minor changes.

There is a large-scale disaster involving the moon, a paral-

lel journey between related characters on Earth and in space, and everything is gray, blue, and black, the color scheme for Emmerich space films.

The worst thing about “Moonfall” is that it promotes the viability of conspiracy theories which is highly problematic. Most of the ridiculous proclamations made by Houseman are proved to be scientifically true in the “Moonfall” universe.

Patrick Wilson is a very likable and talented actor. He is fantastic in his work with James Wan for both horror and action film series like “The Conjuring” and “Aquaman.” Wilson is just as believable as a demonologist as he is a fish/human hybrid, the actor is also a believable astronaut. Wilson does his best with the bizarre script, although it is not enough to save

the film. Halle Berry’s Jo plays the voice of reason throughout the film. She has NASA and military connections to make their galactic mission a possibility. Jo and Brian also have romantic tension, exacerbated by the presence of her grumpy ex-husband, military General Doug Davidson (Eme Ikwuajor).

“I’ve always been a fan of Roland Emmerich.” Berry said in an interview with IGN. The role of Jo was originally written for a male though Emmerich changed the character to a woman specifically for Berry, kindling her interest.

John Bradley’s K.C. Houseman handles the comic relief for “Moonfall.” To him everything from extraterrestrials to Bigfoot exists. His neurotic group of friends share in his beliefs.

The smaller roles in the film also entertain. Michael Pena played Sonny’s stepfather Tom. As always, Pena does an excellent job with his brief screen time and should have been given a more prominent character. Donald Sutherland makes a shadowy cameo in which his character Holdenfield speaks to Brian about the moon conspiracy.

Good performances by the main characters are not enough to save this film’s major flaws. “Moonfall” clones the director’s other work and dangerously promotes conspiracy theories. It is the kind of film one should just wait for the home release.

“Moonfall” was released Feb. 4 and is now playing in theaters.

UHD EARTH DAY EVENT

Come join UHD student organizations celebrate Earth Day, April 21 & 22

Come learn how you can help the environment and get some cool prizes as well!!

Fondren Commons in the Sciences & Technology Building

We have one earth. Let's protect it

Credit: Edward Saenz

Reviews

'Dog' highlights relationship between humans and dogs



Courtesy: IMDB

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

Films involving dogs in the plot are almost certain to be enjoyable, and this one is no different. Directed by Channing Tatum and Reid Carolin, "Dog" is a feel-good film and heart wrenching at the same time.

The audience meets Army Ranger Briggs (Channing Tatum) working in the Sky

Ridge sub sandwich shop. He is obviously miserable in civilian life, with injury and concussions that kept him from re-enlisting. Briggs' body is heavily scarred with bullet, knife, and shrapnel wounds.

As an incentive for reenlisting, Briggs is asked to bring his deceased friend's U.S. Army trained canine, Lulu, down the Pacific

coast from Northern Washington to Southern Arizona. Both Briggs and Lulu are expected at the funeral.

Briggs is then supposed to take Lulu to be euthanized on the base, the Army has deemed her incapable of rehabilitation. She exhibits aggression with everyone who comes close.

"Don't touch her ears," Briggs is warned.

Complicating matters, Lulu is shell shocked from war and the death of her handler, Rodriguez, who was teammates and good friends with Briggs. At first, she is irritable and aggressive and even attacks Briggs, whom she recognizes. Over time and through strange and exciting experiences on the journey, Briggs slowly gains Lulu's trust.

"Dog" brings attention to veterans suffering from PTSD, canine as well as human. Lulu is just as disturbed as Briggs, maybe more so. Like Briggs, Lulu also

suffers from injuries sustained in battle as well as extreme anxiety. The war took a heavy toll on their bodies and minds.

Friendship, growth, and healing are central themes of the movie "Dog." Briggs is a deeply troubled individual who has family issues of his own. Details of Briggs' life are slowly revealed to the audience throughout the film.

Dog films can be emotional experiences. Like humans, canines are highly emotional creatures, and this film successfully reflects that. Films featuring a dog as a main character, usually conclude with the death of the animal. This recurring theme functions as a symbol of the animal's short lifespan, which forces us to evaluate our own mortality.

"I think 'Marley and Me' scarred everyone," Tatum quipped in an interview on Jimmy Kimmel Live.

The actor explained that people are afraid to watch movies with dogs. Due to the difficulty working with animals, Tatum was warned against making a dog film.

Tatum's performance is nuanced and fantastic. He spends most of the film acting with and against a dog, which is not easy. Tatum is very believable as the character of Briggs. "Dog" is the sixth film in which the actor has portrayed a soldier.

Lulu is a Belgian Malinois, known to be a high energy working breed. She is an excellent actor and is also very expressive. The dog is the titular character and the true star of the film.

Kevin Nash portrays the standout character of Gus, who is hilarious. The towering 6-foot-10-inch ex-pro wrestler turned actor is blessed with comedic talent. Nash appeared as Tarzan alongside Tatum

in the "Magic Mike" film series. After Briggs and Lulu accidentally cross paths with a helpful couple, Gus and his wife help Briggs gain a better understanding of Lulu.

Director Reid Carolin is known for writing both "Magic Mike" movies. "Dog" is both Carolin's and Tatum's directorial debut. The resulting film was highly enjoyable. There is a perfect mix of physical comedy and witty dialogue coupled with heart wrenching drama.

"Dog" was a well-done film that is a must see for animal lovers. Even cat people will enjoy the film. Good acting, directing, and a strong story contribute to the quality of the film.

"Dog" has a 101-minute runtime and is now playing in cinemas.



Courtesy: Anthony Labonte

@FibertCartoons

TikTok profits off addictive design, harms college students

BY KARINA RODARTE

The problem with TikTok's mass success is what it means for the youth of today. With content curated to your exact taste based off your engagement, it's easy to scroll for hours to the point where the app itself will give you a warning.

According to Omnicore, a digital marketing agency, 41% of TikTok users are in the 16-24 age range, and the average user spends about 52 minutes per day on the app. With videos that can span from 15-60 seconds, that is a tremendous

number of videos to absorb daily.

The reason behind TikTok's addicting platform isn't the short videos but its use of the entire phone screen. By eliminating the giant spacing that Instagram and Facebook have and omitting the huge description portion that YouTube has, the viewer is not distracted from the content. The entire screen is filled with the video, and your only option is to scroll through the endless content.

TikTok's elimination of distractions from their content often makes people feel as if

time flew by. To open the app in the morning before heading to school or work might ruin your day. A brief scroll could turn into twenty minutes that you could have spent taking a shower or making yourself breakfast.

The quick TikTok session to unwind before getting a head start on homework after school may find you closing the app only to realize it's already 11 p.m. and you have an 8 a.m. class in the morning. It is a toxic, absorbing cycle.

In June of 2021, TikTok surpassed the video streaming giant, YouTube, in average watch time. A new report from App Annie showed that in the U.S, TikTok users watched 27.3 hours per month, compared with 22 hours and 40 minutes for YouTube viewers.

Many people find themselves viewing TikTok content daily, whether that be on the TikTok platform or reposted on Instagram Reels, YouTube Shorts, Twitter, or even Facebook.

While TikTok seems harmless, and most of the time it is,

the effects on your mental health and school success may be extremely detrimental to your future success. Your time is valuable. The hour you spent on TikTok could have been spent doing a healthy workout, meditating, and cleaning your space.

It is important for students to take a step back and limit their phone use, and possibly consider going TikTok free for a week during midterms week and finals week.



Credit: Karina Rodarte

NFTs, bitcoin facilitates accessible financial trading

BY SASHA SMITH

In the financial and digital space, cryptocurrency and nonfungible tokens are shaping the world but some question their usefulness.

As an English major, or someone who isn't too knowledgeable about this space, investing can be a little more than intimidating. Users must overcome challenges such as reading unfamiliar verbiage and understanding processes that sound nearly impossible.

However, NFTs may be a little easier to grasp the context of.

NFTs are a non-fungible token, which according to CNBC is a "unique digital asset that has proof of ownership and verification of authenticity held in the blockchain."

In layman's terms, this is a non-tradeable digital item that is held in your possession digitally away from all other prior forms of currency or governmental statutes.

NFTs can range from art in any exclu-

sive form, to real estate and tweets. The average cost of NFTs varies depending on the marketplace. As high as \$900 on Mintable to \$500 on OpenSea and as low as \$150 on Valuable.

However, there are NFTs that are as low as \$1 to purchase, so it all depends on how much money you want to invest and which platform is right for you. If a creator and seller of content chooses to produce an NFT, it is far less money ranging anywhere from \$7-\$150 showcasing that you are making your money back a couple of times over, dependent on where you sell.

This is truly the wave of our generation and something highly accessible to people who are just starting out within the trading realm.

The pros to investing within projects like NFTs, or starting your own, are that you are combining two major worlds for heavy financial gain. Because of the popularity NFTs have right now, getting

into this market has huge growth potential.

Not only that, but this is a direct contribution to the art world by mixing arts and humanities with business and finance like never before. There is finally time and space for us to get our products and work out there and reap financial profit. Typically, artists get low-balled on their work, making an average of \$50,000 annually, according to EmptyEasel. However, one artist was able to make over \$130,000 in five months, by introducing his work to the NFT space.

Also, NFTs, provide a diverse curve to your investing portfolio. Because of the curve it is on, it is bound to put you ahead of people who haven't invested in what some are calling the future of investing.

However, for every investment there are cons, and NFTs have major ones. Primarily, they are horrible for the environment. According to Brightly, NFTs are "energy-intensive" meaning due to the

specific blockchain they are carried on for ownership and trading, it equates to "electricity consumption and [therefore is associated with an] environmental footprint."

Since ownership is only transferred to one individual and cannot be passed over again, the energy to exude just as many transfers for each individual gets exhaustive in a system primarily built off of fossil fuels. Additionally, with every investing production there is a share of scammers and fraudulent activity that newcomers should be weary of.

Since this is an online method, it comes with its risks of being hacked and stolen, which happened this past month.

On Feb. 19, NFTs were stolen from various users, who were located on the social networking platform OpenSea. Management quickly shut down rumors of a hacker, and told outlets it was most likely a phishing incident conducted

through email. Despite this knowledge the attacker still managed to get over 600 Ethereum, which is roughly worth \$1.7 million in NFT property.

Now, on the other hand, cryptocurrency does not rely on banks to verify transactions. This is great for people who want to get into the finance space but are hesitant about banking and other governing systems controlling their money. Financial gains are disbursed in a digital wallet, and online databases keep track of the users' trades and purchases.

The most popular cryptocurrency is Bitcoin. However, there are others such as Ethereum, Litecoin, and Ripple. With these traditional cryptos, you are able to purchase them through traditional brokers or cryptocurrency exchanges. Those interested in crypto can also invest through more familiar apps used for money exchanges such as PayPal, Cash App, and Venmo.

Just like NFTs, the more traditional cryptocurrencies run risk of scams and frauds through fake sites and things like virtual Ponzi schemes. However, the pros of investing can sometimes outweigh the cons.

With NFTs, an individual has specific ownership over the token they have purchased. This ownership grants you access to a host of different things, such as real-estate property, concert tickets, VIP entrances to specific events, car deeds, and more. Cryptocurrency is widely accessible from a purchasing, creating, and networking point of view, making it great for the average person.

For those interested in buying and selling NFTs, the best places to check out are OpenSea, SuperRare, Valuables, Zeptagram, and Mintable. There are so many different apps and each hosts different environments, so don't be afraid to experiment. Happy trading!

Supreme Court to benefit from first Black female justice if confirmed

BY LEWIS ROBERTS JR.

Since the founding of the Supreme Court 232 years ago, 95% of Supreme Court justices have been white men, an unacceptable statistic. Furthermore, according to a 2020 profile of the legal profession by the American Bar Association, 86% of all lawyers were non-Hispanic whites, 5% are African American, 5% Hispanic, 2% Asian, and 0.4% Native American.

Following the retirement of Justice Stephen Breyer, President Biden kept his promise to nominate the first Black female Supreme Court justice. Ketanji Brown Jackson has made history and will influence Supreme Court decisions for many years following the Senate confirma-

tion. Once confirmed, Jackson will ensure that American institutions are representative of the population that it serves.

Having a Black female justice seated in the SCOTUS allows for a unique and profound perspective. Jackson will have a deeper understanding of issues that affect women of color, such as having the highest instance of breast cancer, heart disease, and the highest mortality rates during childbirth, and could help other justices to have a different viewpoint when hearing cases.

The First female Justice Sandra Day O'Connor upon listening to late Justice Thurgood Marshall speak about separation's harsh impact on Black children,

stated that her "awareness of race-based disparities deepened."

In the same way that Justice O'Connor was impacted, a liberal Black justice would possibly influence the United States' Chief Justice and the other seven associate justices. They may not agree with all her viewpoints, but it would start a dialogue that can only occur if she's present. She has been absent for 232 years. Let's hear what she has to say.

I am optimistic this will create a new generation of young girls and women interested in becoming a lawyer due to the public visibility of Supreme Court justices. Lady Justice wears her blindfold, but I am convinced that it is see-through because of the daily disparities in the

U.S. legal system. And for this very reason, we need more people of color fighting for legal

justice. This nomination sends a strong message signaling that all Americans are genuinely able

to take advantage of the great opportunities in this great country.



Credit: Sarah Ramirez

Unregulated market fuels Tyson Foods' meat monopoly



Credit: Giselle Oviedo

BY ANITA GOOLCHARAN

The meatpacking industry is a highly consolidated one. From your favorite childhood dinosaur-shaped chicken nuggets to your weekly dinners, there's a chance that much of what you eat comes from one company, Tyson Foods. The multinational corporation has been around since 1935 and is ranked 304 on the Fortune 500 and No. 1 on the food industry rank.

In his book "The Meat Racket," Agribusiness journalist Christopher Leonard said the monopolization often goes unnoticed.

"Even if Tyson did not produce a given piece of meat, the consumer is really only picking between different versions of the same commoditized beef, chicken, and pork that

is produced through a system Tyson pioneered," Leonard said.

Many can recall their high school Socratic seminars discussing the impact of Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle" on the regulation of the meat industry through the Meat Inspection Act and Pure Food and Drug Act.

While these acts did have great impacts on labor regulation and overall sanitation regulation within the meat packing industry, there is still not much government regulation of their business.

Tyson Foods is America's largest meat processing company. They account for approximately 20% of all meats sold in the United States. Some of the 33 subsidiary brands Tyson Foods own are Sara Lee, Jimmy Dean, and

Hillshire Farm. They have also developed Raised & Rooted, a new lineup of meat alternatives.

In addition to owning the rights of these companies, Tyson Foods also currently holds contracts with large restaurant chains such as McDonald's, Taco Bell, and KFC. The company is also a supplier for major grocery chains like Wal-Mart and Kroger in addition to having their products sold there. The meat giant previously held supplier contracts with Chick-fil-a, Popeyes, and the U.S. Department of Defense.

The meat empire has become an all-powerful force in the market. In 2016, the U.S. Justice Department investigated allegations that the company col-

luded with rivals Purdue Farms, Sanderson Farms, and Pilgrim's Pride and engaged in price-fixing.

Rebecca Boehm, lead author of the new Union of Concerned Scientists report, stated that Tyson Foods makes its "own rules and rake in profits while everyone else suffers."

In early January 2022, Tyson Foods agreed to pay \$221.5 million in a settlement against these allegations. The Justice Department has become involved in several other cases related to price manipulation in the food industry.

Tyson Foods is just one of the many companies that display how corporate greed can flourish in an unregulated market.

Active listening enables opportunities for self-reflection

BY SHAWN AWAGU

Most people have a horror story from their high school years. Unfortunately, my high school horror story is deeply shameful. At 16, I came very close to being a white supremacist. There is no excusing those hateful views I held, and I have moved far away from that ideology since then. But I wouldn't have been able to pull myself out of that dark place without active listening.

I already had ongoing struggles with clinical depression, and the elevated stress and workload only added to those burdens. I pretty much fit the mould of the online alt-right stereotype: a loser who had no friends and was angry at the world and himself. Being so vulnerable, it's then no surprise that I became dragged down the rabbit holes of YouTube, clicking on video after video with more and more politically extreme content.

Had I not reached a turning point, it's hard to imagine a scenario in which this toxicity wouldn't have spilled over into my real life. The first critical point came in the form of



Credit: Giselle Oviedo

heated online debate. I don't remember what I was arguing about, but I do remember the video highlighted common racial stereotypes and their falsehoods and origins. I insisted they were true, of course, without providing a single shred of evidence, to which someone simply replied, "But what if you're wrong?"

I dismissed this comment at first, but the thought refused to leave my mind, bouncing around inside of me as if it were trying to nudge me towards an important thought. In order to really

understand the problematic nature of stereotypes, I had to take the concept seriously. I took a step back and experienced the discomfort of assuming I wasn't automatically right.

Up to that point I had never done a mental exercise like it before. And while it did not change my opinion in that moment, I had begun to develop one of several skills critical to active listening as described by Dr. Dianne Grande in *Psychology Today*.

I set aside my own ego and opinions, and I

began to better understand the position I was debating.

By the time I hit college, I was almost a completely different person from just a few years prior. The mechanism by which active listening helped drag me out of dark space is reflective of the brain's structure.

The human brain is divided into several centers which serve different functions. Long and short term memory formation, decision-making, and planning centers in the brain combine into networks that quickly ferry

information to relevant areas, much like an actual highway network. This allows you to make snap judgments and quickly come to conclusions.

But there is a downside to this speed and ease of processing. It's largely outside of one's own awareness. Conclusions can often feel almost instinctual, especially when emotions get involved. This can be especially problematic in individuals like myself, who struggled with emotional regulation in the first place.

This is where Grande's recommenda-

tions come into play. Of her suggestions, having an open mind was my most underdeveloped area. I'd observe a person or situation, and the information would be immediately ferried to the hateful part of my brain that stereotyped them, and I'd never give it a second thought.

Maintaining an open mind and halting my assumption that my thoughts were absolute truth forced that information highway to slow down, allowing me to better take a look at my thought patterns. What was obvious to any outside observer was that my existing anger and resentment left me capable of only making hateful and negative assessments and conclusions.

By actively listening to the thoughts and opinions of those that differed from mine, I was able to change my mindset from hateful and shortsighted, to a more positive and open mindset.

If you find yourself in a similar mindset as high school me, take Grande's advice and set aside your ego. Consider this question – what if you're wrong?

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Doping scandal rocks Olympic figure skating world, sparks outrage

BY MADHIA HUSSAIN

On Feb. 8, it was revealed that 15-year-old Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva had tested positive for the drug trimetazidine over a month prior on Dec. 25. The revelation occurred just one day after Valieva helped her fellow ROC teammates secure first place in the team figure skating competition.

Trimetazidine is typically used to treat cardiac conditions such as angina. However, it could also potentially help athletes with their

endurance. As a result, the World Anti-Doping Agency banned the drug. Valieva also tested positive for two other drugs, hypoxen and L-carnitine, that are primarily used to treat heart issues but can also help athletes with their endurance. Hypoxen and L-carnitine are not currently banned by WADA.

Despite testing positive for a banned substance, the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled that Kamila would still be allowed to participate in the

women's individual figure skating competition. The International Olympic Committee determined that if Valieva placed in the top three of the competition, no medal ceremony would occur. In this scenario, the medalists of this competition would not receive their medals until after a full investigation had occurred.

On Feb. 15, Valieva garnered the most points in the women's short program. However, her shaky performance for the women's individual free skate

on Feb. 17 dropped her down to fourth place. Her Russian teammates, Anna Shcherbakova and Alexandra Trusova, earned gold and silver, respectively.

Japan's Kaori Sakamoto received bronze. The medal ceremony took place on Feb. 18, as Kamila failed to earn a medal.

Many were outraged at the decision to allow Valieva to perform.

"Athlete who violates doping cannot compete in the game," Olympic figure skating

champion Yuna Kim said on Instagram. "This principle must be observed without exception. All players' efforts and dreams are equally precious."

U.S. sprinter Sha'Carri Richardson also spoke out about the scandal. Richardson was notably prevented from competing in the Tokyo Olympics after smoking marijuana to cope with the death of her mother and therefore, testing positive for THC, another banned substance by WADA.

"Can we get a solid answer on the difference of her situation and mines?" Richardson tweeted. "My mother died and I can't run and was also favored to place top 3. The only difference I see is I'm a Black young lady?"

Valieva arrived back home in Russia on Feb. 18 and has since posted on Instagram, thanking her fans, coaches, family, and friends for their support during such a turbulent time.

India announces additional bans on Chinese apps

BY EDWARD SAENZ

India has blocked another wave of Chinese apps. The country blocked access to 54 more apps on Feb. 15.

Many of the apps were based out of China and included popular mobile game, Eve Echos, and various chat and social apps. However, Free Fire, a popular mobile game

owned by a Singaporean company was also caught in the ban wave.

"These 54 apps allegedly obtain various critical permissions and collect sensitive user data," the Indian IT Ministry said in a statement. "These collected real-time data are being misused and transmitted to servers located in hostile country."

Free Fire, a battle royale game, is among

the most popular games in the world. The game is especially popular in China, India, and Brazil. It was the most downloaded Android game in both October 2021 and January.

The Free Fire India Fall Championship alone had a peak viewership of over 1 million.

With a ban on the games largest reason, the player base and viewership will cer-

tainly take a hit. China and India have been in a political dispute over a stretch of unmarked border near the Himalayas since May 2020.

Following a series of skirmishes, India began boycotting Chinese products, contracts, and applications believed to steal user data.

"The collected data could then be mined, collated, analyzed, and profiled," a source who

requested to remain anonymous told Reuters. In June 2020, India has announced a ban of 59 applications with direct ties to China.

The list of banned apps includes the popular social media app, TikTok, and popular mobile game, PUBG Mobile, and the popular Chinese messaging app WeChat.

As of February 2022, the country has banned over 224 applications.

The government had cited "sovereignty and integrity of India, defense of India, security of state and public order" as reasons for the bans.

Beijing 2022 Olympics Final Placings



Nick Baumgartner, Lindsey Jacobellis, Ashley Caldwell, Christopher Lillis, Justin Schoenefeld, Nathan Chen, Alex Hall, Kaillie Humphries, Erin Jackson, and Chloe Kim



Ryan Cochran-Siegle, Jessie Diggins, Nick Goepper, Jaelin Kauf, Julia Marino, Elana Meyers Taylor, Colby Stevenson, David Wise, Women's Hockey team, and US Figure Skating team



Brittany Bowe, Jessie Diggins, Alex Ferreira, Madison Hubbell, Zach Donohue, Joey Mantia, Casey Dawson, Emery Lehman, Ethan Cepuran, Elana Meyers Taylor, Sylvia Hoffman, and Megan Nick