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The Dateline



University of Houston-Downtown's Newspaper

Student Run Since Volume One

Volume 63 Issue 6

December 6, 2019

Montrose Grace Place to hold third annual gingerbread house contest

By Sheryl Sellers

Montrose Grace Place (MGP) is sponsoring their 3rd annual Gingerbread House contest on Saturday, December 7.

Planning to take a mental timeout over the winter break, but want to keep the creative juices flowing while also having a little fun? Here's a great opportunity to do just that, while also spending time with friends and family and supporting a local cause.

Located in the Montrose area of Houston just off Westheimer, MGP is a small non-profit that provides a safe environment for homeless youth of all sexualities and genders, as well as those who are housing insecure.

Every Monday and Thursday MGP provides an evening drop-in center

to give youth a place to be themselves while building friendships and relationships.

Approximately 35 young people attend each of those nights. Volunteers provide home cooked meals and have direct mentors on hand to offer a comforting shoulder. There is also a clothing closet available for youth to pick out needed items and toiletries.

The emcee for the event will be renowned Houston drag queen extraordinaire, Duckie DuJour. She keeps the action going and is quite the entertainer.

Celebrity judges will choose the top three winners and the winning team will go home with a homemade trophy. The atmosphere is said to be electric.

The contest begins at 1 p.m. and judging takes place at 4 p.m. The cost of entry is \$35 per three-person team (\$15 for each additional individual) which provides all the necessary items to build a Gingerbread House.

There will be various drinks for purchase, a silent auction, and “naughty elf tickets” to vote for a People's Choice Award.

Those wishing to attend but not participate in the contest can pay \$10 or donate a sleeping bag for the youth. The only requirement of building the gingerbread house is that contestants must use the provided material.

Last year's winning team built a Barbie Dream House complete with a blue icing swimming pool. Another winner created a house made to look

like Whataburger, and one team even took their house apart and made a replica of the sinking Titanic.

Last year U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee made a surprise visit and took time to visit with the contestants.

All proceeds will go to bus passes and supplies such as underwear, sleeping bags, blankets, jackets, and more.

For more information or to register for the contest visit the Montrose Grace Place website at www.montrosegaceplace.org. You can find them on Instagram at @montrosegaceplace. They are located at 2515 Waugh Drive, Houston, TX 77006.



The Gingerbread House contest is an annual event where creators of all levels participate. Photo courtesy of Montrose Grace Place Facebook Page

A Californian's guide to In-N-Out

By Ana Gonzalez

It has been a Californian staple for decades – In-N-Out has slowly migrated to Texas over the past eight years, starting with locations in Frisco, Allen, and Austin. Two Houston-area locations in Katy and Stafford, opened on Nov. 22 after two years of anticipation.

In-N-Out is known for its juicy burgers and fresh-cut fries that are made straight from an actual potato. Visitors can see how the food is made, without leaving you a bad



Photo courtesy of Houston Chronicle

taste in your mouth.

With the expansion of In-N-Out, more competition arises for Texas favorite, Whataburger. As a Texas tradition, Whataburger is well known for its expansive menu including burgers, sandwiches, salads, and breakfast burritos. They offer spicy ketchup and avocado add-

ons.

But many people—recently—have complained that In-N-Out's menu is too limited.

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Rudyard's British Pub is secretly dope

By Christopher Charleston

On 2010 Waugh Dr. in perhaps the calmest neighborhood in Houston, rests a rustic, red Rudyard's British Pub.

On this mellow Monday evening, there are not many people occupying the mostly wooden interior of this homely, yet still mature space. At the same time, it feels as if it's at perfect capacity.

An older man sits at the bar nursing a drink, as someone else props open a side door for extra ventilation. It is cool outside, and the breeze slowly makes its way in as if it would like to take a look at the menu itself.

The Patriots pummel the Jets on ESPN, and though they represent New England, it still feels

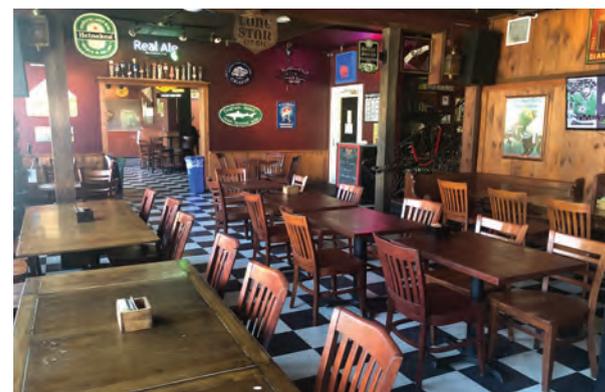


Photo by Christopher Charleston

fitting, as Rudyard's British Pub feels exactly like a hop across the pond.

Tonight, a young man who is thinking of trying stand-up comedy -- something Rudyard's offer for free every Monday night -- sits in the corner, gently sipping a glass of water.

Israel Reyes is 23 years old, and the owner of a Houston based

clothing line, SPG INK. After ordering a sandwich and a basket of fries -- or “chips” as they appear on the menu -- it is time to go upstairs and prepare for the show to begin.

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Gators in Atlanta: 2019 Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference (SRMUN)

By Aansa Usmani

For the past 30 years, the Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) has convened in Atlanta, Georgia and attracted southern-state college students who plan to have a career in law or politics.

This year, over 66 represented, ranging from Western Countries, to the Middle East, and others.

From Thursday evening until Saturday afternoon, delegates were working amongst other countries, hoping to make resolutions in solving the world's problems.

UHD was also present, representing the countries of Spain, Portugal, and the Netherlands in various committees (i.e., NATO, UNICEF, IAEA, etc.).

Led by Dr. Christina Hughes, UHD Model UN students were encouraged to promote sovereignty and diplomatic efforts between members of various countries, putting aside regional tensions and other political crises.

Prior to SRMUN, Model UN students were encouraged to make a binder containing crucial information for their assigned committee. The tedious research and work were beneficial, helping

students better understand their country and a stance on a given topic.

The Kingdom of Spain and IAEA:

The author's assigned topic and committee was the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Kingdom of Spain, correlating regional nuclear/radiological solutions to help assist developing countries.

The first two nights for IAEA were intense, as the first topic was concerning radiological security and protection.

Many other countries shared similar ideas with Spain, promoting better regulations and transparency [of nuclear facilities] without compromising a country's sovereignty.

The last day addressed the second topic of sustainable urbanization and nuclear energy. Unlike the first two days, this topic was much easier, as more countries came to a common consensus of utilizing nuclear energy as an effective source of energy, compared to coal or other detrimental sources.

The Kingdom of Spain's draft resolution for both of these topics was accepted, becoming Resolution 1.4 and Resolution 2.5.



Committee Procedures:

During committee, a country could request for an "unmoderated caucus," a session in which the countries can convene/negotiate or work on corrections prior to a vote.

Although there was no limit on the number of un-mods requested, these timed sessions cannot last longer than an hour. Additionally, there were moderated caucuses, with countries giving speeches with a set limit, educating/convincing other countries to either sponsor

their bills or vote for their causes.

The sheer amount of "lobbying" and caucusing amongst other countries was insurmountable; the goal was to convince other countries to support one's resolution, whether it be through being a signatory or a sponsor.

Signatories can support, but do not have to vote for one's resolution. Sponsors must give written verbiage and full support.

Conclusion:

The lessons learned from SRMUN can be ap-

plicable to other fields/careers; it helps one develop critical skills needed for a future career (i.e., critical thinking, negotiating, problem-solving, etc.).

The Model UN class helps students expand their worldly view, learning about different countries' issues and the importance of regional/international allies.

The emphasis of sovereignty over hostility helps alleviate regional tensions and gain empathy, putting aside recent conflicts for diplomacy and sovereignty.

Rudyard's continued from Page 1

Reyes found out about Rudyard's through a friend, and invited me to tag along. Little did either one of us know, this night would quickly turn into a review of one of Houston's most overlooked gems.

Rudyard's looks like the kind of place that Woody Harrelson and Denzel Washington might have a drink together. (If they were being directed by Quentin Tarantino in a weird buddy-cop film that for some reason took them

overseas.) That truly is the best way to describe this quirky bar that transforms into a comedy club with one flight of stairs

Pictures and posters are plastered on nearly every inch of the walls. There are a couple of

beat-up dart boards being ignored to the right, and one waitress rushing back and forth, taking everyone's order by her lonesome.

Type in "90's bar aesthetic" on Pinterest and it'll probably only be photos of this place.

A few weeks ago, comedian Dave Chappelle randomly showed up and did a set. Seriously. At a British Pub. Whether that says more about Chappelle or Rudyard's is likely objective, but after a few minutes inside, you probably won't care anymore.

One by one, comedians go on stage and perform. Some bomb, some kill. All are incredible to watch.

We order drinks, and more food, and it's all at a

reasonable price.

By the end of the night, I also want to perform stand-up, but settle for writing this article.

If you're someone who enjoys a night out, minus the screaming kids and exasperating drink prices, I'd definitely recommend checking out Rudyard's.

Not only do they have great food and good prices, they simply do what so many places today do not. They offer an experience.

Where else can you go to get free stand-up comedy and watch the game? Not many places. Simply put: Rudyard's British Pub is cool as f*ck.

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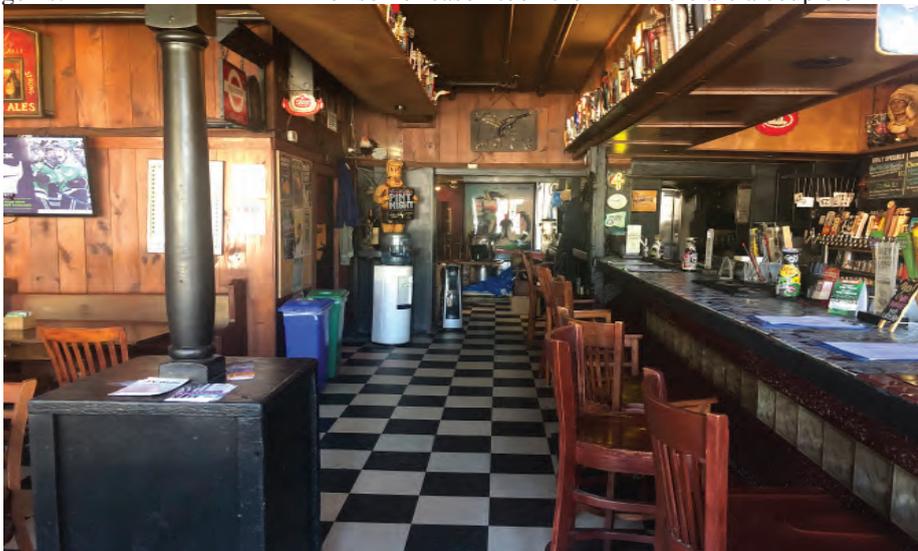


Photo by Christopher Charleston

Faculty Profile: UHD professor discovers a new dinosaur - *Kwanasaurus*

By Jaida Doll

Jeffrey Martz, Ph.D. is a UHD professor, geologist, and paleontologist. Martz and co-author, Brian Small, recently discovered a previously undocumented species of an early dinosaur relative. Their specimen, *Kwanasaurus williamparkeri*, was discovered in a town near Eagle, Colorado.

The animal's name comes from the Ute Native American word, "kwana" which means eagle. The species name, *williamparkeri*, was chosen to pay respects to one of Martz' colleagues William Parker.

Parker works at the Petrified National Park and has done a significant amount of work pertaining to the group of animals to which *Kwanasaurus* belongs.

According to Martz, this group of animals is called silesaurids. "The silesaurids are interesting because they're basically dinosaur cousins. They're almost but not quite a true dinosaur. The material we described from Colorado is one of the most extensive collections of these animals [silesaurids] that anyone has ever found."

Martz' and Small's discovery of the *Kwana-*

saurus is one that has been in the works for nearly two decades.

"In the case of the Colorado material, this is material that my co-author [Small] was working on for about twenty years. It's been a very long-term process for him... We've been working on this paper for probably about five years. The actual specimens – there are several different bones of this animal that have been known from this site [near Eagle, Colorado] that have been collected mostly since about the nineties."

Martz continues to explain how these specimens were slowly pieced together over years of work. Though such a discovery entailed much dedicated work, Martz explains the excitement and fulfillment he experienced upon documenting a new species.

"It's pretty exciting because when you do paleontology, you're basically reconstructing an ancient environment and all of the animals and plants that lived in it. So finding a new animal that was part of that environment is pretty exciting... It's kind of interesting to find a fossil that adds to that story."

While this is a massive discovery for Martz and has received much press attention, it is outside of the realm of his usual work.

Every summer he leads digs in the Chinley Formation of Arizona and Utah. "The work I do in the four corner states and in Texas, I enjoy more in some ways because that is more geology oriented. Basically what I'm doing is I'm trying to reconstruct the history of an environment in the western U.S.... during the Triassic."

After collecting specimens and material from excavation sites, Martz brings it back to UHD to clean and prepare. Some of the material Martz excavates is studied by his students. He hopes to recruit and involve more scholars who are also interested in his field.

"We've got a pretty active research program here [at UHD] that we're developing, and we're always looking for more students that would be interested in geology and paleontology... We're a small program but were building rapidly and always looking for new students."



Dr. Martz at work in UHD's geology lab
Photo by Jaida Doll



Excavated material from one of Dr. Martz' sites
Photo by Jaida Doll

Professor Spotlight: Dr. Jeffrey Martz

Position at UHD: Assistant professor of natural science

Projects in Progress: "The site we have in Arizona is interesting because it produced several skeletons of an animal called a *Typhothorax*, which I studied for my thesis. It's this heavily armored reptile related to crocodiles. So we're gradually getting that material cleaned up, as well, and eventually we'll publish on it."

Hobbies/Interests: "Mostly art – I do a lot of my own illustrations... But for me work and recreation are pretty close. The things I like to do outside are mostly related to my research anyway, so in a lot of ways my work is kind of my hobby."

Why do you enjoy working at UHD? "They've been pretty supportive both to the teaching and the research side of what I do. I enjoy instructing students, and it's not just because I know I'm helping them advance their careers, but because teaching is a really good way to become more familiar with the subject, and I'm someone who really likes learning... I also like Houston, itself. I just always felt very comfortable here since I got here."

UHD orchestra jazzes out at the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston Church

By Marlon Bahena

On November 11 2019 the first UHD Civic Jazz Orchestra played for several dozen people at the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston church.

Created by Director Robert Wilson and composed by Sam Jackson, this Jazz band has been performing together since 1991.

"The band is a lot of fun," Wilson said. "Everyone gets along with everybody else and all of them are really good musicians."

Wilson played for the Navy Symphony, is friends with Quincy Jones, and even played in Ray Charles band. The man knows jazz, and his career was launched in a pretty interesting way.

"When Kathryn Whitmire was the Mayor of Houston, she was [working on] the Interna-

tional Festival..." Wilson said. "They were honoring Japan, and found out their Crown Prince really liked Ray Charles. Particularly, his tenor sax player David "Fathead" Newman."

Mayor Whitmire got this information and called Newman's booking agent in New York to ask if he could come out and play a concert for the Prince. Their answer was yes.

"They asked if he wanted to bring a band but he said he did not." Said Wilson. Instead insisting, "I got a friend named Robert Wilson, get him to put the band together". And I did. It ended up being in all the newspapers."

After the success at the International Festival, Wilson was approached to do a similar job for UHD.

"After I did the concert for Kathryn Whitmire

with Fathead Newman, the school asked me if I could do something like that for [them], and I said, 'Sure, no problem.'"

The band features Nix Allen and Alex Basha on trombones. They describe their feelings playing for the church in similar ways.

"Enchanting." Allen said. "I've been in the band for quite some time. We actually like doing these types of concerts because we love to do [things] for the community. We are all musicians [and] teaching as well as performing is a community based [service] that helps us give back."

"I play because it's relaxation." Basha explained. "It's a real stress reliever just knowing you can get with a group of people and go through the



Julie Wilson singing alongside the UHD Civic Jazz
Photo by Marlon Bahena

music and have all these different emotions put on a page and put out there for everyone to interpret. It's a great thing."

With success at the Unitarian Fellowship of

Houston, the orchestra looks forward to any possible events coming their way in the future, even some overseas.

"We've been invited to play at a Jazz festival in

Italy next year," Said Wilson "Which we may do if we can get the money together."

In-N-Out continued from page 1

Growing up in the Los Angeles area, In-N-Out was my go-to restaurant as a kid. I am a fan of their shakes, as they are made with real ingredients. Same with their burgers. You can see how the employees make them from the knife to the grill, and you can tell they are fresh.

If this is your first time going to In-N-Out, you may think that the menu is short and simple. Honestly, that's the point of the concept. Employees want you to be They do have a "secret" menu with options you might not

even know about. If you are cutting carbs, beef, or if you prefer more beef, In-N-Out will work with customer's preferences, such as lettuce-wrapped burgers.

Houston-based comedian Chinedu Ogu stated in a quick video on Facebook, "Someone [a fan] bought me a hamburger, animal style. I thanked him, and you know what I did? I threw it in the trash."

According to r/Houston, the subreddit for all things Houston, users have said to wait a little longer for the hype to die

down if you would like to try out the food. Drive-thru hours are still at the 1-2 hour wait, so you are better off ordering inside.

Give In-N-Out a chance if you can. If you love the freshness of Whataburger, or the service of Shake Shack, try In-N-Out's burgers, and let me know what you think on my Instagram or Twitter at @Axeliira. I am very curious of everyone's thoughts.



Photo courtesy of In-N-Out Burger

The Dateline
Spring 2020 Vol 64
The University of Houston-Downtown's student newspaper

The Dateline is UHD's student newspaper and has been Student Run Since Volume One. Working on the newspaper is great way to be active on campus while building up a resume.

All current UHD students are eligible to work for The Dateline. Experience is preferred but not required. We will train new writers.

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Peak streaming: So many options, so little time...

By Varah Thornton

With the arrival of Disney+, some have questioned if there are too many streaming platforms or not enough.

Streaming platforms have become synonymous with Entertainment over the last 10 years. The most familiar to all is streaming giant Netflix. What made Netflix so special was its entry into Original content production. When it announced that it would be creating and producing an original show exclusive to the users of its platform, many were skeptical that such a thing could work. Netflix was well known in the college sphere for being a cheap way to watch classic favorites and rent DVD's by mail without having to make the trip to the video store. Even more radical was the announcement that

it would be releasing the entire season's episodes at once. It was an overnight success.

In the years that followed, Netflix added more original content which drove traditional television broadcasters to rethink their strategies. Soon, platforms like Hulu and Vudu arose and began to enter the original content sphere themselves. It was not long before every television service offered their own personalized app that customers could login to for on-demand viewing and exclusive content.

That changed when it was realized that the majority of viewers preferred classic content. The most streamed shows to this day are classic series Friends and The Office. Instead of catering to niche groups, companies

decided to attract customers by acquiring vast catalogues from the likes of Sony, Fox and Criterion. When Disney announced that it would be creating its own platform from scratch, the race was on. Its arrival confirmed that despite the numerous options already available, viewers would still be willing to pay for nostalgic classics.

In Disney's case, the rollout strategy was quite unique. Not only would it be offering its classic film and television catalogue, but also the numerous acquisitions it has made in the past 10 years. They announced that viewers would have access to Pixar, National Geographic, Star Wars and the entire Marvel Cinematic Universe. All licensing contracts with various platforms and networks

were either allowed to expire or ended prematurely in anticipation of the rollout on November 12. All future content releases would arrive on their platform first before heading to DVD and Blu-ray.

Online, it is easy to find various post about having reached peak streaming as a culture. That the rise of so many platforms defeated the choice of many to cut their cable packages. If the content viewers watch is spread across numerous platforms, they are still paying upwards of \$95 a month just to have access. At least, that is how it appears to many.

One of the largest downsides to traditional cable packing was changing fees and being locked into a multi-year contract that came with early cancellation penalties. Now,

viewers no longer have to sign a contract, just create an account. If viewers want the option of live television for sports and awards shows, services such as YouTube TV and Hulu Live have entered the fray to allow viewers to cut the cord altogether. And if the price is too high or you're no longer using a platform as frequently as you once did, unsubscribing as simple as removing your payment information.

For college students, it is far cheaper than trying to attain a cable package in a dorm or going through the trouble of buying a TV. You can watch nearly every service through your computer or on your mobile device. And if the price is still too high for those working with a tight budget, there's always the option of shar-

ing passwords (though this is frowned upon).

Though Disney+ is the newest entrant, there are plenty more scheduled for release in 2020. HBO will be rolling out their new platform HBO Max to replace its current HBO Go and HBO Now services. Even NBC will be releasing their platform Peacock with the likes of popular shows Brooklyn Nine-Nine, The Good Place and will be the new digital home of The Office which it won the rights to after Netflix auctioned off the library.

Regardless of whether viewers feel overwhelmed or frustrated by the number of platforms, things appear to now be in the viewers favor as to who gets their views and their dollars.

“Klaus”: A new twist on a classic story

By Blanca Guadiana

To lovers of animation, the creation of the movie “Klaus” is a real treat. “Klaus” boasts both theatrical quality classical animation and a heart-warming story, making it worthy of becoming a holiday classic. The movie tells the story of how Santa Claus came to be in a way that manages to be inventive enough to feel new without becoming completely absurd and unfamiliar.

Like many animated holiday classics, “Klaus” . It explains that the movie tell the story of why children send letters to Santa Claus as letters fall from the top of the screen into a pile at the bottom. It is only after this that the movie introduces the main character, not a jolly fat man, but a rich skinny manchild. This is Jesper Johansen (Jason Schwartzman) and “Klaus” centers on him trying to set up a post office in the most violent town in all of Norway. In service to this goal that Jesper both helps create the concept of Santa Claus and learns to care about others. Jesper is an excellent main character, incredibly reminiscent of

Kuzco from “The Emperor’s New Groove” carrying the same flippant tone and attitude which makes the audience want to see him laid low while being funny and human enough to remain sympathetic. He is at the center of much of “Klaus’s” comedy and it is his growing relationship to the initially stoic Klaus (J.K. Simmons) which gives the movie its beating heart. That relationship and the way in which it comes to change the setting that is. Klaus and Jesper’s efforts turn the town of Smeerenburg from a war hungry wreck of town into a lovely community where everyone cares for each other through the act of giving gifts to children and establishing the existence of Santa’s naughty list. It is this element of the story which reveals “Klaus’s” theme.

“A true act of good will always sparks another”

Seems to be the phrase which captures the idea of the movie, it is first said by Klaus and repeated by other characters over the course of the movie. This is interesting because so many of these so called acts of good will

have either selfish motivations or only become possible due to previous acts inspired by selfish motivations. In this sense “Klaus” seems to imply that actions which help others with selfish motivations are just as valuable as selfless actions, as a large number of the good things that happen in the movie only happen due to Jesper’s selfishly motivated good actions. Overall it is a smart way to write an adult centric Christmas movie, making the plot seem both more realistic and novel.

Overall “Klaus” is wonderfully crafted movie with a smart, funny plot and absolutely gorgeous animation. It is notable that master animator James Baxter worked on this movie, Baxter is best known for his work in “Beauty and the Beast”(1991) him being responsible for animating the gorgeous sweeping scene where the titular characters dance in the ballroom. Animation on the level of this scene can be seen in “Klaus” in a shot where the movie shows a child playing with a toy for the first time, the camera tracking a little boy as he chases around



Photo courtesy of Netflix

a windup toy frog. The care with which this shot was animated reflects the care with which the team behind “Klaus” regards both the movie itself and the movies like it which came before. There are

several scenes which reference the more fantastical things about the Santa Claus mythos but also several which seem to be fond reference to Christmas classics of old. It is fully possible that in the

future Christmas movies might reference “Klaus” in the same way. “Klaus” is available on Netflix for everyone now.



The Dateline hosts Democratic Debate watch party

As the 2020 Presidential Election gets closer, UHD Gators took a break from their studies to grab pizza and drinks courtesy of the staff at The Dateline. The event took place on Nov. 20 at the Student Activities Building.

All photos by Carlos Escamilla



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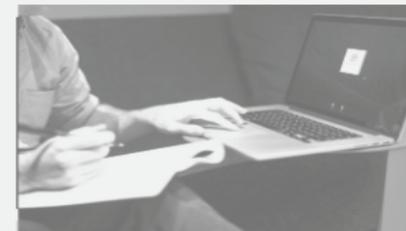
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International Week at UHD brings students opportunities to go abroad

During the week of Nov. 18, representatives from certain parts of the globe hosted information sessions for students who may be interested in studying abroad in the near future. Events included a British Tea Party and a “Harry Potter” movie showing.

All photos by Carlos Escamilla



Food

FROM YORKSHIRE PUD TO KIPPERS - THE BEST AND WORST	
BEST TOP	
WORST TOP	
BEST BOT	
WORST BOT	

Downtown Dollar: What do you know about money?

By Christopher Charleston

In high school my favorite television show was NBC's "Community". It was created by Dan Harmon, who most people today know as the guy who also created "Rick & Morty."

Prior to the success of the most popular cartoon on TV today, Harmon--through "Community"--inspired me to pick up a pen and try to write something myself.

"Community" was one of those shows that seemed to survive on a week-to-week basis, getting by with just enough viewership thanks to a cult-like fanbase, as well as the people who forgot to turn their TVs off after a new episode of "The Office."

But for myself and real "Community" fans everywhere, each episode seemed like an entire season. Because when it ended, you never knew if it was the last new one you would ever see. Every episode was greatly cherished.

Memories like that taught me how important it is to appreciate things, no matter how large or small they may be. When "Community" finally ended, I was torn apart. But I knew I'd always have the memories.

With that being said, I don't expect you to be as upset as I was about

"Community" ending when you hear that this is the final Downtown Dollar of the semester. But it is okay if you shed a tear or two.

The goal of this column has always been to give to my peers just a little bit of the financial knowledge that I feel I've been blessed to have accumulated. I would like to hope that goal has been accomplished.

Much like "Community", The Dateline is filled with lots of talented individuals who will all go on to do awesome things when their time at UHD has come to an end. I have no doubt about it. When that time comes, I'll be proud.

But I'm the type of guy who wants his friends to smell their roses, now. So in dedicating the last Fall 2019 edition of Downtown Dollar to the staff at Dateline, I went around and asked Dateliners a simple question: "What do you know about money?"

It's a boring question. But you'd be surprised at some of the answers you get when you randomly text it to your co-worker at 9 PM.

Staff Photographer Carlos Escamilla started it off. "From what I've learned, money makes the world go around. It certainly does not buy you happiness, but if you don't plan on living off the land,

then you definitely need it."

Writer Sheila Ortega kept it simple. "It's dirty, and students don't save it."

Assistant Editor Ana Gonzalez did the same. "It's green and papery." She told me. "It's also the root of all evil."

Like someone telling me "Community" should still be on the air, I hear absolutely no lies. Here's the thing: Money can be dirty. It can be the root of evil. It absolutely does not buy you happiness. Students don't save it. Not enough of it, anyway. And you do need it. Like, all the time.

With all of that VH1-level drama, we still love money. Why? Because money is a tool we need to get us from one point to another.

Sometimes it takes you to the wrong stop, and sometimes it kicks you out on the side of the road in the middle of nowhere. But if you learn to utilize your money properly, it can get you exactly where you want to be.

My favorite answer came from one of our Section Editors, Varah Thornton.

"Invest as early as possible. Even if it isn't much. Don't be afraid to talk about money with your family and friends. It may feel taboo, but not talking about it is more harmful than you think."



I, honestly, couldn't have said it any better throughout the six issues this semester.

I want you all to know that money is not something that young people should be hesitant to dive into.

Investing, saving, and making money are all skills that need to be learned, if not mastered. The best time to make mistakes is right now.

"Community" fans used the hashtag #SixSea-

sonsAndAMovie to generate buzz for the show. Though they never made the movie, the six seasons part was accomplished.

So in this, our sixth issue of the semester, I would like everyone to know that I am absolutely open to making a movie based off of this column. Though, I realize that a making blockbuster film of that magnitude would rightfully require a lot of money. (Email me if you're interested in

investing.)

My final message to you is to take some time today to gain a little knowledge about something finance-related.

When you're done reading this, read something else that you normally wouldn't -- CNBC.com, a book on finance, or a money saving app.

Your financial future is in your hands, so don't let it slip away.

THE WRITING & READING CENTER

Reading Days & Finals Schedule (December 2-12)

Monday-Thursday: 9am-7pm

Friday, Dec. 6th: 9am-2pm

Online and face-to-face options available.

Holiday shopping: How to Black Friday

By Varah Thornton

A few tips on how to attack Black Friday, the busiest shopping day of the year. This year it fell on Nov. 29

Black Friday is considered the official start to the Christmas season. It is the day after Thanksgiving when holiday sales begin and exclusive toys, deals and offerings are first available. Though its popularity has declined in recent years with the rise of online shopping, there are still some ways to take advantage of the early offering come that fateful night.

Choose your Team

There's no point in tackling such a large event by yourself. You should have a minimum two-person team so that you can work as efficiently as possible and cover the most ground. Have your Bluetooth charged and you text chain figured out.

Prepare in Advance

Going into Black Friday blind is a huge mistake. It will be a day

of long lines, miserable waits and frustrating errors. Not everything will go smoothly, but going in with a game plan will greatly increase the chances of getting the items you most want.

Go Online

One of the best advances in the Black Friday game are online exclusives. These are items that can only be bought or found online. Previously, these were limited to midnight releases. Now, some companies stagger their item releases throughout the day or host online raffles. If you can, dedicate a member of your team (refer to step 1) to scout online purchases only. It's best to reserve this for whichever of you has the fastest finger speed.

Use your Phone

Despite online availability, there will still be plenty of in-store only exclusives. But that doesn't leave the online game out entirely. If you're heading in for something you know will be popular, or if you spot an unexpected item that

was not in your original game plan, take advantage of the various retail apps. Many include price scanners that use your phone's camera to relay not only item prices but also additional deals offered on that particular day.

Divide and Conquer

This is where having a team together comes in handy. If you're shopping for a family of four, get as many of your friends together as possible. Know in advance who needs to go to what store and what department for which products. Even having the item numbers can be helpful when looking for products in specific colors or variations (like kitchen supplies or game consoles). Have someone willing to help but is not particularly good at finding what you need? Use them as a physical asset! When items are found, they wait in line.

Thank you UHD: A letter of expressions

By Jhon Ortiz

When the normal routines bite at us and life becomes redundant, we often awake feeling fatigued. More often, we arise to days full of agony than we arise to days of joy. As time goes by, the cheerful face we used to have, slowly disappears. The constant glare we adopt is not a mood of our own, but it is a reflection of our society. If you step out of your comfort zone, you will see many people displaying the same angry stare. It is disheartening to be in a place like this.

It is as if time and the populated environment desensitizes us from the values that bring us joy. What is this internal void? What are we missing and what do we need to fill it? These are the kind of internal inquiries we ponder each day. Is there truly someone out there observing the decisions we make? Watching us every second? Considering, that we meet people one day and the next day, they disappear. It feels like we are in standing in the middle of a river flowing from different walks of life. After a while, however, we pick up certain frequencies from the peers we relate to. We accompany them with social support. We deliver words of compliments, strategies, and ways to support each other. Though a small functioning system, the bonds become stronger until they are like parts working together to make a mechanism function.

Peers that can come together and help each other are what we might consider friends. The rapport built between people while also being productive impacts the occurrence in our human nature. A mutual understanding continues to develop as more communication occurs. This sparks the realization of what truly matters in the relevant topics and conversations. Great bonds encourage you to see another day. The enjoyment of networking and productivity has defied the gravitational pull of what we consider work as play and play as work. These types of friends help you to learn about yourself and where you fit. All it takes one word of encouragement to lift you from a day of agony.

By forming different bonds and joining different organizations, you will feel less lost. When you do not feel so lost, new networks and ideas can begin to form for you. This is the start of self-development. You will find your passion and instill motivation in yourself. Self-esteem and self-efficacy will become much stronger. Now you will exert more confidence when you walk. This radical change comes as a result of the fact that you now can see yourself. You can now see that there is no limit to what you can do. The last phase poses the question. "What to do with all of this new, profound energy?"

I use this energy, in my life, to help motivate others. I became a personal trainer at the Student Life Center. The University of Houston-Downtown has shown me many ways to impact peers and staff. People will support you as long as you're confident and seek help. It brings me joy to wake up every day knowing that I am making a difference by helping and motivating others. Academically, we have always learned about theories, but we lack in understanding the application of the textbooks to outside-the-classroom situations. Finding the application of your knowledge is your responsibility. The way you exert this responsibility should be a beneficial factor to happiness. It is a disciplinary type of happiness. I am glad that I have come to UHD, I hope someone reading this can strategize ways to find passion in helping people. This is my last semester, and it is my way of thanking UHD for everything.

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Sammy Guevara represents Houston on AEW

By Anthony Ramirez

Houston has an eventful history connected to professional wrestling that dates back as far as the creation of Houston Wrestling by Paul Boesch before the start of World War I.

Since then, Houston has been home to many historical moments in professional wrestling, including the professional wrestling pay-per-view WrestleMania X-Seven by World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) at the Reliant Astrodome on April 1, 2001.

What made this event prominent in the industry was that it occurred at what many consider the height of popularity in pro wrestling. Names such as “Stone Cold” Steve Austin and Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson headlining made the event all the more enormous.

The event was the first pay-per-view after WWE purchased its competitor, World Championship Wrestling (WCW). WCW aired on Turner Network Television (TNT) and was regarded as the only true competitor to WWE on the professional wrestling market for many years.

However, a new professional wrestling company established this year, All Elite Wrestling (AEW), is currently airing

pro wrestling on TNT again, and giving some the idea they may be a large competitor in the industry in the future.

What makes the story even more interesting is a Houstonian is right in the middle of it.

Trained by the Texas professional wrestling school Reality of Wrestling, Sammy Guevara has become an important part of AEW’s Wednesday night show, Wednesday Night Dynamite.

Guevara participated in the very first match in the show’s history, was in the second show’s main event, and is currently grouped with one of the most well-known professional wrestlers in the past 20 years, Chris Jericho.

Guevara has excelled into stardom over the few months AEW has aired, but his story began as far back as his first match almost 9 years ago on December 11, 2010.

Before joining AEW, Sammy promoted himself to the industry on what is known as the independent circuit.

The independent circuit represents a multitude of professional wrestling companies around the world that do not have contracts with the wrestlers to work a specific length of time, meaning the wrestlers typically need to self-promote in

order to have a show to work on.

Guevara also shares a story on his YouTube channel sammy guevara in a video titled “Worst experience with a promoter (Q & A) #129” in which he arrived at a show where he was asked to work for free because the promoter had no money.

During his time on the circuit, Guevara worked in prominent independent pro wrestling companies such as DDT Pro Wrestling in Japan, Pro Wrestling Guerilla in California, Lucha Underground which can be seen on Netflix, and Lucha Libre AAA Worldwide in Mexico.

Guevara is of Cuban descent with his father being from Cuba and his mother from Houston.

Most of his merchandise (which can be found at sammyguevara.com) involves a panda somewhere in the design as Guevara believes “pandas are chill animals, but they’re still bears so they can still kill you.”

His mother, affectionately mentioned in his vlogs as “Momma Panda,” is a loving supporter of Guevara who has consistently convinced him to follow his dreams in the industry.

Guevara also has hobbies outside of his



Sammy Guevara walking down the ramp before an All Elite Wrestling match
Photo courtesy of Sammy Guevara

Interview with Sammy Guevara

Q: Did living in Houston affect your love for pro wrestling?

SG: It’s actually nice living here for wrestling. I don’t wrestle that often in Houston so it’s a nice detachment from everything. If I lived in Orlando I feel like there would never be a chance to detach myself from it and actually breathe. So it’s nice coming back home from a long weekend of shows [and] then not having anything to do with wrestling. [It’s] kinda therapeutic in a way. [It keeps] me mentally sane.

Q: How does it feel working for AEW compared to the indy circuit?

SG: I love the independents don’t get me wrong but it’s nice to know I’ll always have a check in the mail & it’s nice to know that millions of people will

love for pro wrestling. His devotion to his work and enjoyment of pursuing his dreams has led him to consider becoming a motivational speaker once finished with pro wrestling.

He enjoys the Amer-

ican television show The Office and Japanese anime Dragon Ball Z, the latter which he incorporates into some of his merchandise and the background of his vlogs.

You can catch Sammy Guevara and the rest

of AEW on Wednesday Night Dynamite every Wednesday at 7 PM Central Time.

actually see my matches instead of some shows I’d do where the matches would be recorded but never seen.

Q: What are you hoping to accomplish in the future at AEW?

SG: To be the world champion. That is my destiny. And that is going to happen.

Q: Anything you’d like to say to Houstonians reading the article?

SG: Anyone out there with a dream, you can do it. Don’t let whatever cards you’ve been dealt in life be an excuse not to do something you’ve always dreamed of. There’s no difference between you and me besides a choice. You can do it.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

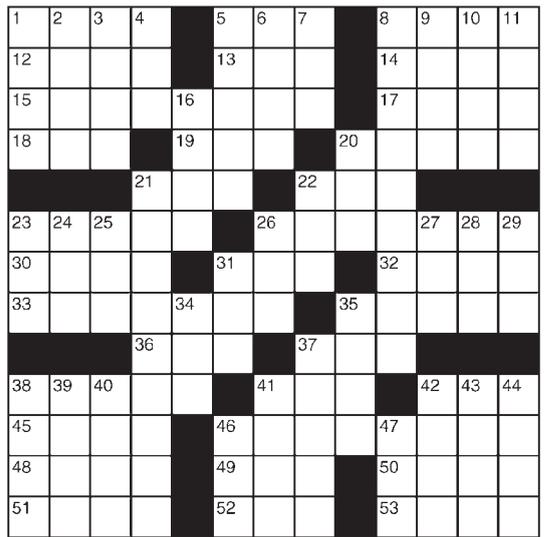


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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Netting
- 5 Personal question
- 8 Grouch
- 12 Liniment target
- 13 Chop
- 14 Firetruck need
- 15 Barbecue fuel
- 17 One side of the Urals
- 18 Glutton
- 19 Prune
- 20 Skill
- 21 Police officer
- 22 Has potential
- 23 Should, with "to"
- 26 Assail persistently
- 30 Entreaty
- 31 "Delish!"
- 32 Small wagon
- 33 Breastbone
- 35 "It's mine!"
- 36 Diving bird
- 37 Two, in Tijuana
- 38 Pamphlet
- 41 Raw rock
- 42 Pair of performers
- 45 Laugh-a-minute
- 46 Entrancing
- 48 Teen's woe
- 49 Ginormous
- 50 Eastern big-wig (Var.)
- 51 Equal



- 52 "Help!"
- 53 Maravich of basketball lore
- 10 "Yeah, right"
- 11 Defeat
- 16 Coagulate
- 20 Rotating part
- 21 Role
- 22 Oft-tattooed word
- 23 Chances, for short
- 24 Last (Abbr.)
- 25 "Gosh!"
- 26 Vagrant
- 27 Upper limb
- 28 Aries
- 29 Coloring agent
- 31 Opposite of myth
- 31-Across?
- 34 Eccentric
- 35 No stay-at-home
- 37 Hauls
- 38 Snare
- 39 Kind of pudding
- 40 Top-rated
- 41 Major U.S. river
- 42 FDR's on it
- 43 One
- 44 Shrek, for instance
- 46 Letterman's employer
- 47 Paper equivalent of a GPS?

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Strange but True!

By Samantha Weaver

* It was 19th-century German poet Johann Peter Eckermann who made the following sage observation: "Invention requires an excited mind; execution, a calm one."

* Those who study such things say that if you want to know if someone is likely to keep your secrets, you should look at their birth order in the family. First-born children tend to be better at keeping secrets than kids born later.

* According to biologists, young giraffes have been known to grow up to half an inch per hour.

* You might be surprised to learn that in addition to being the father of our country, George Washington was quite a

successful purveyor of alcohol. According to the U.S. Distilled Spirits Council, he operated one of the largest whiskey distilleries in early America, producing 11,000 gallons in 1799.

* You may be familiar with the famous scene from Shakespeare's "Hamlet," in which the title character picks up the skull of an erstwhile acquaintance and declares, "Alas, poor Yorick!" It's an icon of the stage -- and the screen, with more than 50 known film versions of the play. Of course, it's also been published too many times to count, and in too many different formats. One in particular stands out, though; in 2009, Czech bookbinders and artists Jan and Jarmila

Soboda created their own unique edition. It's a tiny script tucked inside a plastic skull housed in a small metal casket with a hinged lid.

* If you're planning a holiday in Paris this year, keep in mind that in that city it's against the law to spin a top on a sidewalk.

Thought for the Day: "One does not advance the swimming abilities of ducks by throwing the eggs in the water." -- Eduard Douwes Dekker

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GRIN and BEAR IT



"Some things may be better left unsaid."

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 ● APPEND A "T" TO MAKE A NEW WORD

X Y V R N K F G C Z V S P L I
 E B Y V R O L L I F C Z W T Q
 N K I F C C Z W E N U R P M J
 H E C Z X O U N S E A Q N L J
 G E C Z X M I V L M R I T E R
 P N L J H P E K O I A E D C C
 A Y W V S L N L T G C G R A N
 P N L K D A P L A E D D I F R
 G E C B Z I B B A R N U X W U
 U S R P D N E M E S A B O M B
 L J I G E D H G U O H T B A Y

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

- Ankle
- Basemen
- Budge
- Burn
- Complain
- Deal
- Die
- Diploma
- Flee
- Handcar
- Rabbi
- Radian
- Regimen
- Spine
- Thought

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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.

	-		x		27
-		+		-	
	+		x		20
x		x		x	
	+		+		19
16		21		16	

1 2 3 4 5 5 7 8 9

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DIFFICULTY: ★★

- ★ Moderate
- ★★ Difficult
- ★★★ GO FIGURE!

Solutions to last issue's puzzles

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

MESH	WHO	CRAB
ACHE	HEW	HOSE
CHARCOAL	ASIA	
HOG	LOP	CRAFT
COP	MAY	
UGHT	BOMBARD	
PLEA	YUM	DRAY
STERNUM	GIMME	
AUK	DOS	
TRACT	ORE	DUO
RIOT	CHARMING	
ACNE	BIG	AMIR
PEER	SOS	PETE

Go Figure!

answers

5	-	2	x	9	27
-		+		-	
3	+	1	x	5	20
x		x		x	
8	+	7	+	4	19
16		21		16	

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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