

DATELINE:DOWNTOWN

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Dateline: Downtown

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Contact	Email
Emily Christiansen	editordatelinedowntown@gmail.com

Editor
Emily Christiansen

Assistant Editor
Syneetra A. Williams

Business Manager
Valencia Mornix

Social Media Manager
Naomi Cardwell

Faculty Advisor
Joe Sample, PhD

Staff Writers
Lissette Perez
Kelsi Rios
Fabian Ramirez
Aansa Usmani
Joshua Williams

Staff Cartoonist
Joseph Mamah

TCOM 4360 Writers
Naomi Cardwell
Christina Loos
Janet Salas

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Friends of Northside cultivates future entrepreneurs

By Joshua Williams

Houston's Northside area has a street called Fletcher. Surrounding it are broken homes, the occasional barking dog, and ordinary people wanting nothing more than to shatter obstacles preventing them from growing, prospering, and finding success. But also occupying it is a small office building, housing several other people wanting nothing more than to help out.

Friends of Northside, a small non-profit organization in Houston operates in an area of high need. For years, the non-profit has cultivated leaders and created resources for those trapped in poverty. Recently, they created a class for young professionals looking to develop their business skills. The class is taught by Howard Penate, an active volunteer who heads his own landscaping company called Natural Wonders.

The Business Entrepreneurial class is part of the organization's mission to serve the less fortunate. Friends of Northside is



Photo credit: Joshua Williams

owned by Attack Poverty, a global organization that serves local communities and builds multiple relationships with local institutions such as schools and churches.

Along with job readiness, Friends of Northside has other programs to give the less fortunate a chance to grow. ESL classes, Adult GED completion, and home repairs are some of the programs and events offered.

Family defines this non-profit. With only a few people working behind

the scenes, Friends of Northside treats its staff and volunteers like family. Recently, the organization hired students from the university for social media work. The organization also visited the iRadio station to talk about upcoming events such as their big Mission Week, a three-week event in June which gives families, friends, and neighbors the chance to serve their communities together.

Penate began his journey by helping with Hurricane Harvey recovery. Serving as elder

for Kerusso Grace Church, Penate used his experience as a speaker to establish a class anyone could attend as long as they were dedicated enough to learn. Penate's passion for God and teaching is just a example of his dedication. Richard Morgan, a Missions pastor at River Pointe Church, began researching areas in need. Beyond the railroad tracks in Downtown Houston, was an area that Morgan became highly interested in. Moved by the need and possibility of the church assisting those living in poverty, Morgan created Friends of Northside Richmond as an bridge to connect people in need to the church.

It was not long before different Friends of Northside offices were built. These locations established long term relationships with local organizations, churches, residents, and stakeholders. One such relationship was with a landscaping business owner, Howard Penate.

Along with Ashley Cadis who serves as community director for the Friends of Northside on Fletcher St., Penate allows

time away from his busy schedule to teach future business owners how to progress in their endeavors. Students from different sectors like photography and car sales come laugh, learn, and look forward at a brighter tomorrow. The class is held each Monday during the evenings, allowing just a handful of students the

chance to make it on time.

Penate's passion and knowledge comes second only to his love for God. Before each class, he asks his students about their progress, always mixing in a story or two from the bible. He takes holistic approach to teaching that acknowledges each student's limitations and their strengths without judging any of them.

From marketing to advertising, Penate's Business Entrepreneurial class explores many facets of the world of entrepreneurship while giving the students a chance to ask questions and give advice to each other. At the end, every student was awarded a diploma for their efforts, the ultimate indication that they were on their way to success

Joshua Williams is a current UHD senior expecting to graduate in the spring of 2019. His passions include playing video games and spending time with his family. He's also a fan of online movie talk shows on YouTube

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Becoming breaks cycles of self-abuse

By Lissette Perez

Valencia Mornix is a sophomore at UHD majoring in business management. Her hobbies include spending time with friends and family, attending concerts and live music events, movies, arcades, and karaoke. Along with pursuing her education and hobbies, Mornix also focuses on the development of her nonprofit Becoming. Becoming is a 501(c)(3) organization that aims to uplift women who struggle with finding a purpose in their lives.

Mornix was inspired to jumpstart Becoming because of her experiences. Mornix stated, "Becoming is an extension of my personal story. I was raised by my mother in a single parent household without a father figure. My journey of growing up in a fatherless household led me to a destructive lifestyle of provocative and promiscuous behaviors throughout my teens and early 20s."



Photo courtesy of Valencia Mornix

Mornix's life was negatively shaped by the absence of her father. She noted that "daughters raised without fathers often experience feelings of rejection and often engage in promiscuous behaviors to make up for the absence of a dominant male figure." Daughters that grow up without a father often face difficulties with personal development that lead to what Mornix calls a "cycle of self-abuse."

Mornix's view on the world was almost distorted due to the lack of a father figure. She said that she feels like the absence of her father played a large role in her decisions. Mornix stated, "I learned how to get male attention on my own, and

it was not the proper way. My mind was programmed to act out in explicit ways in order to get a man to notice me. I felt like a slave to the abuse and misuse of myself until I wanted things to change. I wanted to break free and move forward." When she was 25, her journey took a turn for the better as her spiritual faith grew. Mornix's outlook on life changed as she came to know the love of Jesus Christ and learned to love herself and appreciate her self-worth. When Mornix turned 27, she began to live in her truth. She released the guilt and shame she had bottled up and took it upon herself to forgive herself for her past.

Eight months ago, at the age of 28, her purpose in life was revealed to her. Mornix stated, "I wanted to help other young girls who are living in my past. I had a vision that I could instigate change and break down chains to uplift these girls before they ended up replicating my decisions. I saw a need, so I took it on." Mornix took the initiative to create an organization that would change her and others' lives and Becoming was born.

Her inspiration for the name of her nonprofit came from her

tween years. Her mother would give her lessons on how a young lady should behave. Her mother would say things like, "You should not walk up to a boy if he catcalls you or asks you to come over to him. That is unbecoming of a woman. A man should walk over to you." Mornix wants to apply her mother's lessons and teach young girls how to have interactions that are becoming of a woman. The name Becoming also describes the reason for her organization. She said, "I want to put out the message that your past does not have to define you. Who are you becoming?"

Becoming makes an impact in the community by connecting at-risk girls with constructive resources to help foster a deeper sense of purpose in their lives. Mornix's vision is to "instill hope in stigmatized women." She wants stigmatized women to "know that it doesn't matter where they've been, but where they're going" and she wants them to remember "don't get discouraged, be encouraged." This ties into Becoming's mission to "recondition the minds of fatherless daughters and promote self-love to empower them on their journey towards becoming."

Mornix's passion for her nonprofit comes from her experiences. "I

put as much thought into my organization as what I feel would have helped me during my troubling times. I feel this kind of organization is needed in my community," she said. Becoming has changed her life by allowing her to inspire others. She has had people tell how much Becoming is making an impact.

Being involved with a nonprofit organization can be good experience and thoroughly rewarding. Mornix said, "Participating in a nonprofit environment provides a feeling of fulfillment. It makes you feel like superman; you are literally able to help or even save others." Mornix is currently putting together Becoming's first event – a young woman's etiquette course. For more information on upcoming events visit the website www.becoming-faith.org or www.facebook.com/becomingfaith1.

Lissette Perez is a senior majoring English-Creative writing. After graduation, she hopes to become an English teacher and continue writing. She has been a Staff Reporter for Dateline for two semesters and is also a Student Supervisor at UHD Sports and Fitness. During her free time, she enjoys drawing, playing video games, watching movies or documentaries, and reading comic books.



Upcoming conference spotlights African American history and experience

By Joshua Williams

Dr. Jonathan Chism, Assistant Professor of History is creating a conference for those wanting to learn more about African American history.

“Reflecting Black: 400 Years of African American Life and History” will be open to local and national students in the fall. The conference will center around a interest in African American studies and spotlights the increasing diversity in Houston. Dr. Alexander Byrd, Associate Professor at Rice will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Byrd also teaches African American history and the African American diaspora.

Dr. Chism noted that the conference will be another way for students to showcase their writing skills. Students are encouraged to submit papers in regards to African American history. ‘We want to invite the some of the sharpest graduate students who are doing research on African studies,’ said Dr. Chism. Writing proposals and presenting them in a conference is a excellent way for students to gain exposure in the competitive job market. It’s also a way to express thoughts and ideas to the community, exemplified by the proposals sent for the annual Gender conferences.

‘We want to help everyone collaborate and network,’ noted Dr. Chism. Networking, of course, is often common during academic conferences. They have become events for which students can meet and interact with the



Photo courtesy of Dr. Jonathan Chism

brightest minds in their chosen field. Dr. Chism, who has completed many hours of graduated work at Rice University, definitely is one of the brightest minds to be there.

The conference will also include off campus activities such as poetry, spoken words, and reflections. During the last day students will have a chance to witness a step show. Dr. Chism explained that the step is fitting for this conference since African American Greek organizations have been a integral part of the black university experience.

It was not long when the black experience meant something entirely different. As highlighted in Dr. Chism’s book, “Saints in the Struggle”, many African Americans were fighting to feed their families without the support of news outlets

during the civil rights struggle. “Saints in the Struggle” puts into the focus one key event in particular: the 1968 sanitation workers strike and the contributions of the Church of God in Christ(COGIC).

In a interview with iRadio, Dr. Chism noted that COGIC’s contributions to the strike broke the long standing idea of churches not having any interest in helping the underserved community fight for civil rights. His book highlights the local activists from COGIC as well as their involvements in organizations like the Ministers and Citizens League, the Memphis Branch of the NACCP, and the Community on the Move for Equality.

The efforts of the local activists to mobilize black pastors and churches proven to be effective nonetheless. Strikes were

able to receive increases in wages after long demonstrations and marches the months prior. This historical event is the reason for why Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. arrived at Memphis the night before he was assassinated on the balcony of the Loraine Motel.

Dr. King’s final words to the strikers in Memphis still rings true today, ‘We’ve got to give ourselves to this struggle until the end.’ Many first generation African American students would find it difficult to begin college on a good note. Yet, Dr. Chism and the university hopes to lend a helpful hand to those students who for long have been struggling to find success during and after college. With programs such as the Gator pledge and the African American conference in the fall, more than

even students are given the chance to actively be involved the school community. ‘Reflecting Black’ will undoubtedly be an achievement in which gators can hold their heads high on for years to come.

Joshua Williams is a UHD senior expecting to graduate in the spring of 2019. His passions include playing video games and spending time with his family. He’s also a fan of online movie talk shows on YouTube.

6

Morningstar balances industrial chic, vibrant flavors

By Christina Loos

Morningstar is a small café tucked away in a nondescript shopping center only a five-minute drive from campus that is easy to miss, but its offerings of lattes, olive oil and sea salt old-fashioned doughnuts and biscuit sandwiches make it worth visiting for an occasional indulgence.

Customers entering Morningstar are greeted by the sight of the baristas crafting drinks and its menu written on a blackboard. Morningstar's interior verges on the industrial. The ceiling is crisscrossed with exposed pipes and the interior is dominated by shades of white, gray, and brown. The dim interior is brightened by the colorful art that hangs on the walls and a small glass case that houses a vibrant display of their doughnuts.

Morningstar's doughnuts shine. There are typical options like glazed yeast doughnuts (the term "yeast doughnuts" has an unpleasant mouthfeel, but it is the technical term), doughnut holes, and the ever-popular strawberry sprinkle doughnut. The café also offers more unique flavors. Morningstar's vegan matcha doughnut drizzled with stripes of white chocolate is beautifully balanced. The white chocolate drizzle keeps the matcha icing from being too bitter while the slightly vegetal taste of the matcha prevents the white chocolate from being too sweet. The white chocolate doughnut drizzled with raspberry icing dotted with tiny pieces of raspberry is similarly balanced



Photo credit: Christina Loos

between tart and sweet. Morningstar's cake doughnuts are also balanced. Their peanut butter cup doughnut consists of a plump chocolate cake doughnut topped with a swirl of peanut butter frosting dusted with cocoa powder. The light flavor of the dough keeps the doughnut from being too decadent and the peanut butter frosting brings out the chocolate flavor of the dough and adds a needed sweetness. None of these flavors compare to the olive oil and sea salt old-fashioned doughnut. This doughnut is covered with an olive oil glaze and studded with tiny salt crystals. An olive oil and sea salt doughnut might not sound appealing on paper here in the pages of *Dateline*, but the sea salt and olive oil glaze combine to create a mouthwatering sweet and salty flavor.

Morningstar's latte

is a beautiful, creamy blend of high-quality coffee and milk. Morningstar's menu also features an agua fresca whose flavor rotates with the season. The current flavor is a refreshing watermelon that lets the natural sweetness of the fruit speak for itself.

A college student might find the price of Morningstar's brunch and breakfast dishes a little easier to justify because of their large portions. The bacon, egg, and cheddar biscuit sandwich includes a perfectly cooked sunny side up egg with a glistening golden yolk and crispy strips of bacon nested between two thick fluffy biscuits that crumble wonderfully. This combination could easily result in a sandwich that is too savory and salty, but that is not the case with Morningstar. Morningstar also offers Scandinavian pancake balls. Eight

pancake balls are served steaming hot in a small skillet with fresh fruit on top with two large sausage patties flavored with a combination of Indian spices, a tiny pitcher of syrup, crème fraiche and seasonal jam. The pancake balls are only a little sweet and contain a hint of tartness balanced by the syrup, jam, and fruit.

Customers interested in sampling Morningstar's doughnuts should be aware that one doughnut costs \$2.50 and a dozen doughnuts costs \$20.00. A latte costs \$4.25 while an agua fresca costs \$4.00. For \$7.50, a customer can order one of the café's hearty biscuit sandwiches. Morningstar's brunch dishes range in price from \$7.50 to \$14.00.

Morningstar offers balanced drinks and dishes that might be unconventional, but it is not pre-

tentious and that makes Morningstar a perfect place for college students looking to indulge. Morningstar is located at 4721 N. Main St. and is open every day from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Christina Loos is a Technical Communication major and an English minor. She is passionate about social justice, horror, writing, and learning about other cultures. In her free time, she enjoys listening to 80s goth rock and New Wave, writing and reading, and watching other people play video games because she isn't very good at them.



Photo credit: Christina Loos

Students showcase talent during Poetry Slam

By Joshua Williams

For many students, singing in front of an audience would be too nerve-wracking to even consider. However, when push came to shove, Gators proved that no matter how nerve-wracking it seems, it is not a bad idea to showcase talent.

During the Arts & Communications Festival, students showed up at the 3rd floor mural area for a bit of karaoke. The Poetry Slam was a chance for students to sing, read a poem they wrote, or tell a humorous story for some laughs. The event was part of a two day event that featured the Latinx Art and Identity art exhibition, an internship fair, and the premiere of Suzan-Lori Parks' "In the Blood" at the O'Kane Theatre.

The Poetry Slam was headed by Professor Abigail Koenig, who has been involved with many communication studies events and organizations during her time at UHD. The event gave those who might not speak in class a platform to let their voices be heard. "We just hope

students would come and feel free to express themselves," said Koenig during the event.

And express themselves they did. One student sang "Let It Go" from the Disney film "Frozen." The audience roared with applause after the performance. The student could not stop himself from smiling. "It's a great way to release some stress, especially in this time of year," said Koenig, referencing finals. While finals were right around the corner, that did not prevent the performers and the audience from having fun before them.

A couple of students also sang in Spanish. Their performance was met with applause and nods of appreciation from professors walking by the Mural Area. The response from the audience was a testament to how respectful the Gator community is when it comes to diversity.

Professor Koenig also had students from the iRadio station to talk about available positions for the upcoming fall semester. When asked if a student

should have some sort of talent to join a organization like iRadio, Koenig simply said, "It doesn't matter." These were confident words from someone who has helped students discover and share their voice. "It just feels good releasing your creativity," she added.

Professors and volunteers encouraged the students who sat quietly in their seats during the event to tell their stories or sing their favorite song. While everyone did not come up to sing, they became aware of their peers' talents. There had been anxiety going into the event, but the participants and the audience had the chance to let their anxieties go, at least until finals.

Joshua Williams is a current UHD senior expecting to graduate in the spring of 2019. His passions include playing video games and spending time with his family. He's also a fan of online movie talk shows on YouTube.



Photo credit: Joshua Williams



Photo credit: Joshua Williams



Photo credit: Joshua Williams

UHD Hosts 12th Annual Gender Conference

By Kelsi Rios

The Gender Conference aims to educate attendees about the social and cultural understanding of sexual differences and the practices and behaviors that support or challenge these understandings. Crystal Guillory, Assistant Dean to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, started off the conference by introducing herself and welcoming the UHD community to this event. In each time frame, there were about one to four sessions to attend.

One of the first sessions was Social Constructions of Cis and Trans Genders. In this session, there were two speakers: Joshua Brokaw and Samone Melrose. Brokaw is a UHD senior studying for a psychology major. His topic was “Sexism and Anti-Transgender Prejudice: Similarities, Differences, and Interactivity.” Brokaw explained that benevolence in the trans community is complicated. Their truth is their truth. All a supporter can do is show compassion, be understanding, and affirm their gender. Melrose, a TSU student, discussed

“Gender Dysphoria and Gender Euphoria.” Melrose explained that not all trans people have dysphoria and being trans isn’t a medical condition.

The second session was Gender Sexuality: The Hypersexualization of Black Women in the Media. In this session there were three speakers.

TSU student Katriel Pickett’s topic was “Video Vixens: Rap Video Blueprints.” Pickett said, “Spend a day in these women’s shoes. These women might have money problems, we don’t know what they are going through in their personal lives.” She went on to explain that women who appear in rap videos can not afford to say no to whatever the directors tell them to do, but there was one woman who stood out against all. Her name was Melissa Ford, referred to as the “No Girl.” Ford was all about perspective and the image she up held as a strong woman.

TSU student Donte’ja Barnes-Smart, spoke about “Amber Rose: Women’s Liberation and Sexual Empowerment.” Amber Rose is one of Hollywood’s sexiest icons. She

has been called every name in the book and owns it. Rose explained in her TV show “Walk of Shame” that women should be able to utilize their assets and do what they please with their bodies and have no judgment brought upon them. The men are glorified, yet women are belittled.

The third speaker, TSU student Tiara Toran, talked about “Sexual Provocation and Expression of Art”. Toran explained, “Sex sells. Men have made millions of dollars off of a woman’s body, but if a woman has control of her body and starts making money off of it she’s labeled a prostitute.” Toren argued that women do not need to be belittled for their success; women need to be encouraged to make their own decisions and own their bodies.

The third session focused on the topic Conceptions of the Queer in Literature and Life. Alejandra Mondragon, a UHD student spoke first. Her topic was “Sexual Transgression as Monstrosity: Enforcing Normative Gender Roles in Bram Stoker’s Novel Dracula”. Mondragon explained that in part of the novel three

female vampires take a male victim. Dracula steps in and says, “How dare you touch him. This man is mine,” while undressing him. Mondragon used this scene as an example of how the novel depicts sexual transgression by presenting Dracula’s desire for his male victim as monstrous.

The second speaker was UHD student Blanca Guadiana. Her topic was “The Queer Bildungsroman”. A queer bildungsroman is a queer novel of growth. The novel she read was “The Blue Boy”, which is about a queer Indian American boy and his experiences.

Jay Stracke was the third speaker and a UH student. His topic was “Masc for Masc: Self-identified with Masculine Gay Men’s Anti-Effeminate Attitudes Towards Effeminate Peers within Gay Geosocial Networking Applications.” Stracke talked about how on mass communication apps that a large percentage of masculine gay men only want masculine gay men because they do not want to be seen with a feminine man. He also added that a lot of feminine men have

to straight pass at work so people do not know that they are gay.

The last session’s topic was Challenging Classic Representation of Gender and Finding a New Voice.

UHD student Minerva Rodriguez talked about “Dorothy Hood: Houston’s Range Dame of the Art Scene.” Dorothy Hood was a great artist, but her promiscuous past came to light when a magazine dragged her name through the mud for it. She worked hard and eventually her art outshone her past and no one paid attention to the magazine’s story about her.

The second speaker was Princess Bacon. Bacon talked about “The Judgment of Sovereignty in Shakespeare”. She used Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” as an example because the play showed a female character who was being judged for every aspect of her life.

UHD student Brenda Chapa-Martinez read her poem based on a personal experience titled, “It’s Just a Gut Feeling”.

Kyanna Maxey and Emmanuel Ojode closed the last session.

Maxy played Hester and Ojode played Reverend D in the play “In the Blood”. They acted out Scene 3.



Disturbing, frightening, and at times humorous, “In the Blood” leaves its mark on audience

By Joshua Williams

Suzan-Lori Parks’ “In The Blood” premiered in the O’Kane Theatre on April 11. A modern day version of “The Scarlet

Letter,” the play was a response to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. Disturbing, frightening, and at times humorous, “In The

Blood” left its mark on the audience.

Kyanna Maxey starred as Hester, a homeless woman with five children who does whatever she can to crawl

out of her predicament. As the play progressed, the audience learned more about Hester’s dark past. Not only did the play reveal the lengths she would go to put food on her children’s plates, but the play also hinted at a disturbing truth about the welfare system.

Maxey’s biggest strength was her ability to convey sorrow and desperation through body language. During Hester’s conversations with the children and her encounter with Reverend D, played brilliantly by Emmanuel Ojode, Maxey never went too far into cliché territory. Her everyday demeanor made Hester endearing.

To compliment Maxey was a supporting cast that included Charles Vaughn as a troubled doctor whose charisma only helps hide his dark intentions. Also present were Shown Brown, Victoria Jackson, and Shelby Kesler. The cast did

a magnificent job capturing the soul and pathos of Parks’ original vision while also adding a bit of themselves into each character.

But the real standout of this play is the story and the message it conveys. Just under two hours, “In The Blood” juggles multiple themes and miraculously never drops any of them. Hester’s gender intersects not only with her race but also with her being poor. Even with five children, Hester is alone, trapped in a system that forces the poor to work to qualify for government assistance.

How Hester tries to trick the system leads into some of the play’s most eye-opening revelations. Hester’s arc in particular is up to interpretation. Her ending can be interpreted as something that is self-inflicted or as a by-product of how the welfare system takes advantage of the poor. Whatever the case, the ending left the audience speechless.

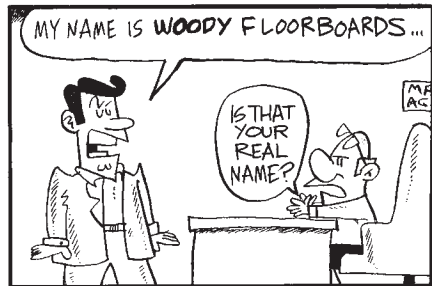
Thought provoking and satirical, “In The Blood” pulls no punches. The play’s dark sense of humor draws the audience in just before knocking them out and leaving its mark.

Joshua Williams is a UHD senior expecting to graduate in the spring of 2019. His passions include playing video games and spending time with his family. He’s also a fan of online movie talk shows on YouTube.

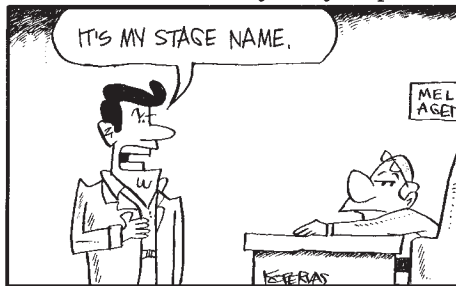


Photot courtesy of the O’Kane Theater

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



GRIN and BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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MAGIC MAZE • CHINESE ZODIAC

E O L J H E C A X T V T R P N
L J H T F N D B Y H X V T S R
P O T H E M O N K E Y T M E K
I G T E E D B G K H A C Z T X
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Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

Astrology Attributes Cycle The Dog
The Dragon The Goat The Horse The Monkey
The Ox The Pig The Rabbit The Rat
The Snake The Tiger Year of

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

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DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- Recipe meas.
- Lapidary's supply
- Help a hood
- Weeding tool
- Laugh-a-minute
- Pianist Peter
- "— Town"
- Taj Mahal city
- Right on the map?
- Including the latest info
- Household member
- Welcome sight?
- Certain card
- Chaps
- Praise in verse
- Author Wister
- Prickly plant part
- Old woman's home?
- Longing
- Predicament
- Grandfather, for one
- "Oh yeah? — who?"
- Prompt
- Suspensefully timed out
- Medicinal plant
- Rembrandt works

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- Canine
- New Balance competitor
- Entanglement
- Trail behind
- Busy one
- Cruising
- Type measures
- Speak halt-ingly
- Concerning
- Suitor
- Formerly, formerly
- Pledge-drive gift
- Admitting clients
- Author Fleming
- Bliss
- Have bills
- Barbie's friend
- Silent
- Discoverer's cry
- Dopey pal?
- "A mouse!"
- Rocket launcher
- Passel
- Lustrous black
- Hill that's steep on one side
- Villainous look
- Actress Sevigny
- "Phooey!"
- Hodgepodge
- Heard reveille
- Supermarket stack
- Between jobs
- Wander
- Early birds?

DOWN

- Grand
- First course, often
- Saucy
- Tool used on cheese
- Two cubed
- Extra

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Strange but true

by Samantha Weaver

It was 19th-century French novelist Gustave Flaubert who made the following sage observation: "Our ignorance of history makes us libel our own times. People have always been like this."

Visitors to Chicago might want to keep in mind that in that city, it's against the law to dine in any establishment that is on fire.

In 1856, a soldier of fortune (who was also a journalist, doctor and lawyer) by the name of William Walker and his hand-picked group of mercenaries took over Nicaragua. Walker appointed himself dictator, thus securing for himself the distinction of being the only native-born American citizen to become head of state of a foreign nation.

If you're like the average American, you consumed more than 250 eggs last year.

You might be surprised to learn

that the giant bullfrogs of South Africa have sometimes been known to attack lions.

If you like to go out and hit the greens on a nice summer day, you might want to consider this fact the next time you're thinking about breaking out the irons and putters: More people are struck by lightning on golf courses than anywhere else.

Mike Edwards, one of the founding members of the British band Electric Light Orchestra, met with an untimely death decades after he left the group. In 2010, as Edwards was driving in the rural southwest of England, a farmer lost control of a 1,300-pound bale of hay. This wheel-shaped bale rolled down a hill and over a hedge, and just happened to smash into the van Edwards was driving.

Thought for the Day: "I am prepared to meet my Maker. Whether my Maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter." -- Sir Winston Churchill

Solutions to last week's puzzles

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	T	M		L	E	S		M	O	P	P	
T	H	E		A	L	P		E	R	O	S	E
T	E	D		B	A	R	B	A	R	I	A	N
I	I	I		S	T	I	L	T				
C	R	A	M		E	G	O		T	Y	P	E
				A	N	D		W	A	H	O	O
E	P	O	X	Y				G	R	U	E	L
E	T	H	I	C	S		M	O	E			
L	A	M	S		P	E	A		W	H	E	T
				L	A	D	L	E		O	N	E
L	I	B	R	A	R	I	A	N		I	T	S
A	L	I	A	S		C	G	I		S	E	T
C	L	O	G	S		T	A	D		T	R	Y

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

3	1	2	7	6	9	4	8	5
9	8	6	5	4	3	7	2	1
4	5	7	1	2	8	6	3	9
5	3	1	6	7	4	2	9	8
2	7	9	3	8	5	1	4	6
8	6	4	9	1	2	3	5	7
1	2	3	8	5	7	9	6	4
6	4	5	2	9	1	8	7	3
7	9	8	4	3	6	5	1	2

Go Figure!

answers

2	+	1	×	3	9
×		+		×	
9	×	4	-	7	29
+		×		-	
6	×	5	-	1	29
24		25		20	

The last words of this column are going to be ‘cyborg shark’

By Mike Duncan

When I was a teenager, the PBS station ran old episodes of “Doctor Who” every Saturday night – a British sci-fi show that started in 1963 until 1989. When they ran out of episodes to show, they promptly began again with the oldest ones. The social rejects in town regularly showed up in their coke-bottle glasses and Tom Baker scarves to run a telethon to make sure this ritual continued – as it should, until the end of time.

Since the BBC resurrected the show in 2005, though, being a “Doctor Who” fan is mainstream. Normalized. Hip. And that is why when I watch the show now, as wonderful as it is, I feel loss, like part of my identity has been snatched away forever. Being a nerd used to be a badge of honor – membership in a desperate club of the maligned, the bullied,

the pariahs, and the best read. But the club’s doors were pried open, mostly for profit, and everyone now, seemingly, plays D&D, console or computer games, is a rabid Marvel or DC fan, and embraces their inner geek in some small, socially visible way. It’s all cool, in a way that defiles the word.

We weren’t cool. I feel much the way 70s punks must feel about Green Day. Johnny Rotten may have already said something to this effect. Or he should. Who the hell are these people? Why are they appropriating our identity?

Now, I’m willing to share some things. “Star Wars” is fine. Y’all can have a piece of that because I will never say no to more. “Star Trek” for the opposite reason - I’m full on that particular dish. The Doctor is a troubling gray area, but I’ll accede for now as all the new Doctors are interesting.

But there are some things I cannot share, because it is impossible – feelings that can never be transferred or replicated. Only a certain generation knows how it felt the first time they played an NES, for example. By the time this column is printed, I will have given my son an NES like the one I had when I was in middle school – no “NES Classic” heresy, I refurbished an original – but he has seen consoles and tablets and graphics far more advanced. The experience for him may be positive, but it will not be the same as something more easily duplicated due to stagnant technology, like the magical first time that he rides a bike without falling and feels like he caught a whirlwind.

The reason for this is that nerds, at least in my day, were always on the cutting edge of technology when it was not yet cool to be so. I stop far short

of saying my generation experienced its slice of the tech explosion more directly, for as David Hume once pointed out, there is no way to experience anything outside of the senses. But the original and rich context of my nerd-culture heyday is fleeting by nature. My son will not see the NES as the hottest thing since the Colecovision, but as a curious relic like a rotary telephone or an 8-track cassette. I can tell him how awesome it was. But I can’t make him feel it, any more than someone who saw Jimi Hendrix live can tell me how incredible that was. He might feel a little pain from those old thumb pads, but he will be able to put down the controller faster. He’s seen better.

My sons will experience their own awesomeness through experiences that I can, again, only partially share with them because I will see them through a different, older

lens. Not necessarily clearer or worse – just different. They may live long enough to experience a comprehensive brain-computer interface that makes our smartphones seem as clever as a late-model Lite-Brite. Hell, they may relate to their own kids

how they first realized they were a cyborg. Right now, my oldest son’s plan is to be a firefighter-pirate (dual-classing, I approve) specializing in shark riding while holding a cutlass (which I don’t recommend doing without certification).

I predict firefighter-pirates will be a fast-growing part of the private sector once the inevitable cleansing floods sweep Houston. If so, we’ll allow him to use the remaining second story of the house as a secret base. Perhaps there will be a place in that world for an old nerd like me - maybe, simply, to remind him that there was once another time where what he takes for granted was not taken for granted, and was experienced with wonder and delight in a way that words cannot really begin to describe. Or I’ll be tending his cyborg shark. Or being the cyborg shark. Either way, I’m going to be involved in anything that involves a cyborg shark.

Mike Duncan is an Associate Professor in the English Department and has worked at UHD since 2009. He teaches courses in technical communications, rhetoric, research methods, and other subjects related to writing instructions.

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UHD seeks LEED certification for the new College of Sciences and Technology building

By Fabian Ramirez

In a world abundant with technological growth, it seems that humans are positioned in time with enough gadgets and tools to solve any problem. In the world of architecture, technological systems like the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) v4.1 program help establish a standard for environmentally friendly buildings. This fall, the University of Houston-Downtown will be the first campus in the UH system with a LEED v4.1 certified building.

The U.S. Green Building Council began the LEED program in the 1990s, and the program has become the most popular green building rating system in the world. This program provides independent verification of a building or neighborhood's green building features. There are four levels of green building in the LEED certification: certified, silver, gold, and platinum. Each certification level requires a certain number of points. These points are assigned based on the quantity of green building features and what specific green building features are included. The plaque is placed on an outer wall after it passes inspection. The new College of Science and Technology building is being prepared to pass with a gold level LEED v4.1 certification.

LEED v4.1 for building design and construction uses a project checklist for each type of building when evaluating its commitment to



Photo credit: Fabian Ramirez

environmentally friendliness. Regardless of the building type, each project checklist uses the same grading scheme and the same classifications for the types of technological systems incorporated in construction. There are eight technological systems classified: location and transportation, materials and resources, sustainable sites, indoor environmental quality, water efficiency, innovation, regional priority, and energy and atmosphere.

Because the list of systems on the checklist is so extensive, it is difficult to determine what technology will be used in the College of Sciences and Technology building to reach gold certification. However, one can speculate that the location of the building will play a part. The location and transportation category credits

two points to a project that offers sensitive land protection two points, six points to a project that provides access to quality transit, and one point to a project that has a reduced parking footprints. This means that the building will receive six points for being located near a METRORail station. This access to quality transportation is one of the highest crediting characteristics in the category. This type of construction encourages patrons of the building to consider public transportation when commuting to the university.

Another feature that the building might score points for is the sensitive land protection criteria. Buffalo Bayou is stressed environmentally, especially when heavy rainfall occurs. Heavy rainfall causes erosion and protecting the land

becomes critical. The concrete piers that were poured into the soil when the building's foundation was laid help prevent erosion. The piers work together make the soil next to the bayou more compact and let the bayou maintain its shape.

The most noticeable environmentally friendly feature is the amount of glass on the east and west sides of the building. This design characteristic is accounted for in the indoor environmental quality section of the LEED project checklist. The large windows of the building have a futuristic appearance and will help reduce energy consumption.

The LEED program is focused on reducing the carbon footprint of buildings by setting environmentally friendly construction standards. After the College of

Sciences and Technology building is complete, other UH campuses may follow UHD's example and look into LEED certification.

Fabian Ramirez is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Science in Technical Communications (MSTC) degree. He was born and raised in Houston and is a UH College of Sciences and Technology alumnus. He has a passion for design and engineering. His favorite hobbies include laying on a beach, listening to live latin-jazz, and practicing his photography. He also enjoys weekend road trips to Austin, Texas in the fall, where he can see live Formula 1 racing.



Photo credit: Fabian Ramirez