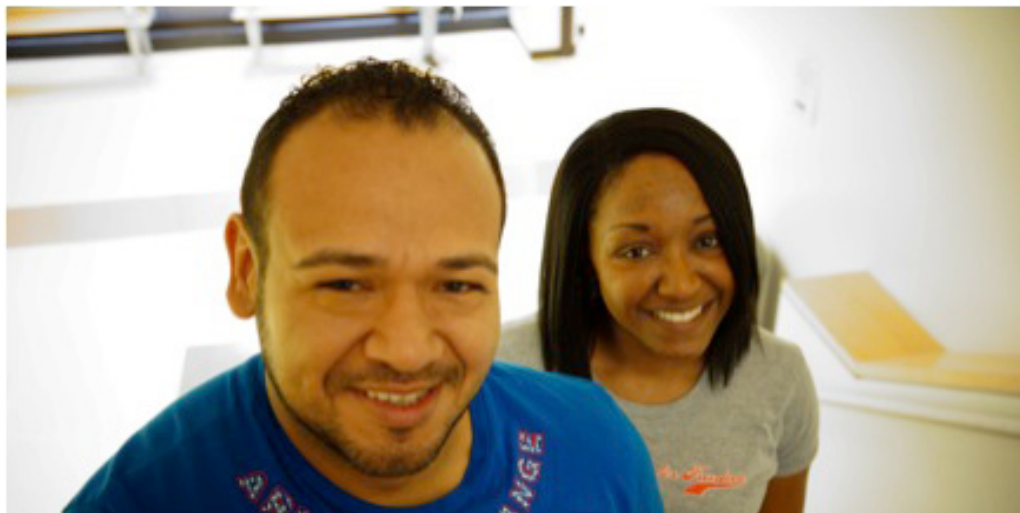


#UHD HATES ME, GRADUATING CLASS JOINS RANKS TO GET COMMENCEMENT DATE CHANGED



by Darci McFerran
 Staff Reporter

The 2015 Commencement ceremonies were changed to Saturday May 23rd ...then changed back. On March 9, 2015 the Registrars office sent out an email to seniors that informed them of a last minute change in the date for the ceremonies, from Saturday May 23 to Friday May 22. The email stated vaguely that, "It is anticipated that this change can better accommodate graduation candidates and their guests in their celebration of the Memorial Day holiday." This was not the first change in date but what made it so difficult for students to accept was that it came so late in the semester that many would lose money on invitations and travel reservations. Starting with a few online posts that questioned the changes, the inquiry gained momentum as many students realized that the decision did not seem to reflect what the senior class wanted. Using the hashtag UH-DHatesMe the social media campaign was able to give them a forum to vent their frustration with the administrations upsetting decision.

Within 24 hours of the initial email, an emergency town hall meeting was organized to give Provost Ed Hugetz an opportunity to explain and answer questions, as well as give students the opportunity to voice their concerns. Provost Hugetz is an administrator working in the Presidents office and responsible for the overall academic direction of the university. At the town hall meeting, which was held on March 12th, the overwhelming majority of students in attendance voiced their displeasure with the last minute decision to change the date, and some even expressed sincere emotional distress. The fact that school administration could not support their claims and had only polled ten students out of approximately 1,000, angered many seniors. Some even felt that Provost Hugetz was unsympathetic to their concerns, which fueled an already emotional student body. Tarah Taylor, SGA Attorney General, stated, "Last night I saw a Provost Hugetz that I have never seen before; very callus, not understanding, and very inconsiderate of the students and their families." Considering that this seemed out of character for Provost Hugetz I questioned him about his demeanor during

our interview, "The miscalculation from the first change affected my behavior at the town hall meeting because I wanted to avoid further backlash from another ill informed change."

Despite the concerns that students were raising, administration still refused to change back the date unless they could provide solid evidence to support their claims. In response, the 2015 senior class rallied together in a campaign to show the administration that the students wanted to keep the original date, by a majority. Tarah Taylor and Ever Flores, SGA College of Business Senator, were instrumental in organizing first a petition and later a survey that polled students on which date was better for them. In both cases,

Flores and Taylor felt that administration was unreasonably rigid in their requirements considering that they could provide no evidence themselves. Surprisingly, there is no protocol for situations such as this and when I questioned Provost Hugetz he stated that, "We (administration) thought that we had a good enough sense of what students and faculty wanted regarding the Commencement date from a large quantity of one on one meetings that occur daily with the Provost and President. Ultimately, it was the feedback that affected the decision with both date changes."

The survey showed that the overwhelming majority of seniors did in fact want the date to go back to May 23. Of the 338 participants 285 (75%) wanted to change the date back to Saturday and only 53 (14%) wanted to leave it for Friday. The Provost repudates these numbers because his office could only verify that 282 were registered seniors. However, both sides agree that this number is far more representative of the graduating class than the original ten polled by administration. Still the administration would not budge and students began to harbor feelings of distrust and resentment. Flores and Taylor felt like their voices were not being heard so they began using their resources to contact the media. Multiple news outlets did hear their voice and responded quickly to their stories, in fact, all major news stations covered their story.

Considering both the results of the survey and media attention, school administration ultimately did the right thing. They changed the date back to Saturday May 23! "I am honored to be a part of a class that was not afraid to voice their opinions and concerns on the matter. Way to go Class of 2015 we could not have been able to do it with out you. Go Gators," proclaimed a victorious Flores! A shining example of what can be done when people come together for a cause despite odds and hurdles! All of the hard work that each student endures culminates in one day that we can share; the moment when our family gathers to watch us walk across that stage and hear our name. Congratulations faculty and administration on preparing your students to take on the world!



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Dr. ANTHONY CHIAVIELLO

DATELINE.EDITOR@YAHOO.COM 713.221.8275

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Submissions should be no more than 300 words, include the author's full name, phone number or email address, and affiliation with the University, including classification and major.

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HELP WANTED: SALES AND BUSINESS MANAGER FOR UHD'S DATELINE: DOWNTOWN STUDENT NEWSPAPER & WEBSITE 2015-16 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Student Publications Advisory Committee at the University of Houston-Downtown is seeking applicants for the position of business and sales manager for Dateline: Downtown, the student-run bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Flexible beginning date, but candidates are expected to commit for the entire 2015-2016 academic year. The primary focus of this job is advertising sales. Additional duties include bookkeeping and handling all support functions not part of the editorial operation. The successful candidate will have a strong orientation toward personal selling and developing advertising revenue to permit the growth of the paper as well as effective budgeting and management skills. Duties include managing business and financial matters for the paper, in cooperation with the student editor and adviser, and expanding the sales of advertising space in the paper, including to businesses in the campus neighborhoods of NoDo and Washington St. Successful candidate will train on PeopleSoft accounting system for payroll and accounts. Qualifications include at least sophomore standing, at least one semester at UHD, successful completion of basic business courses, and the maintenance of at least a 2.5 GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until the position is filled; interviews start in April 2015. To apply, download an application at <http://www.uhd.edu/dateline/> and forward with letter detailing qualifications and resume via email to Dateline adviser, Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiaviello@uhd.edu.

HELP WANTED: PRINT & WEB EDITOR FOR UHD'S DATELINE: DOWNTOWN STUDENT NEWSPAPER FOR 2015-16 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Student Publications Advisory Committee at the University of Houston-Downtown is seeking applicants for the position of editor for Dateline: Downtown, the student-run, bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. This position begins after the spring, 2015, semester, to prepare an edition for the beginning of the Fall 2015 semester. Eligible candidates are expected to commit to the job for the entire 2015-16 academic year. Duties include working cooperatively with student business manager and faculty adviser, developing and managing a stable of day and evening student freelance writers to cover news and events on campus and in the campus neighborhood. Successful candidate will be well-versed in the use of Adobe InDesign page-making software and have the skills to post the newspaper and articles online and to maintain the Dateline: Downtown web site. The paper needs stories written both in advance of -- and as follow-up to -- events of interest to students, including student activities and organizations, academics, athletics and lifestyle, university administration, and student government, as well as cultural coverage of activities in the theatre, film, music, sports, and arts communities, particularly as these are of interest to UHD students. Qualifications include at least sophomore standing, at least one semester in residence at UHD, successful completion of basic writing and communications courses, and a current 3.0 cumulative GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until the position is filled; interviews start in April, 2015. To apply, download an application at <http://www.uhd.edu/dateline/> and forward with writing samples via email to Dateline adviser, Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiaviello@uhd.edu.

TEXAS' COLLEGE CAMPUSES MAY SOON BE ARMED

by Elisa Gonzalez
Staff Reporter

Amid rising contention, Texas is closer than ever to allowing guns on college campuses.

Texas Senate Bill 11, also known as Campus Carry, is not a new proposal; the state's gun-friendly population has rallied for the right to have licensed concealed guns on campus grounds since the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting. In the current legislative session, however, SB 11 met with slackened opposition after a change in senate voting procedure reduced the number of votes necessary to pass a bill from 21 to 19. Furthering Campus Carry's newfound potential is freshly appointed Governor Greg Abbott, whose official website promises he "will continue to fight any federal government overreach that aims to disrupt the 2nd Amendment rights of law-abiding Texans."

Proponents of the bill cite the need for defense against crime in time-sensitive matters like campus shootings, employing the pro-gun motto, "When seconds count, the police are just minutes away." Ultimately, supporters argue that not allowing licensed gun owners the right to bear arms on campus only renders these law-abiding citizens defenseless against violent criminals who will readily disregard the law.

Despite the state's general penchant

for firearms, there has been a surge in opposition to the bill. In addition to state police departments being overwhelmingly against it, several prominent Texas universities have expressed their disinterest in allowing guns on campus. Among others, University of Houston, University of Texas, and Texas Tech University, have all officially renounced the Campus Carry proposal. In a letter to Texas senators, UT's Chancellor and retired Navy admiral William McRaven reportedly advised "There is great concern that the presence of handguns, even if limited to licensed individuals age 21 or older, will lead to an increase in both accidental shootings and self-inflicted wounds." Opponents of SB 11 argue that college campuses are notoriously prone to alcohol abuse and, therefore, irresponsible behavior. They are also high stress environments, and suicide happens to be the third leading cause of death among people aged 15-24. As a result, permitting handguns on campus not only increases the potential for tragedy, it introduces new threats of injury from the reckless handling of firearms. Schools like University of Houston have also referenced the steep costs of the gun storage facilities and training required to properly introduce the carry of handguns within their institutions.

Nationally, Campus Carry has only

been approved by eight states. Of those states, Arkansas, Oregon, Kansas, and Wisconsin whose laws allow schools to "opt out" of its obligations annually, have had every one of their schools opt out for each year their pro-gun laws have been in effect.

Because the legal age to apply for a concealed handgun license is 21, both sides of the debate have acknowledged that the majority of college students would not even be eligible to own guns, an observation that seems irrelevant to UHD and similar universities where student bodies are largely atypical in age and background. UHD has more students eligible for concealed handgun licenses than average universities and will be more readily impacted should SB 11 become law. The UHD Faculty Senate's official statement concludes that they, "oppose any legislation or initiatives that will overturn the present prohibitions on carrying firearms on the UHD campus."

The current legislative session concludes in May and a final vote on the campus gun proposal is expected before then. Whatever the outcome, the majority of Texas colleges seem to agree with Houston Democrat Rodney Ellis who said "We should invest in arming our students with a 21st Century education, not arming them with handguns."

FOR NIGERIA, A QUANTUM LEAP FORWARD

by Terrance Turner
Staff Reporter

On March 31st, former military leader Muhammadu Buhari won Nigeria's presidential election. He garnered roughly 55% of the vote to defeat the incumbent, the ironically named President Goodluck Jonathan. The election was one of the most competitive in the country's history, according to The New York Times. Jonathan had been in power since 1999, but in recent months his reign had been marred by economic downturns, allegations of government corruption, and the ravages of Islamic extremist terror group Boko Haram. The Times cited a UN official who said that the group had killed 7300 civilians in northern Nigeria since the start of 2014 alone.

Nigeria, which CNN says is the largest economy and most populous country in Africa, is also democratic. The transfer of power was relatively peaceful in an election which, in many ways, resembled those in the United States.

The New Yorker reported that a voter accreditation system that all voters had to pass through before casting ballots, resulted in "oppressively long lines, forcing the polls to stay open another

day." The new electronic voter card readers didn't work, a familiar problem in U.S. elections. (Technological failures are particularly acute for those who live in Florida.)

Most intriguingly, citizens kept up with the election results by watching their television sets and listening to radio, much the same way that Americans would. Some Nigerians even tweeted, using #BabaNowThatYouAreHere to convey instructions for the president-elect.

U.S. relations with Nigeria had been chilly in recent months. NBC News revealed in November that the U.S. felt the latter country was not doing enough to counter Boko Haram. The latter country, for its part, accused America of not selling them the arms they needed to fight Boko Haram. The strained relationship also extended to business. Nigeria, a country largely dependent on its oil reserves, suffered a drastic drop in production for the States – the NBC article alleges that for six summer weeks, no oil was imported at all.

But fortunes may change under the new administration. Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement: "The United States congratulates the people of Nigeria and the Nigerian government on historic and largely peaceful elections... The United States reiterates its commitment to working with the newly elected government that emerges," he said.

Perhaps there is hope for these two countries, which are more alike than they may seem.

CROWDED HOUSTON MAYOR'S RACE IS HEATING UP

By GeRoyal D. Jackson

As Mayor Annise Parker winds down her sixth year in office, and her third term as Mayor of America's most diverse and fourth largest city, the race to become her successor, is gaining momentum.

With one independent candidate, two Republicans and three Democrats having made the public declaration to run, the mayoral race is already packed with candidates and still brimming with speculation that a couple other high profile local figures to announce soon, as well.

The lone independent candidate in the race is businessman, Bill King who announced his candidacy on a pothole ridden street in west Houston to highlight the condition of the city's roads. King, an attorney and former mayor of waterfront community, Kemah, promised that if elected he will reform the city's public pension system.

On the Republican side, At-Large City Council Member, Stephen Costello joined the mayoral race in early March. In making the announcement for his candidacy, Costello positioned himself as a "no nonsense politician" who would use his background as an engineer to tackle the city's problems. Oliver Pennington, also a Republican has also formally declared his candidacy for Houston mayor. Pennington's Mayoral website is sparse on the candidate's platform or plans for the city. However, one of the main posts on his campaign site is an editorial by Pennington championing fiscal responsibility. The field on the Democratic side is a lot more crowded and full of a few familiar names.

Private equity executive, Marty McVey, is probably the least known candidate in the race, however he comes into the race after years of working behind the scenes with Democratic party locally and nationally. In an interview with KPRC, McVey noted that although he's a relative newcomer, he still has plenty to offer as mayor. "I am new to this field but there's no school that you go to become mayor. I'm determined to give back to the city and I think I'm the most qualified for that."



Former City Councilman and former Democratic Congressman, Democrat Chris Bell, became the first candidate in the mayoral race with his January announcement. Bell has promised to reform the city's infrastructure, and in direct contrast to Pennington disagrees with reforming the city public pension by breaking standing commitments to current city employees. Former city attorney Ben Hall, a Democrat, was Mayor Parker's main competitor in the 2013 Houston mayoral race has formally declared that he will run for Mayor for a second consecutive time. Hall began his campaign with ads running in November 2014, a full year before voters go to the polls.

Rounding out the declared Democrats is State Representative Sylvester Turner, who kicked off his campaign March 28th, at Minute Maid Park. Turner's campaign, his third attempt at the mayor's office, plans to highlight a "Road to the Future Initiative."

Turner's candidacy has already caused heat within the race when he secured the endorsement of the Houston's police and firefighter unions, seven months before the election raising questions of the fairness of the endorsements.

Last but not least, Harris County Sheriff and former city councilman Adrian Garcia is expected to announce his candidacy as a Democrat, in the next couple of weeks.

WHY EVERYONE IS ANGRY WITH THE NEW INDIANA LAW

By
Terrance Turner, JhaRe' Scott
Staff Reporter

On March 26, Indiana governor Mike Pence tweeted that he had signed into law Senate Bill 101, a bill ostensibly in support of religious freedom. The result was national outrage. Celebrities, citizens, and even CEOs offered messages of disapproval.

SB 101, according to the Indiana General Assembly website, states in Section 8 that "a governmental entity may not burden a person's exercise of religion, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability." Section 9 says that "a person whose exercise of religion has been substantially burdened" may use the law as a defense in court.

Section 7 defines the word "person" as not just an individual human being, but also "a religious society, a church, a body of communicants, or a group operated and organized primarily for religious purposes." It expanded the definition even further to include "a limited liability company, a corporation, a company, a firm" or any business affected by the religious beliefs of its owners.

According to the law, churches, corporations, and companies are now people. The reaction to this pronouncement was unpleasant, to say the least. Opponents of the bill said it could be used as a pretext to discriminate against LGBT people, among others. By March 28th, the Indianapolis Star reported that several thousand demonstrators had rallied in support of the bill at the Indiana Statehouse.

On March 30, USA Today revealed that over 200,000 people had used the hashtag #BoycottIndiana on Twitter. Apple CEO Tim Cook tweeted that he was "deeply disappointed" in the law, and talk show host Larry King fired off a post calling it "absurd and insulting". By that point, the mayors of both Seattle and San Francisco had suspended all city-funded travel to the state. Bill Oesterle, the founder of website "Angie's List", halted plans for a \$40 million expansion of its headquarters in Indiana.

On April 2, The New York Times said that a measure to revise the law had passed both the Senate and the House. Gov. Pence signed the measure into law. Whether those changes will quell the roar of dissent remains to be seen.

TED CRUZ IS OFFICIALLY RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT

by Miguel Nunez
Staff Reporter

Texas Senator Ted Cruz announced his candidacy for president on Monday, March 23 at the largest Christian university in the world, Liberty University. He gave a speech to a full crowd and talked about what he values both as a Christian and as a man running for president. In the speech he focused on subjects like the importance of liberty, freedom, and a little bit of his life growing up.

Standing in front of a crowd of about 10,000 Liberty University students Cruz started his speech talking about his family and his history. How his father joined the revolution in Cuba at the age of seventeen and was caught and subsequently captured and subjected to torture. One year later Cruz's father went to America, where according to Cruz he eventually achieved the American Dream. Along the way his father also discovered Christianity, which even today drives his father in all that he does. Throughout this whole story talking about his father and his youth Senator Cruz was trying to get one point across. It is that Christianity and all that it teaches are a critical component of both his youth, his family culture, and who he now is as a man and what he values.

It should surprise no one then that Senator Cruz's speech at Liberty University was infused with Christianity and God given rights. Now that Senator Cruz has made it official that he is running for President he needs to start defining himself as a candidate and he knows who his potential supporters could be. The Evangelical Christians represent a large number of the voting populace, and Ted Cruz wants that demographic to be on his side.

Senator Cruz believes that by running on a platform of less government and less regulation coupled with a

Christian foundation will ultimately lead to Evangelicals seeing him as a potential president. This way of thinking in Mr. Cruz's mind will also lead to greater job growth, and a booming economy something he believes the Obama administration has failed to do. So it is a win win for him.

In his speech Senator Cruz said,



"And yet, for so many Americans, the promise of America seems more and more distant. What is the promise of America? The idea that -- the revolutionary idea that this country was founded upon, which is that our rights don't come from man. They come from God Almighty." The American promise was a main focus of Cruz's speech. From all that he is saying Mr. Cruz is making it clear to the Evangelical voter that a vote in his direction is a vote for good Christian values.

Though it must be said that not all people who attended the speech given by Cruz were there as supporters or by choice. Joseph McGowen, a Republican who attended the speech given by Mr. Cruz, posted the following on his Facebook, "Should the general public be unaware that all students are required to attend convocation, it would seem to the average viewer ... that 10,000 supporters came to Liberty University to hear Sen. Cruz's announcement. However, every student in attendance has no say in the

matter. Students will either attend convocation and lend to the illusion of widespread support for Sen. Cruz, or they will be subject to administrative punishment."

Ted Cruz also talked about Obamacare and how he perceives the law as a complete and utter failure, but Ted Cruz would be wrong on that. According to Gallup, Obamacare by most measures is a huge success. About 30 million people now have health insurance through Obamacare, the rate of uninsured adults has dropped to 12.3%, and because of Obamacare people with pre-existing conditions can now get health insurance, something they could not have done before. By any reasonable measure Obamacare had been a success. So one is left wondering by what measure has Obamacare been an utter failure in Ted Cruz's eyes?

Ted Cruz also mentioned abortion and gay marriage both of which he is against. He even went against the IRS and said that as president he would abolish the IRS. He also mentioned a flat tax rate for everyone, and made the point that in his presidency everyone would file their taxes on a postcard. He concluded his speech with the idea that it was time to reclaim the country and that it was time to stand for liberty.

"This is our fight. The answer will not come from Washington. It will come only from the men and women across this country, from men and women, from people of faith, from lovers of liberty, from people who respect the Constitution."

There is much that could happen from here all the way to the elections but one thing is clear. In Ted Cruz's platform there will be a strong message of Christianity and all that it represents which in Ted Cruz's mind goes hand in hand with The Constitution and liberty.

ATTENTION: AUTHOR PETER S. BEAGLE TO VISIT UHD CAMPUS

By Karen Reyes, JhaRe' Scott
Staff Reporter

In just a few days UHD SGA in collaboration with the Final Twist Writers Society will do the honors of presenting international bestselling sci-fi and fantasy author Peter S. Beagle, here on campus. A chance book lovers can not miss, to meet the famous writer.

Peter S. Beagle is an American author of novels, nonfiction and screenplays. His most well-known book being "The Last Unicorn" published in 1968. The book follows the story of a unicorn, who presumes she is the last of her kind on the world and initiates a journey to find what has happened to

the others. Since the book's original publication, "The Last Unicorn" has sold more than five millions copies worldwide and has been translated into more than 20 languages.

At the event, the audience will hear a presentation by the author, view the film and have the chance to meet the author one on one while having the privilege to get a book sign by Beagle.

The hosting will take place on Friday, April 17, at 2:30 p.m. in the Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium. Admission is completely free but seats are limited. For ticket information contact English Professor Leif Behmer at behmerle@uhd.edu and tickets are available on the events face book page.

EMPOWERED: THE SECOND TERM OF JOHN LOCKE

by Chris Schmoll
Staff Reporter

Ernest Hemingway said, "I have learned a great deal from listening carefully. Most people never listen." When I asked John Locke what qualities give a leader his power, he simply responded "the ability to listen and the ability to honestly self reflect." We discussed his accomplishments during his first term as president of the Student Government Association. The list was extensive. However, immediately before listing any triumph, he stated, "it's not a one man show... ever."

Among his, and his teams, achievements include the Texas Student Association. As an "underdog" school, University of Houston Downtown led the way with the TSA. It is a conference in Austin at which leaders from public Texas universities are united. They are able to speak with policy makers and give students proper representation.

If you recall seeing Bun B on campus, it was because Locke and the SGA extended the "Walk to Vote" event from 2012 to 2014. It beat the record of students marching to vote at once and this performance was astonishingly achieved in an off-election year.

The average age of a UHD student is about 26. With this higher age comes more students with families. Locke's administration is working to have a daycare implemented at the university in the fall. Locke hopes this will alleviate much pressure for those trying to balance family life and schoolwork.

Of course, an article cannot be written about John Locke without mentioning the graduation date reversal. We all know the controversy surrounding the decision to change the date when students would walk across the stage at Minute Maid Park and receive their diplomas. Locke said he saw how empowered the student body became when their voices were heard and graduation was returned to its

original date. Locke is now running for an unprecedented second term. In order to be named victor he will attempt to collect 200 signatures from students. He must also choose a vice president. Once the signatures are approved, he relentlessly campaigns... campaigns... and campaigns some more.

Locke has chosen Weston Gameson to be his vice president, the same person he ran with during his first term. A veteran himself, Gameson has worked extensively with Veteran's Affairs trying to "close the gap" in the amount of time veterans receive their federal aid. He is also working on a sustainability initiative, also known as a "green" initiative. This is a plan to put UHD on sustainable practices.

With all the accomplishments Locke could hang his hat on, he is prepared, like a boxer in the ring, waiting for his next challenge. The first focus of his possible second term will be recruitment for SGA. He wants more students involved with the university and "representing the student voice." To all those wanting to join SGA, Locke offers this advice. He say, "bring your passions, experiences, and a unique point-of-view."



Note from the Editors: 2015 SGA Election results are in, Locke/Gameson won as President/VP with 65% of the total votes. President Locke commented that "I am humbled that the students overwhelmingly supported me for another term. I would like to thank Hao and Nia for running a good campaign, and all of my supporters, the Empowerment Party and all the UHD students. Let's make this another epic year at UHD. Go Gators!"



By: L. A. Bonté

For more comics and animations visit FilbertCartoons.com

PERFIL DE ESTUDIANTE: JACKIE TARANGO

Traducido en Español por Lydia C. Jackson

Ella está en su segundo año en UHD, ella es una estudiante de biología, una estudiante primera generación, y es la monarca homecoming inaugural de UHD. Recientemente ella dio un discurso a los posibles Gators, animándoles a derribar barreras y abrir sus mentes a nuevas posibilidades. Pueden llamarla Jackie, y recientemente yo tuve el placer de platicar con ella. Sería raro para los estudiantes que no reconozcan a Jackie, porque ella está en todas partes. Ella es una guía de los Gators, y una miembro (y la secretaria) del club de la naturaleza, club de química, y varias otras organizaciones. Su compromiso por participación en la escuela es algo que ella habló sobre durante un evento de puertas abiertas reciente en UHD. Jackie habló sobre la importancia de involucrarse y sumergirse temprano en las actividades del colegio. “Sal de tu zona de comodidad y participa en una organización, estudia en el extranjero, asiste a los eventos en UHD, y disfruta tu experiencia en la universidad.” Para Jackie, involucrarse abrió líneas de comunicación con estudiantes mayores, que fueron sus mentores, aconsejaban a ella, e ayudaban a ella para ampliar su alcance. Su rol como guía de los Gators es de continuar pasando el conocimiento que ella obtenga a las generaciones futuras de Gators. Jackie va a continuar con sus aspiraciones y ahora tiene en mente formar un club con el propósito de incrementar más espíritu en la escuela y ayudar con la retención de estudiantes, también tiene una idea para formar una organización Latina. Ella planea convertirse en un físico terapeuta y seguir ayudando a la gente, aunque de una manera diferente.

Student Profile: Jacqueline Tarango

By Jason J. Rivas

She is a sophomore, biology major, first generation student, and UHD's inaugural homecoming monarch. She recently gave a speech to prospective Gators, encouraging them to bring down barriers and open up their minds to new possibilities. You can call her Jackie, and I recently had the pleasure of talking with her.

It would be rare for UHD students not to recognize Jackie because she is everywhere. She is a Gator Guide, and a member (and secretary) of the Environmental Club, Chemistry Club, and various other organizations. Her commitment to school participation is something she spoke of at a recent open house event at UHD. Jackie spoke of the importance of getting involved and immersing oneself early on when transitioning to a new environment. “Get out of your comfort zone and join an organization, study abroad, go to various UHD events, and enjoy your experience in college.” For her, getting involved opened lines of communication with upper classmen, who mentored her and helped broaden her scope. Her role as a Gator guide is to continue passing the knowledge she acquired to the next generation of Gators. Jackie will continue her passions and hopes to form a club that encourages more school spirit and student retention, along with an idea to form a Latino based organization. She plans on becoming a physical therapist and to continue helping people, albeit in a different way.



UNCHARTED TERRITORY: THE CURRENT STATE OF THE 11TH FLOOR

Jason J. Rivas
Campus Life Editor

Many a student goes to UHD seeking a Major Opportunity within their passion. The College of Business, the Criminal Justice program, and the Theatre Department are among the most well-known areas of interest for students. But did you know that some of Houston's most gifted students are painters, sketchers, and other artists, many of whom have honed their skills within the secluded walls of the 11th floor? The Arts Department has sculpted some truly gifted individuals, so it is a surprise to see such an intricate tapestry of colors and craft surrounded by a state of disrepair.

I recently ventured up to the 11th floor studio on a tip from an anonymous person. He explained to me that the area is closed off to individuals unless they are enrolled in an art class or let in by someone with approved access. When entering, I was flabbergasted by the brilliant pieces that were being created. The colorful hues being expressed by brush made me feel like I walked into a soft opening of an art gala. The environment was quaint, with silence being the main voice echoing across the space. Many of the visible pieces seemed to be upon the cusp of deserving a moment

in the O'Kane Gallery, or at least a moment on public display for visitors' praise.

But then imagination met reality. Broken materials were ubiquitous, such as windows, chairs, and a couch. Some of the walls and various shelves lacked paint with graffiti prevalent in certain areas, including the washroom. Another room had a curtain hung up by staples. The state of disarray led to a moment of query. After leaving the studio, I met up with Grace Sivils, an aspiring artist, who said, "Overall, it's a relaxing and quaint environment for the students but there needs to be some upkeep for the safety of the students." Albert though, another talented artist, felt the beautiful disaster the studio was in gave it a sense of charm for creativity. "I feel like the paint on the walls, the kinda troubled state that it's in, I feel like it gives it an artists' touch... if you would clean it up it would feel too orderly for an art room."

Time will tell if the issues at hand will be addressed, in whatever way the students and university feel is best. However, there is no denying that UHD is fortunate to have talented artists such as Grace and Albert developing their craft on campus.

UHD'S CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER DEVELOPING CAREERS

by Joshua Burgman
Assistant Editor

The University of Houston – Downtown's, Career Development Center has embarked on a journey that aims at making sure students are ready for careers, after college.

This semester the CDC launched a program aptly named CEO: Career Enhancement Opportunities. The program is geared toward incoming freshmen with the goal of prepping them for what a career would be like after school. Fortunately, some members of the Dateline staff were asked to tag along.

The program provided that each participant visit different business locations throughout the Houston metropolitan area; students had the choice of choosing between Minute Maid Park, The House of Blues Houston, The Houston Chronicle, Herman Hospital and various other locations throughout the city. Naturally, Dateline writers accompanied the CDC on its visit to the Houston Chronicle.

When we first arrived at the Chronicle, we were hustled into a room, given a small presentation and then began a tour of the entire building. Life working for the paper seemed very carefree. We were told that most employees either worked from home, or did not have to come into the office until 11am; that appealed to everyone in attendance. While there we also learned the importance of a business model that promoted the paper in modern perspectives. With the days of the printing press long passed; today we find ourselves in a society with a 24-hour news cycle; a cycle that takes the phrase "New York minute" to a completely different level.

The last leg of our tour at the Chronicle consisted of a panel discussion with several employees from the newspaper. What they taught us was invaluable, and demonstrated exactly, the goals of the CEO program. Margaret Mahoney, a Career Counselor for the CDC, spoke very positively regarding the student's reaction to the program. "We were very happy with the results" she said, "The students seemed to learn everything we hoped they would." Mahoney went

on to say how the CDC is always looking for a way to help students succeed. "We believe that [CEO] increased the visibility of our office. Students had the opportunity to experience something we haven't been able to offer before."

After visiting our perspective business locations, each student was asked to attend the final stage of the program; the CEO Showcase. The Showcase was very nice. Lunch was provided for student attendees, and each one of us was awarded for our efforts. Following lunch each group gave a small presentation on what business they visited and what was learned.

Visiting the Chronicle was a great privilege, and a wonderful example of what to expect after graduation. Actually, what I believe the most important lesson from CEO was that there is no such thing as a career "after graduation". The career of a college student begins the day you enroll in classes. From that day it's important to cater your education to your needs, and to always remember that flexibility is a great thing.

I found the Career Development Center to be a great source of information. If you need help on your resume, interviewing, or any other thing related to a possible career, the CDC has your back. They are located in the academic building, in S-402, not far from the library. I encourage every student to check it out. What could go wrong?



By Darci McFerran
Staff Reporter

Anne Frank is best known for the diary that she wrote as an adolescent Jewish girl in hiding during the Nazi occupation of Amsterdam. Even the mention of this horrible part of humanities history brings up strong images of hatred and violence. A normal reaction will automatically frame the events to protect you from the harsh reality of what happened to the Jews in World War II. What the Anne Franks story does is help us to remember that the history is real and the characters human.

The O’Kane Theater is currently running a production of The Diary of Anne Frank with both affectionate tenderness and well thought out historical research. Upon entering the theater, audience members are immediately transported to a small wood-bare attic reminiscent of the period. I was impressed with how accurately detailed the set design was, which was brought alive by equally well planned lighting nuances. Prior to the action of play, Dr. Cueva and Dr. Rubicek did a ten-minute “talkback” with the audience, which is traditionally done after a show, but was especially useful here, given the content of this particular show. Their introduction added the weight the audi-

ence needed to view the performance within the context of the history.

Throughout the story, I was impressed with the energy and familiarity that the cast shared with each other on the stage. Professor Rachel Dixon clearly spent a great deal of time planning a show that honored the history of those that endured the bitter tragedy of the plays premise. Perla Ramirez played the young Anne Frank and did a wonderful job of portraying her childlike nature. I was also impressed with the way the actors portrayed their characters within the context of “rainbow” casting. Rainbow casting is the choice of a director to go against character type. Although this can be a challenge for actors, the Anne Frank cast handled it with grace and ease!

If you have an opportunity to watch this show, I highly recommend that you do. They are running the production from April 3 through April 11th, with both evening and matinee performances. Tickets are available online or at the cashiers office, but some shows have already sold out so get yours today. For more information you can contact Dr. Lyttle, by email, at LyttleT@uhd.edu.

OPEN CARRY ON VERGE OF BECOMING LAW

by Chris Schmoll
Staff Reporter

Texas, a state with a reputation as the wild west, is about to pass Senate Bill 17, a piece of legislation that will allow people to open carry holstered handguns. The bill flew through the Texas Legislature, passing 20 to 11 in the Senate with all Republicans voting in support and all Democrats voting against.

Some are not supportive of the pending law. University of Houston Downtown senior Akiich Ojoch believes the law will negatively affect our trust in others. “I fear that open carry may harm our social interaction. Guns intimidate me and if a person approaches me with an exposed gun, I will question their motive.”

Currently, it is legal to open carry a rifle or shotgun. UHD senior Loana Cobos said, “If they already allow shotguns and rifles then I don’t think there is much of a difference. It should be up to the individual as long as they are trained.”

Training is a large part of this law. In order to qualify for the ability to open carry, you must hold a concealed handgun license. Recently, regulations have been relaxed for those trying to obtain a CHL. The number of hours required for the license has been reduced from 10 to 4 hours.

60 year gun owner Milton Uretsky said, “I like the idea of having my gun in sight. It’ll make somebody think twice. It definitely levels the playing fields.”

The bill has been sent to the house and most are expecting it to pass because Republicans hold a majority in the house and senate. If it passes, it will arrive at the desk of Governor Greg Abbott. Abbott has already stated he will sign any expansion of gun owner rights.

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SATURDAY NIGHT STARGAZING

by Shannon Wright
Arts and Entertainment Editor

The Houston Museum of Natural Science's George Observatory and Planetarium located within Brazos Bend State Park, about an hour drive south of Houston, is where spectators of all ages get a chance to spend their Saturday nights amidst the stars! Depending on the time of the month and season of the year, guests may also be able to see Saturn's rings, cloud belts on Jupiter, a partial or total eclipse of the Moon, a meteor, or the Milky Way.

The Observatory telescopes are 36", 18" and 14" in size and provide access for research for amateur and professional astronomers as well as the thrill of enjoying the wonder of the night sky by the general public. The best nights to visit are when the sky is clear and when the moon is not full as this will block out many of the stars. The Observatory comes equipped with red lights that preserve night vision while still allowing your eyes to read the star charts, and astronomers are located at every telescope to answer questions and position the scopes for you.

The Observatory is open to the public every Saturday year round, and tickets can be purchased at the gift shop starting at 5pm. The entire facility is open 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. (3 p.m. to 11p.m. during daylight-saving time). The full experience is weather sensitive so check for clear skies before you plan your trip!

Adults: \$7.00
Members: \$4.00
Children, Military, Teachers, or Seniors: \$6.00

The Discovery Dome Planetarium at the Observatory blasts into outer space no matter what the weather. A different full-dome voyage is available every half hour on Saturday nights from 3:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$3.

The facility also offers astronomy classes, go-to telescope classes, refracting or reflecting telescope classes, simulated space flight expeditions for people of all ages, build and launch water rocket events, and an exhibit of a piece of the Allende, Chihuahua Mexico meteorite that is believed to have formed before the birth of our very own solar system.

The address is 21901 FM 762, Needville, TX 77461. For more information on times, events, or for detailed directions, visit their website at hmns.org.

Please note: In order to access The George Observatory, an entrance fee to the Brazos Bend State Park must be paid. Ages 12 and under is free and ages 13-64 is \$7 per person.

"Looking at these stars suddenly dwarfed my own troubles and all the gravities of terrestrial life. I thought of their unfathomable distance, and the slow inevitable drift of their movements out of the unknown past into the unknown future." -H. G. Wells

22ND ANNUAL JAPAN FESTIVAL HOUSTON

Shannon Wright
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The 22nd annual Japan Festival honoring Japanese and American Japanese traditions will be held Saturday, April 18th and Sunday, April 19th at Hermann Park. This family-friendly festival, which welcomes over 25,000 guests each year, is free and open to the public.

You can't help but sing the catchy lyrics to the new wave sound of The Vapors as they belt out "I'm turning Japanese, I think I'm turning Japanese, I really think so!" when eyeing all the stunning photos of past festivals that have honored the amazing culture of Japan. Houston is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse cities in the country, and to celebrate all things Japanese, the festival will feature food, music and entertainment, fashion, marital arts, anime and cosplay contests, games, shopping, and much more.

There will be a wide variety of traditional Japanese and American Japanese food booths and some cooking demonstrations and competitions. The Sushi Roll-Off contest is Saturday with some of Houston's best sushi chefs competing Iron Chef style for the Most Authentic, Best American Twist, and Fan Favorite awards.

The thunder of Taiko drummers is one of the highlights of the festival's broad range of music and entertainment. There will be modern J-Pop and J-Rock, classical and traditional Japanese folk singing, Japanese dancers dressed in elegant kimonos, modern Japanese lolita street fashion, and creative, outrageous anime and cosplay costumes. There will be an anime and cosplay contest with a grand prize of round trip airfare provided by ANA Airline on their new Houston to Japan route!

There will be a martial arts stage featuring Kendo, Akido, and many other forms of Japanese martial arts. If you are looking for something a little more Zen, attend one of the traditional tea ceremonies at the teahouse located in the Japanese Garden.

The Bunraku Bay Puppet Theater, the only traditional Japanese puppet troupe active outside Japan, will use half-life size dolls to act out dramatic tales that are a must see!

Experience all this and more on Saturday from 10am to 7pm and Sunday from 10am to 5pm. For a complete schedule of events visit www.houstonjapanfest.org.



NASA TURNS 100 YEARS OLD

by Kayla Foster
Staff Writer

It has been a full century since NASA got its start as the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, or NACA. The NACA, America's original space program, started on March 3, 1915 and was meant to accelerate aviation developments during the ever-widening break between American and European innovations.

Despite early accomplishments by American aviators, the Wright Brothers, America still fell behind but wanted desperately to advance its aviation. NASA was then created in 1957 in retort to the Soviet Union's launch of the Sputnik 1 satellite. We wanted to not only show the Soviet's that we too could make strides in space exploration, but hasten the space program which wanted to include unmanned missions to Mars. While NASA has made many memorable missions throughout the years, it still recognizes its former program of NACA; administrator Charles Bolden stated, "NASA can boast that streamlined aircraft bodies, quieter jet engines, techniques for preventing icing, drag-reducing winglets and lightweight composite structures are an everyday part of flying thanks to research concepts and tools that trace their origins to the NACA."

Naturally, NASA celebrated its 100th anniversary with several events highlighting the momentous committee's contribution to



the nation's space program and aeronautics research. The events began on March 3, 2015 with a NACA Centenary: A Symposium on 100 Years of Aerospace Research and Development, an event hosted by NASA and the National Air and Space Museum in Washington. The events continued over a two-day span and ended with a panel discussion. NASA TV also hosted a fourteen minute long video showcasing the historical accomplishments of NACA and the innovations that plunged the United States aviation industry forward in its early years.

NASA has many locations around the world to celebrate its successes, including one right here in the fine city of Houston. Johnson's Space Center is one of the only places on Earth where visitors can see astronauts train for missions, touch a real moon rock, and take a behind the scenes tour of NASA. With a century under its belt, NASA is going strong and accomplishing many things. We may even find ourselves with a Spaceport in our city in the near future. Houston, we do not have a problem.



THE JINX

Shannon Wright
Arts & Entertainment Editor

HBO's "The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst" is a six-part documentary that chronicles the life of Robert Durst, the infamous and reclusive millionaire, and his possible ties to the murders of three people spanning four decades. Texans are familiar with Durst as the Galveston resident who in 2001 killed, dismembered and dumped the body of his neighbor in the bay for which he pled self-defense and was shockingly acquitted.

Each episode begins with the eerily rhythmic, deliciously groovy and oh-so-fitting Eels' tune "Fresh Blood." Director Andrew Jarecki takes viewers through the details of the suspicious disappearance of Durst's wife, Kathie, back in 1982, the gruesome murder of Morris Black in 2001, and the unsolved murder of his close friend, Susan Berman, in 2000 who some believe was a possible key witness in the disappearance of Durst's wife.

The series reveals the mysterious details of each murder while highlighting the mistakes made by detectives during each investigation. Durst's interviews throughout each part of the documentary appear to be an attempt at exonerating himself from suspicion, and I have to say, it began to work on me. I found myself feeling sorry for this eccentric old man telling his woe-is-me story of a misunderstood man and neglected child who grew up in a lonely life filled with privilege but without love. He actually blamed his problems on his excessive wealth. Yeah, I know, poor little rich boy. Pardon me while I grab a tissue. But the truth is, he had begun to lure me in. It's no wonder that he has convinced so many people of his innocence, because if he is guilty then this man is one master manipulator and a world-class liar or just one lucky bastard.

During the last episode, however, Durst's luck finally runs out. Nervously, Jarecki confronts Durst with a piece of evidence found by the former

stepson of Susan Berman. Visibly shaken by this substantial new evidence, Durst excuses himself and, not realizing that his microphone was still hot, decided to start singing like a canary while in the john. "There it is. You're caught. Killed them all, of course," Durst mumbles to himself. It was one of those moments that made every hair stand up on your body. He confessed.

The combination of the new evidence and what sounds like a confession while in the restroom provided enough evidence to necessitate an arrest warrant by the Los Angeles Police Department. Durst was arrested in New Orleans, Louisiana where he was hiding out under a false name only a few days after the documentary aired.

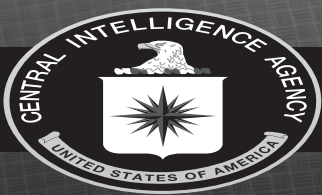
Durst's story is a fiction writer's wet dream. Each bizarre twist begets yet another bizarre twist. How can one man get away with so much? It may seem like the end of the line for The Jinx, but you never know! If this documentary proves anything, it's that Robert Durst is one slippery little minx.

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