Human trafficking: A reality in Houston

by Abigail Murillo
Staff Writer

The Department of Justice has identified the I-10 highway as the number one route for human trafficking, a major crime that is quietly practiced in Houston.

"I’m really surprised and it makes me feel worried for my daughters and for all the girls out there at risk,” said Martina Hernandez, mother of three reacting to this information.

When people hear the word slavery, the thought of racism and the image of brutal work in the fields usually comes to mind. Today, slavery has taken a whole new definition and does not only refer to workers in the fields, but also human trafficking victims.

The idea that the trafficking of people has only gotten worse with time shocked Hernandez. She believed that human trafficking was only a danger years ago, when she was a teenager.

When Hernandez was seventeen, she was walking to the post office when a middle-aged man with fake credentials approached her. He got out of his car and asked her to come closer to show her his badge. As she reached to look at it, he roughly pushed her inside of the car and drove off.

"The next few moments were the most terrifying,” recalled Hernandez.

The highly aggressive man tried to persuade her to accept what he continuously called "her fate.”

Hernandez remembers... (continued on page 2)
Northline rail, an environmental choice

by Casey Power
Staff Writer

Nearly ten years after its maiden voyage, Metro opened its Northline expansion rail on December 21, 2015. In an effort to provide public transit for neighborhoods north of downtown (including Near Northside, Moody Park and Lindale), Metro is doing their part to build on Houston’s recent surge in commerce. For students and professionals alike, the north rail expansion has been a godsend.

UHD sophomore Philip Levine is among the multitude of students who prefer the rail to the road. “It’s really low-cost if you’re a student and it’s convenient if you’re going downtown,” Levine remarked.

Even with the option to drive, Levine has no problem assuming the role of passenger. “I have a car, but I like to ride the train because it’s cheap and I can bring my bike on the train,” Levine said.

For commuters with little patience for gridlock traffic, as well as those living in close proximity to the rail, the choice is clear.

The north rail boasts eight stops along Main and Fulton. These stations provide fares for passengers as far north as the Northline Commons at Crosstimbers. In conjunction with the five miles of newly opened Main St. (Red Line) track, construction for two additional lines, the East End (Green Line) and Southeast (Purple Line) are scheduled to open this fall.

Neighborhoods including the Second Ward and Eastwood will benefit from the Green Line, which will travel as far as Magnolia Park; Purple Line stations include routes through the Third Ward, UH Main.

Riding public transit is more than just a practical choice for some; it’s an environmental choice. With so much attention being given to cut back on harmful emissions, the choice to travel in a manner that is environmentally non-detrimental is one that some are proud to make.

“It’s really an added bonus that we have a choice to ride responsibly,” Michael Hajek said, a sophomore at UHD.

However a student chooses to get to school is their prerogative, but few would deny the advantage of a $1.25 ride virtually chauffeuring its passengers to the front doorstep of our fair campus.

Immigration

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cated individuals with a degree at hand.

"These educated individuals should then be allowed to enter the professional world to implement all of the skills and talents they have acquired while earning the degree," Valdez said.

He explained that he does not intend to defy the law by advocating for undocumented immigrants to work their way out of their undocumented statuses by opting for a professional degree. Instead, he wants to advocate for an opportunity for the individuals who have already taken the initiative to receive a higher education and, in return, the country should use their skills.

"There should be some reform in order for immigrants to use the education they earned here to help the American economy thrive," Valdez said.

Valdez intends to bring a new perception of what immigrants can contribute, to which many in this country have misunderstood or stereotyped by giving them labels on the basis of their immigration status.

The President of the Student Government Association, is not only speaking in his own organizational meetings, but speaking out in the greater Houston community about the need for reform. The year 2014, according to Valdez, is and should be the year of change not just for immigrants, but also to change the perceptions that society has about immigrants.

Valdez is working for a brighter future for the university while keeping in mind that he, too, is an immigrant. He is working towards becoming the voice of student immigrants who are part of the American nation.

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Human trafficking

his exact words as he looked her over: “How can you waste your beauty and body working in a factory where no one can see you? You’re going to learn to love me and you will always have everything you want.”

As Hernandez began to panic, she looked at the car door and realized it was not locked. She quickly opened it and jumped out of the moving car.

“Luckily he wasn’t driving too fast, I scraped my arms but I hadn’t escaped,” said Hernandez.

When she picked herself up, she looked around and realized he was no longer pursuing her.

“I was completely lost after that. I had no idea where he had taken me and I had to ask a stranger for directions back home.”

This event in Hernandez’s life has made her the cautious woman she is today.

The statistics of victims of human trafficking is an always-changing percent. According to the book “The Slave Next Door,” the amount of victims trafficked from Africa, Asia, India, China, Latin America and the Soviet States to the United States were roughly 14,500 to 17,500, every year since 2007.

The sad truth is that these high percentages are probably a lot higher considering that most victims are kept in the dark. In order to help the victims, a variety of organizations, like The National Human Trafficking Research Center or local anti-trafficking organizations, raise money for the victims or provide them with the help they need such as counseling. Websites have also been created to see how we have contributed to the problem and get the community thinking on how to change, such as SlaveryFootprint.org.

According to the U.S. Department of State, a few indicators of human trafficking are a person living in poor conditions, multiple people in a small space, a person appearing submissive or fearful and signs of physical abuse. To help the cause, students can donate money, volunteer in related organizations or simply keep an eye out for any indicators or suspicions of human trafficking.

Doing so could possibly save a life.
Subway ingredient can cause cancer and asthma

by Dana Ayres  Staff Writer

The Subway sandwich chain has come under fire because of a controversial additive they use to thicken and bleach their bread dough mixture. The additive in question is called azodicarbonamide (ADA). CNN reports claim that when used in small quantities, the chemical can be utilized as a food additive. However, its primary use is in non-food items like yoga mats and shoe soles to make the plastic more pliable.

CNN reports the particular breads sold at Subway in which the chemical is used are as follows:
- 9 Grain Honey Wheat
- 9 Grain Honey Oat
- Italian White
- Italian Herbs and Cheese
- Parmesan/Oregano
- Roasted Garlic
- Sourdough
- Monterey Cheddar

Reports claim that the substance is so toxic that the use of it is banned in other countries like the Europe nations, Australia and Singapore. According to Food Babe, a food blog site, Subway adheres to the stringent laws banning its use in other countries, but not in the U.S.

Vani Hari, a popular food blogger on Food Babe and a Subway watchdog, brought the issue of Subway’s use of ADA to the public’s attention back in 2012. According to Hari, Subway was unresponsive to her calls on her blog to discontinue the use of the chemical in their food items here in the U.S. Hari states that last week she started circulating a petition urging Subway to stop using the ingredient. Hari claims that the petition received 50,000 signatures within 24 hours. Subsequently, Subway’s social media sites were jam packed with complaints. Only then did Subway respond. According to CNN, Subway claims that in spite of the controversy, the ingredient is USDA-and FDA-approved. CNN reports that McDonald’s also claims to use the chemical in their foodstuffs, but disclaims on their website that they use a “food grade variation” of the chemical. Other chains such as Starbucks and Arby’s also use the chemical, according to CNN.

CNN reports that the World Health Organization (WHO) released a report in 1999 that stated that some studies suggest that the chemical ADA can induce asthma in people with symptoms and from those who work in facilities where the chemical is manufactured and used. WHO also stated that exposure to the chemical in a work environment poses a greater risk than ingesting the small amounts found in bread. The Center for Science in the Public Interest, a nonprofit education and consumer advocacy group, found that urethane, a known carcinogen, is derived from ADA and can pose a small risk to humans when used at its highest levels in bread-making. Another chemical derivative from ADA, semi-carbazide, was found to cause cancers in lab mice with little threat to humans. The website, Food Babe reports that back in 2001, a truck transporting ADA overturned on a highway in Chicago and was treated as an emergency hazmat alert by the city. People within a half-mile radius had to be evacuated and people on the scene complained of burning eyes and skin irritation after exposure to the chemical. Food Babe also reports that when heated, ADA is linked to tumor development and cancer.

The nerve-racking process of applying for a “high-profile” internship

by Theodore Shull  News Editor

A number of students from the University of Houston Downtown have experienced the frustrating and uncertain process of applying for semester internships within the federal government in Washington, DC.

One current UHD student, Tarah Taylor, expressed her personal frustrations and anxieties after applying for a spring 2014 internship at the White House.

“It has become a long waiting game for that final acceptance letter,” Taylor said.

The only problem with this instant elation, is that there are still significant obstacles to final candidate selection because of the length and depth of background checks which are required to obtain the necessary security clearances required to work, even as an intern, in most government agencies and institutions.

Like many students, Taylor submitted her application materials on time but has not received a notification of her acceptance or denial from the internship. According to Taylor, her status continues to show that her background check is still in progress.

“I was notified last week that my background check is still not complete,” Taylor said. “I was told if I am issued a security clearance soon, I can join the internship after it’s already begun.”

An additional hurdle for hopeful students from other states is the financial burden that the intern is responsible for to cover transportation, housing and meal expenses during the internship period. Both the White House and the US State Department suggest that interns have eight to ten thousand dollars available for living expenses, and neither program offers any merit or need-based scholarship.

When Taylor organized an online fundraising campaign, the White House program quickly notified her that such attempts at raising funds were not allowed under program rules. For that purpose, Taylor had to find other means to fund her internship travel costs.

“I am extremely blessed to have parents, and family, that will help cover my living costs because they believe this experience will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” said Taylor.

Students like Taylor, who are awaiting final clearance, must be ready to move to DC on very short notice if they are accepted. But moving to DC can cause additional stress for securing last minute housing and finding a way to finance the endeavor. The program explicitly states on their applications that raising funds is not allowed.

There are a multitude of federal agencies and institutions that advertise glamorous internships in our nation’s capital, or in US embassies in foreign countries, that quickly grab the fascination of students who are interested in careers in public service. Many of the students that are tentatively selected for these internships often become overwhelmed by feelings of joy, accomplishment and hope that these coveted positions will provide an incredible experience that will also look great on their resumes.
Editor for 2014-15 needed

The Student Publications Advisory Committee is seeking applicants for the position of editor for Dateline Downtown, the student-run bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Flexible beginning date, and successful candidate should make himself or herself available for training some time after the end of the Spring semester, 2014. Candidates must commit for the entire 2014-15 academic year.

Duties include working cooperatively with student business manager and student adviser, developing and managing a stable of student freelance writers to cover news and events on campus, and assertively managing staff and producing newspaper approximately every two weeks. Must know pagemaking software program Adobe InDesign. The paper needs stories on events of interest to students, including student life, academics, university administration, and student government, as well as cultural coverage of theatre, film, music, and the arts. Typical commitment is 20 hours per week.

Qualifications include at least sophomore standing; at least one semester at UHD; successful completion of basic writing and/or communication courses; and the maintenance of at least a 3.0 GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until March 31 or until the position is filled. To apply download and complete the application form on UHD web site, along with resume and letter of application and forward as attachment to Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiavielloa@uhd.edu.

Business Manager for 2014-15 needed

The Student Publications Advisory Committee is seeking applicants for the position of business manager for Dateline Downtown, the student-run bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Flexible beginning date, but training is desirable with the current staff prior to the Fall 2014 semester. Candidates must commit for the entire 2014-15 academic year.

Duties include managing business and financial matters for the paper, in cooperation with the student editor and adviser, at a selling advertising space in the paper, including businesses in the campus neighborhood. Desire, ability, and ideas for selling advertising in the paper will be important issues for consideration of your application.

Successful candidate will train on People-Soft accounting system for payroll and accounts. Typical commitment is 20 hours per week, monthly salary plus 15 percent commission on ad sales.

Qualifications include at least sophomore standing; at least one semester at UHD; successful completion of basic business courses; and the maintenance of at least a 2.5 GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until March 31 or until the position is filled. To apply download and complete the application form on UHD web site, along with resume and letter of application and forward as attachment to Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiavielloa@uhd.edu.

Do you agree or disagree? We want to know -- gives us your two cents about this topic. Email us at datelinedowntownweb@yahoo.com. Please refer to the "Submission Policy" on page two before sending us your response.

Editorial

Standing one’s ground or wholesale murder?

by Dana Ayres
Staff Writer

Michael Dunn, 47, was acquitted for the murder of teenager Jordan Davis in the "Loud Music" murder trial, on Saturday, February 15. A visibly exhausted jury came back with the verdict after 30 hours of deliberation, according to ABC News. Defendant Michael Dunn will still have to serve at least 60 years in prison on related attempted murder and weapons charges while getting off for murder.

It appears that after all of the evidence was in, the jury was still deadlocked on the issue of self-defense in the murder of Davis. According to ABC News, police found no weapon in the car the teenager was driving. CNN reports that Dunn then went home after the incident and had "pizza and wine." ABC News' footage of the incident appears to be two volleys of gunfire with a pause in between the shots.

CNN reports that the reason for the deadlock in the jury decision concerning Davis' murder is based upon a "Stand Your Ground" law. Stand Your Ground is a type of self-defense law that gives individuals the right to use deadly force to defend themselves without any requirement to evade or retreat from a dangerous situation.

In a situation like this, where was the dannery? Reports claim that the defendant said he "may have imagined a gun." To me, all the evidence points to a man who was irritated by the rap music, the Black skin and the ages of the victims involved. There were so many things that Dunn could've done in order to avoid the incident all together. He could've done like most people do in a situation like this one--simply endure the music for as long as he had to be there and then drive away. One would be led to question the psyche of a person who would purposefully inject themselves into a situation that simply is none of their business. Naturally, the kids would have something to say back to this jerk if he approached them with this silliness. Was Dunn offended by what their reports may have been? He certainly would've earned every last one! I don't buy the argument that he was threatened and felt he was in fear for his life. The man was psychotic and proceeded to shoot unarmed teenagers in their car, killing one of them. Yeah, Dunn stood his ground, alright and for reasons no one will truly understand. He could've just walked away.

This ordeal is similar to the Trayvon Martin murder. Like Martin, David and his friends were profiled and mistreated according to their race, age and gender. It is unfortunate that a person can get away with cold-blooded murder by using a self-defense strategy in court, especially, when the evidence points to a clear case of racist, murderous rage on the part of the killer, who appears to instigate the conflict.

For so long in this country, African-American men have been portrayed as the "boogy man" and suffered everything from slavery, castration and lynching-- wholesale murder. Self-defense is simply another sick excuse to continue the carnage. Don't get me wrong, sometimes Black men are guilty of crime. Nobody's perfect. However, in a society where an individual has the right to life and liberty, everyone should have the opportunity to live, uninhibited, by the narrow-mindedness of others-- especially our children.
Missing the mark
by Mark Steven Caffey
Staff Columnist

My wife and I are rushing down Highway 59 to make the early service at Lakewood Church. This will be our fourth time listening to Joel Osteen preach in person. Close to the church, we see police officers directing traffic to available parking. We park and make the long walk to the church. Once inside, we are again in awe of how large the facility is.

Lakewood Church is home to the largest Christian congregation in America. It includes child care services, a café with wireless internet, video game kiosks and a first class book store that features Joel’s best-selling books.

After the worship service, Joel provides a nice uplifting message about trusting in the Lord and He will provide what is lacking in your life – such as a stable job, adequate transportation and even that nice raise you deserve. He stresses that life can be a lot better with God. I feel inspired and refreshed by listening to Joel.

Toward the end of the service, an announcement is made that Joel will be signing copies of his new book titled Break Out!: 5 Keys to Go Beyond Your Barriers and Live an Extraordinary Life. In his book, Joel encourages his readers by saying, “When you break through in your mind, believe you can rise, and say, ‘I am very glad you are here today. Very glad!’” My wife and I walk away, winding through the crowded church toward the exit. Slowly, my feeling of awe and star-dom turns into melancholic regret. I just had my bible autographed as if I were a desperate groupie at a rock concert. This is the Word of God. How could I do this?

Joel Osteen is a spiritual man who has brought many to the Lord. He effectively inspires his congregation to attend church and provide charity in the community. He has been very successful in selling his books which offer hope and encouragement to many.

The Lakewood Church website describes his core message being, “That our desires to bless those who are obedient and faithful to Him through Jesus Christ.” It is true that God is pleased with the obedient and faithful. But is that the core message of Christianity?

There are those who believe Joel is a part of a controversial movement called the Prosperity Gospel. This teaching uses faith and doing good works to gain material blessings from God – to use God to get things from Him.

Preacher and author Rick Henderson said, “Joel teaches that we open ourselves to God to get more from God. He teaches that we use our words to speak into existence a better reality. This is straight from the Word of Faith Movement. This is not what is taught throughout the New Testament.”

The Word of Faith movement teaches financial prosperity and physical - spiritual healing for who choose to verbally declare what is desired. This involves an act of faith that it coincides with God’s purpose. This movement references Mark 11:22-25, when Jesus said believers shall have whatever they speak and pray with faith. Jesus did not die on the cross so we can ask God to provide for us. He died for us as a payment for all the past, present and future sins of the world. And by making a choice to accept this gift from God, we are to develop a warm and personal relationship with Him. We are saved from ourselves and will spend eternity with Him. Just knowing the facts is not enough. Having a feel good Sunday service is not enough.

It involves a willingness to submit, as Jesus said in Luke 9:23, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their ‘cross’ daily and follow me.” (NRSV). This means to deny your own wishes and worldly desires - take up your “cross” and be willing to “die” to follow Christ. He expects an absolute surrender to Him.

The Christian faith is based on Salvation, not on personal accomplishments or things that make you feel warm and fuzzy. As stated in Luke 9:24-25, “What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?” (NIV). True happiness will not come from material things or success. It comes from knowing God on an intimate level - having a personal relationship with Him. This means to deny yourself of worldly desires, take up your cross of struggles and sorrow daily and follow Him through his examples and teachings.

Although the message of Joel Osteen is uplifting and inspiring, I believe it misses the mark. Many of his congregation may be lost in the spectacle and missing out on the true meaning of the Gospel - Salvation. There is nothing wrong with being successful or striving for personal excellence but those actions are not priority in life. It is the choice to love and walk with God, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ – not expecting favors in return. The rest will come naturally, according to Him will.

Do you agree or disagree? We want to know – gives us your two cents about this topic. Email us at datelinedowntownweb@yahoo.com. Please refer to the “Submission Policy” on page two before sending us your response.

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*Submissions should be no more than 300 words, include the author’s full name, phone number or email address, and affiliation with the University, including classification and major. Letters to the editor may be edited for space. They will be edited for spelling, grammar and malicious or libelous statements. All submissions become property of Dateline Downtown and will not be returned.
Motley Crue announces “The Final Tour”

Motley Crue, one of the biggest hard rock and heavy metal bands to emerge from the 1980s and achieve commercial and critical success, has decided to retire the band with a final tour. Supporting them throughout this long trek will be longtime shock rock artist Alice Cooper, who has also achieved similar success.

by Juan A. Hernandez
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Farewell tours often come and go, but always seem to end up with a band coming out of retirement and rarely features its original members. Motley Crue made it clear in a press conference on January 28, that this last trek is not a “Farewell Tour,” but rather “The Final Tour.” Singer Vince Neil, bassist Nikki Sixx, guitarist Mick Mars and drummer Tommy Lee are going out in true rock and roll fashion by retiring the band on their terms, with the four original members that started it all in 1981.

In order to retain the band’s legacy exclusively for the fans, the band signed a Cessation of Touring Agreement, which prevents Motley Crue from touring after “The Final Tour.” The latest trend for touring has been farewell tours that feature big bands, a trend that fans no longer believe to be true. Bands like The Who, Ozzy Osbourne, The Eagles, Kiss, Judas Priest and the Scorpions have all gone out on farewell tours in the past, but are constantly touring and recording new music to this day. If Motley Crue lives up to the contract’s standards, they will become the first band to officially retire and perhaps become the model for future bands’ retirement agreements.

Supporting act for this final trek will be Alice Cooper, who is visually one of Motley Crue’s influences coming up in the early 1980s.

Aside from the excess lifestyle that most hard rock and heavy metal bands from the 1980s are labeled with, Motley Crue’s music is a true testament about four individuals who just wanted to create music together and have a good time. Thankfully, the four original members of the band are still alive and well to tell the story, despite having battled drug addiction and overdoses, DUI incidents and celebrity scandals.

To coincide with “The Final Tour,” the story of the band is finally come to the big screen, as the long-awaited film “The Dirt” will be released by the end of the tour in 2015. Based off the band’s New York Times Best-Seller biography book, “The Dirt” chronicles the story of the band from its humble beginnings, their rise to fame, their fall to rock bottom and their return to form; all accounted for by the four members of the band.

With over 80 million albums sold worldwide, Motley Crue is making it very clear that they are not doing this for the money, but rather as a true send-off for the fans that will feature quality production and catalogue of their greatest hits. Always no strangers to pushing the envelope, Motley Crue’s legacy will be cemented in music history. The only recognition that the band has yet to achieve is induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, which they well deserve after 30 years of performing.

Gamers claim Flappy Bird has ruined their lives

by Vanessa Ramirez
Staff Writer

If you don’t know what this game is all about, then you can get out from under your rock and know why everyone is hooked on this game. Flappy Bird made the number one most downloaded free app on iTunes. Why is this game so popular? Flappy Bird is because Nintendo shut down Flappy Bird for the pipes being used in this game. However, Dong Nguyen claims that this is not true.

The creator made $50,000 a day from Flappy Bird, who would really throw off that kind of money? But Dong Nguyen, shut down Flappy Bird down. I cannot take this anymore." It is not anything related to legal issues. I just cannot keep it anymore," on February 8.

He announced on his Twitter, "I am sorry, ‘Flappy Bird’ users, 22 hours from now I will take ‘Flappy Bird’ down. I cannot take this anymore." On February 8.

The creator made $50,000 a day from Flappy Bird, would really throw off that kind of money? But Dong Nguyen claimed on another Twitter post, "I can call Flappy Bird a success of mine. But it also ruins my simple life. So now I hate it."

Now there are other similar games like Flappy Bird being made such as Splashy Fish, City Bird, Flappy Fish, Fly Duck Go Game and many others. Those who had a chance to download Flappy Bird on to their phone, claim that the app will never get deleted from their smartphone.
UFC 171: Hendricks vs. Lawler

The UFC returns to Texas with an explosive Welterweight bout between Johnny Hendricks and Robbie Lawler.

by Juan A. Hernandez

Arts & Entmt/Sports Editor

Last October, UFC made its way to Houston with UFC 166 and featured one of the best trilogies in mixed martial arts history: Cain Velasquez vs. Junior Dos Santos Part III. This year, Dallas will be the host to UFC 171 and will once again try to top its previous pay-per-view.

Originally, the main event was scheduled to feature the Light Heavyweight Championship match between Jon Jones and Glover Teixeira, but has since been postponed twice at UFC 169 and UFC 170. Now headlining the event are the two fighters who will be fighting for the vacant UFC Welterweight Championship, a championship that both men have yet to win.

The Welterweight Championship was vacated at UFC 167 last year by then-champion George St. Pierre, who beat Hendricks in a controversial split decision that sent shockwaves in the UFC world, mainly because it was Hendricks who had really won the fight. St. Pierre would then make erratic comments in his post-fight interview with Joe Rogan and announced an indefinite break from mixed martial arts.

It is unclear as to when George St. Pierre will return to the octagon, as many have been speculating that the accumulation of damage has finally hit St. Pierre, but still remains one of the best conditioned fighters in UFC history.

Since UFC 167, there is no doubt that Hendricks has been anxious and hungry for Welterweight gold, which he truly deserved to win that night. More importantly, fans are hoping that this card will not be the subject to another controversial decision like the one at UFC 167. UFC President Dana White has stated that controversial decisions have ruined boxing as a sport, and vows that he will not let that happen to the UFC.

UFC 171 will take place this March 15 at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas.

Creative commons via en.wikipedia.org

The Olympics: An ancient tradition and the modern games

by Megan Lehman
Via uloop.com

The Olympics has become a worldwide sensation and tradition since its creation nearly 2,700 years ago. With the 2014 Sochi Olympics already well underway, the world is waiting and watching in awe as the best athletes from nation after nation competes for the honor and pride of their homeland. In games such as alpine skiing, the biathlon, curling, free style skiing, ice hockey, the luge, short track, and speed skating, fierce competitors have been taking the stage, ready to perform. The Olympic torch has been lit and with it, the fire inside every athlete, coach, and spectator. But how did the Olympics begin? And why?

According to the BBC, the Olympics began in the southwest part of Greece. Originally a religious ceremony, the games are thought to have begun in 776 BC. These games were held to honor the king of the gods, Zeus, but were created by Hercules, son of Zeus. Much like the games we so cherish today, these games were held every four years in Olympia, a valley near a city called Elis. Unlike our current games, however, only members of the Greek world traveled to Olympia to compete.

The games in the very beginning were similar to what we have now. The Olympic website states the games included running, long jump, shot put, javelin, boxing and equestrian events. The Pentathlon also became an Olympic sport in 708 B.C. with the addition of wrestling.

The Pentathlon itself included running the stade race; sprinting from one end of the Olympic track to the other which was 200 meters; the dialus, which was a 400 meter race; and the dolichos, a race that nearly quadrupled the first two races. The athletes then went on to competitions of jumping and discussing throwing.

What was once a beautiful tradition was ended nearly 1,200 years after its creation in 593 CE when Theodosius I, a Roman emperor and Christian, abolished the games because of the perceived pagan influences. When all hope for the beloved ritual seemed lost forever, Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin began the re-invention of the world was waiting for, becoming known as le Rénovateur.

In the eyes of le Rénovateur, exercise, or sport more specifically, was what one needed to be a well-rounded and vigorous person. When bringing this theory to France, Coubertin was met with some resistance but he persevered. Coubertin began the Union des Sociétés Françaises de Sports Athlétiques (USFSA) in 1890 and just two short years later he decided to announce his idea to revive the Olympic Games.

On November 25, 1892, in Paris, France at a meeting of the USFSA, Coubertin gave a speech about the world’s need for an Olympic revival, but to avail. Coubertin organized yet another meeting two years later with 79 delegates representing nine different countries and gave yet another motivational speech. This time he was successful and the delegates voted unanimously for the Olympic Games.

With this historic decision made, the delegates also voted for Coubertin himself to design and construct an international committee to organize the new and improved games. This committee went on to become the International Olympic Committee and fittingly so, Demetrious Vikelas of Greece was chosen to be the committee’s first president. After he served as president, Vikelas returned to his beloved homeland of Greece to devote himself to the advancement and simplification of education, which he believed was in desperate need.

Under his watchful eye, Vikelas helped bring the Olympics back to the splendor and grandeur that it has become known for today.
First she’s too fat, now she’s too thin

by Elizabeth Padgett
Web Content Editor

Season 15 winner of The Biggest Loser, 24-year-old Rachel Fredrickson, has received criticism for ‘going too far’ with her weight loss. Viewers commented that Fredrickson ‘just looks so sickly’ and ‘shouldn’t be able to win,’ due to her appearance. Documenter Roula and Ryan of 104 KRBE brought up a minute-long clip to be a very unbelievable how far she took her weight loss with so many young girls watching her every move.”

Defenders of Fredrickson said that “she was in it to win the game” and now that the show has ended, she will presumably put a little more weight on. The closest top performer to Fredrickson was David Brown, who lost 54.28 percent of his body weight. The real story, however, is not about Fredrickson’s weight loss. Her story is a tool that has enabled Americans to take a good look at ourselves, more importantly our obsession with appearance.

As a country, we have had a long affair with our appearances. Yet with all our criticisms of each other, America still ranks as one the world’s most obese nations. Alex Kuczynski, New York Times Styles section reporter, refers to Americans as “beauty junkies, addicts continually looking for our next fix to keep us looking young and pretty.” Particularly for women, Fredrickson points out that beauty is “something we are expected to have, in addition to being smart and successful.”

America is a competitive country. Instead of learning to cheer for one another on their great accomplishments, we find it better to tear one another down, just when someone one may be too close to obtaining the ‘ideal,’ we must find something to criticize about, something they still need to work on. If Fredrickson were your friend, would you congratulate her or tell her she’s too thin?

Kuczynski, who admits to not being immune from social influences herself, has said that “looks are the new feminism, an activism of aesthetics.” Fredrickson has defended her dramatic weight loss and affirms that it was all natural, through weight loss and diet. “I eat five times a day and 1600 calories,” Fredrickson said. “We are given a calorie budget and I stuck to that. I followed the advice and support of the medical team at The Biggest Loser the entire journey and I’m going to continue on the path and maintain the healthy lifestyle.” According to The Biggest Loser Wiki page, Fredrickson is the only contestant in all 15 seasons whose final BMI is listed as underweight.

Coca-Cola Super Bowl commercial sparks controversy

by Jessica Hernandez
Feature Editor

During the Super Bowl, Coca Cola aired a commercial with scenes of family and friends enjoying themselves, people of all different cultures having a good time, and occasional glimpses of someone drinking Coke. The song playing in the background was “America the Beautiful” being sung in different languages. Though I could not distinguish some of them, I still thought the minute-long clip to be a very beautiful and feel-good commercial. I didn’t think too much of it until the next morning.

Roula and Ryan of 104 KRBE brought up the commercial and how many were outraged at what Coca Cola has done. Angry tweets such as “Nice to see that Coke likes to sing an AMERICAN song in the terrorist’s language” and “Coca-Cola is the official soft drink of illegals crossing the border” and “Dear Coke commercial... DO NOT sing my Country’s song of freedom in a different language,” flooded Twitter feeds and the hashtag #SpeakAmerican even started trending.

Hearing and reading some of the negative comments, I couldn’t help but to feel outraged myself. Being 2014, I would love to think that Americans are slowly but surely becoming more accepting of others despite skin color, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. But after this incident, I just felt so angered and deeply disturbed knowing that there are still so many ignorant, judgmental, prejudiced, narrow-minded and racist people out there today.

The languages featured in the commercial included English, Spanish, Keres, Tagalog, Hindi, Senegalese-French, Hebrew, and Arabic. To the first tweeter, naming any language other than English as a “terrorist’s language” is not only wrong but just utterly disgusting. To the second tweeter, calling people “illegals” is just as terrible. No one knows the stories or reasoning behind why people may move to this country illegally but that does not put anyone in the place to judge or make fun of people’s life choices.

This comment is also just downright offensive to all the immigrants who have migrated from their home countries and worked so hard in this county to become American citizens, such as my parents. I simply hate how ignorant people, like these tweeters, just throw words such as “terrorists” and “illegals” around to name any person who does not happen to fit into their very shallow mold of what they think it means to be “American.” To the third tweeter, though English is the pre-dominantly spoken language of the United States, it is not the official national language, because there isn’t one so there is no need to dismiss and exclude all other languages that happen to be spoken in this country. Though I am upset over the hate and negative feedback from such a beautiful commercial, I am moved with hope from all the open-minded, humane and culturally relative people out there. What makes America so beautiful is the fact that we are so diverse. Our country is filled with cultures from all over the world and this is something we should fully embrace, not take for granted because life would be so boring if we were all completely the same. I believe just as long as people continue to spread the love and help others realize that we are really just part of one race, the human race, the better off the world will be.
**Problem or opportunity**

by Devalia Nag
Staff Writer

Merriam-webster dictionary defines "problem" as "something that is difficult to deal with." That is an obvious definition that everybody knows, right? But did you know that a problem in actuality is not a problem until you decide to call it a problem? Now you might be wondering: What is a problem then? The answer is simple. A problem is an opportunity!

In 1904, George Bang proved the concept that a problem is not a problem, but an opportunity, while selling ice cream at the World Fair in St. Louis. The tradition of serving ice-cream during this time period was in bowls with spoons. Unfortunately, he ran out of bowls. His situation was dreadful. He had delicious ice cream that was ready to be served, but the poor fellow did not have bowls to serve it in. He realized that the obstacle in his business was his lack of resources. Instead of sitting down with a sad face and blaming his luck for the problem he confronted it, he made a decision to turn this problem into a business venture. He bought waffles from a nearby shop in bulk and rolled them into a shape of a cone that would hold ice cream. His customers thoroughly enjoyed his innovation. In fact, people today across the world are still enjoying ice-cream in cones. From Bang's success, it can be stated that difficulties that arise in a person's life do not come in cardboard boxes with labels attached to them stating "I am a problem" or "I am an opportunity." In other words, situations are just situations and the person facing the situation is the only one in power to either label them as a problem or an opportunity.

"When I lost my job as a tutor I was really upset. I loved my students. But, later I realized that it wasn't a bad thing when I found an easy and flexible job at the [W.I. Dykes] library," Maria Cardenas said, a Psychology major. It is possible to do something constructive with the challenges that one confronts. For instance, if you get fired from your job, instead of becoming frustrated, you can look at this situation as an opportunity to find a much better job, or instead of sulking about getting an F on a test that you have spent six hours studying for, you can look at it as an opportunity to explore and find the learning style that works best for you. When a person determinedly decides to take every challenge that he or she faces as an opportunity, then becoming successful in life is inevitable.

"When I first started college I was so nervous. The people, the language, the surrounding, everything was new to me," Tuyen Nguyen said, an Accountant major. She elaborated that although she was panicked and nervous about starting college in a foreign country, she made up her mind to work hard to obtain the grade that she desired. "In my first test in College-Algebra class, I made a 100, and I kept performing well on every test," Nguyen said. She added that she was glad as an opportunity to find something constructive with the challenges that one confronts. For instance, if you get fired from your job, instead of becoming frustrated, you can look at this situation as an opportunity to find a much better job, or instead of sulking about getting an F on a test that you have spent six hours studying for, you can look at it as an opportunity to explore and find the learning style that works best for you. When a person determinedly decides to take every challenge that he or she faces as an opportunity, then becoming successful in life is inevitable.

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Bilingual sports journalist working for ESPN

By Vanessa Olivares
Staff Writer

Antonietta “Toni” Collins is a Mexican-American sports commentator at an English worldwide leader in sports. She joined ESPN and left Univision in September 2013, as part of the digital media team. She anchors news and analyzes video segments in every sports category for ESPN.com, as well as enterprise reporting and interviews for features.

Collins explained her experience with sports not only as a Latina, but as a female in a male-leading industry.

“I grew up in a bilingual home. Spanish was my first language and I learned English when we moved from Mexico City to the United States in 1992,” Collins said.

“It helped her a lot in her professional life when she simultaneously became a reporter for Univision in Spanish and Fox in English in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. The advice her parents gave her was to believe in herself. She said that it was hard having to read and speak in different voices in a news environment.

“You realize that it won’t be easy and you will see things that you never imagine, but at the end of the day you will grow as a person,” Collins explained. “That’s what makes a difference. If it’s your passion, you will fall in love with it,” she continued.

For most college students, finding a passion is hard at first. When one finds a passion for something it will be worth it in the end by seeing all the accomplishments that have been made along the way.

“Being a Latina sports reporter is such an honor and a privilege. I feel blessed and lucky to be a second-generation Mexican-American living my dream and being able to tell stories not only our Hispanic athletes, but of all athletes.”

Collins described that there are also big misconceptions when it comes to women and sports. The public underestimates the professional skills of a female sports reporter.

“We are just a pretty face and we are here because it’s what’s ‘in’ right now. Women in sports are used to attract male viewers, but we know our sports too,” said Collins. Prior to joining ESPN, Collins was a sports anchor for Univision Deportes’ morning Despierta America (Wake up America) and for the network’s magazine show Primer Impacto (First Impact).

Collins was also a sports anchor and reporter for Univision’s Dallas, where she covered the NBA post-season and finals, Major League Baseball’s ALDS, ALCS, and World Series, the Dallas Cowboys, FC Dallas, and the Dallas Stars. She is the daughter of Maria Antonieta Collins, a freelforce correspondent for Univision network. She said the people she gets to call colleagues and athletes from day dreams, but she works amongst her idols, great journalists, anchors and athletes to hopefully one day be able to be part of the Sports Center.

Snapchat continued from page 1

The impression Snapchat gives of pictures and videos being completely obliterated is, as you may have guessed, not entirely the truth. A digital forensics company discovered that sent and received media files are actually stored as hidden files on your phone. Though a file extension prevents these images from being viewed, a decipher forensics team figured with the right type of software the files can be easily extracted and retrieved.

1. Pictures and videos do not “disappear forever”

Despite the whole premise of the app, the company’s Privacy Policy explicitly states, “When you send or receive Snaps, we also temporarily collect, process and store the contents of the Snaps (such as photos, videos and/or captions) on our servers. We collect information about these messages, including the time, date, sender and recipient of the Snap.” The statement goes on to say that files are also temporarily saved on recipient’s devices and that these files, along with files on their server, get deleted eventually. However, the creators state, “We cannot guarantee that deletion always occurs within a particular time frame.”

2. Snapchat’s Privacy Policy even says so

As users know, Snaps can be saved by taking a screen-shot and senders are typically sent a notification saying so. However, there are simple tricks and techniques online that allow recipients to save Snaps without notifying the sender. In addition, a free app called Snaphack allows users to connect to their Snapchat accounts, open Snaps and download pictures and videos without anyone knowing. With 50,000 plus downloads, this app allows users to easily save Snaps to the gallery and share to Facebook, Gmail and other image sharing apps.

4. Snapchat started out as an idea to be a safe sexting app

The original name for Snapchat was Picaboo, hence, the ghost logo. The initial idea for Picaboo by three Stanford students was to have an app used for safe sexting. Sexting, by definition, is the sending of sexually explicit images or messages through texting. There have been many instances of people being denied jobs or being publicly embarrassed by an ex because of sexting.

The creators figured that this app would be of great appeal due to the fact that images would “disappear,” reducing the worry of images being saved for blackmail, negative intentions, etc. Though sexting should be avoided altogether, the last three truths have shown that there is in fact no way to sext safely.

5. 4.6 million Snapchat users have been previously hacked

When a user first joins the Snapchat, the app first asks for permission to connect to the device’s phone number. This information has been taken advantage of by hackers. Although it has recently been taken down, the site SnapchatDB.info listed 4.6 million Snapchat usernames and corresponding phone numbers to be easily viewed and downloaded. The group of hackers surprisingly pulled this stunt to raise public awareness of Snapchat’s poor security measures. The hackers stated, “Our main goal is to raise public awareness on how reckless many internet companies are with user information” and to also “put public pressure on Snapchat to get this exploit fixed. It is understandable that tech startups have limited resources but security and privacy should not be a secondary goal. Security matters as much as user experience does.”

Though Snapchat is a great way to cure boredom, have a couple of laughs and share trivial moments of daily life with friends, people should be aware of some of the hidden truths behind this commonly used app. Just remember to be cautious of not only who you Snap but what you Snap!
To boldly go...

by Mark Steven Caffey
Staff Columnist

Nearly 40 years have passed since the last soft landing on the Moon. Last month, China accomplished this task with its Chang’e 3 lander and Yutu rover.

A soft landing is accomplished when spacecraft thrusters are used to slowly lower the craft within several feet of the surface of the Moon before touching down. These landings are more difficult to accomplish than hard landings – a lunar touchdown at full orbital speed. Since the mid-1970’s, the Moon landings have been hard landings. With this latest landing, China has revealed to the world its involvement and dedication to space exploration.

The lander Chang’e was named after the Chinese goddess of the Moon. The Yutu rover is named after the Chang’e’s pet jade rabbit. Yutu has a three-month mission to take pictures, gather rocks, conduct analysis and measure the structure and depth of the Moon’s surface to nearly 100 feet. Yutu is powered by our sun which limits travelling to during the lunar day only – during the lunar nights, Yutu waits patiently for the next lunar sunrise.

The Chang’e three mission has sparked debate about possible exploitation of the Moon’s resources – who has rights, if anyone to extract resources from the Moon? Chinese scientists believe that the Moon is a potential source of minerals.

"Currently, no one can claim ownership of the Moon," Ian Crawford said, Planetary Science Professor at Birbeck College University of London. "The legal status of the Moon is governed by the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, Article 2 of which specifically prohibits nation states from appropriating the Moon."

"Within the next few decades the economic exploitation of the Moon will be technically feasible," Crawford said. "Even if there are not minerals to be extracted, the space tourism industry is gathering a lot of momentum so one might imagine interest in sending people to the Moon as just fare-paying passengers. None of this is currently covered by the 1967 Treaty."

Many feel that countries like China will surpass the United States in technology and space exploration. Some in the space industry fear that cost American companies dollars. Robert Bigelow is a commercial space entrepreneur who owns Bigelow Aerospace Company. This business creates inflatable space habitats. Bigelow believes that China will continue to rise and eclipse the United States in leadership in space exploration. "China is likely to claim ownership of the moon if other nations do not step up to challenge them," claims Bigelow.

Science Corner

Antibiotics: Magic bullets or ineffective drugs

by Semira Taheri, Jeniece Juliu and Christa Landowski
Contributing Writers

Imagine a child who is feeling miserable from a cold and fever, and you take the child to the doctor only to be told that the child will get better with rest and plenty of fluids. Would you feel frustrated since you bundled up and took a sick child out and gave the co-pay to consult the doctor? You expected some miracle medicine from the doctor; you expected a prescription for an antibiotic, right? Well, you’re not alone.

According to research done at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Health Professions, seven out of ten Americans receive antibiotics when they seek treatment for a common cold; they believe that antibiotics treat all infections, including the common cold and influenza.

Contrary to common belief, antibiotics treat illnesses caused by bacteria, not viruses, which cause most of the respiratory illnesses. Additionally, antibiotics can cause serious allergic reactions in some patients. According to a report in the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases, adverse reactions to antibiotics led to 142,000 visits to the emergency room in a year, mostly of small children. Why are some doctors prescribing antibiotics – perhaps due to habit or the lack of interest in explaining the ineffectiveness of antibiotics towards non-bacterial infections.

According to Medical News Today, the discovery of antibiotics was an important milestone in medicine; they were called “magic bullets.” Penicillin, the most widely used antibiotic, was discovered by Sir Alexander Fleming in 1928, and later modified and mass produced by Drs. Howard Florey and Ernst Chain. It was the miracle drug during World War II. However, the overuse and misuse of penicillin and other antibiotics have made them less effective. In hospitals, 190 million doses of antibiotics are used each day and more than 133 million courses of antibiotics are prescribed by doctors to non-hospitalized patients each year - some of which are unnecessary. In many developing countries, a prescription is not needed to obtain antibiotics. People buy a few pills and take them for a short time until they feel better; however not all the bacteria die and the survivors are the resistant ones. Bacteria have an amazing ability to adapt to adverse conditions and develop resistance mechanisms against the antibiotics. One such superbug spreading to other countries is NDM1, New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase-1, found primarily in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. It is resistant to almost all known antibiotics.

Now imagine having a burger or a glass of milk and the same antibiotics you wanted for the sick child were fed to the animal, even when it was healthy. Using antibiotics as growth-promoting agents in the feed of animals raised for human consumption is a common practice and it is compounding the problem of bacterial resistance. According to research from the University of Minnesota, the use of antibiotics in animal feed increases the growth rate of animals and prevents or reduces infectious diseases in animals. However, this research also shows that continuous use of antibiotics causes bacteria in the animals and surrounding environment to become resistant to the antibiotics. The resistant bacteria are transmitted to other animals and even to humans through improperly cooked or unpasteurized animal products. So the next time you are ill with a viral infection, do not insist on antibiotics because they will be ineffective and may contribute to the widening antibiotic resistance of bacteria. If you consume animal products, consider opting for choices raised without the use of antibiotics. Limiting the use of antibiotics to times when they are truly needed can help stave off increasing bacterial resistance to antibiotics and help us live healthier lives.

This article is part of a series of microbiology articles that appear in Dateline Downtown and fulfills the Service Learning requirement of Dr. Gulati’s General Microbiology class.

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The enigmatic art of Z. Vanessa Helder

by Elfego Chavez
Contributing Writer

The art of the enigmatic Z. Vanessa Helder, "Austere Beauty," featured in the O’Kane Gallery from Feb. 4-Mar. 6, was organized by Tacoma Art Museum and funded by a grant from the Houston Arts Alliance.

There is a lively vivacious quality to not above the muted grey undertones which add a misty far away quality in her work. This style is vibrant, yet has an overall distinctly American way to shine gray.

Her use of watercolor in its treatment of the motif never can concede to appear as a stain, but rather portrays a strong linear quality usually only achievable on a drafting table or with a marker or pen. As evident in Plate 45 Old Joshua Green House displayed on North facing wall which may have been a reference to the tree, since it was later confirmed that it was actually a different house by title.

The Washington State native modernist pieces evoke a mood similar to the style used by Diego Rivera. Her vivid bold colors have a muted rigor within shades of gray, a masterful use of vibrancy. The art of Z. Vanessa Helder is complimentary to our Deco style UHD exterior, whereas inside we have much more. Note her very Dali-esque portrayal of trees, which transcend time.

It was between Vermont and Seattle that the artist developed her mystique. Plate 24 Edmund Giles Tennant, circa 1939 oil on panel and Plate 25 Blanche Luzander Morgan 1942 oil on panel (both private collection courtesy Martin-Zambito Fine Art) are displayed on the South facing wall of the exhibit. They are reflective of the people she surrounded herself with in her lifetime, many who were in the architecture field.

This woman’s work in its softness is as strong as a Mexican Revolutionary in her Grand Coulee Dam Series piece, displayed on the North wall, Construction Crew 1939-41 (Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture/Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane, Washington) shows this as she portrays workers in their dignity and grace with pride.