

THE D A T E L I N E

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Carolyn Forché visits UHD

By Laura Dunn

On Thursday, Jan. 23, Carolyn Forché visited UHD. An accomplished poet and humanitarian, Forché gave a reading from her new memoir, “What You Have Heard Is True,” a book that has been 15 years in the making. Students and professors alike attended the event, hanging onto every word she spoke. Forché filled the silence with poetic prose.

After she completed her

reading, the floor was opened up for questions. Forché answered thoughtfully and offered sage advice. She then signed copies of the memoir, exciting any book collectors in attendance, as these were first edition copies of Forché’s new work.

The memoir tells the story of her time in El Salvador in the early ‘80s and how she ended up there after a stranger appeared on her doorstep.

His name was Leonel. He warned of an upcoming war, claiming that what they needed

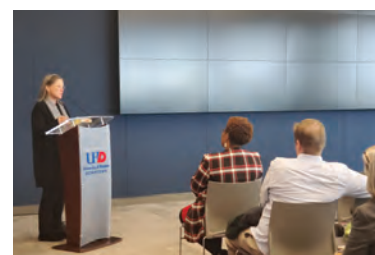
more than anything was a poet. During her time there, she had many close calls with death, met special, beautiful people, and learned a great deal about the situation and U.S. involvement.

She has since written abounding poetry about her experience there and has been invited to speak across the county, giving readings of her poems about El Salvador. Though, Forché made clear that she is not a ‘political’ poet.

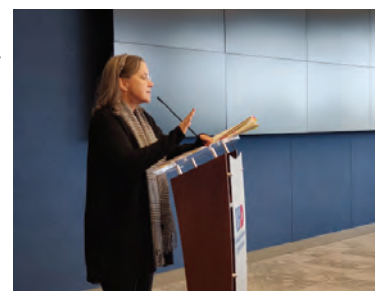
Forché claimed the memoir was hard for her to write because she had to relive this time of her life where she saw many disturbing things. However, she made a promise to Leonel that she would someday write this story. She has kept good on her prom-

ise.

Copies of her memoir are available at the UHD Bookstore, the local library and online.



Carolyn Forché speaks about her time in El Salvador / Varah Thornton



Carolyn Forché speaks about her memoir: / Varah Thornton



The crowd of UHD faculty and students awaiting Carolyn Forché
Photo credit Varah Thornton



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Welcome Week marks the beginning of a successful semester at UHD

By Jaida Doll

The Spring 2020 semester kicked off on Jan. 13, beginning with Welcome Week, as usual. Welcome Week is UHD’s celebration of the new semester, welcoming new and not-so-new Gators to the campus for another successful semester.

Just inside the One Main Building entrance, UHD’s many clubs, organizations, and Greek Life organizations invited students to join in the festivities. UHD’s Bike Club, Sexuality and Gender Alliance, Campus Activities Board, The Dateline, Fandom UHD, and the Muslim Student Association were some of the organizations in attendance, among many others. Raffles, prizes, candy, and giveaways filled each club’s table as they engaged with students and encouraged their involvement in extracurriculars.

UHD’s Student Life Services including Student Health Services, Student Counseling Services, and Veteran Services were also in attendance, educating Gators on the many services available to them as students and dish-

ing out free iced coffees, courtesy of Veteran Services.

Furthermore, UHD’s Career Development Center also hosted a Career Carnival; the Center for Diversity and Inclusion offered an open house, and campus police dished out free parfaits to engage with students and spark conversation. The Dean of Students engaged with students over a free breakfast of chicken and waffles. Welcome Week also featured conferences, offering students tips on how to better manage stress and financial habits.

Other Welcome Week Activities included a Graffiti Wall offering students a chance to (temporarily) decorate their University, a blood drive where students could lend a hand to the Gulf Coast Regional Center, a Gator Bash in the Student Life Center, and Sports and Fitness Frenzies offering students a yoga or dance break between classes.

The Veterans’ movie screening of the “Invisible Project” concluded the week, but Spring 2020’s Welcome

Week marked the beginning of yet another successful semester.



W.I. Dykes Library staff engaging students with prize wheel
Photo credit Ana Gonzalez



Art Club President, Kelsi Rios, chats with UHD students while showcasing artwork
Photo credit Ana Gonzalez



THE DATELINE

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The Dateline has been the official student newspaper of the University of Houston-Downtown since 1982, and it has been "Student Run since Volume One". We strive to meet the needs of a growing university as well as the growing metropolitan city that surrounds us.

The newspaper is published bi-weekly, every other Monday, as well as over the Summer break.

Print circulation is 1,000 copies per issue and distributed to all college buildings throughout the University, as well as satellite campuses at UHD-Northwest.

Deadlines for contributions are one week before publication date. Contact the Editor for more information.

Submission Policy

The Dateline staff consists of students from the University of Houston-Downtown who complete all tasks required to produce the newspaper, which serves the main UHD campus, and satellite campuses at UHD-Northwest. We want all students, regardless of major, to contribute. However, we must comply with our submission policy to operate under our limitations of time, energy, and staff.

The opinions and commentaries expressed within reflect the views of the contributing writers. No opinions expressed in The Dateline reflect the viewpoints of the University of Houston-Downtown, its administration, or students.

The Dateline reserves the right to edit or modify submissions for the sake of clarity, content, grammar, or space limitations. All submissions become property of The Dateline and may not be returned.

All staff and contributing writers must be currently enrolled students at the University of Houston-Downtown. The Dateline interacts with contributing writers via messaging, phone and/or email.

Press releases, story ideas, news tips and suggestions are always welcomed.

Any student interested in joining The Dateline staff may request more detailed information sending an email to the editors at

editordateline@downtown@gmail.com.

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College without the coronavirus

By Jaida Doll

Since its first confirmed case in Hubei Province, China, the Wuhan coronavirus has claimed 213 lives and has affected nearly 10,000 more.

After 7 confirmed cases in the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has imposed a travel ban which will restrict travel to and from countries that are highly sensitive to the virus. This restriction also requires travelers from such countries to remain quarantined for 14 days after arrival, which is the only mandated quarantine that has been imposed in over 50 years.

The flu-like symp-

toms of coronavirus can range from nonexistent to severe and life-threatening. The most common symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, which often escalate to upper-respiratory infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia. College is difficult enough without contracting a life-threatening illness. Stay safe from the coronavirus by practicing safe and healthy food and hygiene habits.

- Wash your hands often; use instant hand-sanitizers when this is inconvenient
- Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing; immediately wash your

hands

- Stay away from people who don't cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing; immediately wash your hands
- Avoid close contact with anyone exhibiting symptoms
- Seek medical care if you exhibit fever, cough, or difficulty breathing
- Avoid direct contact with animals, as well as surfaces in contact with animals
- Avoid contact with and consumption of raw or undercooked animal products

Explosion rocks west Houston

By Carlos Reyes

On Jan. 24, Houston was awakened by a loud explosion from a nearby building. The 4525 Gessner Road Building burst into flames due to a propylene gas explosion. The shock-wave of the explosion were not only felt throughout the immediate and surrounding areas, but [there were claims that it could be heard as far as Pasadena and Kingwood.] Damage inflicted nearby homes which are now left with hinge-less doors to shattered walls and baseboards.

Locals were urged to evacuate immediately as firefighters extinguished the flames. Within minutes, the explosion was shared all

over social media, eventually reaching local and national media. Fears of a terrorist attack emerged as hazardous chemicals continue to be submerged into the air.

The manufacturing company issued the following statement, "Our hearts go out to the families and businesses impacted by this incident and to our community. At this time, our immediate concern is the safety and well-being of everyone in the area and our employees." Houston Fire Chief, Samuel Pena, noted that it was caused by a leak from a 2,000-gallon tank of propylene. Temporary shelters were set up at 4703 Shadowdale

Drive, and at least 48 people whose homes were affected by the explosion were reported to have relocated there.

According to KTRK-TV, Chief of Police, Art Acevedo also asked for the public to consider offering help and donating to the families who were affected. "This is an area where it isn't the most affluent, so my thoughts are with all the individuals, whether they rent or own, that will be potentially displaced," Acevedo said.



Aftermath of the Explosion that rocked West Houston
Photo courtesy of ABC News

Houston Women March On 2020

By Aansa Usmani

On Jan. 25, Houston Women March On, hosted their annual gathering, voicing dissent at the Trump Administration and its policies.

Although the Houston version of Washington's Women's March is held at a later date nationwide protests were organized the previous week. The Houston Chapter wanted to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., pushing the march to the fourth Saturday

in January.

Attendees flashed signs with slogans like "Women want fun-damental rights," and "Who runs the world? Girls!" showing growing support for gender equality, whether it be legislatively, judicially, or locally.

Not only were women's rights on the agenda, but climate change, domestic violence, and other pertinent issues were at the forefront during the March. Attendees chanted phrases like,

"What do we want? Climate action! When do we want it? Now!" and, "Hey, hey! Ho, Ho! Gender violence has got to go!"

Individuals representing the Democratic political campaigns were also present, hoping to draw further support for their candidate, ahead of the Super Tuesday Primary (March 3). Additionally, some supporters had created signs favoring candidates and encouraging others to join. Voter registrars were also there, regis-

tering and answering questions about future elections.

One group that stood out was the Indian American Muslim Council, a group hoping to educate the public on Muslims under Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. They wish to educate the public about the legislative hatred, bigotry, and discrimination that targets Muslims. This discrimination is story that has unfortunately been retold since Partition. This group wants to bring

further awareness to the American People, hosting protests and town halls almost every weekend.

The Houston Women March On, is an example of democracy in action, exercising one's First Amendment right in voicing political dissent.

Quoting last year's article, "[The Women's March] is a unifying force in a divided country... together for one purpose, to demonstrate how democracy functions in a dys-

functional country." This liberty shows the importance of civil discourse, whether it be voting, protesting, or educating oneself on specific causes.

The current political era should not dissuade one from voicing their concern/dissent; it should motivate them to advocate further. Revoking this liberty would be detrimental to society, impeding progress that individuals had sacrificed their lives for a century ago.



Equality transcending genders at Houston Women March On / Aansa Usmani



Protestors show signs of support during Houston Women March On / Aansa Usmani



Young activists marching for equality on Sabire St. / Aansa Usmani

WOMEN RISING

UHD professor empowers students through kickboxing class

By Anthony Raul Ramirez

Antoinette Hagger has taught at UHD Sports and Fitness since 2014. She began her fitness journey in 1997. While attending step classes, she saw a motto that read “Have fun, get fit, get paid.” This encouraged Hagger to pursue a career in fitness. She began teach-

ing step classes in order to better understand the realm of fitness and get paid while doing so. Since then, she has over 20 years of experience in fitness.

Over the course of 20 years, she has instructed classes in kickboxing, bootcamp, aqua aerobics, Pilates,

and Les Mills workouts. Hagger has also led “SilverSneakers” classes, which focus on getting elderly citizens involved and excited about their health and fitness.

Hagger is well-known at UHD for her kickboxing classes. She knows that for her

students, the classes she teaches are not about simple physical accomplishments. Such classes act as milestones in their journey toward fitness and well-being. This type of student-teacher connection is what she likes most about teaching fitness classes.

Hagger says, “I really like connecting with the members and hearing about their goals and journeys. I love seeing smiles on their faces when they have perfected a certain move.”

Just as Hagger can make her students smile, they can do the same for her. She explains, “There were a few times... that I was really not into teaching, but when I had finished [the class], it was a different story. I felt so much better and realized that the members are there for me to inspire

or lift up, and that is when I had to come through no matter what was going on in my life.”

Hagger’s kickboxing classes are a fantastic representation of high-intensity interval training (HIIT) that anyone can begin on any day. Classes begin with basic moves. Students learn jabs, elbows, and kicks while holding light dumbbells. Then, as participants get more comfortable with the moves as the class continues, Hagger incorporates them into combinations with increasing speed.

More information on Hagger and her fitness classes is available at the Sports and Fitness Center.



A kickboxing class at UHD's Student Life Center / Photo courtesy of UHD Sports and Fitness Center

SGA swears in new members

By Indira Zaldivar

SGA’s executive board confirmed the addition of four officers and summarized past welcome week events, and future plans during the first general assembly of the Spring 2020 Semester.

On Jan. 22 at UHD’s White Oak Room, Chalsey Nelson and Samantha Mosley both ran for Senator At-Large positions and obtained their new seats at SGA.

Criminal justice student, Mosley hopes to, “Bring new faces, bring personality and innovative ways to get things done.”

Similarly, Nelson hopes to bring student involvement, “All I want is to get students engaged.”

Elena Martinez, an interdisciplinary studies major, now serves in the Department of Treasurer. Aameena Rasheed is the

new Director of Secretariat. The four officers were confirmed and sworn in by the executive board.

During the president’s Report Time, SGA President Shaendra “Shay” Tatum informed listeners that she has proposed solutions for textbook expenses. In her proposition, she hopes that faculty offers more flexibility to students who cannot afford the latest editions. Shatum expressed, “My proposal to the faculty senate is that they not change the book every semester.” She praised the faculty in the College of Public Service for using liable solutions such as using books that are free and accessible to UHD students. In the end, Shatum envisions that faculty, “Do not compromise students’ education because of a book.”

In addition, Tatum reported she had spoken with Michael Duncan Ph.D., UHD English professor and president of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, about letting students be part of the faculty selection.

“Making sure our student voices are heard, we would like the people who teach us to be relatable. We need to have a seat at the table either at the lecture portion or part of the hiring portion.”

Tatum also briefly discussed a program called Houston Guided Pathways to Success (G.P.S), a program that is designed to help high school students transition to higher education by helping save money, time, and stress. If students attend a 2-year college and wish to transfer to a 4-year university, G.P.S will help students with

their course credits and plan a degree or career plan uniquely for them.

In other news, SGA will be host-

ing events during the Spring 2020 semester, so be on the lookout for Black History month events, Know Your

Status, Breakfast of Champions, Know Your Rights, and Induction for New Members.



Swearing of the newly appointed Senators-At-Large Samantha Mosley (left) and Chalsey Nelson (right) Photo credit Indira Zaldivar

Did you know...?

Student's guide to getting UHD's buildings straight

By Sheryl Sellers

Now that the spring semester is in full swing, some clarification of acronyms used at UHD may be in order. Throughout the campus and in reading material, there are several names for the same building and the inconsistency can be confusing. The following may be helpful to students for easier navigation.

The Marilyn Davies College of Business (MDCOB) is also referred to as the Shea Street Building (SSB).

The title Shea Street Building appears above the Naylor Street Garage which is attached to the SSB. As a note, the building address is 320 North Main St., not Shea St.

Students attending a class in the MDCOB or SSB will find the outdated acronym SSB on the class schedule. The room number will begin with the letter "B" presumably

representing "Building" from the acronym.

As a nugget of history, prior to housing UHD, the OMB was originally the Merchants and Manufacturers Building (M&M Building). Built in 1930, the M&M Building was the largest building in Houston at the time.

OMB is situated above Allen's Landing where the Allen brothers originally settled and, the building is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior.

The "N" or "S" at the beginning of a room number on a class schedule indicates the north side or the south side of the OMB building.

Attached to the OMB is the Academic Building (ACAD) which includes the One Main Food Court, meeting

rooms and the Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium. Meeting rooms and the auditorium each have room numbers beginning with "A". Classrooms will be indicated as ACAD and begin on the fourth floor. Interestingly, in the late 1800s Anheuser Busch had their beer and ice distribution located near what is now the ACAD.

Also attached to the OMB and the ACAD is the Welcome Center and Visitor Parking. This section of the building is also referred to as the Girard Street Building (GSB). The O'Kane Gallery is located on the third floor of the GSB (UHD Welcome Center). Professional artists as well as university and high school students, have their work displayed in the O'Kane Gallery.

Admissions and the Testing Center are just two other offices located in the GSB. (Girard St.

is the thoroughfare off Travis St.)

The Jesse H. Jones Student Life Center (SLC) is also situated on Girard St.

The SLC comprises two gymnasiums, a fitness center with weight and cardiovascular equipment, showers and a studio for calendar activities such as yoga, Pilates, dance, etc. Massages are also offered at the SLC. The Science Learning Center uses the acronym SLC as well. Another UHD building listed in the National Register of Historic Places is the Willow Street Pump Station (WSPS). Initially constructed in 1902, the WSPS was the location of the

Allen brothers' first sawmill and in 1915 the structure was used as the city's crematorium. Later abandoned and nearly deteriorated, the WSPS was purchased by UHD in 2003 for \$2.2 million.

According to Houston Architecture, UHD turned the building into a community center, a greenhouse and a center for the study of urban ecology. Art classes are also held at the WSPS and are listed as such on a class schedule.

The UHD campus has grown since its inception as a university in 1974. The variety of names and acronyms for the same location keep the visitor and student in a constant state of learning while navigating around campus can be chaotic and sometimes confusing.

Traversing between classes calls for a bit of energy. A student may have a class in the SSB, then rush over to the CSB, back to the STB with a stop at GSB for a bite to eat then race on up to ACAD where OMB N or S can be reached as well.



UHD parking updates, here's what you need to know

By Sheila Ortega-Calvillo

There have been many updates to the UHD parking lots in the past couple months for both permit holding and paying students. Many students are still confused about where to park, which parking is for permit holders and which is metered. Below is a summary of changes and a visual guide to help you familiarize yourself with where to park this year.

Bayou Lot conversion includes 2 rows of metered parking and the remaining areas for student permit holders.

Additional parking spaces are available for are students at Daly Street Lot due to the re-surfacing and striping of the area where the Vaughn Construction trailers were located.

Daly Lot area highlighted in blue marks where construction manu

factured homes were parked in fall 2019.

Naylor Street lot was redesigned and re-surfaced over the winter break. Spaces have been

equally allocated to students, faculty and staff; along with five disabled parking spaces.

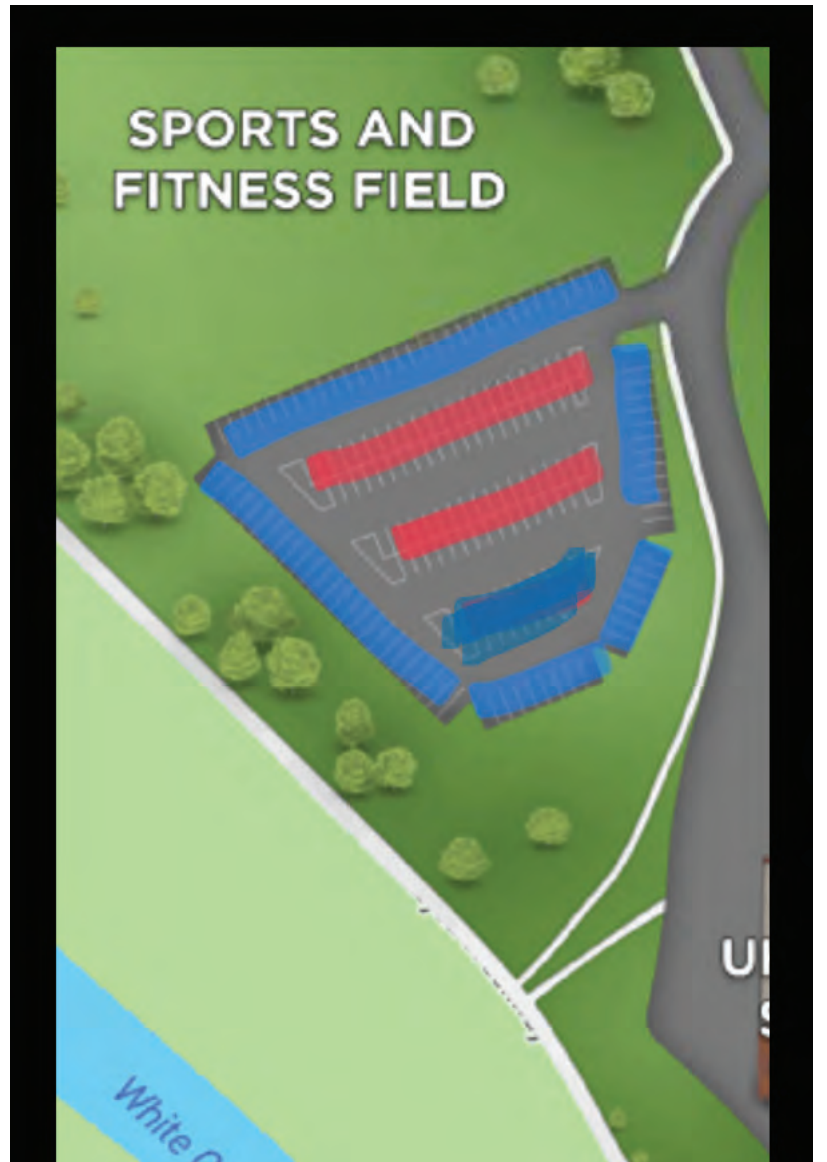
Map shows student parking in blue lettering and faculty/staff parking in yellow lettering. Blue arrows represent direction of traffic.

For more information on parking options, contact Parking and Transportation Services at

www.uhd.edu/parking or 713-221-8127.

As of January 2020:

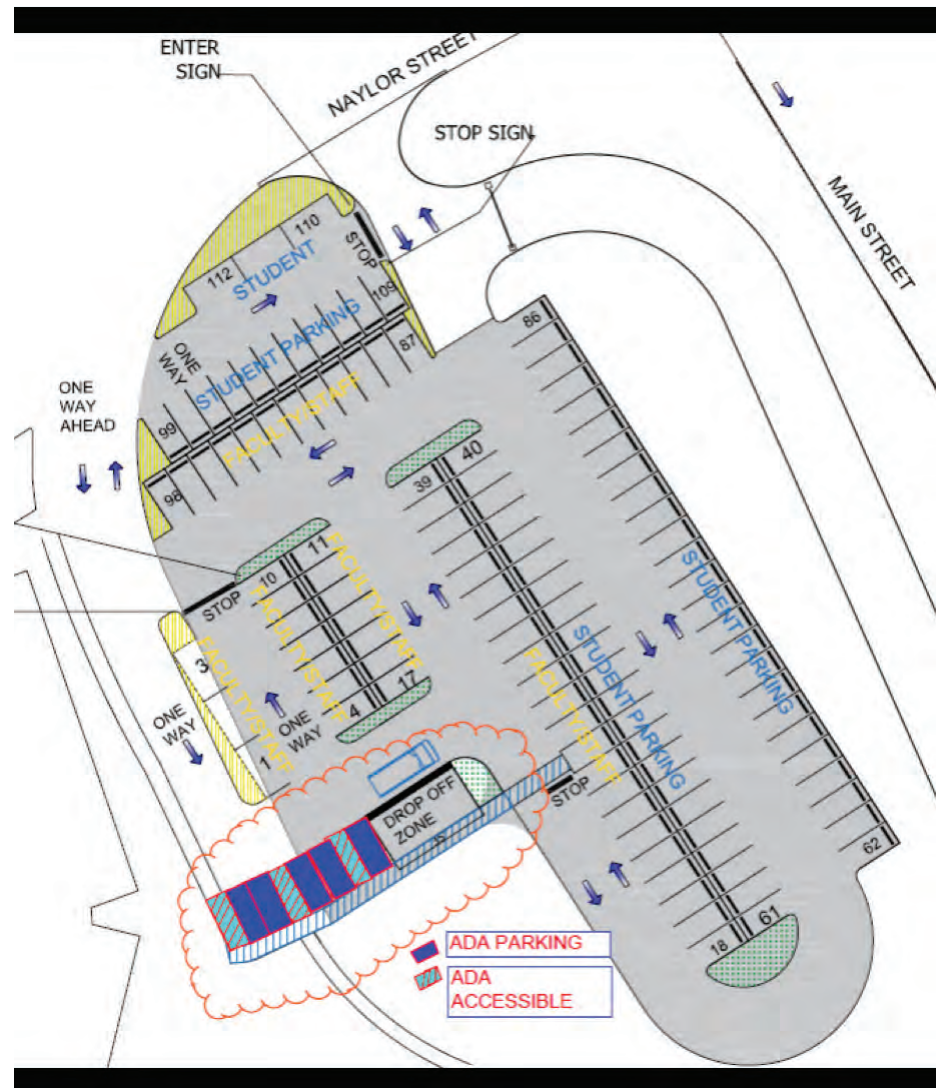
The Bayou Lot has been converted to a hybrid parking lot, available for UHD permit holders and metered parking as a daily pay option. Located between Sports and Fitness Field and Science and Technology Building.



SPORTS AND FITNESS LOT PHOTO courtesy of Interactive Campus Map on University of Houston- Downtown website



SPORTS AND FITNESS LOT PHOTO courtesy of Interactive Campus Map on University of Houston- Downtown website



NAYLOR LOT PHOTO courtesy of Parking & Transportation Services

Speed Painter paints cult favorite

By Laura Dunn

Houston based artist Harvey Dunn, of PaintJam, is not your typical painter. He performs masterfully crafted paintings live, to music, in five minutes or less. What is more, he does this upside down. Dunn travels from college to college, painting school mascots and pop culture icons.

Long time caricaturist and general doodler, the 23-year-old painter is relatively new to speed painting. He has been at it for less than a year, training under his father.

According to Dunn, he is just getting started and has made it his mission to bring what is current in life to the canvas.

The newest addition to his repertoire is Baby Yoda, officially known as "The Child." A new cult favorite from the Disney+ original series, "The Mandalorian." The little green creature has appeared across a number of social media feeds. Memes are having a heyday depicting the Baby Yoda character with objects ranging

from coffee mugs to steering wheels in the child's hands.

A huge "Star Wars" fan himself, Dunn stated that he chose Baby Yoda because he wanted to have some fun and bring a smile to people's faces. Dunn said, "I'm always on the look-out for what I want to paint next. I'm watching movies, listening to music artists, and reading books. You can definitely expect more like this from me."

Readers can find more of Dunn's work on Instagram and Twitter @paintjam-harvey. The full video for his Baby Yoda session is linked on his Facebook page, PaintJam Starring Harvey Dunn.



Harvey Dunn posing with finished Baby Yoda Painting
Photo courtesy of PaintJam

Ryan Reynolds confirms Deadpool 3 in development

By Anthony Raul Ramirez

In a recent interview on Live with Kelly and Ryan, Ryan Reynolds confirmed that Marvel Studios and the Deadpool team have been working on the latest installment of the series. The crimson superhero's future has been up in the air since Disney's purchase of 21st Century Fox in early 2019, subsequently cancelled the X-Force movie Deadpool 2 had previously set up.

With Deadpool comics and the past 2 movies being filled with dark humor, sex, blood, violence, and everything else found in a rock-and-roll musician's hotel room, people immediately speculated that Disney would put some serious censorship on the "Merc with a Mouth". However, last October in an interview with Entertainment Weekly, co-writer Paul Wernick confirmed that Disney will allow future

Deadpool movies to be R-rated in an interview.

What has not been discussed frequently in relation to this news is if Disney will continue casting Ryan Reynolds for the part of Deadpool. The actor has been seen as the perfect casting choice for Deadpool as far back as a joke made in a 2004 Deadpool comic.

This decision for keeping the same actor may bring up further discussion of actors from the Netflix Marvel television shows. The original stars from Daredevil, Punisher, Iron Fist, Luke Cage, and Jessica Jones shows may be able to reprise their roles once the comic characters can be used in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Based on a previous deal between Netflix and Marvel, the characters cannot be used for a certain amount of years. Now that Dis-

ney's Marvel will be able to add Deadpool, X-Force, The Defenders, Punisher, Fantastic Four, and the complete X-Men line-up, all that remains is to decide how each franchise will be introduced to the MCU. Some have suggested that Deadpool fill the role of Stan Lee in making cameo appearances for future movies.

Will it happen? There is no certain answer. But one thing is certain: Disney will be making a lot of money. Keep in mind that Deadpool and Deadpool 2 are the highest-grossing R-rated movies behind the recent Joker release. With all the hype around Deadpool finally taking his long-awaited steps into the MCU, we just might see a reclaiming of the R-rated throne.

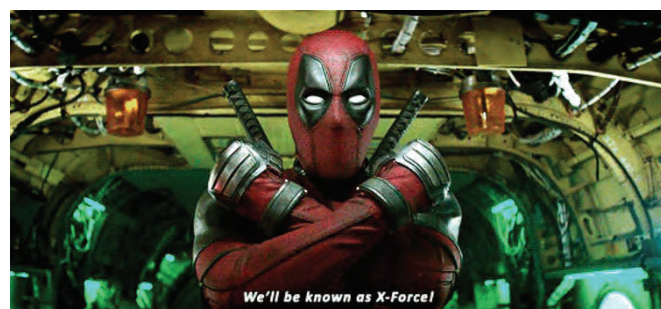
Alley Cat

By: Carlos Reyes

Both graphics by Carlos Reyes



A 2004 Deadpool comic joking about the resemblance between Deadpool comic character and Deadpool actor, Ryan Reynolds
Photo courtesy of Deadpool 2 film



Deadpool proclaiming his status as part of X-Force in Deadpool 2
Photo courtesy of Deadpool 2 film

Voodoo Doughnut brings spooky pastries to Houston

By: Carlos Reyes

Doughnut franchise, Voodoo Doughnut, located at 3715 Washington Ave., held their grand opening on Jan. 15, bringing with them a one of a kind pseudo-spooky experience that could be described as “unprecedented” for the people in the Buffalo Heights area of Houston.

Established in Portland, Oregon, founders Kenneth “Cat Daddy” Pogson

and Tres Shannon, sought to push the limits of what could be done within the doughnut business – through incredible hospitality and a love for show business, they managed to take an old hole-in-the-wall storefront and turn it into a multi-state franchise with national recognition.

The grand opening lived up to the online hype that surrounded it

on Facebook. The posts claiming the establishment’s lines were wrapped around the building were no exaggeration. To keep waiting customers occupied, as well as to generate even more excitement, some of the staff members stepped outside to hand out menus to the line of eager customers.

The menu includes all types of spooky and oddity themed doughnuts. From the appropriately-themed M&M doughnut entitled “Marshall Mathers,” to Voodoo Doll-themed doughnuts, to the iconic strawberry-flavored “Simpsons”

doughnut (appropriately named “The Homer”), and just about everything else in between.

Although the taste of the doughnuts is not as consistent in comparison to their contemporary counterparts such as Shipley’s and Krispy Kreme, Voodoo Doughnut offers more than just what is in the namesake.

The 24-hour doughnut shop offers not only doughnuts and merchandise, alongside quality customer service, but they also keep an ordained minister on the clock, in case a couple wants to get married. When this occurs, the store shuts down for a few minutes, the employees stop what they are doing, and partake in a legitimate wedding ceremony on the spot, before resuming busi-

ness as usual.

Whether you’re planning to get married or to sample some colorfully wild doughnuts, or both,

Voodoo Doughnut is a place that needs to be experienced firsthand.



Some of the extravagant doughnuts on Voodoo’s menu
Photo credit Carlos Reyes



Wedding ceremony spot inside Voodoo Doughnuts
/Carlos Reyes



Voodoo Doughnut Storefront
/Carlos Reyes

The New York Times Editorial Board calls it a tie

By Naomi Cardwell

The New York Times Editorial Board, which is of course, separate from the newsroom columnists, endorsed both Amy Klobuchar and Elizabeth Warren. This being the first time they endorsed two candidates.

Rather than interviewing candidates off-record with a series of rigorous questions and deciding and announcing their favored nominee, this time, they are taking the public alongside them for the journey. They since released full transcripts of their interviews and de-

scribed the decision-making process in a daily podcast, as well as announced the final choices on new TV series, “The Weekly.”

Many are furious with The Editorial Board’s decision to endorse both candidates. I get it. It’s frustrating. I felt it too. I wanted them to pick. If I have to pick, they should too! This frustration is understandable until you realize The Editorial Board’s reasoning for endorsing both Warren and Klobuchar.

“Both the radical and the realist models warrant

serious consideration. If there were ever a time to be open to new ideas, it is now. If there were ever a time to seek stability, now is it. That’s why we’re endorsing the most effective advocates for each approach,” announced The New York Times Editorial Board.

The lazy, quick critique that comes from many (overtly right-winged individuals) claims that The New York Times Editorial Board is playing with identity politics. They claim that the two candidates were only chosen because they

are both women. To those people I say, you are indeed, sexist.

Well, if they weren’t chosen based off their sex, why then were they chosen? Dare I say it? Fine. It was because of their detailed approaches to their individual policies.

Furthermore, there is no such thing as a perfect candidate. The New York Times Edito-

rial Board knows this and wanted to face the public with more options on how to approach the upcoming presidential election.

“Democrats must decide which of their two models would be most compelling for the American people and best suited for repairing

the republic,” states The New York Times Editorial Board.

The Editorial Board carefully chose two Democratic candidates, and in doing so, outlined legitimate inquiries about the democratic system. The Editorial Board explains, “Our elections are getting less free and fair; Congress and the Courts are increasingly partisan.”

So, what does the New York Times Editorial Board endorsement mean?

Oddly enough, that it’s time we choose.



Elizabeth Warren (left) sits with Amy Klobuchar
Photo courtesy of MPR News

Stealing takes on new meaning for Houston Astros

By Sheryl Sellers

The Astros stole 98 bases during the 2017 season alone plus three during the seven game World Series. But were bases all that they stole? No, according to the final report by MLB they determined that the Astros did in fact illegally steal pitching signals from the opposing team. For the uninformed, the MLB rule on sign stealing “prohibits sign stealing from any place other than a runner on second base.”

The MLB investigated allegations of sign stealing, disclosed by Mike Fiers, an Astros pitcher during the 2017 World Series. Fiers revealed that the Astros were using

technology during the World Series to steal signs from the Dodger’s catchers. Interestingly enough he was wearing the Astros uniform at the time, so it would seem he was tattling on himself, as well.

Fiers, admitted to having a “strained relationship with the Astros.” He told The Athletic, “That’s not playing the game the right way, they were advanced and willing to go above and beyond to win.” Remember, Fiers knew about the scheme and directly or indirectly went along with it. He is included in the “they.”

The MLB investigation found that the Astros used a center

field camera to film the signs, which were then fed to a monitor in the Astros dugout. A player would then send a signal to the batter via banging on a trash can.

Hitting a trash can with a bat? This sounds like something you would expect from a sandlot baseball game of grade schoolers, not a technique during a professional major league game.

As a Astros fan, and sometimes referred to by friends as “overly-positive,” it’s been difficult for me to believe that a team of adult leaders, living legends, as well as role models to young aspiring baseball players would devise such an outrageous plan to win games. Their season was already outstanding and their stats applaudable, so why endanger that record with an underhanded scheme? Were they incredibly unconfident?

To ward off future use of technology to steal signs, MLB has drafted a document to revise this rule. Well, there goes the trash can.

Let’s dispose of this.

The MLB fined the Astros \$5 million and dealt one-year suspensions to General Manager Jeff Luhnow and Astros Manager AJ Hinch. But here’s the homerun, Astros owner, Jim Crane, went a step further and fired both men.

Whether Luhnow and Hinch knew of the plan or not, they were responsible for the actions of the players. It was revealed that they did have some knowledge and did not step in. What happened to integrity and good ethics? The players make up the playing field and the team, but

the management directs the team’s integrity and overall character.

As for player’s reactions, at the Jan. 18 Fan Fest, Jose Altuve commented, “It’s a tough situation and as a team. We have to stay together and go through this as a team like we’ve been doing, always. We have to talk about it at spring training, and try not to let things in the past distract us for next year.”

Alex Bregman, the only other Astro appearing at the Fan Fest was even less upfront about the controversy. He stated, “The commissioner made his report,

made his decision, and the Astros made their decision, and I have no further comment on it.”

I do not think it possible for either of them to say less and still speak.

Crazy, desperate or creative – either way, the Astros’ name is tarnished, but for how long remains to be seen.

For this fan, disappointment is running deep.

“Steal a base, steal a taco” Taco Bell’s advertisement states. Unfortunately for the city of Houston, and the Astros it is more like “Steal a sign, lose a reputation.”



Jose Altuve / Photo courtesy of USA Today



Houston Astros after “winning” the 2017 World Series, / Photo courtesy of USA Today

Recent Microsoft update gives students an Edge

By Jaida Doll

In late Jan. 2020, Microsoft released version 44.11.15 of the Microsoft Edge mobile app. Though the newly designed menu included in the update improves mobile navigation, the newly designed logo was simply alarming.

Far more satisfactory than Edge’s new custom logo, is the customizable menu Edge introduces in new update. With this new menu, users can rearrange widgets within their customizable menu to better utilize the app’s features. The best of these features include widgets which allow users easily add

pages to their favorites, transfer browsing from mobile to PC, and search (Ctrl+F) within a page.

If Edge’s mobile features are not evidence of its superiority among browsers, take its PC features into consideration. Edge can set tabs aside for later viewing, perfect for the busy student with too many tabs open. Users can also view a preview of all open tabs to easily locate the needed. Furthermore, there is a dark mode feature as well as a floating video feature for easy multi-tasking. There’s even an AdBlocking feature

which supposedly speeds up the browser, according to an article on AdAge.com.

With synced data and linked browsing across all your devices, Microsoft Edge is seemingly tailored to college students and their needs. Yet the most important feature of Microsoft Edge is its PDF annotation program. This allows the user to highlight, annotate, and hand-write

notes on PDF files. These can be shared or printed, easing the difficulties of studying with e-books and electronic texts. Though the PDF annotation is beneficial, the program lacks the ability to leave typed, sticky notes in addition to hand-written ones. Insert Photo

If you’re still weary of abandoning your current browser to enjoy the features of Edge, I understand.

Switching browsers is overwhelming – none of your favorites are set, none of your passwords saved, none of your information automatically recalled. But Edge makes the transition easy with the ability to import all of your passwords and information from your old browser to your new and improved browser.

If loyalty is your problem, I also understand. I was a hardcore Google Chrome fan for the longest. Because Google is... well Google. And who is anyone these days without Google?

But then I discovered Microsoft Edge. Which I quickly came to realize is the Ultimate Browser. Not only do their endless features provide everything you could want in a browser and more, they are also using their platform to fight fake news.

With the feature originally introduced in 2018, Microsoft partnered with NewsGuard to diminish the spread of fake news by assessing and warning readers of the credibility of the content and site. It does so by displaying a site rating near the browser bar.



Photo courtesy of prabidhi.info/

The dangers of student loan debt and how to fight it

By Anthony Raul Ramirez

A recent article by TIME Magazine stated that more than 44 million Americans deal with student loan debt, totaling over \$1.5 trillion. This is a major incline as compared to the most obvious reason for this incline in student loan debt is that tuition is too expensive for the students to pay at that time. Tuition often increases when the school decides to improve or expand campus the campus; an expansion of campus likely means an expansion of the courses offered on campus, which results in even more tuition increases as the school must pay more professors to teach more courses.

Even student loans can increase tuition. When a student takes out a loan, they are borrowing money from the government to pay off tuition. At that point, the student no longer pays tuition to the school, they pay loan debt to the government. The school sees that tuition has been received, regardless of whether that tuition was received

from the government through student loans or paid directly by the student. When the university sees that tuition is being paid, regardless of how, it is much more likely to increase tuition in hopes of improving the university in some way.

Although student debt is on the rise, there are options available to students to help alleviate this debt. The first option students utilize is one we have all heard since high school: fill out your FAFSA. An article posted by Forbes revealed that, according to NerdWallet, roughly \$2.6 billion were unclaimed by high school graduates for 2018-2019, averaging roughly \$4,000 per student. The same article goes on to state that over one-third of high school graduates during that time did not even fill out their FAFSA forms to receive student aid. To put this in perspective, the College Board website estimates the average 4 year university's yearly tuition for an associate's degree at

\$3,700. This means that one-third of high school graduates missed an opportunity to pay off an average year of tuition using student aid money, as

In order to pay off loans, most students begin working full or part time jobs while in addition to their coursework. Perhaps the best option, in this case, is to take a work-study job on campus. Work-study is a program designed to allow students to make a decent amount of money while waiting for their next class. UHD has a vast majority of these jobs, including secretarial or supervising positions at Sports & Fitness, tutoring positions at the College of Business or Math and Statistics Center, or positions in admissions and enrollment at UHD Registrar's Office. Don't overload yourself, but take enough courses each semester to meet the work-study requirements. Then spend as much time as you can at your work-study job, and use your earnings to pay off tuition the following semester.

Another suggestion to alleviate student debt is to work and save. This is not a race; the same courses are taught every year. Students can take time away from courses to focus on saving money to pay for those courses.

This way, students can pay in full, rather than paying the cost as well as additional interest. If the student has not previously worked before, this is also a good opportunity to gain work experience. Employees with work experience as well as a degree are more likely to be hired than those with only a degree. Some companies also offer scholarships exclusive to their workers, resulting in a much smaller competition pool for obtaining the scholarship.

This is another way to alleviate debt – scholarships! Apply for as many as possible (from trusted websites) before and during semesters. Debt.org estimates that \$46 billion are awarded in grants

and scholarships every year. Because of due dates, some scholarships for universities receive a small amount of applicants.

For example, when I was pursuing my undergraduate degree in creative writing at UHD, one of the English professors explained that many scholarships at this very campus remain unclaimed because no students apply for them. I applied to one with a mid-semester deadline, and received \$1,000 toward my tuition. I originally never applied to scholarships because I assumed that my odds of winning were slim as so many people apply. This same ideology is harbored in many students, thus creating a sce

nario where no one is applying because they think everyone is applying to these scholarships.

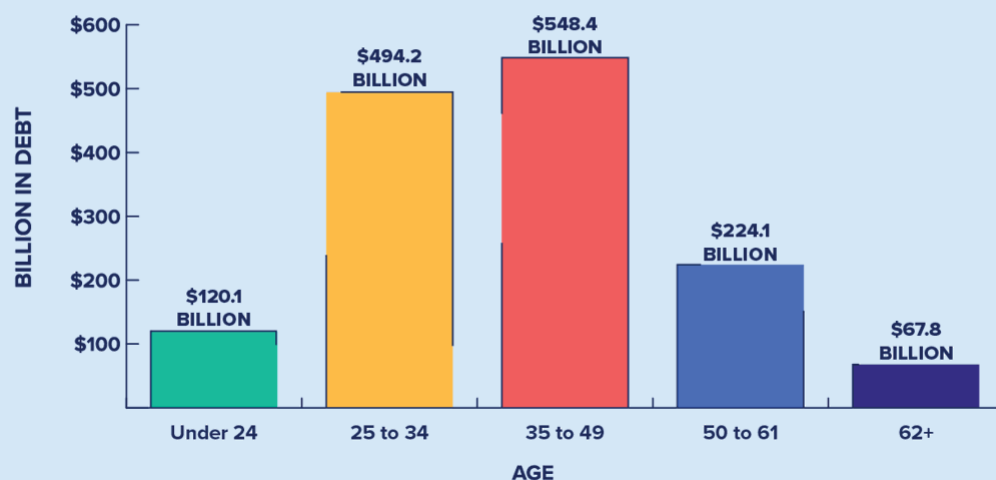
I strongly suggest for students to use as many of these options as possible and break the habit of student loans. When I began college in 2016, I immediately took a job at UHD's Sports & Fitness, applied for scholarships, and carefully chose my courses to get on the fastest route in obtaining my degree. Three years later, I am currently in a master's program for technical communication, received multiple scholarships and grants available at UHD, used my work experience to obtain jobs at other gym facilities, and am debt-free.



Photo courtesy of thebalance.com

2019 TOTAL STUDENT LOAN DEBT BY AGE

Borrowers between 35 and 49 years old have the most outstanding student debt.



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Photos by Yessenia Rincon