

# Fall 2010 Final Issue

Don't miss a thing, log on to [www.datelinedowntown.com](http://www.datelinedowntown.com) during Winter Break

**JAMEE L COX**  
 Editor in Chief

*Dateline:Downtown* has undergone some changes during the Fall 2010 semester, but its biggest change is the expansion to an online publication to compliment the printed publication.

The Web site, <http://www.datelinedowntown.com> was launched in October, and has continued to grow since conception.

The staff of *Dateline* will continue to update the site during the Winter Break to keep the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) community aware of events and news both on campus and off.

The site has a Login application, and students are encouraged to register at the site to receive updates as they happen.

In the coming week, a new feature will be added, Letter to the Editor, where comments, suggestions and other feedback can be send directly to the editor and staff of *Dateline*.

There are also weekly polls to allow students to voice their opinions about concerns and issues surrounding our community. Suggestions for polls are always welcome and can be submitted using the Letter to the Editor feature.

The opinions of students, faculty and staff of UHD is always welcome and you may leave your comments on articles, submit a letter or tell us what you would like to see in the future editions of *Dateline*.

Please take a moment to register your Email address in support of the publication and to stay informed of UHD activities.

The staff appreciates your continued support as we strive to continue to make a mark for UHD as a top university in the state.

The screenshot shows the website's header with the UH D logo and 'Dateline:Downtown' title. A navigation bar includes 'News', 'Sports', 'Opinion', 'Arts & Leisure', and 'Options'. A secondary bar has 'On Campus', 'Features', 'Sports', 'A&E', and 'Login'. The main content area features a large image of a performer with fire and a headline: 'Cirque du Soleil opens "Alegria," Nov. 10'. Below the headline is a sub-headline 'Discounted tickets available to students' and a full article text.

## Check inside for recaps of the best events of Fall 2010



## Battle between city/Metro for guardrail finally ends

**ERICA WILLIAMS**

Contributing Writer

Metro Transportation and City of Houston have finally come to an agreement about the rails on the bridge of Main Street.

It was very dangerous for students to cross the bridge without rails. If a student or pedestrian would slip as the Metro rail bus was coming, they could sustain major injury or even death.

Although the bridge is property of the city of Houston, University of Houston-Downtown students were in danger of potential injury.

University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) existed long before the Metro light rail, and the city of Houston should have been in favor of the rails before the Metro rail bus was built.

The Metro rail system is a separate entity from the city of Houston and Metro needs several permits to operate within the city.

There had been a battle between the City of Houston and Metro Transportation as

they argued about whom should pay for the safety rails.

"We have been asking for safety rails since the building of the Metro rail bus, but Metro does not know if they will extend the rail bus," said a representative of UHD Public Relations Department.

This was a political issue between the city and Metro. They [Metro] had to come before Houston's City Council Board.

The City of Houston was ordered to pay for the safety guardrails because the sidewalks belong to the city not Metro or UHD.

The cost incurred by the city for the safety guardrails is unknown.

Students now feel safer when walking to and from the One Main Building and the Commerce Building.

"I feel safer walking on the bridge now that the safety guardrails are on the bridge," said Lois Gonzales, UHD student.

The City of Houston is expected to extend the safety guardrails from One Main Building to the Shea Building, but were unable to give a definite start date.



Photo by Tanu Uppal

The new guardrails erected between the Metro rail line and the sidewalk gives students a sense of security.

## College professors eschew final exams for alternatives

*Uwire* - What many students consider to be the most frightening aspect of college courses—cumulative final exams—may be vanishing at many of the nation's universities.

A recent article by The Boston Globe titled "The Test Has Been Canceled" cited anecdotal and statistical evidence supporting the idea that fewer college courses are administering cumulative finals. At Harvard U., just 23 percent of the school's 1,137 undergraduate courses scheduled final exams last semester—the lowest rate since 2002.

Exams are often being replaced by take-home essays and group projects, according to the article. It is a break from tradition dating from the 1830s and a challenge to the notion that final exams are the best method of encouraging and evaluating college-level work.

Duke does not keep statistics on the number of courses that give final exams, but every class is assigned a time for a final, said University Registrar Bruce Cunningham.

Lee Baker, associate vice provost for undergraduate education, noted that there are many viable alternatives to traditional final exams, adding that his class this semester does not have a final test. Instead, his course

will have three non-cumulative exams over the course of the semester.

"If Duke is giving less finals, I am confident that professors are finding better ways for students to learn, communicate, think and write," he said.

Partially as a result of his own memories as a student, Orin Starn, professor of cultural anthropology, will also not administer a final this semester. There are better methods of assessment than cumulative exams, he said.

"We have three tests, each covering material from one-third of the class," Starn said. "My own memories of finals as a student was cramming like crazy for them and then pretty much forgetting everything by the start of the next term."

Starn also said that his impression was that finals seem to be less frequently administered in the more humanistic departments than in the physical sciences or engineering.

Many Duke students have noticed differences in the number of finals in the University's departments. Sophomore Zach Epstein said he normally takes math and science courses that often have finals. He has added that it seems like humanities classes frequently have essays and projects in the place of exams. Sophomore Willie Zhang, a math

and biophysics double major, said he has had finals in about 80 percent of his classes, most of which were cumulative.

But other students, such as Jose Lamazares, a sophomore Japanese major, have had

few finals in their Duke courses.

"This year I'm going to have final exams in all my classes, but last year I had finals in only one or two of my classes," he said. "The rest were all essays or group projects."



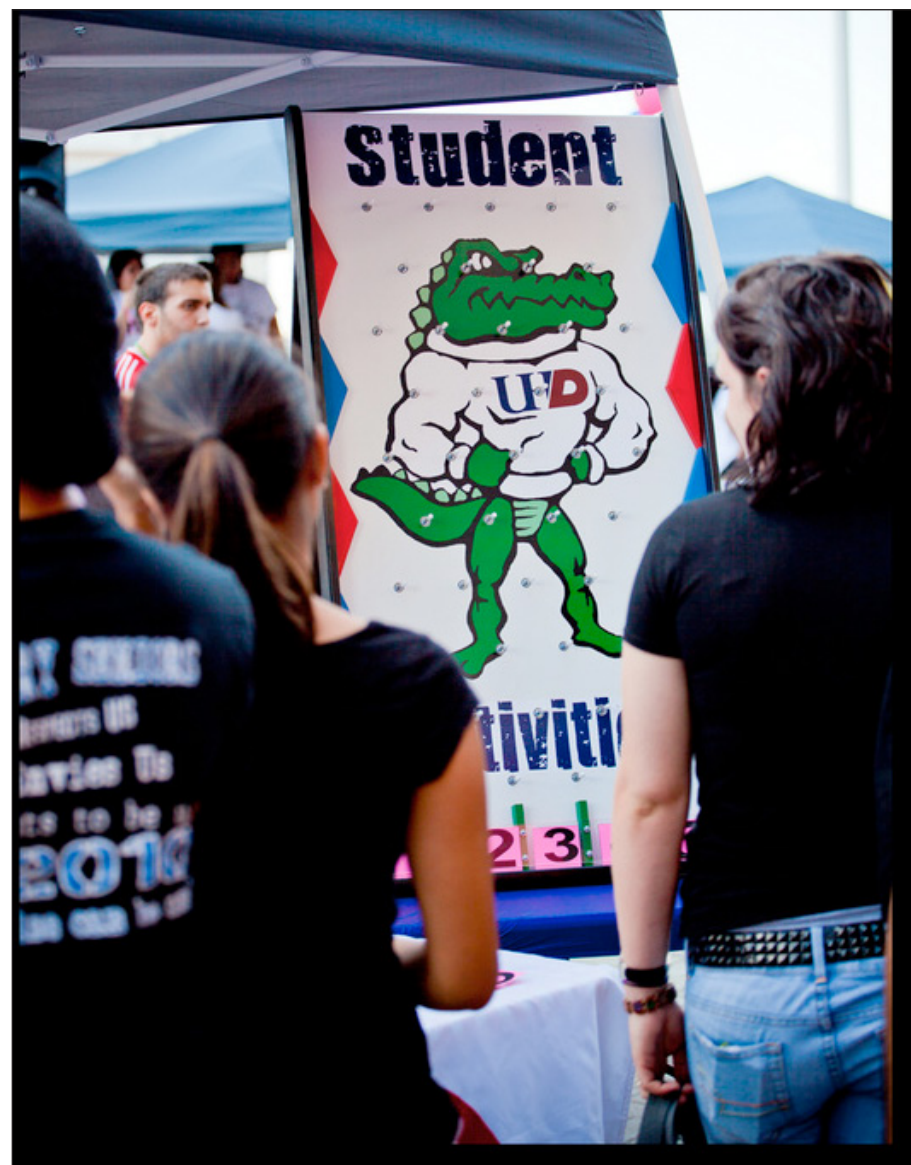


**Students get a study break during UHD Activities Day, followed by professor performances on Constitution Day**



Bronwen Owens, Jaime Ramos and Mourad Hemzawi get an earfull from "George Washington" on Constitution Day.

Photos courtesy of the UHD Photography Club



# Time for the GOP to put their money where their mouth is



**DYLAN OSBORNE**  
Columnist

Now that the dust has settled and the election results have sunk in, the incoming wave of conservative Congressmen

(and women) are going to have to figure out how to govern.

Of course, despite the huge deal the media has made about Election Day and the Republican victory in the House of Representatives, the Democrats still hold the White House and the Senate. While John Boehner will have considerable power in the House, there will be little he can do to force the Senate to yield to his demands and President Obama will still hold a veto pen. So, in reality, Republicans can hope to push the legislative agenda to the right, but the Democrats still hold most of the power.

The interesting thing to watch will be how the conservatives try to reach the goals they laid out in the recent election. The themes they really played on were lower taxes, less federal spending, transparency in govern-

ment and foreign-born, closet Muslim presidents are bad. That last point is a tough sell in the mainstream and the first three goals will be a lot harder to reach than one might imagine.

Saying the Republicans campaigned on "lower taxes" is a bit disingenuous. These lower taxes are really support for continuing temporary tax cuts for the rich that started under the Bush Administration. Recently Rachel Maddow televised a chart highlighting the differences in the Democrat's and Republican's tax plans. There was almost no difference for earners all the way up to around \$500,000. The Republican plan is to give people in the half-million to million-dollar range a little more of a break than the Democrat's plan. However, over the \$1 million mark is where there is a huge difference. The GOP plan is to keep these dangerously low tax rates for the top earners. The logic behind this is simple, but has been proven to be ineffective.

The idea is if rich people have more money they will invest that money and create jobs. Makes sense, except that the results, under Ronald Reagan and Bush Jr., were not very good. We ran huge deficits under both

of those administrations. Under Bill Clinton the top tax rates were a little higher and he left behind a huge surplus. In this age of globalization the problem is compounded because even if wealthy American companies create jobs they are increasingly overseas. Another important point to remember when comparing tax brackets is that America uses a progressive tax system. Tax payers do not pay a flat rate and the rate goes up with income.

The second goal conservatives have is to cut federal spending, which is great because it becomes very necessary if the Bush tax cuts are continued. The problem lies in what spending gets cuts. Republican leaders such as Boehner and Eric Cantor have said you must leave all options on the table, but Social Security and Medicare are safe. Republicans have historically been very pro-military spending, so there is little reason to believe they will seriously consider cutting the Pentagon's budget. That budget is getting larger and larger, and currently is around \$700 billion a year. Social Security and Medicare are two of the largest programs the federal government runs and take up huge chunks of the budget. Without touching these popular

programs there is little hope of cutting federal spending.

The third major theme was transparency in government, basically reconnecting the people and the government. This is a great idea and certainly should have bipartisan support, except the incoming Republican leadership has already shown signs of less transparency. The Congressional Ethics Office was created after the Jack Abramoff scandal a few years ago. Incoming Speaker of the House Boehner has floated the idea of defunding the office. Its main job is to launch investigations into House member's activities that could be illegal or unethical. Boehner apparently does not think there is a need for such an office and instead of publicly shutting it down he wants to quietly defund it. So much for transparency in government.

The conservative movement certainly pulled off a great victory this past Election Day, but most of their talking points were empty promises and half-truths. Now that the GOP holds the House they must figure out a way to keep their campaign promises in a hostile environment and without further inflating the deficit they railed against.

# Why the U.S. needs to rethink the voting process

**MATTHEW ELLSWORTH**  
Contributing Columnist

Another election has come and gone, and the dynamics of American government have changed yet again. Republicans have gained control of the House of Representatives, while the Democrats have retained the Senate. This should prove interesting, and we'll see how well they can work together. My more cynical side says that there will be a lot of nothing going on in Washington as far as potent policy that addresses the needs of the working class is concerned.

Recently Dylan Osborne, a Dateline columnist, wrote an excellent article about not taking our voting rights for granted. I thoroughly enjoyed it as I do most of his articles. It was well thought out, well founded and well written. It also sparked my own thoughts on the voting matter in America, and I realized that his column never addressed the reasons many people, especially those younger voters, don't vote. I cannot speak for every non-voter; I can only speak for myself, and those few people who were kind enough to share their reasons for lack

of participation in elections.

Before I address the issues that I have with our governmental system, I should tell you that this past election was the first that I did not participate in. Since I was 18, I have voted in every election I was eligible to participate in. Having spent over four years in the Army, I felt it was important to cast a vote for people who had a direct influence in putting me and other service members in harm's way. Unfortunately, I have become tired of the American political process and I will not vote again, barring drastic changes to the system.

American politics has seemingly become a game of "I know you are, but what am I?" Politicians rarely run based on the merits of their own character. It is far easier to run televised smear campaigns on local television stations, which don't serve to increase their base, but decrease their opponent's base. The majority of people I spoke to don't necessarily like the candidate they vote for, but they vote for him anyway in the hopes that the other guy doesn't win. The tactic is seemingly "if you aren't going to vote for me, you sure as heck don't want him". As this

might encourage voters to switch their votes, I think it inherently encourages swing voters to stay home.

I have made a conscious decision never to vote again, unless I truly believe in the candidate. I will never just cast a vote for "the lesser of two evils". We are constantly given the choice between two almost equally smelly piles of crap, and forced to choose the one that stinks less. During my time following politics, which spans almost 20 years now (and I am not even 30), I have seen little difference in the result we get from our two "ruling" parties.

Ultimately, we end up in the same place; we just take a different route to get there. Neither Republicans nor Democrats care about the little guy anymore. We are paid just enough lip service to go cast a vote for one or the other, and then we (voters) are forgotten again until election time.

We will never get anywhere as long as the two-party system remains in place. The sad thing is, no third party will ever stand a chance due to the amount of money that is required to run for office. Candidates MUST have established money if they expect to get

anywhere in the American political game. Campaign financing desperately needs reform, but the status quo doesn't change, so that isn't even an option.

The voting system here in the U.S. also sucks. It is a hassle to go out and stand in line for an hour just to find out you are at the wrong place and have to go somewhere else to repeat the process all over again. It's clunky and old, and needs a face-lift. I find it hard to believe that in this day and age where I can renew my car insurance, pay all of my bills, register my car, renew my driver's license, buy anything online and learn something new through Google in minutes, that I cannot cast a vote from my own home. I think that the powers-that-be are counting on people to be lazy. We can't let people vote from their computer or phone, then everyone might do it, creating a real imbalance to the one-sided political structure.

I think that the system is broken past the point of being fixed strictly by more people voting. I am afraid we are approaching a time when change is going to have to come painfully and with much sacrifice. I hope we are ready.

## Keep that honor society invitation

If you are/were fortunate enough to get an invitation to one of the 10 honor societies that the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) offers, it would be wise to consider the benefits before the invitation finds its way to the wastebasket.

Many students opt-out of joining an honor society because they don't want to pay the fees or they don't know what benefit becoming a member will be for them.

I recently sat down with UHD Professor Barbara Canetti, who is also a member of Phi Kappa Phi, the honor society for interdisciplinary studies, to discuss the benefits of joining an honor society.

"Students need to be aware of the benefits and take advantage of all the possibilities they [honor societies] have," Canetti said.

One of the major benefits of joining are the scholarships that each organization dis-

tributes to some of its members. Phi Kappa Phi distributes more than \$700,000 per year in awards and scholarships to help members through undergraduate and graduate studies.

Honor societies also provide funding for grants for research projects in different disciplines. These opportunities are especially useful for students in the fields of science, medicine and other research programs.

Another worthwhile advantage is the opportunity to be recognized by employers for academic excellence by listing an honor society on a résumé. This is especially useful as many of the colleges within the UHD system no longer send out letters to students that make the deans list. The UHD colleges are now posting the deans list on the UHD Web site and many employers will not always take the time to look up a potential employee's

credentials online.

Other benefits include stipends for studying abroad, career services to help graduates find employment and an opportunity to network among peers within their discipline and area of study. There are also community involvement opportunities and volunteer work that also serves as an asset on a résumé.

Some of the dues are one-time enrollment fee for a lifetime membership, and others require yearly renewal dues. However, when weighted against the benefits that becoming a member offers, it is a small sacrifice with a lifetime of benefits.

For more information about the honor societies, visit the UHD Web site at [http://www.uhd.edu/sae/registered\\_org.html](http://www.uhd.edu/sae/registered_org.html).

-Jamee L Cox  
Editor in Chief

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Letter Policy

*Dateline: Downtown* welcomes letters to the editor from any member of the UH system. Letters should be no more than 250 words, include the author's full name, phone number or email address, and affiliation with the University, including classification and major. Anonymous letters will not be published. Deliver letters to Room S-260, email them to [dateline@gator.uhd.edu](mailto:dateline@gator.uhd.edu), or fax them to (713) 221-8119. Letters to the editor may be edited for space. They will be edited for spelling, grammar and malicious or libelous statements. Letters must be the work of the writer and must be signed. All submissions become property of *Dateline: Downtown* and may not be returned.

*Dateline: Downtown* is the official student-produced newspaper of The University of Houston Downtown. Editorials, cartoons, columns and letters are the opinions of individual students and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other individual student writers, editors, advisors the University of Houston-Downtown, its administration or students.

## Be a part of the *Dateline:Downtown* staff for Spring 2011

*Dateline:Downtown* is looking for:

Advertising Sales  
Writers  
Photographers

*Dateline:Downtown* is looking for a go-getter to sell advertising space to downtown businesses.

*Dateline:Downtown* is looking for eager writers and photographers that would like to build their portfolio.

If interested, please email information to [CoxJa@uhd.edu](mailto:CoxJa@uhd.edu) or call 713-221-8569 to schedule an appointment

## A spooky good time at UHD Halloween Bash

(Bottom Right) David Tran, sophomore, tries to guess who is behind the mask at UH-Downtown's annual Halloween bash. Eventually he was told it was Israel Sierra, sophomore.

(Right) Manuel Soliz, junior, Nancy Conejo, freshman, and Marco Hernandez, freshman, dance to Michael Jackson's *Thriller*.

(Left) UH-D Salseros Christopher Simmons and Maria Gonzalez perform at the bash. Photos by Tanu Uppal



# Attendance could alter grades for some students

## ROXANA MASON

Contributing Writer

As the semester draws to an end and finals approach, many students begin to panic about their final grades, in particular, whether skipping classes has affected their grade.

According to the University of Houston Downtown's (UHD) catalog, "Students are expected to attend all classes. Departments and faculty members may have other attendance policies for their courses."

Tommy Thomason, Assistant Vice President of Student Services said the university has no policy stating that grades would be affected by attendance.

The English Department says that their only policy regarding mandated attendance is in developmental classes.

A suggested policy exists for freshman composition, and that attendance in this course is central to your success in it. If you miss four classes your final grade will be lowered by a full letter grade. If eight classes are missed, students will fail the course. The policy also states that instructors may make exceptions for documented emergencies and illness at their discretion.

Assistant Professor in the English Department, Dr. Karina Stokes, has an attendance policy for her classes. However the policy is

to benefit the student. Her policy states that for every class a student attends, two points are added to the final grade. There is no penalty for missing class. In fact, she said that a student can pass her class without attending, however it is easier when you attend her lectures.

Communications Professor Bill Pogue's attendance policy is to encourage students to do well in his course.

"When I began teaching many years ago I realized that students who attend regularly almost always do required work," he said.

Pogue emphasizes his attendance policy, and has students sign a contract in the beginning of the semester. He says that the Arts and Humanities Department supports his policy. Anything more than two absences in a semester is considered excessive, and for every absence over two, a student loses one-third a letter grade. A tardy is equal to

half an absence, which means that a student who is late five times will have excessive absences. A clause in the contract states that if the instructor is late the students will receive a tardy credit.

Pogue says while his policy might seem strict, most students who attend class regularly and avoid excessive absences have a high success rate in his class.

Arts and Humanities Professor Britney Hibbler said that although her department does not require an attendance policy, the students benefit from one.

"I currently have an attendance policy in place for my

course that states that your final grade will be affected if you have excessive absences," Hibbler said.

Since she teaches a hybrid course, she said that even missing one day would cause the student to miss valuable information. Her current policy is that a student is allowed two unexcused absences, and that for every addi-

tional absence, a letter grade is lost. Hibbler's new policy for future semesters will encourage class attendance by making attendance worth 10% of their final grade.

Julia Russu, a graduate student in the Masters of Science in Professional Writing and Technical Communication (MSPWTC) program expressed her concern over her legal writing professors' attendance policy for this semester.

"I have Professor Marcelle Hill this semester for Legal Writing. Her policy is that if you miss four classes, you cannot pass the class," said Russu.

Russu became ill during the semester however, Hill was very understanding about her absences and worked with her.

"Professor Hill has been wonderful about excused absences. I missed two classes because of illness this semester and she really went out of her way to help me. I thought the policy was fair and that she applied it evenly to all students," said Russu.

Grades are important and attendance does have some impact on your final grade. Instructors make attendance guideline based on their knowledge of the class and its requirements. Instructors advise that students try not to miss classes early in the semester and save them for actual emergencies, and to speak to your instructors as soon as possible if missing class is unavoidable.



# Date auction brings in \$1,500 for two UHD clubs

## TANU UPPAL

Assistant Editor

In their second annual Date Auction, the Environmental Club (EVC) and Health Pro-

fessions Organization (HPO) raised close to \$1,500 to help raise funds an EVC trip to Yellowstone Park during the 2011 Spring Break and an HPO medical mission trip to Peru during the summer of 2011.

"We hosted our first date auction last year as a last ditch effort to raise money," said Audrey Gonzalez, former president of HPO. "We ended up fundraising over \$2000."

The date auction put participants up for auction and the winners of each bid will attend a group date at the end of the semester. Last semester, dates had a picnic in the park followed by a movie at the IMAX. This year the date will be held on Dec. 4, and EVC and HPO will take the dates laser tagging, followed by dinner.

Over 50 members of EVC and HPP participated in the event and Ali Abedi, president of Student Government Association (SGA), oversaw the bidding of each member.

"I think in a way it benefitted me as much as the clubs. It forced me to get over my shyness," said Ingrid Andrade, senior.

The two organizations also provided the option of text and phone bidding. Along with dates, two free tree-climbing lessons were also auctioned off for \$100. The lessons

will be given by Dr. Barry Sullender, assistant professor of biology and faculty advisor for EVC.

The clubs also held a silent auction for members who could not attend the event due to class or work. The silent auction was held on EVC's Facebook page, where students could bid until midnight of November 24.

"I think the event was a huge success; we got to plan something free and fun and raise a lot of money off of it," said Arturo Garza Jr., president of EVC. "Now our members can truly boast that they sold themselves for our organizations."

The date auction was originally set for November 3, but scheduling conflicts forced the clubs to postpone the event.

HPO and EVC hope to have another date auction early in the spring semester. For more information, please contact the HPO officers at uhd\_hpo@yahoo.com and the EVC officers at uhd.evc@gmail.com.



Ali Abedi (Left), president of SGA introduces UHD Powerlifting medalist, Tony Moreno, who was up for auction during the EVC and HPO Date Auction. Photo by Tanu Uppal

# Fall Family Festival

Dec. 1, 2010 - Jan. 17, 2011

Dateline: Downtown

[www.datelinedowntown.com](http://www.datelinedowntown.com)



*(Left and above) Campus Activities Board (CAB) hosted face painting, caricature drawing, and a magic show for students and their families.*



*(Above) Kimberlyn Garcia and Jordan Cline competed in the Sumo Wrestling contest, hosted by the Houston Police Department.*  
*All photos by Tanu Uppal*





(Above)UHD cheerleaders danced to “YMCA” by The Village People.

(Above, center, left lower) A costume parade and contest for children featured over 50 different costumes, from pumpkins to storm troopers.



(Below, bottom center) Students danced the Cupid Shuffle in hopes of winning free Rockets memorabilia.

(Below) UHD students gobbled hot dogs to win free Rockets tickets.



## Director Todd Phillips brings more laughter with *Due Date*

### WHITNEY BARRETT

Staff Writer

Robert Downey Jr. and Zach Galifianakis are comic gold in the movie that is sure to be this year's best comedy.

From director Todd Phillips (*The Hangover*), "*Due Date*" delivers the laughs all the way to the end credits.

Never has a story about a road trip been this funny and brilliantly done.

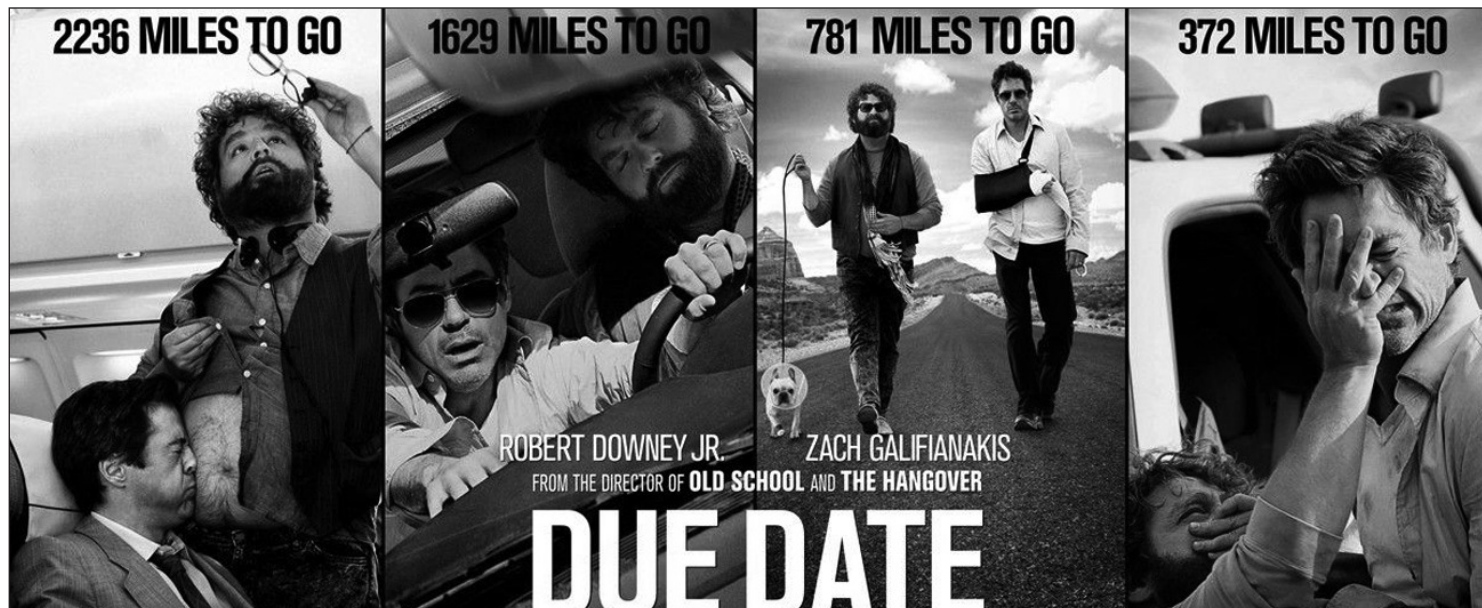
Peter Highman (Robert Downey Jr.) is a type-A executive just trying to get home to Los Angeles in time for the birth of his first child.

But everything goes down-hill the moment he encounters aspiring actor Ethan Tremblay (Zach Galifianakis) at the airport in Atlanta.

Not only is Peter's journey derailed by his disaster-magnet and unwanted new companion, but he also takes quite a beating along the way.

Things go from good to bad as soon as Peter is kicked off his flight, shot with a rubber bullet and placed on the federal agent's 'no fly' list, all due to a misunderstanding with Ethan.

With no wallet or money, Peter is forced to accept Ethan's proposal to drive him, since Ethan (and his dog Sonny) are headed



to Hollywood.

From that point, things get increasingly outrageous in a string of mishaps that fray every last nerve of the patience-impaired Peter.

But the two develop a friendship along the way, despite all the crazy events that go on.

Zach Galifianakis' character in "*Due Date*" is every bit as bizarre and harebrained as his character was in "*The Hangover*." The man just knows how to do uncomfortable and it works.

Galifianakis' antics work so well with everything that happens in the movie. As soon as he appears on the screen you just know he's going to get you laughing.

Sure, the whole road trip concept has been done numerous times, but this film manages to make it its own and that's because of the chemistry and tension between the leads.

And just like "*The Hangover*," everything in the movie is set in believable settings where the unexpected happens.

Peter not only suffers at the hands of

Ethan, but he also is put into one problem after the next.

One scene of the movie that is sure to get some laughs Ethan falling asleep at the wheel of the car while Peter, who hadn't slept the night before, gets some rest. The car crashes, leaving Ethan unharmed but Peter with a broken arm and three broken ribs.

From an awkward sleeping moment in the car to Ethan mistaking the Mexico border for a Texaco, "*Due Date*" will keep you rolling.

## King's *Novella* series shines light on inner darkness

*Uwire* - It has been 20 years since horror master Stephen King published his last set of novellas, "*Hearts in Atlantis*." Consequently, his newest collection has been eagerly anticipated by the legions of fans King has gained over his tremendously long and prolific career. At its high points, "*Full Dark, No Stars*" is just as good as King has ever written, and at its low points, it is still thoroughly entertaining.

King tends to avoid the supernatural in this collection of four stories. Instead, he focuses on the darkness that resides in even the most unexceptional, ordinary Americans. Those who enjoy King's nonmystical side ("*The Shawshank Redemption*," "*Misery*") will especially relish the largely realistic horrors of "*Full Dark, No Stars*."

The opening volume, "*1922*," is the first-person confessional of Depression-era Nebraskan farmer Wilfred James, who murders his wife, involving his impressionable 14-year-old son in the gruesome process. As the guilt and paranoia inherent in such a deed creeps up on Wilfred, a series of adverse events befall him and his son and even-

tually drive Wilfred into madness. He is particularly haunted by the largely imaginary rats that eat away at his wife's body as she lies rotting at the bottom of the family well. "*1922*" is a slightly unusual story for King, who doesn't often do first person or historical fiction. Nonetheless, this story is the creepiest of the bunch and ends with King's typical outlandishly horrifying flare.

"*Big Driver*" reverts back to typical King narration: deceptively casual and conversational, despite the story's content. The story of mystery author Tess' rape and her subsequent emotional upheaval and manic revenge scheme is compulsively readable and relentlessly suspenseful.

"*Fair Extension*" is not only the collection's shortest installment but also the only one that relies on a supernatural conceit. The story, in which a terminally ill man transfers his bad luck onto his best friend, of whom he is viciously jealous, is in keeping with the collection's overall theme. Unfortunately, the



story tapers off anticlimactically towards the end and leaves something to be desired.

Luckily, "*Full Dark, No Stars*" ends with "*A Good Marriage*," a tense and brutally realistic story of a woman who discovers that her husband of 27 years is a serial rapist and murderer, who King based on the real-life BTK (bind, torture and kill) killer. The story aptly encompasses and concludes King's examination of the darkness of the everyman and leaves readers questioning the morality of their own actions, should they find themselves in such dire circumstances.

King is, as usual, unafraid to unflinchingly expose the dark, visceral side of humanity. As King himself eloquently asks his readers in the afterword, "If you're going into a very dark place, then you should take a bright light and shine it on everything. If you don't want to see, why in God's name would you dare the dark at all?"

# MASSAGES AT UHHD

DON'T STRESS OUT, COME IN AND RELAX

Offered by Sports & Fitness

## 45 Minute Massage

- \$25 Students
- \$35 Faculty, Staff and S&F Alumni



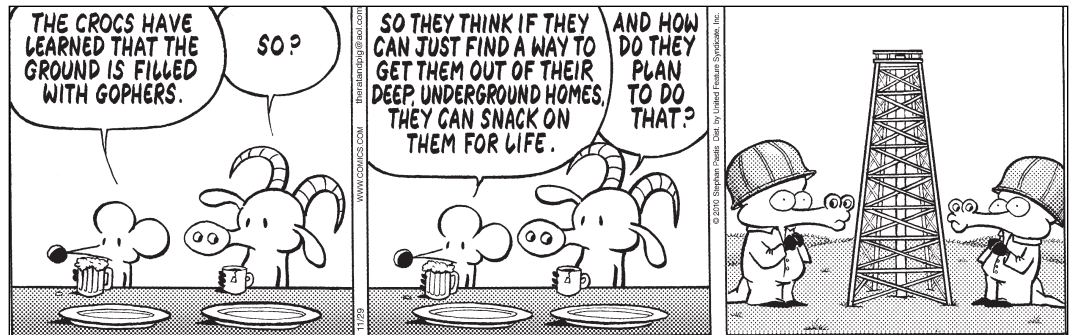
Massages take place in the Student Life Center. To make an appointment, please visit the 3rd floor office.

*Check [www.datelinedowntown.com](http://www.datelinedowntown.com) for news and events over Winter Break*

## Moderately Confused by Jeff Stahler



## Pearls Before Swine by Stephan Pastis



## Dilbert by Scott Adams



## SUDOKU

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

### HOW TO PLAY:

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

Look for the solution to the Oct. 4 Sudoku on the Back Page (16).

## Follow Us



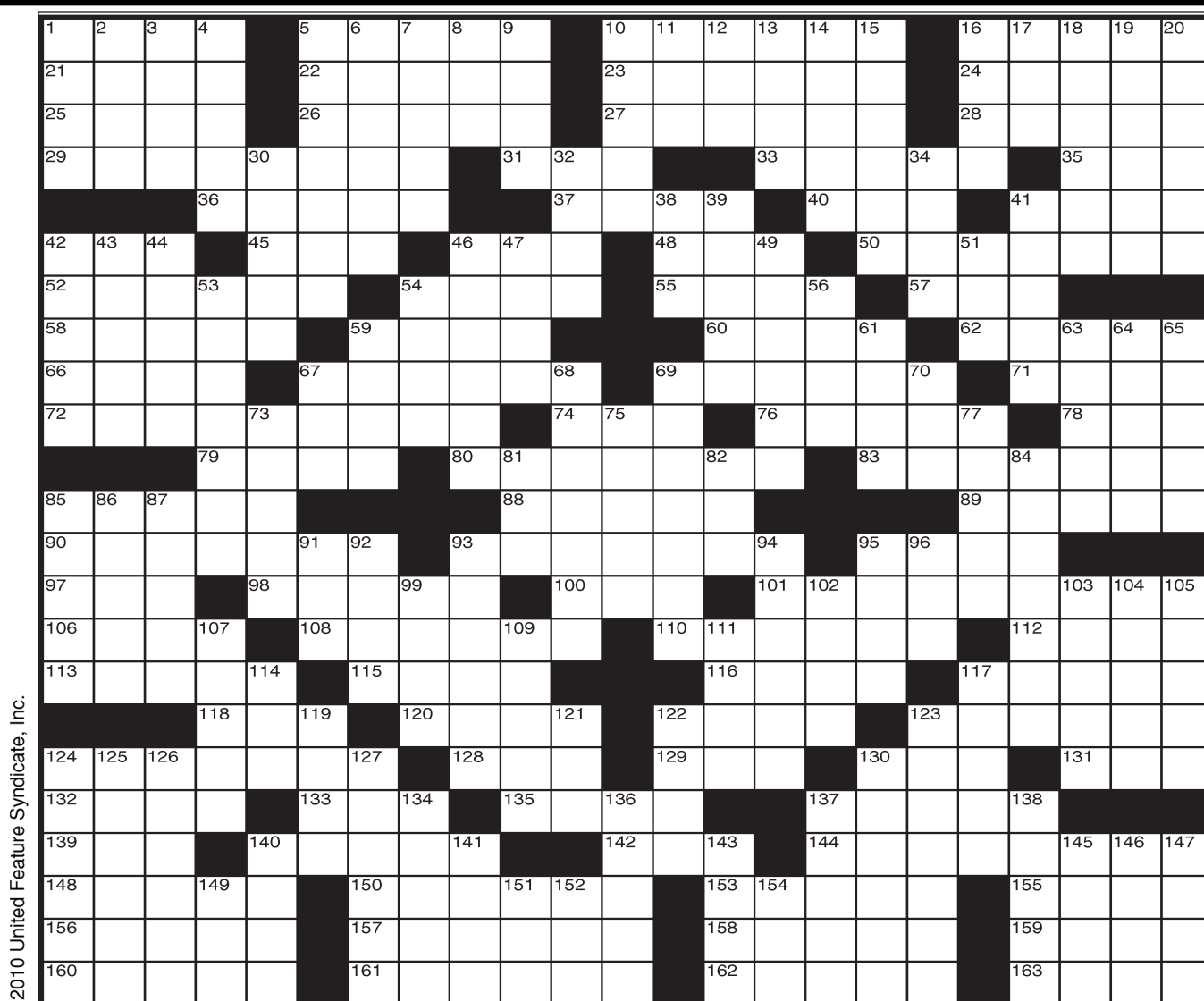
@ The Dateline Downtown



@ The Dateline

## Today's Crossword

- |        |                              |               |                               |
|--------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 98                           | Paul Anka hit |                               |
| 1      | Energy source                | 100           | Baseball stat                 |
| 5      | Diving bird                  | 101           | Savate expert                 |
| 10     | Mind                         | 106           | Profiles                      |
| 16     | It may be blown              | 108           | Throngs                       |
| 21     | Meditation guide             | 110           | Mona Lisa mu<br>seum          |
| 22     | Buck the system              |               |                               |
| 23     | Kind of offering             | 112           | San — (Riviera<br>resort)     |
| 24     | Large artery                 |               |                               |
| 25     | Wanes                        | 113           | Blacksmith's need             |
| 26     | — Rogers St.<br>Johns        | 115           | Fully cooked                  |
|        |                              | 116           | Stein fillers                 |
| 27     | Schedule                     | 117           | Leg bone                      |
| 28     | Tuxedo trim                  | 118           | Koan discipline               |
| 29     | Fashion pro                  | 120           | Tear to pieces                |
| 31     | Timberwolves'<br>org.        | 122           | Invites                       |
|        |                              | 123           | Plywood units                 |
| 33     | Cut                          | 124           | Type of reactor               |
| 35     | Ending for glob              | 128           | Loud clamor                   |
| 36     | West Pointer                 | 129           | Lb. and oz.                   |
| 37     | Term paper abbr.<br>(2 wds.) | 130           | Genetic sequence              |
|        |                              | 131           | Milwaukee hrs.                |
| 40     | Cookbook amt.                | 132           | Has a cough                   |
| 41     | Raw minerals                 | 133           | Soft, wet ground              |
| 42     | Household mem<br>ber         | 135           | Auntie of fiction             |
|        |                              | 137           | Great care                    |
| 45     | Typist's stat                | 139           | Earth's star                  |
| 46     | Md. neighbor                 | 140           | Comical                       |
| 48     | Corn or chili —              | 142           | Peculiar                      |
| 50     | Frontier settle<br>ment      | 144           | Book appendix                 |
|        |                              | 148           | Stone marker                  |
| 52     | Nome home                    | 150           | Zoo employee                  |
| 54     | Drench                       | 153           | Lofty abode                   |
| 55     | Grey or McCrea               | 155           | WW addresses                  |
| 57     | Camping gear<br>supplier     | 156           | Hair-raising                  |
|        |                              | 157           | Natural                       |
| 58     | Roman naturalist             | 158           | Sachet component              |
| 59     | Electrical units             | 159           | Sweet cherry                  |
| 60     | Stage telephone              | 160           | Lovers' meeting               |
| 62     | Feasts with poi              | 161           | Glossy paint                  |
| 66     | Walt Kelly strip             | 162           | In a furtive man<br>ner       |
| 67     | Like moccasins               |               |                               |
| 69     | Inedible oranges             | 163           | Jacuzzis                      |
| 71     | Ruminant                     |               |                               |
| 72     | Black birds                  | DOWN          |                               |
| 74     | Planck Telescope<br>launcher | 1             | Made cheddar<br>better        |
|        |                              | 2             | Toothpaste buy                |
| 76     | Melody's words               | 3             | Scepter go-withs              |
| 78     | Wish undone                  | 4             | — to my ears                  |
| 79     | Striped antelope             | 5             | Family member                 |
| 80     | Cruised                      | 6             | Cash in coupons               |
| 83     | Sign                         | 7             | Siskel's old part<br>ner      |
| 85     | Manufacturer                 |               |                               |
| 88     | First-class, in<br>slang     | 8             | — Paese cheese                |
| 89     | Grates upon                  | 9             | Vitality                      |
| 90     | Nimbleness                   | 10            | A-sharp homo<br>phone (hyph.) |
| 93     | Aristocratic<br>woman        | 11            | Cotton gin name               |
| 95     | Fat fiddle                   | 12            | Term of endear-<br>ment       |
| 97     | Impair                       |               |                               |



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- |    |                               |    |                          |     |                         |     |                       |
|----|-------------------------------|----|--------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 13 | Warmonger of<br>myth          | 53 | Skin diver's gear        | 94  | Lurks                   | 137 | Fiesta                |
| 14 | Jump over                     | 54 | Thick carpeting          | 95  | Old TV hookups          | 138 | Ignores               |
| 15 | Texas town (2<br>wds.)        | 56 | Sluggish                 | 96  | Likable prez?           | 140 | Bug repellent         |
| 16 | Deep cut                      | 59 | Diner's options          | 99  | Koh-i — diamond         | 141 | Actress — Olin        |
| 17 | Mauna —                       | 61 | Felon, in cop-<br>speak  | 102 | Currier's partner       | 143 | Skips stones          |
| 18 | Maestro Tosca<br>nini         | 63 | Invisible emana<br>tions | 103 | Three-masted ves<br>sel | 145 | Melt, as an icicle    |
| 19 | Fence crossings               | 64 | Commandeer               | 104 | Radiates                | 146 | Wrist bone            |
| 20 | Least wacky                   | 65 | Pod contents             | 105 | Facetious tribute       | 147 | E-mail contents       |
| 30 | Clumsy                        | 67 | Buy at auction           | 107 | Shoe stats              | 149 | Fleur-de- —           |
| 32 | Prominent nose                | 68 | Royal orders             | 109 | Overalls material       | 151 | Dawber or<br>Shriver  |
| 34 | Boot jingler                  | 69 | Hot breakfast            | 111 | Hops dryer              | 152 | Monsieur's sum<br>mer |
| 38 | Pt. of speech                 | 70 | — vous plait             | 114 | Escorted                | 154 | Sushi fish            |
| 39 | Belt holders                  | 73 | Like the tabloids        | 117 | Macbeth's title         |     |                       |
| 41 | YSL fragrance                 | 75 | Bake eggs                | 119 | Wyo. neighbor           |     |                       |
| 42 | Andy and Flo of<br>the comics | 77 | Locust bean              | 121 | Spiral molecule         |     |                       |
| 43 | Ration                        | 81 | Goodall subject          | 122 | Thunderstruck           |     |                       |
| 44 | Subarctic forest              | 82 | Aurora, to Plato         | 123 | In a catty way          |     |                       |
| 46 | Like pine scent               | 84 | Heat unit                | 124 | Long-eared pet          |     |                       |
| 47 | Place for posies              | 85 | Poisonous snake          | 125 | Tear gas target         |     |                       |
| 49 | Richard, —,<br>Jimmy          | 86 | Repeatedly               | 126 | Pen name Queen          |     |                       |
| 51 | Util. bill                    | 87 | Bolshoi rival            | 127 | Beginner                |     |                       |
|    |                               | 91 | Muscle spasm             | 130 | Kind of tire            |     |                       |
|    |                               | 92 | Barbecue site            | 134 | Senator-astronaut       |     |                       |
|    |                               | 93 | In hock                  | 136 | Gourmet mush<br>room    |     |                       |

Turn to the  
Back Page (16)  
to find  
solutions to the puzzles  
from the Nov. 1 edition  
of Dateline: Downtown

## UHD Salseros help kick-off Latino Heritage Month

**TANU UPPAL**

Assistant Editor

The University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) kicked off Latino Heritage Month with a series of events, including guest speakers and Latin Dance Night.

The UHD Cultural Enrichment Center presented the Hispanic Film Series: "Rosario Tijeras" (2005), a Colombian film based on a novel by Jorge Franco; the story centers around a woman with an abusive past, who becomes caught up in the subculture of sicarios, motorcycle-riding hitmen based in the slums of Medellín, Colombia during the 1980's.

*"We wanted to find other students who were interested spreading Latin music and culture and also in sharing the fun that comes from social dancing."*

—Christopher Simmons

2009-2010 UHD Salseros president.



Photo by Kevin Li Yung Hing

Jose Trinidad and Mayra Izaguirre were among the many UHD students that took part in the Salsa and Bachata lessons on Sept. 23.



Photo by Kevin Li Yung Hing

(Left to right) Christopher Simmons, Maria Gonzalez and Dionicio Martinez, members of the UHD Salseros performed at the Salsa and Bachata Night, held Sept. 23.

UHD also hosted Salsa and Bachata Night, Sept. 23, hosted jointly by Student Activities and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF). Professional Latin dancers from across Houston taught an hour-long Salsa and Bachata class, demonstrating the basics of Latin dance.

After the lessons, various dance teams performed for a crowd of over 100 students and faculty. Among the performers were the University of Houston (UH) Salsa team, Studio 8 performers, and UHD's own Salseros.

The UHD Salseros were founded last fall by a core of students who were passionate about Latin dance and sought to increase awareness and participation among other students.

"We wanted to find other students who were interested spreading Latin music and culture and also in sharing the fun that comes from social dancing," said Christopher Simmons, 2009-2010 UHD Salseros president.

The UHD Salseros recently held officer elections and welcomed their new president, junior Nataly Trevino. Other officers include Instructional Coordinator Dionicio Martinez and Ladies Styling Coach Maria Gonzalez. The team is currently training rigorously for upcoming performances and training new members for the core team.

"With our new officers, members, and momentum, we hope to carry the team to new heights," said Simmons. "This

is going to be a great year to dance."

The Salseros also host a Latin Dance class on Wednesdays, led by Martinez, from 6:30-7:45 p.m. and hold practice at various times throughout the week. The dance class offers beginners' training for those interested in Latin culture and social dancing. For more information, contact the UHD Fitness Center.

On Sept. 29, Dr. Tatcho Mindiola, associate professor and director of Mexican American Studies at UH, discussed his role in furthering knowledge of Latin culture and heritage at UH as well as potential steps to implement a similar program at UHD.

On Sept. 30, UHD Career Services sponsored a recruiting event hosted by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). Representatives provided information regarding internships, scholarship programs, and student conferences available to UHD students.

Upcoming events include the screening of "Girlfight", "Virgen de los Sicarios", and "Bomben: El Perro" as part of the Hispanic Film Series, and a presentation by Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia.

More information can be found online on the UHD Calendar of Events.

# A Christmas Carol is a spooky take on a classic

**CHRISTINA RODRIGUEZ**

Assistant Editor

Houston's own Alley Theatre is featuring Charles Dickens' production *A Christmas Carol- A Ghost Story of Christmas*; the familiar story of Ebenezer Scrooge and the 3 ghosts of Christmas done with a slightly different twist, which both startles and engages the audience from the first scene.

The first people onstage are a troupe of ghost dancers who appear throughout the play whenever there is a scene change or at times, during a visit from a ghost. These dancers dress in all white and are tattered and injured. The injury on each person is different because it is meant to convey the manner of death. For example, one man dances around while holding a noose up from his neck, while another is sporting a knife protruding from his abdomen. The women ghosts have gashes in their clothing and veils covering their faces.

The dancers make way for the rest of the story in which there is a miserly old man who gives out loans, only to be exceedingly cruel in collecting from his debtors. Scrooge is accompanied in his office by Bob Cratchit, the father of 4 who barely survives on the tireless work he does for Scrooge. It is on Christmas Eve that the play takes place, and it is this day that Scrooge's old business partner, Jacob Marley, decides to pay a visit to Scrooge, warning him that his suffering after death will be even worse than Marley suffers. He warns Scrooge of the 3 ghosts that are to visit him during the night and what they represent— Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Yet to Come.

Each ghost arrives at their appointed time, while Scrooge anxiously dreads their arrival. The Ghost of Christmas Past is a woman who tosses glitter and elicits images from Scrooge's past. Some of these memories were his most happy memories, and yet they end with the memory of the love of his life leaving him because he has changed into the miserly person he is today. The old Scrooge tries to tell Young Scrooge to go after her, but of course, he is inaudible and cannot change what occurred.

The Ghost of Christmas Present is a sumptuous man who



Courtesy photo

is dressed in a cape and jewels and shares the elixir of life. He shows Bob Cratchit and his family, and their conversation and anger over the way Scrooge treats Cratchit at work. Scrooge realizes how sickly Cratchit's youngest son Tiny Tim is and how badly they needed more income than he was willing to pay. The Ghost then shows Scrooge his nephew's home, where he is hosting a dinner party, and he overhears a conversation about himself there as well. He seems to be learning more and more about himself as he is shown both memories and events happening in the current time.

The last ghost, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, is a threatening ghost who has only bad news to share. He never speaks, but only shows what will occur should Scrooge continue in his terrible behavior. These events include the deaths of both Scrooge and Tiny Tim, and the reaction of the people who knew them is shown so that Scrooge understands what he has done to people and how pure a soul Tiny Tim was. For some reason, in this production the ghost is dressed in a black suit and cape, top hat and mask. He is also outfitted

with an oversized tricycle that steams threateningly. This was the weakest part of the play. For anyone who has watched a movie in the past five years, it would seem obvious that a masked person on a tricycle would remind viewers of the *Saw* series, and here it didn't have the effect of terror or fright that the directors were going for.

The change in Scrooge is well played. He wakes up on Christmas morning and plays tricks, buys Cratchit's family a massive turkey for their Christmas dinner and promises to get Tiny Tim medical care. He also decides that he doesn't want to be a lonely old man anymore and asks his housekeeper to 'stand by his side' at his Christmas party. The end of the play feels like a good natured comedy, especially in this production, where the housekeeper was played by UHD's own Resident Artist in Drama, David Rainey, a staple at the Alley Theatre for the past ten seasons.

The show is scheduled to run until Monday, Dec. 27. Tickets for the production start at \$25 and peak at \$45. For more information, please visit [www.alleytheatre.org](http://www.alleytheatre.org).

## Black Eyed Peas are 'Beginning' to improve

*Uwire* – The Black Eyed Peas caused a slight panic (and some celebration) when they titled their last album "The E.N.D." It will come as a relief to some that the new album is titled "The Beginning."

Those who found "Boom Boom Pow" to be the most obnoxious single of 2009 will immediately be discouraged by the opening track, "The Time (Dirty Bit)."

The first single pseudo-covers "(I've Had) The Time of My Life," the '80s ditty made popular by "Dirty Dancing." It's not clear whether the "dirty bit" refers to the Peas' attempt at a film tribute or at how unclear the listener feels after hearing the shameless single.

If you can get past the first track, things look up from there.

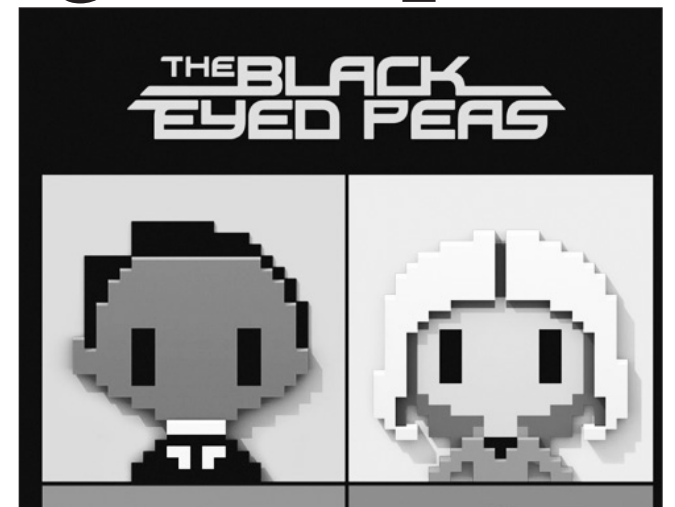
The second track, "Light up the Night," is a better example of what the Peas are good at: making songs that belong in and should stay at the club. A bumping beat and fewer lyrics

for the listener (and the Peas) to think about is their best bet. "The Best One Yet (The Boy)" and "Just Can't Get Enough" work for the same reasons.

No one expects the Black Eyed Peas to produce the most introspective lyrics, but it's still tough to listen to the "Full Metal Jacket" inspired "Love You Long Time," in which the song title is repeated inanelly and endlessly.

In "XOXOXO," the words "hugs and kisses" are repeated in the same fashion. Therefore, it's surprising when the Peas bust out "Someday," a song about pursuing one's dreams. It's still worth dancing to yet doesn't kill any brain cells.

The Black Eyed Peas can still keep a party going, but as with previous albums, they tend to be obnoxious while doing so. "The Beginning" is all right but probably best in small doses.



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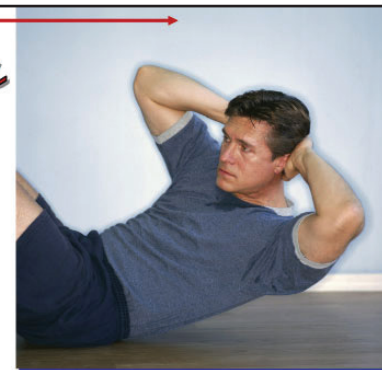
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For an appointment or for additional information, stop by the Student Life Center or call 713-221-8225.

# SOLUTIONS

## Crossword

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

10-31-10

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## SUDOKU

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