

# *Dateline: Downtown*



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# Let's Get Physical: UHD Sports Club Tryouts are on The Horizon

by Lissette Perez

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## UHD News

As important as it is to become an active member in the university community, it is equally as important to maintain an active lifestyle. As the new semester rolls in, UHD Sports & Fitness's club sports begin to recruit new members, regardless of classification, making it the ideal way to enhance your university experience while staying healthy. With 11 clubs to choose from, there is surely a sport to pique a student's interest.

Competitive club sports are a fun way to showcase teamwork and skill through competitive play versus other college teams. Games can not only take place in the local level, but also regional and national level. To join any of these organizations, a student must be a current student at UHD, be enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours, and be in good academic standing (incoming students are exempt from this requirement). It is also expected that prospective members be dedicated to maintaining a positive attitude and commit to attending practices, games, and other events required of the organization. Be aware that each club sport's interest meeting and tryout dates and locations will vary.

• The Baseball Club will have an interest meeting on August 23 at 5pm in room N-1099, and the tryout period will be from August 27 – Sep-

tember 5. Their practices and tryout times will be on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 4pm-6pm at Finnigan Park Field.

• The Men's Basketball Club's tryout period will be from August 20 – August 31, with practice and tryout times being held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7pm-9pm in the Student Life Center (SLC). The Women's Basketball Club will have an interest meeting on September 5 at 5 p.m. in the SLC.

• The Cheerleading Club & Mascot will be having prep classes on August 21 – 30, with tryouts being held on September 4 & September 6 from 7pm-9pm in the SLC. Mascots will have a different registration link. The Gatorettes dance club will have prep classes on August 21 – August 30, tryouts on September 4 & 6 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm-9pm in the SLC studio.

• The Runners Club will be having an interest meeting on September 5 at 4pm in the SLC.

• The Men's Soccer Club tryouts will be on August 7 – August 30. The practice and tryout times will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6pm at Marron Park. Women's soccer club will share the same tryout dates and location, but their practice and tryout times will be 5pm-7pm.

• The Women's Volleyball Club tryout period will be on August 20 –

August 31 on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9pm and Fridays 5pm-7pm in the SLC.

• The Wrestling Club, both men's and women's, will have an interest meeting on September 13 at 7pm in the SLC. Practice begins on October 2 and practice times are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 7pm-9pm.

• The Powerlifting Club will have an interest meeting on September 6 at 5pm in the SLC.

With the fall semester starting, this is a good time to take advantage of the opportunities that are on campus by joining a sports club. By being an active club member, one will gain a plethora of skills that will be applicable to one's career long after college, such as time management, leadership, and communication, which are only a few of the skills that will be sharpened when participating in a sport club. There will also be many opportunities to make friends and create networking opportunities. Go on and show off that gator grit by registering for a club sport.

To register for a club or for more information, visit the Sports & Fitness page on the UHD website or contact Justin Sarabia, S&F's Sports Coordinator.

# New School Year, New Courses: Brand New Course Offerings at UHD for Fall 2018

by Helen Martinez

It is another fresh fall semester here at UHD, and there are some very unique and interesting courses that both the incoming freshmen and the experienced Gator student can enjoy. For those looking to bolster their schedule with a few elective credits or are curious about subjects outside of their majors, there will be plenty of classes check out this fall. As always, please remember to check with an advisor before registering for new classes.

To begin, the College of Humanities and Social Studies, as one of the university's most diverse colleges, has a treasure trove of interesting classes to consider taking. Two courses in particular stand out with a brand-new twist. Dr. Sucheta Choudhuri will be teaching Cultural Criticism, ENG 3340, also known as HUM 3310, with a focus on Queer History to "take an interdisciplinary approach to understanding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer cultures and communities through a variety of texts." A favorite for English and Humanities majors and minors, Cultural Criticism can also be taken by anyone who has completed ENG 1302 and the Language, Philosophy and Culture Core Component, and Dr. Choudhuri's new take on this old course appeals to anyone looking to learn more about LGBT+ culture. Another course being revamped this semester is ENG 2313, specifically Outliers in early British Literature: Beginnings to 1800, which is being

taught by Dr. Joan Wedes. A common introductory course for English majors that requires only completion or concurrent enrollment in ENG 1302, this course will be looking into early British Literature's outliers: "monsters, women, Jews, Muslims, pirates, LGBTQs, and people of color" to gain a more inclusive and diverse perspective on early British culture. Both courses focus on the people who have too often been overlooked in society but whose influence cannot be denied.

For those looking for other very inclusive and more currently relevant courses this fall, there are a few courses on race being offered, such as Dr. Felicia Harris' COMM 4390 Black Twitter & Beyond and Dr. Stacie DeFreitas' PSY 4303 African American Issues in Psychology, that provide valuable insight and perspective on the discrimination African Americans face in our country. They also both only require junior standing and 6 hours of credits in their respective fields. In addition to this, Dr. William Nowak's seminar, UHD 2304 Hispanic Houston, also focuses on Hispanic history and current influence of the Hispanic community in Houston and is especially appealing for transfer students and those of any major interested in Houston culture and Hispanic influence.

The College of Sciences and Technology also hosts a wide range of subjects, which are soon to be taught in their own Sciences and Technol-

ogy building. One of their courses to look out for would be Discrete Mathematical Structures, MATH 2305, which has recently built in the computer program Python into the course. This introduction to Python gives computer science majors valuable experience with the program and allows math majors to better understand "real world" applications of proofs, thus benefitting those seeking employment in data science, math and computer science fields. This class is just one of many courses in the College of Sciences and Technology that provides students with the opportunity to develop necessary skills for their future careers. Students willing to venture out of their fields can also look in the College of Public Service, which offers two social work courses that may be intriguing and are also open to nonmajors. Human Behavior in the Social Environment I, SOCW 3361, and Social Justice and Professional Ethics, SOCW 3364, go in depth on "human development and behavior within the social environment" and "professional values and ethics as codified by the NASW and the IFSW," respectively. The College of Public Service also has an extensive Criminal Justice program. For those who have taken the introductory course, CJ 1301, there is an opportunity to take Criminal Investigation, CJ 3302, and Criminal Law, CJ 3304. CJ 3302 covers the process crime scene investigators use when work-

ing a scene, while CJ 3304 provides a great basis for future lawyers. Last but definitely not least, one of the students from the newly rechristened Marilyn Davies College of Business had recommended two very useful and interesting courses. The two courses, Business Finance, FIN 3302, and Legal Environment of Business, BA 3301, both provide the future business professional with necessary information on the financial and legal aspects of running a business but can also benefit anyone looking to work in business. From applying financial management techniques to understanding the legal and ethical environment of both domestic and international business, these classes give their students the edge to succeed in the competitive field of business.

These classes are all available this fall and will hopefully encourage students who are undecided about their area of study, as well as declared majors, to give something new or different a chance. The value of transferrable skills and experiences gained in taking a variety of classes cannot be stressed enough and can help expand one's worldview. Take advantage of UHD's diversity by seeing what it has to offer and learning from the perspectives of people from so many different backgrounds and diverse cultures.

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# Ways to (Not) Go for Broke: Discounts Just for College Students

by Jaida Doll

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## Student News

As the Fall 2018 semester approaches, it seems as if college students' financial responsibilities are never-ending. After paying for classes, textbooks, supplies, and transportation, one's wallet begins to thin. Below is a list of student discounts to help you pinch enough pennies to afford more than a bowl of ramen noodles for dinner yet again.

### Food:

- Arby's: 10% off with school ID
- Buffalo Wild Wings: 10% off with school ID
- Burger King: 10% off with school ID
- Chick-Fil-A: Free drink with purchase and school ID
- Chipotle: Free drink with purchase and school ID
- Dairy Queen: 10% off with school ID
- Dunkin Donuts: 10% off with school ID
- Firehouse Subs: 10% off with school ID
- McDonalds: 10% off with school ID; varies by location
- Papa John's: Discounts vary with school ID
- Pizza Hut: 10%-20% with school ID
- Subway: 10% off with school ID
- Sweet Tomatoes: 10% off with school ID
- Taco Bell: 10% off with school ID
- Taco Cabana: 10% off with school ID
- Waffle House: 10% off with school ID

### Entertainment:

- AMC Movie Theaters: \$1 off Thursday night movies
- Houston Ballet: \$10 Student Rush Tickets
- Houston Museum of Fine Arts: Free on Thursdays; \$7.50 for general admission with school ID

### Retail:

- Aeropostale: 15% off when you verify your student status
- American Eagle: 20% off when you verify your student status
- Billabong: 10% off when you verify your student status
- DC: 15% off when you verify your student status
- Express: 15% off with school ID
- Fifth Sun: 20% off when you verify your student status
- Forever 21: 21% off when you verify your student status
- Goodwill: 20% off on Tuesdays with school ID
- Hanes: 10% off
- Levis: 15% off after verifying school ID
- Nikes: 10% off online orders when you verify your student status
- Oasis Apparel: 10% off
- PacSun: 10% off when you verify your student status
- PINK: 15% off when you verify your student status
- Pottery Barn Teen: 10% off with school email or ID
- Quick Silver: 15% off when you verify your student status
- Under Armour: 10% off when you verify your student status
- Urban Outfitters: 10% off with school ID

### Electronics:

- Apple: Up to \$200 off select Macs, 20% off AppleCare, and free Beats Solo3 Wireless with the purchase of a Mac or iPad Pro
  - Best Buy: Variable discounts with school email address
  - Microsoft Store: 10% off and free shipping
  - RadioShack: 10% off with school ID
  - Samsung: Up to 20% off with school email
  - Spotify: \$4.99 a month for Spotify Premium; now, also includes access to Hulu
- ### Educational Resources:

- Amazon Prime: Free for six months
- Barnes and Noble: Various discounts on textbooks
- Book Outlet: 15% off when you verify your student status
- Evernote: One year of the premium plan for 75% off
- Microsoft Office 365: Free with school email

### Other:

- Geico: Up to 15% off for students with good grades
- METRO: 50% off all bus and railway services when you apply for a Student Fare Card
- Resume Writers: Up to \$100 student resumes
- State Farm: Up to 25% off for students with good grades



# Likes, Notifications, and Puppet Strings: How Technology Consumes Us

by Archie Gayle

In 1990, Steve Jobs described the computer as “a bicycle for the mind,” able to push past human limits into the future. Today, one might describe the computer as “beer goggles for the mind” because of its ability to disorient and misdirect. The public has become addicted to technology, and this isn’t an accident. Tech companies profit off the time we invest in their products. In a world where we cannot trust technology to be fair, we must take our time back into our own hands. We must understand how we got to this current state of technological addiction; we must understand what it has done to us, and how we can stop it.

In the 21st century, we have seen the rise of what Tristan Harris, a former design ethicist for Google and CEO of Time Well Spent, calls the “attention economy.”

“The internet, overall,” Harris says, “had not been designed to maximize attention. It was just for putting things out there and creating message boards. It wasn’t designed with this whole persuasive psychology that emerged later. What happened was that the attention economy, in its race for attention, got more and more competitive. And the more competitive it got to get people’s attention on, let’s say, a news website, the more they needed to add these design principles—these more manipulative design tactics—as ways of holding on to your attention.” So, social media and tech companies hire attention engineers; these engineers use Las Vegas casino gambling methods to keep individuals’ focus on their products.

Apps on smartphones use push notifications to bait its users by simulating social interaction. Companies like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter notify users when their social media friends post or use the platform. These notifications are an invitation—a hand pushing you into the app. These push notifications alert you the same way a text message does. This makes the user open their phone more. This is in stark contrast to the first use of push notifications back in 2003. When push notifications were first introduced for the Blackberry, they were designed

so users could check their phones less. Emails and important messages would appear on your screen without you constantly having to open your phone. Now countless apps flood our screens with notifications that are meant to pull us into the app. In these notifications, we are given the possibility of socialization; and we choose to gamble—and lose—when we open our phone and enter that app.

Another component used to constrict our attention is color. Human eyes are naturally attracted to bright, bold, and warm colors. In recent years, many applications have redesigned their logos and programs to be more visually appealing to the user. Look at Instagram’s logo. It went from a subtle white and brown camera with a small rainbow at the top left to a luscious color-scheme of sunset purple, a warm orange-yellow mix, and a fading blue. The new logo brings to mind a magical summer evening, where the sun tucks itself under the clouds, creating an array of colors in the sky before the night comes. Google is another company that has undergone a logo-change. The logo has gone from a white “g” in a subtle blue square to a capital “g” made from primary colors. Notification bubbles are red for the same reason: attention. The brain is tricked into thinking that your friend’s new Snapchat story is more important than that essay that you’ve got to finish.



Courtesy of Getty Images

In an interview with Vox, Tristan Harris compared the smartphone designs to a slot machine. The use of bright colors, lights and sounds draw the users in. Many applications also replicate the act of pulling a slot machine with their own

pull-to-refresh feature. These apps generate countless new information with every pull. Just like a slot machine, the chance of stumbling upon the jackpot post or video keeps the user scrolling; and the pull-to-refresh feature gives the user a false sense of control.

The attention economy has affected everyone, from app users to app developers. “Right now,” Harris says, “the only way to succeed in the app store is by proving you’re really good at getting people’s attention. And so, by making attention the currency of success, it forces all these good-hearted, good-intentioned people who makes apps and media sites to do things that they don’t want to do just because they have to get attention.” Good-intentioned or not, these companies profit off of our attention. Rewards, likes, and push notifications release little bursts of dopamine; this dopamine-release causes what is known as a compulsion loop, the same loop responsible for the effects of cocaine and nicotine.

TED speaker Simon Sinek spoke on the internet series Inside Quest about the expanding epidemic of addiction to technology. Sinek says that this addiction is most problematic for the younger generation.

“Almost every alcoholic,” Sinek says, “discovered alcohol when they were teenagers. When we’re very young, the only approval we need is the approval of our parents. And as we go through adolescence, we make this transition where we now need the approval of our peers... It’s a highly stressful and anxious period in our lives; and we’re supposed to learn to rely on our friends. Some people, quite by accident, discover alcohol and the numbing effects of dopamine; this helps them cope with the stress and anxiety of adolescence. Unfortunately, that becomes hard-wired in their brains; and for the rest of their lives, when they suffer significant stress, they will not turn to a person—they will turn to the bottle. Social stress, financial stress, career stress: that’s pretty much the primary reasons why an alcoholic drinks.” Children have un-restricted access to a numbing,

dopamine producer—technology. The excessive use of technology generates the same effects that a teenager gets when they sneak their first taste of liquor. This dependency affects their social life, their drive to succeed, and their focus. As children grow out of adolescence and into adulthood, they do not know how to form meaningful relationships with their peers; they become isolated, unable to communicate, and quickly become depressed.

“We know,” Sinek says, “that people who spend more time on Facebook suffer higher rates of depression than people who spend less time on Facebook. Alcohol is not bad; too much alcohol is bad. Gambling is fun; too much gambling is dangerous. There’s nothing wrong with social media and cellphones. It’s the imbalance.” There are ways to fight technology addiction. Organize your smartphone’s home screen to only show the essential apps—such as Google Maps, Messenger, Uber, Lyft, etc. When you open your phone, you should not see any app that you can get lost in—such as YouTube, Instagram, or Facebook. You can also change your phone’s color-scheme to a grayscale color display. This will take the lure of colors out of the equation and allow you to judge your apps impartially. Our time and attention are immensely valuable. We cannot let any company choose how we should spend our time. Addiction is all the same—whether it’s with drugs, alcohol, or technology. Any addiction will eventually cost you the life you want to live.

Gators, what do you think about the story? Are we really addicted to technology or is this story overstating the role technology plays in our society? Sound off on our Facebook, Instagram or Twitter pages. Who knows, we may put your comment in our next issue so don’t be afraid to share your opinion with us. You can also share your opinion through e-mailing the editor at [editordateline-downtown@gmail.com](mailto:editordateline-downtown@gmail.com).

# A Houston Myth Explored: Downtown Houston's Underground Tunnels

by David Noria

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Local

I once heard someone make a general statement about some mysterious “underground tunnels” in downtown Houston. I asked around about these “tunnels” and only a few had heard of them. Others simply had not heard of any tunnels and thought it to be a myth.

According to the book *365 Things To Do In Houston*, an original tunnel was built in the 1930s by Ross Sterling that only connected two downtown theaters. In the 1960s developers began to expand the tunnel system, which continues to grow today. The tunnels are about seven miles under downtown Houston and have only two places where they can be accessed on the street: one is at the Wells Fargo Plaza on 1000 Louisiana St. The second is at the McKinney garage on 930 Main St. Alternatively, there are numerous pathways from inside the buildings that can lead you directly underground by either the elevator, stairs or escalators. The following are all of the tunnel entrances: Tunnel loop, W. Walker Tunnel, N. Louisiana Tunnel, Harris County Tunnel, N. Travis Tunnel, Lamar Tunnel, Rusk Tunnel, E. McKinney Tunnel, S. Louisiana Tunnel, W. Dallas Tunnel, and the Tennant-only Tunnel Access. For a full map of the downtown tunnels, go to <https://www.downtownhouston.org/explore/>

As I was getting my lunch, I was already thinking about my next move toward finding these tunnels for myself. I got on my iPhone maps and searched for “the underground tunnels of downtown Houston.” The destination showed to be at 909 Fannin St., Houston, Texas 77010. Walking out of the One Main building of the University of Houston

Downtown, I first looked up to the sky, took a deep breath and then tilted my head north then south at the Metro Rail Line. I waited at least three minutes before I was on the Red Line Metro Rail heading south on Main St., two stops away from the Central Station on Main. Once off, I walked a block south to Walker St., took a left then a right onto Fannin Street. I noticed a homeless person grabbing something out of the trash of the street corner. I handed the man a couple dollars and asked if he knew how to get to the underground tunnels, without saying a word he held the dollars up at me nodding his head up and down, and suddenly, turned slightly to point at a building that read: “2 Houston Center”. I thanked the man and walked over into the building and then I went down the stairs.



Photo by David Noria

As I entered through the East McKinney tunnel, I noticed a directory of the entire tunnel system, which was overwhelming and causing me to sweat slightly. There were two arrows pointing in opposite direction so I chose one way. I immediately noticed people sitting down conversing while enjoying a meal. Finally, I was in an underground world that I never knew existed. There are plenty of merchants such as, Miller's Café, which has been voted the best hamburger in Houston since 1980, Shipley's Doughnuts, Jason's Deli, Tejas Bar & Grill, Dunkin' Doughnuts, Starbucks, and Renato's Jewelry. Yes, even a jewelry store! Having all of these places nearby is convenient for the employees working in the buildings above, as they are easily accessible. It also works out for the merchants, as they are providing services, building relationships, growing their respective reputations and making a profit with an accessible customer base.

Out of the many restaurants to choose from, I chose Miller's Café. I ordered the Miller's Killer's Bacon Cheese Burger with BBQ-minus the bacon. I also added a veggie salad and a Frito pie with cheese to my order. The service was great along with friendly customer service; it was the same as any other restaurant, except that I was in an underground world. It seemed to me that the tunnels were for employees only from the buildings above. Everyone wore a suit and tie or dressed professionally. It was their “underworld”. They have the advantage to avoid the unpredictable Houston weather by not having to walk or drive the crowded streets of downtown, for a beverage, meal, vitamins, gifts, jewelry, bank, and even

a doctor's appointment.

The entire time in the tunnels felt as if I was walking through a maze discovering new entryways and sights that I did not know were there. For example, I reached a popular point that I heard a lot about; walking through the East McKinney tunnel, above was a sign that read, “The Shops.” I found myself going up three escalators that lead me to more restaurants, gift shops, Hallmark store, Seybold Clinic, Chase bank, and finally a place to sit down and take a break after walking for almost two hours.



Photo by David Noria

I came to find out that the mysterious tunnels are not a myth. These tunnels have existed over seven decades and continue to expand in present day. If you ever find yourself roaming downtown Houston, Texas with some spare time, or if you are simply exploring the city, it won't be a bad idea to take a tour underground, grab a bite to eat and find yourself walking through unfamiliar tunnels wondering where you are on the map. If you walk freely, you will eventually end up in a different entrance/exit from the one you came in.

# 8

## Games

1. What is as big as you are and yet does not weigh anything?
2. Two cannibals were chatting as they had their dinner. One complained that he really quite disliked his new mother-in-law. What was the advice given to him by his companion?
3. Paul's height is six feet, he's an assistant at a butcher's shop, and wears size 9 shoes. What does he weigh?
4. What types of words are these: madam, civic, eye, level?
5. What ends everything always?
6. When you have me, you feel like sharing me. But, if you do share me, you don't have me. What am I?
7. A cowboy rode into town on Friday, stayed three days, and rode out again on Friday. How did he do that?
8. The person who makes it has no need for it. The person who purchases it does not use it. The person who does use it does not know he or she is. What is it?
9. It is an insect, and the first part of its name is the name of another insect. What is it?
10. 2 fathers and 2 sons go fishing. Each of them catches one fish. So why do they bring home only 3 fish?
11. You can hold it without using your hands or arms. What is it?
12. What do the letter 't' and an island have in common?
13. I go all around the world but I still stay in a corner. Who am I?
14. I can run but I can't walk, a mouth but I can't talk, a head but I can't think, a bed but I can't sleep. Who am I?
15. I'm where yesterday follows today, and tomorrow's in the middle. What am I?

Answers are on Page 10

1. A solo dice game is played where, on each turn, a normal pair of dice is rolled. The score is calculated by taking the product, rather than the sum, of the two numbers shown on the dice. On a particular game, the score for the second roll is five more than the score for the first; the score for the third roll is six less than that of the second; the score for the fourth roll is eleven more than that of the third; and the score for the fifth roll is eight less than that of the fourth. What was the score for each of these five throws?
2. A high school has a strange principal. On the first day, he has his students perform an odd opening day ceremony:  
There are one thousand lockers and one thousand students in the school. The principal asks the first student to go to every locker and open it. Then he has the second student go to every second locker and close it. The third goes to every third locker and, if it is closed, he opens it, and if it is open, he closes it. The fourth student does this to every fourth locker, and so on. After the process is completed with the thousandth student, how many lockers are open?
3. You must cut a birthday cake into exactly eight pieces, but you're only allowed to make three straight cuts, and you can't move pieces of the cake as you cut. How can you do it?
4. Can you place six X's on a Tic Tac Toe board without making three-in-a-row in any direction?
5. Nine dots are arranged in a three by three square. Connect each of the nine dots using only four straight lines and without lifting your pen from the paper.
6. You want to hire a temporary employee for one month. You offer him reasonable wages, but the employee suggests an alternative. For the first day of work, he will be paid a penny. For the second day, two pennies. For the third day, four pennies. The salary for each subsequent day will be double the previous day's, until the one month term is over. Ignoring the legalities of such a situation, would it be a good idea to accept the potential employee's proposal?
7. Arrange the numbers 1 through 9 on a tic tac toe board such that the numbers in each row, column, and diagonal add up to 15.

Answers are on Page 11.



# Trades, Free Agency and LeBron: NBA Off-season Drama Keeps Fans Interested

by Michael Case

# 9

## Sports

The NBA season may have ended in June but for fans the entertainment continues. With the confetti still falling, people began the guessing game that was the 'LeBron James Sweepstakes'. The winner would become an immediate title contender, the other teams left to find other ways to win. The Los Angeles Lakers instantly became a top team in the Western Conference, a crowded room to be sure. In his first interview as a Laker, LeBron was asked his thoughts, "It still sounds weird. It feels good. I'm excited. I know what I want."

LeBron is entering his 15th season and his first in the Western Conference. Any team that has LeBron James will be a title contender. Whether he's on a team with multiple all-stars, like when he was in Miami, or his first NBA Finals appearance with a team made up of Drew Gooden, Ilgauskas, and Varejão. Year after year, LeBron has proven that he is an amazing basketball player and an excellent representative of the community by doing charitable acts such as donating his time and money to the kids of northeast Ohio.

The Western Conference, as well as the NBA as a whole, has had to completely change its future goals as a result of LeBron's decision. The Eastern Conference is now available to any team who wants to take it. After spending his entire career up to this point in the conference and win-

ning 8 straight Eastern Conference Finals, LeBron is in the West and a new team will represent the East without LeBron for the first time this decade, with the early favorites being Boston and Toronto. Both of these teams have a great chance to not only make it to the Eastern Conference Finals but the NBA finals as well. Toronto traded DeMar DeRozan and received all-star and defensive MVP Kawhi Leonard in return, while Boston will get Kyrie Irving and Gordon Hayward back from injury.

The West has found itself in even deeper competition, which has been the tougher conference for a while now. The Warriors, in the midst of their dynasty and working on becoming one of the best dynasties in sports, got even better in the offseason by acquiring DeMarcus "Boogie" Cousins for one year. While he is injured and won't play until mid-season at the earliest, he is a top player in the league and signing with one of the greatest teams ever makes them even more difficult to beat.

The Rockets were 24 minutes from beating the Warriors in Game 7 of the Western Conference Finals without Chris Paul in the lineup in the 2017-2018 season. While the Rockets lost two great defenders in Trevor Ariza and Mbah a Moute this offseason, they did get one of the great scorers in Carmelo Anthony. The loss of the defense those two brought will be missed but

the offense Melo can provide could prove to 'even things out.' Melo recently signed a one-year deal with the Rockets for a miniscule amount of 2.4 million. Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni on the signing of his former Knicks star, Melo, "We talked about everything. How we would handle this or that. All he wants to do is win. He wants to come in here and contribute, even said he wants to be a glue guy. We got to figure out what's the best way to play him and get the max out of him."

The season doesn't begin until the middle of October and it promises to be an exciting one. LeBron is now in Los Angeles, the city of stars. When the Lakers are good, the NBA is good. The Warriors dynasty looks to continue its championship dominance. The coach of the Celtics, Brad Stevens, has two all-stars added to his roster, and looks to continue his winning ways. Toronto gave up one of its young stars for an even better star in Kawhi Leonard. San Antonio looks to get back to the top now that the Kawhi drama is over. Storylines are in abundance before the NBA season even starts, mostly involving who will win it all and how is winning the championship tied to the movement of players and building of 'super-teams'. Come October 16th, NBA fans will be glued to the TV to watch the beginning of what looks to be an incredible season.

# Is Hollywood Really Out of Ideas?: Sequels, Reboots, and Hollywood's New Box Office

by Michael Case

Movie sequels are owning the box office. When looking at the top ten grossing movies in the U.S. box office on the weekend of 8/10, six are direct sequels, and two more are existing franchises, those two being Disney's *Christopher Robin*, a Winnie the Pooh reboot, and *Teen Titans Go!*, a popular cartoon series. Scour the internet movie message boards and you'll see droves of people lamenting and complaining about the number of sequels and reboots done by Hollywood. Some will even say Hollywood is out of ideas and nothing is original anymore. The box office disagrees. Money talks, especially in Hollywood, and the money is screaming that people want familiarity and character development in their movies.

Film franchises have never been more popular, with some movies entering their sixth film (*Mission Impossible*), others a ninth film (*Fast and the Furious*), and some even nearing twenty (Marvel Cinematic Universe or the MCU). While every Marvel movie may not be a direct sequel,

the movies combine storylines and characters to make a more complex and complete story throughout the MCU. The characters of Iron Man, Thor and Captain America all have three films to their name but have featured other characters and each movie moves the overall plot of the MCU along. These high-profile franchises are making billions of dollars; some movies will make a billion on their own. These studios are printing money.

It feels like the same masses clamoring for more originality are also seeing these mass-produced movies more often than the original movies they request. For example, Quentin Tarantino, a highly popular filmmaker, has made many award-winning films. It seems like every movie he makes is a hit. The most money a film of his has made at the box office was \$180 million (*Kill Bill Vol. 1*), which seems like a big number, but a Marvel, *Star Wars* or *Fast and Furious* movie can make that its first weekend. Martin Scorsese is an American film icon. His movies are studied and

beloved by many; the man knows film. The most one of his movies has ever taken in was \$132 million with *The Departed*, which is actually a remake of the Hong Kong film *Internal Affairs*.

Whether one enjoys sequels or not, no one can argue the amount being released by Hollywood. Practically no franchise or character, no TV show or comic book is safe from the hands of studio executives. But is that a bad thing? Hollywood has always reproduced properties. The original *King Kong* was released in 1933, but a sequel, *The Son of Kong*, was immediately released that same year. Sequels and remakes of *King Kong* have been made since then, once in the 1960s and again in 2005, with the 2005 remake getting a sequel in 2017 called *Kong: Skull Island*. Another example of this was done with the movie *Planet of the Apes*. It was originally created in 1968, received the remake treatment in 2011 (which was arguably a much better film than the original) and received sequels based on that 2011 remake have been successful

at the box office and with critics.

The argument about the popularity of sequels and remakes should not be with Hollywood but with audiences. The audience for media is more informed and intelligent than ever. Actors and filmmakers alike host podcasts that discuss the entertainment business and behind-the-scenes action. Books, articles and videos about film, TV and media are everywhere. Similar to the idea of an arm-chair quarterback, people are becoming arm-chair directors. People are upset with the sequels and remakes; well some are, but most simply want these movies to be made well. A smarter audience requires a smarter movie, and some studios and directors are figuring that out. It will take some time for Hollywood to catch up, but in the meantime, let's just watch a movie.

## Brain Teasers Answers

- |  |                                |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Your shadow.  | 5. The alphabet 'g'.           | 10. Because the fishing group comprises a grandfather, his son, and his grandson - hence just three people | 12. Both are in water - WaTer. |
| 2. So just finish your vegetables!                     | 6. A secret.                   | 11. Your breath.   | 13. A postage stamp.           |
| 3. Meat.   | 7. His horse's name is Friday. |  | 14. A river.                   |
| 4. They are palindromes; they read the same both ways. | 8. A coffin.                   |  | 15. A dictionary.              |
|  | 9. Beetle.                     |  |                                |

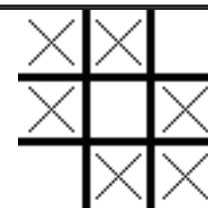
1. 10 is the score for the first roll, 15 is the score for the second roll, 9 is the score for the third roll, 20 is the score for the fourth roll, 12 is the score for the fifth roll.

2. The only lockers that remain open are perfect squares (1, 4, 9, 16, etc) because they are the only numbers divisible by an odd number of whole numbers; every factor other than the number's square root is paired up with another. Thus, these lockers will be "changed" an odd number of times, which means they will be left open.

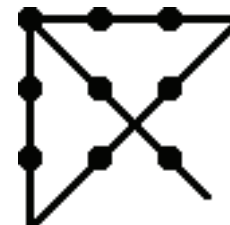
All the other numbers are divisible by an even number of factors and will consequently end up closed. So the number of open lockers is the number of perfect squares less than or equal to one thousand. These numbers are one squared, two squared, three squared, four squared, and so on, up to thirty one squared. (Thirty two squared is greater than one thousand, and therefore out of range.) So the answer is thirty one.

3. Use the first two cuts to cut an 'X' in the top of the cake. Now you have four

pieces. Make the third cut horizontal, which will divide the four pieces into eight. Think of a two by two by two Rubik's cube. There's four pieces on the top tier and four more just underneath it. Use the first two cuts to cut an 'X' in the top of the cake. Now you have four pieces. Make the third cut horizontal, which will divide the four pieces into eight. Think of a two by two by two Rubik's cube. There's four pieces on the top tier and four more just underneath it.



4.



5.

6. Not at all. He'll earn \$5,368,709.12 on the thirtieth day alone.

4	3	8
9	5	1
2	7	6

7.

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# Into the (Artistic) Woods: The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's Bamboo Exhibit

by Lissette Perez

Summer is almost over and school is around the corner. While the time to say goodbye to water-parks and sunbathing at the beach is approaching, what is not leaving just yet is the scorching Houston heat. This means that it is time to resort to some air-conditioned indoor activities. Something that may fit the bill is a day at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. While there, the newest (as well as one of the museum's largest ever) exhibit named *This Thing Called Life* is one that should be experienced.

Renowned artists Mike and Doug Starn created a towering 30-foot tall bamboo installation for their project Big Bambú within *This Thing Called Life*. Built with approximately 3,000 bamboo poles that rise from the ground up, the exhibit is a fascinating sight to behold. The bamboos are structured in a way to resemble waves in the sea – a longtime inspi-

ration for the Starn brothers.

The first thing that visitors will notice, aside from the structure itself, is where the exhibit is housed: it's held inside a large, plain room with bright white walls. Once inside the bamboo structure, it is as if it completely transports its visitors to another location; it is a place where visitors can forget their problems and fill their minds with the calming and relaxing views the exhibit has to offer. There is a clear path of sturdy bamboos running underneath and forming a platform, leading the visitor throughout the installation. Above the path are spontaneously placed bamboo sticks, which crosshatches the area and gives it an upbeat energy.

Although the time spent in the exhibit is relatively short – about 20 to 25 minutes- it manages to captivate its visitors in such a way that feels as if time itself has stopped.

Cameras are allowed in the exhibit, which means that taking pictures are encouraged as a way to permanently capture the beautifully positioned bamboo sticks. The exhibit can change one's perspective because it gives a unique sense of connectedness with nature, resulting in an overwhelming feeling of bliss. *This Thing Called Life* is sure to give its visitors a new view on contemporary art and can easily be listed as one of the top things to do for summer 2018.

*This Thing Called Life* will remain open until September 3, 2018. Tickets to enter the exhibit are \$18 for adults, \$13 for youth between the ages of 13 through 18, seniors 65 years old and over, veterans with identification and college students with identification. A release form must be signed prior to entering the exhibit, which can be found on the museum's website under the page for *This Thing Called Life*, and flat,

rubber toed shoes must be worn to walk on the upper level of the installation. All additional guidelines are listed under the exhibit's page on the museum's website. All ticket holders to the exhibit have access to the ground floor. Once the tickets have been purchased, visitors have the choice of starting their journey from the ground floor or the top floor.

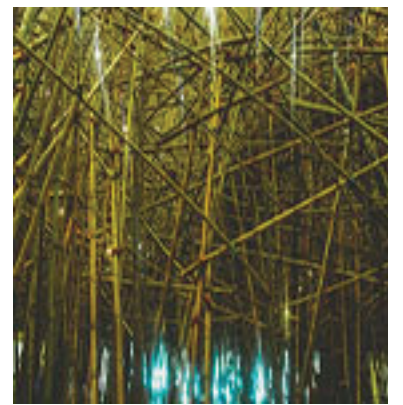


Photo by Chris Joseph

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