The Door Finally Closes
UHD’s open admissions policy changes in 2013

JAMEE L COX
Editor in Chief

The University of Houston Board of Regents unanimously voted to change UHD’s open admissions policy, making it the last public university in Texas to adopt admissions standards.

While transfer students and returning students are exempt from the new admissions guidelines, the Fall 2013 freshmen must meet the standards.

The new automatic admission standards are as follows:

- Freshmen candidates who graduate in the top 25 percent of their high school graduating class will be automatically admitted.
- Freshman candidates who graduate in the 26 to 50 percent of their high school graduating class and have an SAT score of 850 or greater; or an ACT score of 18 or greater; or a minimum 2.5 Grade Point Average will be automatically admitted.
- Freshmen candidates who rank in the lower half of their high school graduating class will require individual review. Review will include testing and assessments to determine college readiness. Following a meeting with a UHD Academic Advisor, an individualized success plan will be created for each student who is reviewed and admitted.

More than 30 percent (approximately 1,100) of UHD’s fall 2011 entering class of 3,200 students was comprised of first-time-in-college (FTIC) students. FTIC students are defined as students who enter a university or college directly from high school or with no previous regular enrollment at a college, university or community college. Approximately 60 percent of UHD FTIC students require developmental courses and many of these students become frustrated and dropout.

It is expected that the automatic admission standards will improve retention rates of FTIC students, increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates. In addition, the standards will help to limit student indebtedness that often results from admitting students who are unprepared for the rigors of college and drop out, leaving them with significant debt.

“UHD has earned a solid reputation as an opportunity university. According to Diverse Issues in Higher Education, UHD ranks 37th out of 2,100 universities in the nation for graduating Hispanic and African American students. We are confident that these admission standards will enable our faculty, staff and community college partners a greater ability to provide access to a meaningful experience for college-ready students of all ages and backgrounds while also delivering graduates who are well-equipped to support the fast-growing economy of the greater Houston area,” said UHD President, Dr. William Flores.

Dr. Flores has been advocating for admission standards since he assumed UHD’s presidency in 2009.

Dr. Flores stated that any freshman that is not admitted would be offered joint admissions to a local community college partner through UHD’s Gator Guarantee.

Students participating in the Gator Guarantee will take developmental courses at a local community college, along with a minimum number of core credit courses. These students will have the benefit of access to UHD facilities and services while completing their developmental and core courses.

Upon completion of the developmental and core courses, the Gator Guarantee participants will be eligible to enroll at UHD to complete their bachelor’s degree, and will be eligible for a Gator Guarantee scholarship to support their studies.

UHD is the second largest university in Houston and the 15th largest four-year, public university in Texas. One of the most ethnically diverse universities in the country, UHD ranks 37th nationally for graduating Hispanic students with bachelor’s degrees and 37th nationally for graduating African-American students with bachelor’s degrees. Approximately 2,000 students graduate from UHD each year.
Sorry professor, but I do need my phone

Ali Fazal
Staff Columnist

Since the dawn of formal education, I’m sure professors had obstacles in the way of their students’ full attention. In the days of Cro-Magnon man, I’m certain that a stray bison wandering outside the cave would distract students from their slates, annoying their professors. Recently, however, smartphones have become a part of our daily lives, and professors do not like it. In most of my classes, professors will announce on day one that cell phones are forbidden and that they are to be turned off whenever in class.

As if anyone ever turns his or her cell phone off instead of just putting it on vibrate.

Either way, I must plead with professors to allow students this one indulgence.

First off, distractions are nothing new. Before texting and tweeting were the norm, students passed notes or whispered to one another. At least smartphone usage is theoretically silent. No rustling paper or whispers to worry about. Students will never sit completely silent and be completely focused.

Mostly, however, I feel like it is time for professors to step into the new millennium. With all due respect, students will never be completely silent. No rustling paper or whispers to worry about. Students will never have the full attention of students. If that were the case, everyone would have a 4.0 GPA at all times. There are always distractions. And sometimes, there are days where our student minds are so occupied with other things that it is hard to pay attention at all.

I feel like it is now the burden of professors to adapt their teaching style to suit our new fast-paced generation.

Think of it this way: we are paying to be taught. I feel like it is now the burden of professors to adapt their teaching style to suit our new fast-paced generation. Think of it this way: we are paying to be taught.

I have been in classes where every student is covertly checking their phones every few minutes, and I think that reflects more on the poor, outdated teaching strength of the professor’s lecture. Our brains are now hard-wired that way. In fact, if I was separated from my phone, I would probably find it harder to pay attention, constantly wondering what messages, pokes or tweets could have come in during my absence.

I mean no disrespect here, but professors will never have the full attention of students. If that were the case, everyone would have a 4.0 GPA at all times. There are always distractions. And sometimes, there are days where our student minds are so occupied with other things that it is hard to pay attention at all.

On another note, let us take into account that students passed notes or whispered to one another. At least smartphone usage is theoretically silent. No rustling paper or whispers to worry about. Students will never sit completely silent and be completely focused.

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Did UHD ‘miss the bus’ in parking and transportation?

Ali Fazal
Staff Columnist

When our editor Jamee Cox published an op-ed last issue dealing with parking lot etiquette, I had many students come up to me to voice their opinions about the situation as well.

Ultimately, while everyone’s gripes are different, the main thing I took away from my chats with fellow Gators is that no one is happy with the current situation.

No one is looking at parking and transportation as it stands now, and saying ‘Wow, UHD did the best they could for their students in this situation.’ Ultimately, UHD can’t control the fact that there is limited parking space downtown or that Main Street is under construction.

But, they can control how they serve students during this time period, so here are three big problems that I’ve noticed that make UHD’s parking issues go from a mild annoyance to a living hell.

1. Apathetic drivers: I’m sorry, but as students we contribute money to get the best overall educational experience possible. While I believe that students should always be friendly and courteous to our shuttle bus drivers (and not all of you are!), sometimes it is very hard. First off, there is no sense of communication between the drivers and the students. I’ve been on a bus where the driver went inside the UHD Main building to get lunch, and left students waiting in the bus for 15 minutes. They should obviously get a lunch break, but they also should communicate to the waiting students that they are not popping inside for a quick restroom break. In the Daly Street Lot, drivers will get out of the bus and talk leisurely to one another for several minutes while anxious students can see time ticking away before their classes start. I do not think that this is appropriate or fair to tuition-paying students. Lastly, drivers constantly seem distracted and disinterested in getting students to class.

2. Terrible routes: This is probably my biggest gripe. So even though the vast majority of students park in the main Daly Street Lot and need to be dropped off at the Main building, the UHD shuttle has to take a long roundabout route to accommodate three additional stops (2 smaller parking lots and the Commerce Building), making what should be a 5 minute bus ride take three times as long. I understand that some students need to be picked up and dropped off at those locations, but they are few and far between. Can you imagine if METRO took this approach, having all their buses stop at every stop all over downtown?

There should be a few express buses that go straight from Main building to the Main Daly St parking lot, while buses to the other locations (which are more out of the way, and involve at least 10 minutes more driving) can come by sporadically. This serves a majority of the students best, and seems like a more efficient use of the buses we have. If we have 4 shuttles, as UHD claims, why not make 3 of them express shuttles to placate the 99% of students who park in the Daly St Lot and use the remaining one to drive the full extended route?

3. Poor planning: I cannot tell you how many times I have gotten into the Daly Street lot at 11:00am, only to finally reach my class at the Main Building at 11:40, ten minutes late for my class. The reason? The drivers have to wait for some sort of mythical signal from their superior on their work phones before they can leave. As a result, it is common practice for two or three shuttle buses to all be idling in the Daly Street lot, waiting for their signal to leave. To be clear, the buses should ideally NEVER be in the same place. In fact, they should be spaced apart so they never even see each other.

What is the point of having them cluster together when they should be running in 5 to 10 minute increments? After all, how early should students arrive just to make it to their classes on time?

I will freely admit, UHD is in a difficult situation right now with parking. The Main Street closure has really messed up the flow of traffic, and obviously students were going to be inconvenienced a little bit. However, the three issues I listed are clearly fixable, but nobody has done a thing about them. While construction and availability are not in UHD’s control, the efficiency of their parking and transportation systems are, and it is high time that we, as a student body, hold them accountable.
Five grammar tricks every student should know

Tom Clements
Special Contributor

In American education, grammar is a lost art. Having taught both grammar and composition in college, I have simplified a large part of the complexity of English grammar down to five main points that students find easy to grasp:

1. Leaking Oil -- misplaced modifiers
   I call the first rule “leaking oil” in order to give students a stark visual to hold on to. More technically, the rule deals with modifiers that point to the wrong noun in the sentence. Misplaced modifiers.

Example: Leaking oil, the mechanic fixed the car.
Clearly, it’s the car, not the mechanic that has the oil leak. When a sentence has a subordinated lead-in like this, I tell students to make sure that the noun after the comma points back to the action being described. The sentence should read: Leaking oil, the mechanic fixed the car.

2. Shortest Point -- economy of expression
   Here’s another example of the same principle: As a boy, my grandma read me bedtime stories.
Once again, the wrong noun is pointing to the introductory phrase. My grandma is absolutely not a boy! The sentence should read: As a boy, I was read bedtime stories by my grandma.
To put this concept into play with real-world questions, consider the following examples and choose the best way to improve the sentence:
(a) Working overtime, the industrial facility was populated by hundreds of technicians.
(b) The industrial facility, working overtime, had hundreds of busy technicians.
(c) Working overtime, busy technicians populated the industrial facility.

In both (a) and (b) it should be the workers, not the facility, doing the work. Only (c) has the correct noun, busy technicians, following the introductory lead-in.

3. Matching Pairs -- subject verb agreement
   The second rule has to do with matching singular subjects with singular verbs and plural subjects with plural verbs. For example:
   (a) The harmful effects of insulin resistance on the metabolic system is well known.
   Notice how the unnecessary prepositional phrases of insulin resistance and on the metabolic system subvert the true relationship between the subject and verb. The subject (harmful effects) is plural so the verb must also be plural. The sentence should read: The harmful effects on the metabolic system subvert the true relationship between the subject and verb. The incorrect counterparts but the extra words add precision and clarity. In short, parallel structure.

4. Who ‘Dat -- Indefinite Pronouns
   (5) Who ‘Dat -- Indefinite Pronouns
   Vague and unnecessary pronouns litter the grammar landscape of bad writers. Take a look:
   (a) When Kate and Carol went for a winter walk, she forgot to bring her umbrella.
   (b) It was so expensive that no one wanted it.
   (c) In New York, they like bagels.
   In the first example, who forgot her umbrella? In the second example, who’s paying? A house? Be specific. A yacht! And finally, in New York, who likes bagels? Construction workers, NYPD, radio city rockettes, Hasidic Jews? Use a picture word, something the reader can see, not a fuzzy indefinite pronoun.

5. Who ‘Dat -- Indefinite Pronouns
   One way or another, these five rules ensure a top-notch writing style, ensuring little intuition, a little common sense and high school writers need to be aware of. A good rule of thumb is to hold yourself to five main points that students find easy to grasp.

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Please visit http://www.finaid.txstate.edu/financial/index.html or call 713-221-8041.
Aid Fair.

Larger crowd at Financial Aid Fair

David Melendez
Staff Writer

Inviting high school students to the UHD Financial Aid Fair drew a larger crowd at this year’s annual event.
One of financial aid options is the Texas Application for Financial Aid, or TAFSA. Some notable facts about the TAFSA is that there is no deadline to submit the form, it comes in both English and Spanish and it is financial aid that comes from the State of Texas, not from the Federal government.
According to the event staff, over 10 thousand UHD students are on some form of financial aid and about seven thousand of them are attending classes on a Pell grant.
Students should apply early. The FAFSA form is available every January for students to fill out,” said Martinez.

Aid Fair

Grammar Export Plus
The achievement gap continues to widen between rich, poor

The lowest earners clearly have a wall between them and college, but what the wall’s bricks are made of depends on who’s asked. Many social scientists believe the forces behind the numbers extend deep into the country’s social and economic landscape.

Following are some findings from the March 2006 report of the National Center for Education Statistics:

- Differences in high school completion between children from low-income families and those from middle-income families explain half of the gap in college entry.
- Interventions that operate mainly on the college-entry margin — such as scholarships, college outreach programs, and mentoring — can only alter the college-entry decisions of those who are able to respond. Those who have already dropped out of high school, in body or spirit, cannot benefit from these interventions.
- The pure power of money is hard to ignore, as high-income parents spend almost 10 times as much as low-income parents on each child, according to a recent article in The New York Times on the country’s growing education gap. Women in poverty are more likely to have an unplanned pregnancy, perhaps persuading many to leave college or never go.
- Race and income are also intertwined, as the legacy of centuries of racism that continues today leaves a lasting imprint on the financial resilience of people of color.
- There’s more to this trend than just money, many observers agree. Some focus on the impact of parenting, pointing out that low-income families are more likely to have a single parent.
- “Early life conditions and how children are stimulated play a very important role,” James J. Heckman, an economist at the University of Chicago, said in a series of articles called The Times. “The danger is we will revert back to the mindset of the war — such as scholarships, college outreach programs, and mentoring — can only alter the college-entry decisions of those who are able to respond. Those who have already dropped out of high school, in body or spirit, cannot benefit from these interventions.”

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Strange but true
by Samantha Weaver

€ It was English philosopher Francis Bacon who made the following sage observation: “The root of all superstition is that men observe when a thing hits, but not when it misses.”

€ I’m sure you’ve seen photos of those picturesque covered bridges. It seems that they would have provided a welcome haven for people driving buggies caught out in the rain. You may be surprised to learn, though, that the bridges weren’t designed with a roof for the comfort of travelers. Being made of wood in an era before protective sealants, the bridges themselves needed to be protected from the elements.

€ Most frogs lay their eggs in the water; that way, when the tadpoles hatch they are already in their element. The red-eyed tree frog, however, protects its eggs from aquatic predators by attaching its eggs to the underside of leaves that hang out over a body of water. Once the eggs hatch, the tadpoles fall into the water.

€ The next time you travel to the United Kingdom, if you visit the university towns of Cambridge or Oxford, you should keep off the grass. Professors are the only ones allowed to walk on most of the green swards in those towns.

€ In ancient Rome, it was widely believed that holding in gas could cause a person to catch a disease or become poisoned. This was such a concern to public health that Emperor Claudius went so far as to pass a law making it legal to fart at banquets.

€ Have you ever known someone who keeps making the same error over and over again despite being corrected? The next time you run into this person, you’ll know what to call him or her: a mumpsimus.

Thought for Today: “I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious.”
-- Albert Einstein

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Alley Theatre gives lackluster performance

Aaron Stommel
Managing Editor

The Alley Theatre is showing a production of Anton Chekhov’s “The Seagull” through March 4, 2012 at the Neuhas Stage, but the performances lack that must-see quality.

“The Seagull,” written in 1895, can be considered a dramedy, both drama and comedy, the equivalent (and possibly the first) of a modern day soap opera. It takes place on a Russian estate and is centered around a group of actors, writers, and artists who are all romantically, woefully entwined together.

The characters consist of Arkadina, a famous, very successful actress; her lover and a well known novelist, Trigorin; Arkadina’s son Konstantin, who has written a play himself; Nina, the star of Konstantin’s play as well as his affections. The play also includes Masha who is secretly in love with Konstantin, though she is loved by Medvedenko, the town’s schoolteacher. Masha confesses her love to Dr. Dorn who has secretly been the lover of Masha’s mother Paulina.

Arkadina is played by Josie de Guzman who returns from Broadway where she received nominations for her roles in “Guys and Dolls” and “West Side Story.” During the play she is exceedingly flamboyant, always trying to steal the show, but in a lovable way. Trigorin is played by James Black who is celebrating his 24th consecutive season at the Alley Theatre as either actor and director with a hand in over 100 productions. Black’s portrayal of Trigorin is both endearing and condemning. He brings the audience in close and then offers a surprising turn.

The part of Konstantin is played by Karl Glusman who is making his stage debut at the Alley Theatre. His performance is full of passion, but at times seems a bit forced. The overly passionate, forced performance lends itself more to making the part less believable than the other way around.

Nina is played by Erica Lutz who is making her Alley Theatre debut as well. Her performance is slow to start with a noticeable lacking in the first half. In the second half of the play, however, Lutz quickly turns a corner and enraptures the audience. Her skill lies not in subtlety, but in the over-dramatic. Masha is portrayed by Rachel Tice, another player making her debut at Alley Theatre. In Tice’s hands Masha comes across as detached and love lost, just as many see a lover whose love is unrequited.

Medvedenko, played by Chris Hutchinson, is the epitome of a small town school teacher. At once shy and bashful, yet determined to do the right thing even when it is the wrong thing.

Todd Waite, as Dr. Dorn, offers an aloof performance. The good doctor always analyzes the others, but with such airy undertones that both the other characters and the audience come to see him as too detached from the reality surrounding him.

Paulina is played by Kimberly King and is such a small part that it can be seen as just one more point of the lover’s octagon. King’s performance mainly assists in provoking Dorn’s aloofness.

The highlight of the play comes early on, during the first act. The part of Sorin, as played by Jeffrey Bean, sets the bar high for this performance of “The Seagull.” His portrayal of the grumpy old man who is still a child at heart gives the audience both laughter and something to think about.

Watching “The Seagull” performed on The Alley Theatre’s Neuhas Stage is unique because of the intimate setting, a stage surrounded by three tiers of seats.

The first half of the play is the most entertaining though not without its problems. The second half, however, makes the play seem to drag though it does answer questions from the first. While some may want to leave at intermission, it is worth it to stay for the twist at the end.

The performances of each cast member vary between forceful and very good, making for an interesting show. “The Seagull” is a good escape from the go-to dinner and a movie night, but the play as a whole lacks that special quality an audience has come to expect.

For performance times or for more information see http://www.alleytheatre.org/Alley/The_Seagull_EN.asp.

Whitney Barrett
Staff Writer

If you’re a fan of the Twilight franchise, then you know all about how part one of the fourth movie is already out on DVD.

Finally, fans who have already been numerous times to see the movie in the theatre will be able to get their hands on this interesting movie and watch it on the small screen at home.

In celebration of “The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn’s” DVD release, which was midnight on February 11, the star Booboo Stewart was in Houston.

It was wonderful to have the pleasure of talking with this up-and-coming dynamic individual who just wants to do it all. He is not only an actor but also a singer, dancer, gymnast, stunt performer, model, musician and even the creator and illustrator of his first comic book “Millennium Man.” At only 18 years old, Booboo has definitely been busy and there’s sure to be more to come from him.

Stewart’s breakout role as Seth Clearwater in “The Twilight Saga: Eclipse” and this character becomes more prominent in the final two installments of the saga. His character Seth is everyone’s favorite little wolf and clearly he does the role justice.

Q. With any role, whether it’s for a movie or TV show, how do you prepare?

A. Well, when it came to the Twilight Saga, I ended up reading the books, read blogs, even asked my mom’s friends. I always end up researching a lot when I do a role.

Q. There’s clearly a large fan base when it comes to Twilight; can this be hectic for you? How do you deal with it?

A. Well with any kind of movie with a large following there tends to be a lot of fans. I love my fans and try and go out of my way for them. It comes with the job and at times it can be quite overwhelming but you learn to deal.

Q. Who is your celebrity crush?

A. Zooey Deschanel

Q. Clearly you have won a lot of awards in martial arts, how does martial arts help you with the Twilight role?

A. In martial arts you learn a lot of discipline so it helps when you get done with ya’know like make-up on the set and there’s a lot of waiting so it helps.

Booboo Stewart of The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn with Dateline’s Whitney Barrett
This Means War escapes from typical romcoms

Ali Fazal
Staff Columnist

When I walked in to the critic’s screening for This Means War, I must admit my expectations were pretty low.

As a fan of the romantic comedy genre, I’ve been pretty disappointed with the offerings over the years. In fact, romantic comedies have become so derivative and unremarkable that the genre as a whole has essentially become a parody of itself. I miss the days when movies like My Best Friend’s Wedding managed to appeal to both men and women, while being wholly entertaining and original.

While I wouldn’t say This Means War reaches that hallowed ground, certainly it is the closest we’ve come in years. This Means War is an exciting adventure where elements of action, slapstick and romance all come together to make a thrilling movie-going experience.

Unlike most romantic comedies, This Means War does not start off introducing our female lead. Instead, we are treated to some high-octane action right off the bat as CIA agents FDR (Chris Pine) and Tuck (Tom Hardy) get entangled in a simple pre-hension gone wrong. The baddie they are chasing, Heinrich (Til Schweiger), gets away, but Tuck and FDR end up killing his equally evil brother, a move which Heinrich vows to avenge in the future.

Once back home, best buds FDR and Tuck retreat into the loneliness that the life of a CIA operative offers. They do have each other, but they both are looking for ‘the one’ as well.

Enter Lauren (Reese Witherspoon), a somewhat neurotic but loveable girl who can’t seem to ever work it out in relation ships. Despite her high-flying career at some sort of Consumer Reports-esque publication, her luck with men is abysmal. She meets Tuck online and they immediately hit it off, to the joy of Lauren’s acerbic married friend Trish (Chelsea Handler), who encourages her to get out there because Gloria Steinam didn’t do all that she did so that Lauren “could sit alone on the couch like a little bitch.”

Just when Tuck and Lauren start heating up, Lauren has a chance encounter with FDR, and despite a rocky start, they start falling for one another as well.

When FDR and Tuck find out about Lauren dating both of them, they vow to not let it affect their friendship while going all out to win her over, spy vs spy.

A light movie like this honestly can be totally sunk with bad performances. Luckily, Tom Hardy and Chris Pine both do an excellent job of making their characters appealing, but vastly different. It’s a testament to their acting that it never seems obvious who Lauren is going to choose, a rarity in movie love-triangles.

Reese Witherspoon brings her usual southern-girl charm to the role, but it is Chelsea Handler who steals every scene she is in with her saucy irreverence and deadpan delivery. If this movie belongs to anyone, it is Handler, who even in a life or death situation late in the film, will have you laughing your ass off.

Heinrich eventually does return to stake claim on Lauren as a way of hurting FDR and Tuck, but luckily the film doesn’t devote too much screen-time to this clumsy side plot. The real meat and interest of the film lies in the love stories, and Lauren’s choice, and the fact that This Means War keeps you guessing while never feeling heavy-handed is something to revel in.

I’m not saying the movie is perfect, but I will say I never checked my watch or phone once. Each scene, whether played for humor, romance, action, or raw emotion, held my interest, and even though Reese Witherspoon didn’t pick the suitor I hoped she would, we got a pretty happy ending anyway.

It’s not high art, but This Means War is certainly escapist cinema at it’s finest!

Crackle offers free streaming movies, TV with ads

Aaron Stommel
Managing Editor

Crackle.com is a movie streaming Website similar to the Netflix Website, but with one big difference.

Crackle allows the user to stream movies, television shows and other original programming free from Sony Pictures, if you don’t mind being interrupted by 10-second ads approximately every 10 minutes. There are also 15-30 second commercials during what would be 30-minute television shows. Ads for Crackle itself can sometimes be seen within the video playback as well.

Crackle streams its video content in flash video format, providing that content through a network that includes YouTube, Hulu, and mobile service providers. It also allows viewing of their content on the PlayStation 3 and Xbox Live after downloading a free download.

According to the Crackle Website, they have ‘had enough of ‘disposable entertainment’ that is as relevant as a laughing/dancing baby -- we are here to watch and talk about the videos that really matter.”

Crackle was created in the summer of 2007 and is based out of Sony Pictures Entertainment’s studio lot. Crackle, Inc. describes itself as “a multi-platform video entertainment network and studio that distributes full length, uncut, movies, TV shows and original programming in our users’ favorite genres.”

In addition, the Crackle Website states that it “features original content, includ ing Trenches and The Bannen Way, which amassed 8.4 million views in February 2010 and more than 13 million views as of March 2010. At the series conclusion it had set records for views for a web series.”

Recently, Crackle began to focus on long form programming, or what would be considered longer than average programming.

According to Eric Berger, ‘short-form epis odes had their role on sites like YouTube and other places as the market was developing,’ he said. ‘But we think we can create something longer with real talent behind it that can sit side by side with our great library.’ The website goes to say that projects include Monster Heist, Street Drawer, and an untitled anthology series that tells paranormal stories.

Other features of the website include allowing users to embed some videos directly into their own site or share content with friends and family via email.

Just as Netflix divides their selections into “New Releases”, “Movies You’ll Like” and other categories, Crackle has “Top Movies” and “Just Added.” Top Movies include selections from the season of Year One, Groundhog Day, and Quarantine among others and the Just Added selections include movies such as 21, Hollow Man, and Joe Dirt.

While the majority of the content is from Sony Pictures, Crackle does offer a broad selection of genres.

Crackle.com also offers an “Add to Queue” feature that allows users to keep track of their content. In addition to this feature Crackle has a very good option for die-hard fans of movies and shows. Users can subscribe to any show or movie and they will receive updates when new content is added to the website. During playback it is possible for the user to buy a movie or TV episode on iTunes as well.

In some instances a movie on Crackle may be replaced with clips from the movie. This happens because the movies on the site are streamed only for a certain amount of time. When that time ends the clips replace the movie for two reasons: it allows the fans of the movie content to enjoy it and it acts as a placeholder for when the full-length movie becomes available again.

Crackle’s channels and shows reach a global audience across the Internet, in the living room, and on devices including a broad range of Sony electronics.

They currently have a limited number of platforms that can stream their content. The platforms include Blu-Ray Players, Bravia TV, Internet TV, Network Media Player, Streaming Player and PlayStation 3. Crackle is also available through Boxee, Google TV, Logitech Revue, Roku, Selm, Tivo, Verizon FiOS and Xbox. A full listing of platforms that can stream content from crackle can be found at: http://www.cradle.com/out reach/platforms.
Hulu airs original content

Aaron Stommel
Managing Editor

Hulu, the Website that offers ad-support- ed streaming video of TV shows and movies from many different networks and studios has announced it will begin streaming origi- nal scripted content.

Hulu has vowed on pushing original con- tent and is doing just that with series’ like Battleground and Paul the Matchmaker.

According to an article in The Hollywood Reporter, "The online video site’s first foray hails from “The Amazing Spider-Man’s” Marc Webb and actor-turned-director JD Walsh.

The first original video from Hulu will be Battleground, a series set in the world of po- litical campaigns. The video comes from the minds of actor-turned-director JD Walsh and Marc Webb, director of 500 Days of Summer. The Website will still keep its large portfolio of TV shows, clips and movies.

Battleground, invented by Walsh, is set in Wisconsin, the childhood home of both Walsh and Webb. It is shot as a documentar- ical, the workplace dramedy going behind- the-scenes with an unruly group of campa- gni workers and volunteers who are living their lives on the campaign trail.

According to the blog on the Hulu Web- site, Walsh said “I’m excited. I’ve found that throughout this process that people use excited to mean terrified. So when I hear, “We’re excited about the launch,” All I hear is, “Are you terrified about the launch?” But, yes, definitely, I’m glad people are gonna get to see it, finally.”

In an earlier interview Forsslund said, “No- body’s going to dislike this series. They’ll ei- ther like it or they won’t care about it.”

The project stars Jay Harden, Terri Reeves, Jack DeSana, Ben Samuel, Lindsey Payne, Jordan T. Maxwell and Alison Haislip. It launched Feb. 14 and will have weekly episodes purposely timed to roll out in the middle of GOP primary season.

Another program will be Up To Speed,

and will offer this new content in addition to the old.

“W’ve developed a lot of relationships with great content owners and we see stories that aren’t getting told because they haven’t found a home for whatever reason,” Hulu’s senior vice president of content Andy Fors- tell told The Hollywood Reporter of his inspiration. “W’e look for content that’s beloved not beliked. The content that really sells told, is shot as a documen-

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ACROSS
1 Forum garb
5 Life story, for short
8 Snake’s tooth
12 Grand tale
13 Conclusion
14 Operatic rendition
15 Painter
16 Being philanthropic
18 Dull indifference
20 Soda-shop treat
21 Dire prophecy
23 Two fives
24 Try
26 Antelope’s playmate
31 Meadow
32 Weary
34 Firmament
35 Departed
37 Check beneficiary
39 Dandy
41 Garbage barge
42 Anchored
45 It gets the lead out
49 Ingratiated
51 Staff member?
52 Use a teaspoon
53 Eggs

54 Two-way
down
55 14-Across, e.g.
56 Apiece in wartime
57 Partner in wartime
8 Probability
9 Obsequious
10 1492 ship
11 "Eleni"
12 Author
13 Nicholas
22 Early periods
23 Right angle
25 Born
26 Jonquil’s
cousin
30 Down, supplement
33 Deli bread
33 Entrance
34 Matador
38 African nation
40 Carrot companion?
42 Disarray
43 Aware of
44 Let fall
46 "Heart and"
47 List-ending abbr.
48 Depend (on)
50 First lady

DOWN
1 Office
2 Colorful fish
3 Child without a
4 Give consent
5 2007 film
6 Hostel
7 Probability
8 Was
9 Sahara-like quality
10 1492 ship
11 "Eleni"
12 Author
13 Nicholas
22 Early periods
23 Right angle
25 Born
26 Jonquil’s
cousin
30 Down, supplement
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Walk one flight up...  
Or two flights down!  
You’ll burn calories 
and save time!

Be Kind to Elevators!

R.F.D.  

by Mike Marland

Don’t lick your knife, June—you could cut your tongue!

Yet, oddly enough, we encourage her to stick this wicked-sharp, four-pronged implement into her mouth over and over at every meal.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

The amazing transformation of actor Jonah Hill...

CryptoQuote

answer

TV cameras seem to add ten pounds to me. So I make it a point never to eat TV cameras.  - Kitty Carlisle

CryptoQuip

answer

The new private detective agency has recently adopted the slogan “We pry harder.”

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

The first half of a person’s life is spent looking for answers.

What about the second half?

Pretty much the same thing!

Be Kind to Elevators!

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

The great thing about snow is that it really covers up everything outside.

It’s not only pretty, it’s also helpful.

Weren’t you supposed to shove it?

I can’t.

Left the shovel outside again!

OoppS!

February 20–March 13, 2012  
Dateline: Downtown  
www.datelinedowntown.com

King Crossword

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

I worry about kids using drugs.

So I took a XANAX.

President Obama doesn’t understand how our economy works.

I do...
**INTRAMURAL**

**FREE THROW & 3 POINT CONTEST**

**MEN'S & WOMEN'S**

**ENTRY PERIOD**
FEBRUARY 9 - FEBRUARY 23, 2012

**ENTRY FEE**
$5.00 PER INDIVIDUAL

**START DATE & LOCATION**
Thursday, February 23 at 3pm
The Intramural Free Throw & 3 Point Contest will be a one day event and take place in the Student Live Center - West Gym

**PLAYERS NEEDED!!!**
Open to current UHD Students, Faculty, Staff and other Sports & Fitness Members.

To register, stop by the Student Live Center or call 713-221-8225

**VISIT US AT** [WWW.UHD.EDU/SPORTS&FITNESS](http://www.uhd.edu/)

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THE JOY OF HUMOR

**Healthy Seminar**

**Date:** 2/22/2012
**Location:** 1099-N
**Time:** 12:00 - 1:00pm

Visit us at [www.uhd.edu/sports&fitness](http://www.uhd.edu/).