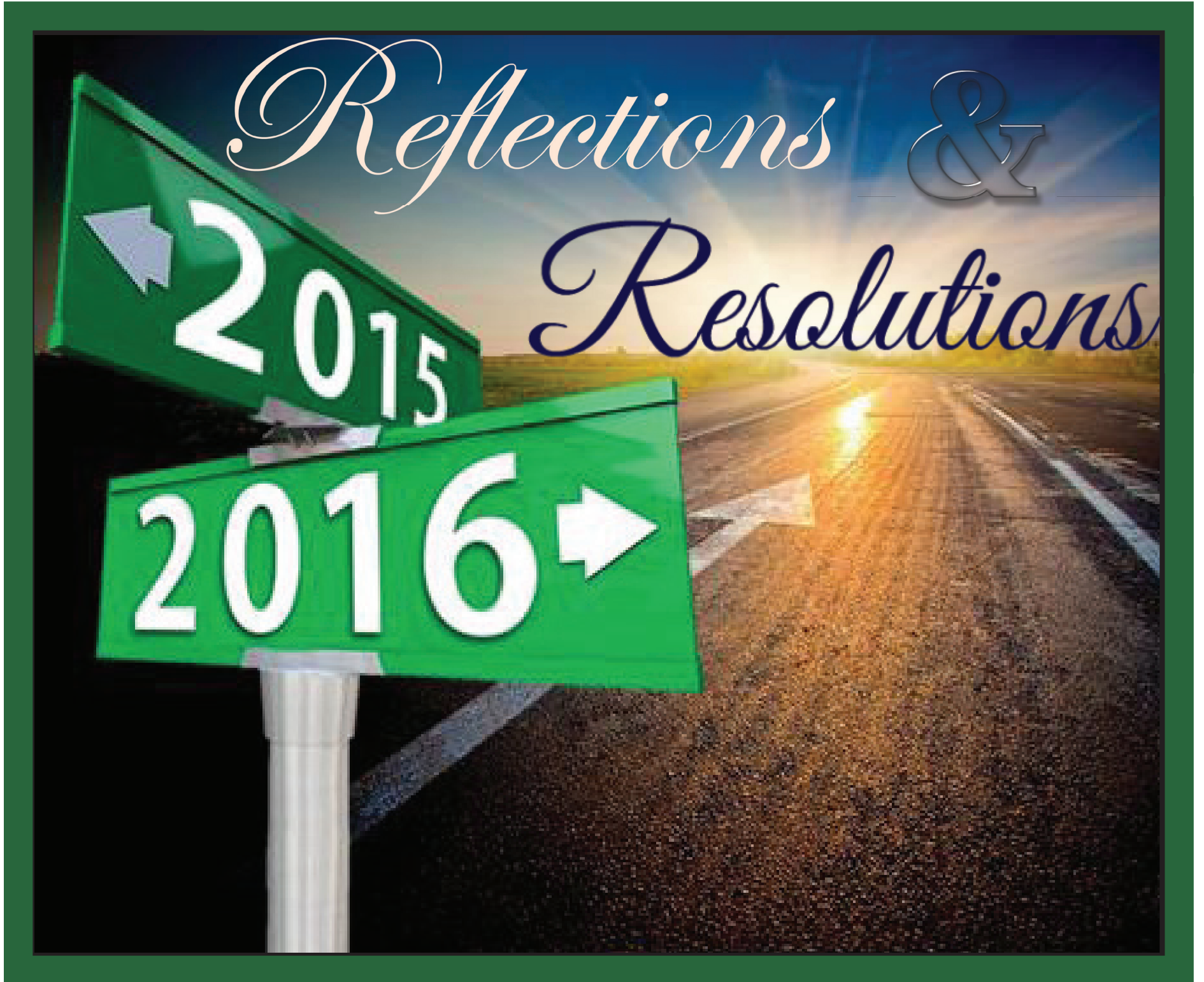


# DATELINE:



Volume 56  
Issue 1

# DOWNTOWN



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# EDITOR'S NOTE

## What 2015 Taught Me About Race

By Joshua Burgman

Without a doubt, 2015 will be remembered in the United States, as one of the most racially polarizing years in this country since the end of Jim Crow in the 1960's. For me, 2016 brought with it a disturbing reminder that a New Year did not necessarily mean new attitudes.

I began my new year like many other people, in church. The first Sunday of a new year is a particularly busy time for churches, and this year that proved to be truer for me than any previous year that I can remember. First, I tried to attend the church that I go to every Sunday, but found that it was at its capacity. Since I am not a fan of the "overflow" room—a room designed for worshipers who are late and cannot find seating in the main fellowship hall—I decided to attend church with my mother.

My mother has been going to the same church for over 30 years; it's the church I grew up in. A small Southern Baptist church where everyone there has known each other for the majority of their lives. Although it is a small church, with an overwhelming majority of black members, throughout the years I've always known it to be a place that accepts all races and nationalities, and this particular Sunday was no different.

As I sat there enjoying the service my attention was drawn to a worshiper—he was alone, on the very last pew, and white. After first noticing him, it seemed like I couldn't take my eyes away or unburden myself of the uneasy feeling I felt once I saw him sitting there. In my head I could not help but to conjure up images of Emanuel A.M.E Church in South Carolina and Dylann Roof, the 21 year old white supremacist whose aim was to incite a race war by killing nine innocent people during Bible study.

At one point I saw him reach for something on the inside of his jacket. It wasn't until I saw his wallet, and realized that the offering was being taken, that I released the tight grip of the hand I had on my Bible. Even then, a burst of adrenaline rushed through my body, and my head became filled with unwanted emotions. My unease was compounded by the fact that the man never interacted with anyone in the church.

Because I was raised by parents that taught me to accept people for who they are, and not judge someone by the color of their skin, I immediately wanted to apologize to this man. He had done nothing to me, yet I suspected him of being capable of committing an unthinkable crime. Later after church, I found out that I was not the only person with the feelings I had toward him. During lunch, as I discussed what I felt about him with my mother; she told me that two or three other members approached her, and spoke with her concerning this same man. Having gone through this experience is not something that I'll probably ever forget. It forced me to think about what the year 2015 taught me about race.

Just over two years ago, I traveled to China to visit my brother; he was living there at the time. He lived in a small city called Hefei, in the Anhui Province. There were seven million people living in this small city, and yet, many of them had never seen a black person before, ever! Naturally, this made many people stare at me as I walked down the street. It was the first time in my life that I had been so keenly aware of my blackness; the same can be said for the way I experienced life in 2015, living in America.

Yes, 2015 taught me many lessons and affected my mind and spirit in some of the most profound ways. It seemed to have started in 2014, in Ferguson, Missouri. The fatal shooting of unarmed teen Michael Brown by police officer Darren Wilson sparked outrage that spilled over into other cities and a new year; especially after we began to witness what seemed like daily reports of young black men and women being harassed, and sometimes killed, by police. Tensions rose even higher when, according to the BBC, "a second investigation into the Ferguson police force and court system at large found widespread racial bias in the city's institutions." The report, commissioned by the US Justice Department, was damning, stating that "93 percent of people arrested [in Ferguson] are African American, whereas only 67 percent of the Ferguson population is black." Further, the report found that blacks accounted for 85% of traffic stops and 90% of citations. Adjectives aside, the numbers don't lie. The Justice Department's report also revealed that "90 percent of documented force was against African Americans," while "30 percent of searches of white suspects resulted in a contraband finding - compared to 24 percent of black suspects."

Even if the numbers aren't convincing enough, the images of army tanks on American streets should at least cause one to take pause; or the creation of a new movement, born from the ashes of Ferguson. #BlackLivesMatter was created from a sense of urgency. Members of the black community, as a result of Ferguson and the failure to convict Officer Darren Wilson, began the movement with the intentions of combating police brutality against black and brown Americans. During the first year of its creation, #BlackLivesMatter made such an impact regarding the nation's conversation on race, that it has even gained the attention of presidential candidates from both parties.

GOP front-runner Donald Trump, has made it clear that he is no fan of the organization; often openly castigating them during speeches and interviews. In November, during a campaign stop in Birmingham, Alabama, Trump came under fire for the way a #BlackLivesMatter protester was ejected from the room he was speaking in. Trump later told FOX News "Maybe he should have been roughed up because it was absolutely disgusting what he was doing."

Although all of the aforementioned situations are good examples of what made 2015 a racially polarizing year, the most recent issue that has divided the nation by racial lines—the phenomenon that is the Bill Cosby scandal. At the risk of sounding judgmental or unfair, Bill Cosby is completely guilty, at least in the court of public opinion. Usually, when there's smoke involving at least two dozen victims, there's a criminal fire. Regardless, many people in the black community are standing behind him 100 percent. The situation is eerily familiar, and stands to be one of the biggest celebrity court cases since the O.J. Simpson trial. Like Simpson, Cosby's case is breeding an "us against them" atmosphere among whites and blacks. (A crucial distinction, however, is the fact that whereas the Simpson case involved two victims, the Cosby case seems to have at least two or three dozen—depending on whose article you read.) If, or when, his case goes to trial, the outcome will be controversial no matter what the decision is.

As I reviewed the year 2015, the topic of race relations always seemed to be in the forefront of what I considered, and for good reason. The incidents and situations that I have described barely scratch the surface of racial animosity in 2015. As I said earlier, I learned that a new year does not mean new attitudes. For instance, I never thought I'd judge someone the way I did the gentleman in church, but I did. Honestly, I can't say that it won't happen again in 2016, but I blame that on 2015. The biggest lesson I learned from last year: racism isn't going anywhere anytime soon.

**RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME**

# 4 Open Carry

## Open Carry in Government Buildings

by Joshua Burgman

Texas House Bill 910, or what is better known as “Open Carry,” is now the law of the land. The bill was passed last year, and was signed into law by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott in June. The new law makes it legal for concealed handgun licensees (CHL) to openly carry their firearms, provided they are properly holstered. Advocates and opponents alike have prepared themselves for months in order to make sure that the law is carried out in the right way. In Harris County alone, there have been several discussions and forums concerning “Open Carry;” two of them being held by Houston’s Police Chief, Charles McClelland, and Harris County District Attorney, Devon Anderson.

With each forum held, McClelland and Anderson did their best to describe to concerned citizens the ins-and-outs of the new law. Anderson made it clear, several times, that “the law is here, and the only thing that’s left to do is make sure it is carried out properly.” Despite all of the information and precautions about the law, there still remains a serious concern about how it will affect everyday life in Texas. The lone star state is not the first state to adopt such a law, but many feel that it will still take some time getting used to.

HB 910 effectively makes it legal to carry a handgun everywhere you go. There are exceptions to the bill, of course. For instance, it allows private business owners to ban handguns on their property, providing the owner posts the required signage. The bill also states that it’s still illegal to carry guns in courthouses, but what about other state-owned facilities that foster elevated emotional stress? Such as a CPS office? Recently Dateline-Downtown spoke with Rachel Sanchez, an employee for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS). Sanchez works for Children’s Protective Services (CPS)—an agency within TDFPS that is charged with the protection of the state’s children born to unfortunate or abusive homes. With the introduction of the new law, it is now legal for CHL holders to take their firearms with them when entering a CPS office; offices which are, on a regular basis, the site of high-tense, emotionally charged parents. “It’s definitely scary to think about,” Sanchez said. “When you deal with parents, who are often hostile toward CPS staff, it’s hard not to think about what is capable when a gun is introduced to the situation.”

The law doesn’t stop at parents or clients of CPS who are involved in an active case, but it also allows CPS workers to take their firearms with them when they go to work. “That still doesn’t give me much comfort,” Sanchez went on. “I’d prefer if guns weren’t allowed here at all; this is just not the place for them.”

Sanchez’s contention with the law may offer some validity, but regardless of her feelings, “The law is here and must be carried out properly,” according to DA Anderson. There are other areas citizens may have an issue with guns being allowed, for instance, college campuses. The same day Gov. Abbott signed HB 910, he also signed Texas Senate Bill 11 into law or “Campus Carry”—a law making it legal for CHL holders to carry their firearms on college campuses, and other institutions of higher learning.

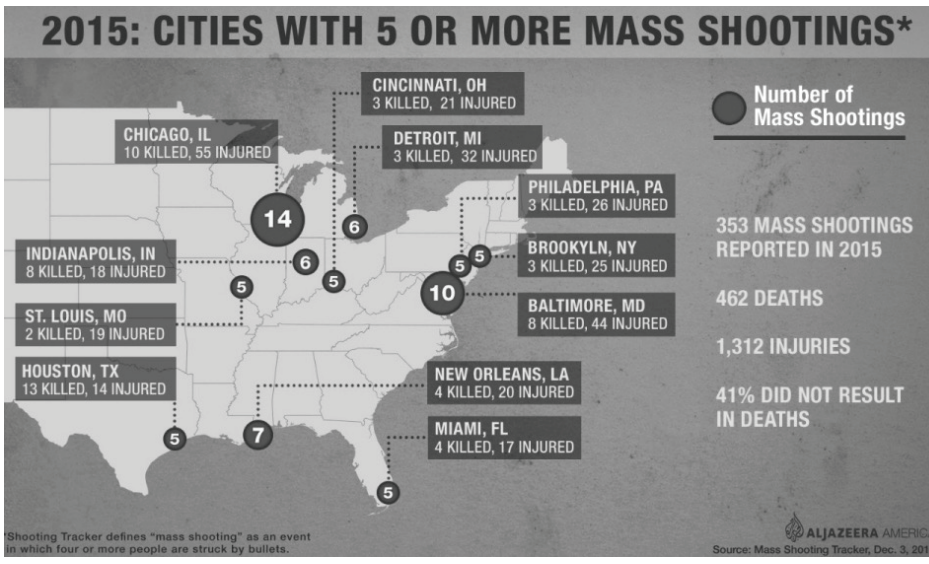
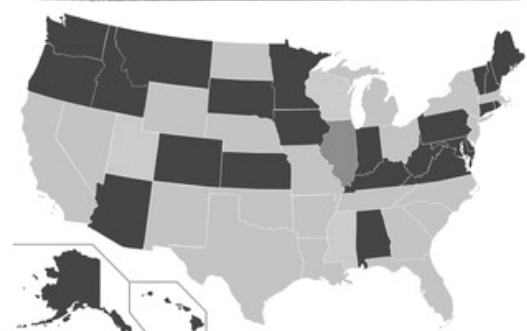
Unlike “Open Carry,” “Campus Carry” does not go into effect until August of 2016, and students and faculty alike have already begun to raise concerns about the laws pending enactment. Whatever the arguments opponents may have toward the bill, it’s the law now, and must be carried out.



### CONCEALED CARRY ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES



- 21 states have banned concealed carry on all college campuses
- 25 states let colleges and universities decide whether to allow concealed carry
- 3 states allow concealed carry on college campus
- 1 state does not issue concealed carry permits



BAN CONCEALED CARRY ON ALL COLLEGE CAMPUSES	COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES DECIDE WHETHER TO ALLOW CONCEALED CARRY ON CAMPUS	
Arkansas California Florida Georgia Louisiana Massachusetts Michigan Missouri Nebraska Nevada New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma South Carolina Tennessee Texas Wyoming	Alabama Alaska Arizona Colorado Connecticut Delaware Hawaii Idaho Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Maine	Maryland Minnesota Montana New Hampshire Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Dakota Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia
	ALLOW CONCEALED CARRY ON CAMPUS	DO NOT ISSUE CONCEALED CARRY PERMITS
	Utah Mississippi Wisconsin*	District of Columbia Illinois

\*In Wisconsin, colleges and universities must allow concealed weapons on campus grounds. However, these institutions can ban concealed weapons from campus buildings by placing signs at all building entrances clearly marking that weapons are not allowed.

POLITICALFIBER  
Graphic by Kelly Stodd

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

# Executive Actions and New Gun Regulations

by Miguel Nunez

**5**  
**Open**  
**Carry**

Jan 6, President Obama announced that there will be new gun control policies that seek to curb gun-violence. It has become clear to some people that the amounts of gun deaths we have in America are unacceptable. According to Mass Shooting Tracker, a crowd sourced project that seeks to keep record of each mass shooting incident in America, there have been more than 200 mass shootings that have led to injuries or deaths in 2015 alone. To some, this startling statistic is more than enough to increase regulations when we purchase guns here in America.

Under Obama's executive actions, new regulations will be set in place that will (among other things): 1. Increase the incentives among states to share information with the background check system; 2. Propose rule-making to give law enforcement the ability to run full background checks on an individual before returning a seized gun; and 3. Launch a national safe and responsible gun ownership campaign, and provide law enforcement, first responders and school officials with proper training for active shooter situations. Luckily for gun owners, none of Obama's new gun regulations involve taking their guns, as some have criticized him for.

In a recent interview with CNN's, Anderson Cooper, President Obama was asked to address people who believe that he will do away with the 2nd amendment, and take away everyone's guns. Cooper asked the President if it was fair to call it a conspiracy to believe this, and that many people just do not trust him, when it comes to gun regulations. Obama responded with vigor by saying, "Yes it is fair to call it a conspiracy!" The President went on to say that, "this notion that we are creating a plot to take everybody's guns away, so that we can impose martial law is a conspiracy—yes that is a conspiracy. I would hope you would agree with that."

It is fair and understandable that Obama would feel this way. After all, what proof is there that he wants to take everyone's guns away? To be clear, none of what Obama has proposed under his executive actions are intended to take the right to bear arms away. These new actions, more than anything, are set up to increase the effectiveness of background checks, in order to ensure that people with dangerous mental health issues or criminals do not have access to guns. Unfortunately, for some, any kind of gun regulation falls under the same category as taking guns away from people. This is the kind of environment that the President has to deal with. But, in light of all the recent shootings that we have seen, Obama has decided that, no matter what, he will ensure that something will be done about these horrific incidents and not to sit by and say that "stuff like this just happens." The truth is that mass shootings—such as the ones that happened in Sandy Hook Elementary, which led to the deaths of 6 adults and 20 children, or the Aurora Shooting, which resulted in 12 deaths, and, most recently, the San Bernardino shooting which had 14 deaths—do not have to happen. Of course, not all shootings will be stopped, but what Obama is doing now is making sure that at least some mass shootings will be prevented in the future. We owe this little to the people that had their lives taken away by these tragic gun shootings.

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## Open Carry in Houston

by Kara Moore

"Open Carry" is the term associated with a law that allows licensed citizens to openly display their firearms in public spaces unless otherwise prohibited. Usually it's only disallowed in school zones and/or when businesses put up signs that actively forbid it on the premises. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, and many other states are permissive when it comes to the open carry of guns. As of January 1st, as long as you are licensed, you may have your gun visibly on your person in the state of Texas. This is a big step away from the "concealed carry" that Texas has long stood by. Why is this a big deal? Well, it depends what side of the argument you are on. Gun rights advocates state that open carry will decrease violence in Texas. People with guns who attempt to come into public areas and create chaos, they reason, will be stopped by other law-abiding citizens with guns. People against open carry state that it will ultimately limit the ability to determine who is a threat. Their belief is that people will no longer be able to follow the rule "see something, say something" because openly showing your firearm in public is now legal. The idea that it will only encourage firearm usage has also been presented. To some, this new law is a blessing and a safety measure. To others, it's a curse that they believe will ultimately end in an escalation of violence.

Many Houston businesses have opted out of the measure. HEB, Randall's, Whole Foods, Sprouts and Target are all grocery stores that have chosen to put up signs in order to opt out of Open Carry. Kroger has stated that it will allow open carry on its premises, and Walmart is leaving the decision up to individual stores. Whataburger, Wendy's, Sonic, Panera Bread, Chili's and many more restaurants have also stated they do not want open carry in their restaurants. But one BBQ joint in Houston, called Brooks Place Barbeque, is actually offering a 10% discount to those openly touting their guns.

However, Memorial City Mall, the Galleria, and the Houston Zoo are opting out. Chevron's local office buildings have also stated that they will be disallowing open carry on those properties. Some clothing retailers, like Gap, Inc., have not yet stated a distinct position on open carry, but since they are not putting up signs disallowing it, it can only be assumed they will allow people to come in with their licensed weapons.

The ultimate fact is that if a business does not put up a sign that distinctly states open carry is not allowed—or, if at least 50% of that business's revenue comes from the sale of alcohol—then open carry is allowed inside of that business. With many places in Houston opting out, it looks like (for the moment, at least) open carry in private Houston businesses won't be an issue for those against it. But open carry will continue in the streets of Houston and in city- or state-owned buildings. The impact of the policy remains to be seen.

# San Jacinto Parking Lot Discontinued

by Darci McFerran

Attending a university that is located in the heart of Downtown Houston can be both exciting and frustrating. While the benefits of being located in the heart of a major metropolitan city gives students exposure to the city's thriving business and arts districts, it can also present a unique set of challenges: specifically, with parking. In fact, figuring out where to park my car was probably one of the most intimidating aspects of my first day at UHD. Real estate downtown is expensive and dwindling in availability, so it comes as no surprise that parking is a continued frustration for students and faculty. Considering the fact that parking is an issue almost everywhere in Downtown Houston, UHD manages the challenge fairly well. However, when I received notification that the San Jacinto student parking lot was being discontinued, I was concerned.

On December 10, 2015, UHD sent out an email notifying students that one of the lots that was leased for student parking, the San Jacinto parking lot, had changed ownership and would no longer be available for use by the university and its students. In total there were four lots, including San Jacinto, designated for students to park in. Students could purchase permits for parking, valid for the current semester. Depending on my schedule and outside commitments, I usually opt to purchase a permit to the Vine Street Garage, but will frequently pay to park in a metered lot for varying reasons. Vine Street Garage is the only of its type at UHD, all of the remaining lots, including San Jacinto,

are "surface lots," and considered street level parking. None of the "surface lots" are directly beside any of the campus buildings and, therefore, most require that you walk some distance to your destination.

To alleviate this, the university does offer shuttle bus pick-up services. Per their website these services include, "The shuttles operate from the Daly Street Lot, to the San Jacinto lot, to Commerce Street Building (corner of San Jacinto Street & Commerce Street), to the One Main Building and back to the Daly St. Lot." It doesn't clearly state a time frame for pick-ups, so if you don't happen to catch it, then you will have to wait. Parking and Transportation Services does have a map (see image) that they distribute, which shows where the lots are located, where shuttle buses operate and their geographic position to the university.

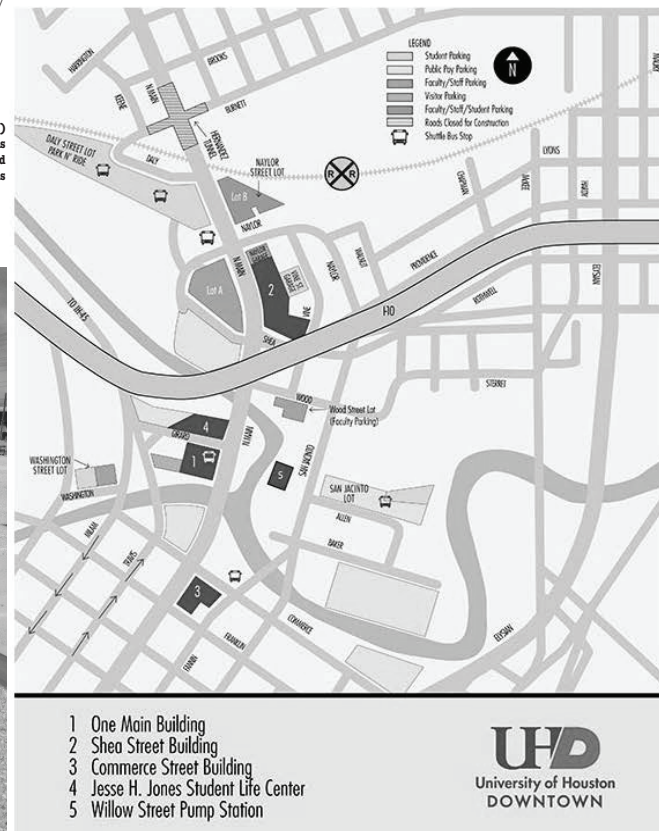
David Bradley, Vice President of Administration and Finance, met with me to clarify what the impact of losing San Jacinto would be on students, as well as what is being done to offset the loss. The San Jacinto parking lot provided 194 spots for students to park in, and had become frequently used during the Fall 2015 semester. According to Bradley, "The unpaved surface parking lot across from the College of Business/ Shea Street Building (Lot A) will have some parking available to students and some available to faculty and staff, but the lot behind the Shea Building (Lot B) will now become strictly student parking."

In total, between both lots, there will end up being an additional 60 slots available for students to park in, which does alleviate some concern, because ultimately this discontinuation will not affect the bottom-line number of parking spots available. Unfortunately, it does put the majority of the parking available in the same general area: which might contribute a little to traffic during peak hours, but primarily removes the convenience of nearby access to the Commerce Building.

Bradley discussed some of the long-term goals that the university has for continuing to improve the parking situation for students, and, while they won't be happening in the immediate future, it does address some of the problems and inconveniences that students face today. For now, contact the Parking and Transportation Services office at 713-221-8127 or [parking@uhd.edu](mailto:parking@uhd.edu), if you have questions, concerns or need help in resolving an issue related to parking. I will leave you with two thoughts as I close; First, during my meeting with Bradley, I learned that purchasing a Vine Street permit will give you access to any of the surface lots, as well as the garage! An interesting tip that might save students time if the garage is full or they are running late. Second, it's a concrete jungle out there, so good luck Gators!

(Shown Right)  
Map of the UHD Campus  
and designated student and  
Faculty Parking lots

Image Courtesy of Department of Finance and Administration (shown left to right)  
Lot A after being repainted to designate additional spots for Students.



# Red Rose Scholarship Deadline Approaching

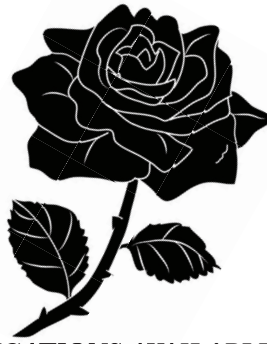
by Karen Reyes

Who says no to scholarships? As college students trying to stay away from government loans as much as possible, applying for scholarships is the best way to graduate with little to no debt. Good news for Gators, then! The Red Rose Leadership wants to offer you a scholarship.

Red Rose Scholars are chosen based on their academic achievements, leadership ability, and their potential of contributing to the future of Houston. If selected, you will be awarded \$3,000 per academic year, (\$1,500 for Fall 2016 and \$1,500 for Spring 2017). If your GPA is 3.5 or higher, head over to the university's website and read the instructions, as well as the requirements you must meet before applying. If you are planning to apply, the deadline is January 29th.

If you don't meet the criteria for this particular scholarship, don't worry! There are plenty of other scholarships you can check out! For example, the Fifth Year Accounting Scholarship and the Good Neighbor Scholarship Program; both can be found on the university's website and must be completed before February. Again, make sure you go to the website and read all the requirements before you apply.

Also a reminder, make sure you visit your college website and look for their selected scholarships opportunities which many are often not applied for. Take advantage this semester and apply to scholarships that the university selects just for you.



**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW**

**Delphian Scholarship – Deadline 3-1-16**

<https://www.uhd.edu/financial/scholarships/Pages/scholarships-private.aspx>

**Fifth Year Accounting Scholarship - Deadline 2-29-16\***

*\*(Or until funds are exhausted.)*

<https://www.uhd.edu/financial/scholarships/Pages/scholarships-institutional-continuing.aspx>

**Red Rose Scholarship - Deadline January 29, 2015**

<https://www.uhd.edu/financial/scholarships/Pages/scholarships-institutional-continuing.aspx>

## An Unexpected Guest Returns for One Final Curtain Call

by Jason J. Rivas

Spring will soon be upon UHD, and with it, the latest production from the O'Kane Theatre, *The Unexpected Guest*. The play will also be the final play for UHD's Dr. Thomas Lyttle, after a legendary five-decade run.

*The Unexpected Guest* is a murder-mystery play written by Dame Agatha Christie. Christie was a world-renowned novelist, short-story writer, and playwright, whose works have been published and adapted throughout the world. Her forays in literature earned her the status of dame in 1971, along with the legacy of being one of the best-selling writers of all time, with approximately two billion copies sold. She also has the distinction of writing the longest-running play in modern history, *The Mousetrap* (1952-present).

*The Unexpected Guest's* plot centers around the discovery of a murdered man and his suspected wife by a stranger — and the convoluted lives of incoming characters suspected of the killing. Themes explored throughout the story include choice, deceit, trust, love, and absurdism. The piece first debuted in 1958, at London's famed West End Theatre. It contains many of Christie's signature moves, including her most memorable angle: the unexpected twist. It is only fitting that her enigmatic style would grace the stage of the O'Kane for Dr. Lyttle's 78th and final production.



image courtesy of SCURC Dramatic Society/Uninvited Guest.png

Since 1977, Dr. Lyttle (Doc) has been the central figure of UHD's esteemed drama department. Throughout the decades, Doc has cultivated UHD's imagination through a wide-ranging catalogue of comedies and dramas. As the years passed, Doc sowed the seeds of the department's success with an assortment of colleagues, a burgeoning array of classes, and, most importantly, a harvest of talent. This combination brought out the best in Doc, UHD, and those who worked with them. Now, at the twilight of his distinguished career, Doc will leave behind the legacy of opening the world of theatre to countless actors/actresses, as well as giving them their "moment" in the spotlight. According to Doc, "I do it because I love it—because it sure ain't for the pay!"

Auditions for *The Unexpected Guest* will take place February 2-3 from 1:30-3:30 pm and again from 6-8 pm. Auditions for the O'Kane's "Lunchtime Theatre" will occur during the same time period. Every spring, students are treated to quirky, thought-provoking, and—most importantly—free plays. This year, the O'Kane will present two: *El hombre que se convirtió en perro*, and selections from the play *For Colored Girls*...

*El hombre es un* drama sobre la medida en que un hombre vaya para su trabajo. La obra es una alusión a la mentalidad de "vivir para trabajar" de ciertas culturas. Las audiciones se llevarán a cabo para encontrar actores hispanohablantes por el

acto. (*El hombre* is a drama about the extent to which a man is willing to go for work. The play is an allusion to the "Live to Work" mentality of certain cultures. Auditions will be held to find Spanish-speaking actors for the act.)

*For Colored Girls* is the powerful drama about the various struggles women face in a sexist, racist society. The play is actually a series of monologues accompanied by music and dance choreography that cast a light on the institution of the patriarchal society that oppresses women of color. Auditions will be held to cast multi-faceted actresses to perform the piece.

*The Unexpected Guest* will be performed from April 1 through April 9, and *El hombre que se convirtió en perro* and *For Colored Girls*... will run April 18–22. Tickets will be on sale in late March via the O'Kane Theatre portal on the UHD website. Come see the fruits of the exceptional actors' and crews' labor and the magic they create within the walls of the O'Kane Theatre. As they say in the Green Room, "Theatre is magic and blessed are those who create that magic."

# 8 WELCOME 2016

## University Theatre Production & Activities Schedule

### Spring 2016

Mon.	Jan.	18	Martin Luther King holiday.
Tues.	Jan.	19	Classes begin.
Tues.	Jan.	26	Drama Scholarship meeting. 7 p.m. Applications due today. All applicants must attend. Meeting is mandatory.
Sun.	Jan.	31	Information Meeting for Drama Trip to Greece (May 14 - 24, 2016); 3 p.m. O'Kane Theatre. Now accepting \$200 non-refundable trip deposits. Please make sure you are going before making a deposit.
Tues.	Feb.	02	Auditions for <i>The Unexpected Guest</i> and Lunch Time Theatre 1:30-3:30 p.m.; 6-8 p.m.
Wed.	Feb.	03	Auditions for <i>The Unexpected Guest</i> and Lunch Time Theatre 1:30-3:30 p.m.; 6-8 p.m.
Fri.	Feb.	05	Cast and crew meeting for <i>Guest</i> . Costume measurements taken; rehearsal schedule and script discussed. 6:00 p.m.
Mon.	Feb.	08	Rehearsals begin for <i>The Unexpected Guest</i>
Sun.	Feb.	21	Final meeting for Drama Trip to Greece (May 14 - 24, 2016) 3 p.m. O'Kane Theatre. Full trip payment due today. After full payment has been made, if you drop out, you must replace yourself, or be replaced - if possible, in order to get any money back. Therefore, please plan carefully.
Mon.	Mar.	07	Load-in for <i>Unexpected Guest</i> 1 p.m. till done
Thurs.	Mar.	10	Light hang for <i>Unexpected Guest</i> 1 p.m. till done

### Spring Break . . . March 14 - 19

Mon.	Mar.	14	Run Act I, in order	7 p.m. till done
Tues.	Mar.	15	Run Act II, in order	7 p.m. till done
Wed.	Mar.	16	Run Act I and II, in order	7 p.m. till done
Thurs.	Mar.	17	Run selected scenes . . . TBA	7 p.m. till done
Fri.	Mar.	18	Cue-to-cue Tech; crew members and designers only	6 p.m. till done
Sat.	Mar.	19	Tech Act I	1 p.m. call; 2 p.m. curtain
Sun.	Mar.	20	Tech Act II	1 p.m. call; 2 p.m. curtain
Mon.	Mar.	21	Full Tech	7 p.m. call; 8 p.m. curtain
Tues.	Mar.	22	Full Tech	7 p.m. call; 8 p.m. curtain
Wed.	Mar.	23	Full Tech	7 p.m. call; 8 p.m. curtain
Thurs.	Mar.	24	Full Tech	7 p.m. call; 8 p.m. curtain



### Spring 2016 (continued)

GOOD FRI.	Mar.	25	Off
Sat.	Mar.	26	Off
EASTER SUN.	Mar.	27	Line run only; no tech 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Mon.	Mar.	28	Full Tech 7 p.m. call; begin 8 p.m.
Mon.	Mar.	28	Tickets go on sale on-line at <a href="http://www.uhd.edu/theatre">www.uhd.edu/theatre</a>
Tues.	Mar.	29	Full Tech 7 p.m. call; begin 8 p.m.
Wed.	Mar.	30	Full Tech (IT videotapes the show) 7 p.m. call; begin 8 p.m.
Thurs.	Mar.	31	Final Tech (possible audience; production photos during technical) 7 p.m. call; begin 8 p.m.

### Performances of *The Unexpected Guest*

Fri.	Apr.	01	Opening Night	8 p.m. curtain
Sat.	Apr.	02	Performance	8 p.m. curtain
Sun.	Apr.	03	Matinee Performance	3 p.m. curtain (10-min pre-show talk)
Mon.	Apr.	04	Dark	
Tues.	Apr.	05	Dark	
Wed.	Apr.	06	Student Matinee Performance	1:30 p.m. curtain (10-min. pre-show talk)
Thurs.	Apr.	07	Performance	8 p.m. curtain
Fri.	Apr.	08	Student Matinee Performance	1:30 p.m. curtain (eat at BW 3's, 3939 Washington Ave., between shows)
Fri.	Apr.	08	Performance	8 p.m. curtain
Sat.	Apr.	09	Closing Night	8 p.m. curtain
Mon.	Apr.	11	Strike <i>Unexpected Guest</i> with Stagecraft class; 1 p.m. till done.	

### Performances of Lunch Time Theatre

1. "El hombre que se convirtió en perro" (15 min.)
2. selections from "For Colored Girls ..." (30 min.)

Bring your lunch to O'Kane Theatre and eat while you watch the play. Admission: Free!

Mon.	April	18	Performance	1-1:45 p.m.
Tues.	April	19	Performance	1-1:45 p.m.
Wed.	April	20	Performance	1-1:45 p.m.
Thurs.	April	21	Performance	1-1:45 p.m.
Fri.	April	22	Performance	1-1:45 p.m.

Sat. Apr. 30 Drama Awards banquet. 7 p.m. UHD Special Events Room, Third Floor



Spring 2016 — January 19, 2016 - May 14, 2016

CLASSES DATES	
JANUARY 19, 2016	Spring semester classes begin
JANUARY 23, 2016	Saturday classes begin for Spring semester
MAY 2, 2016	Last class day
MAY 3-4, 2016	Reading Days (for classes that meet more than once a week)
MAY 5-12, 2016	Final examinations

FINANCIAL AID DATES	
APRIL 1, 2016	Fall 2016 Financial Aid Priority Deadline

UHD CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD PRESENTS

# BACK 2 BACK EVENTS

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**JAN COMING SOON!**

- \*WELCOME WEEK
- \*SUPER HUMP DAY
- \*CAB KICK OFF MIXER
- \*NACHO WEDNESDAY

**FEB**

- \*"NOW YOU SEE ME NOW YOU DONT" MASQUERADE BALL
- \*VALENTINE'S DAY EXTRAVAGANZA
- \*SPEED CONNECTION

**MAR**

- \*THE ALL WHITE AFFAIR
- \*"LOL" COMEDY SHOW

**APRIL**

- \*IT'S SHOWTIME EXPOSE'
- \*CASINO ROYALE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2
3	4	5	6 Three Kings Day	7	8	9
10	11 Emergency Tuition Loan Available	12	13	14	15	16 Payment Due TODAY!!!
17 Late Registration Begins	18 MLK Parade 10am Midtown	19 First Day of Class!!!!	20	21	22 Dateline New Podcast Release	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Red Rose Scholarship Due	30



Contact Dateline Downtown at [facebook.com/datelinedowntown](https://www.facebook.com/datelinedowntown) or [kmmoore12@gmail.com](mailto:kmmoore12@gmail.com) to add your event to our calendar!



UHD Sports & Fitness Spring 2016  
**Fitness Programs**

**Studio Schedule** (Jan. 25 - May 2)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Jillian Michaels BODYSHRED 7:30am-8:10am Cristal	All Abs 7:40am-8:00am Tabish	Jillian Michaels BODYSHRED 7:30am-8:10am Cristal	All Abs 7:40am-8:00am Tabish
Hardcore Outdoor 10:00am-11:00am Alex	Zumba 10:00am-11:00am Melissa	Hardcore Outdoor 10:00am-11:00am Alex	Zumba 10:00am-11:00am Melissa
Kickboxing 11:30am-12:10pm Antonette	Jillian Michaels BODYSHRED 11:20am-12:00pm Lori	Kickboxing 11:30am-12:10pm Antonette	Jillian Michaels BODYSHRED 11:20am-12:00pm Lori
Yogalates 12:15pm-1:00pm Bethany	Step Up! 12:15pm-1:00pm Charlie	Yogalates 12:15pm-1:00pm Bethany	Step Up! 12:15pm-1:00pm Charlie
*Hip Hop 1:15pm-2:15pm Keisha	*Beach Body Bootcamp 1:15pm-2:15pm Mia-trainer	*MMA: The Fundamentals 1:15pm-2:00pm Cristal	Triple Threat 1:15pm-2:00pm Tyra
	*Boot Camp 2:30pm-3:30pm Juan	*Dance Video Choreography 2:30pm-3:45pm Keisha	*Boot Camp 2:30pm-3:30pm Juan
Muscle n' Music 4:10pm-4:50pm Lori	Jillian Michaels BODYSHRED 4:10pm-4:50pm Cristal	Muscle n' Music 4:10pm-4:50pm Lori	Jillian Michaels BODYSHRED 4:10pm-4:50pm Cristal
Boot Camp 5:00pm-5:45pm Tabish	Zumba 5:15pm-6:00pm Elizabeth	Boot Camp 5:00pm-5:45pm Tabish	Zumba 5:15pm-6:00pm Elizabeth
Butts & Guts 6:10pm-6:40pm Sophia	*Yoga 6:00pm-7:00pm Bethany	Butts & Guts 6:10pm-6:40pm Sophia	
	**Gatorettes Practice 7:00pm-9:00pm	**Cheer Practice 7:00pm-9:00pm	**Gatorettes Practice 7:00pm-9:00pm
	Specialty Bootcamp	Strength Classes	
Aerobic type Classes	Yoga/Stretching	Martial Arts	Dance Classes

Videos are available for check out at any time when classes and events are not being held.  
 \*These classes require registration/fee payment. \*\*This team practice is closed to non-members.



Spring 2016  
**HEALTH & FITNESS**

Sports & Fitness seeks to offer educational opportunities for our members to learn about health & fitness. In addition to informative workshops offered by qualified instructors, Sports & Fitness also offers various certifications for members interested in becoming fitness trainers/instructors. More detailed information is made available closer to the dates of certification. Registration forms for each workshop are available in the Department of Sports & Fitness.

**CERTIFICATIONS & TRAININGS**

**Tabata Bootcamp** [www.tabatabootcamp.com](http://www.tabatabootcamp.com)  
 Tabata Bootcamp Instructor Certification Jan 30 Early \$250 Day of \$270

**AFAA (Aerobics & Fitness Association of America)** [www.afoa.com](http://www.afoa.com)  
 Personal Fitness Trainer Workshop Mar 5 Reg \$599 UHD \$450  
 Primary Group Fitness Workshop Mar 6 Reg \$399 UHD \$300

**Jillian Michaels BODYSHRED** [www.jillianmichaelsbodyshred.com](http://www.jillianmichaelsbodyshred.com)  
 BODYSHRED Instructor Certification Apr 16 Reg \$299 UHD \$239

**American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED**  
 February 5 \$15 for UHD 9am-3:30pm N602  
 March 4 \$15 for UHD 9am-3:30pm N602  
 April 15 \$15 for UHD 9am-3:30pm N602

**WORKSHOPS**

	Date	Time	Location
Find Your Motivation Keys	Jan 27	2:30-3:30pm	SLC Studio
X's and O's Dance Party	Feb 15	2:30-3:30pm	SLC Studio
Truth about Fats	Feb 25	2:30-3:30pm	TBD
Brain Food	Mar 2	12-1pm	TBD
Getting to the Core	Mar 7	2:30-3:30pm	SLC Studio
Lose Weight the Right Way	Mar 31	2:30-3:30pm	N602
Muscle Gain Game	Apr 12	2:30-3:30pm	N602
Chocolate Milk and Performance	Apr 21	2:30-3:30pm	TBD

All Fitness Programs are subject to change without notice. Classes, workshops and certifications may be cancelled as a result of low enrollment. For more information about these workshops/certifications, please visit [www.uhd.edu/sports&fitness](http://www.uhd.edu/sports&fitness), call 713-221-8225 or stop by the Student Life Center. Information was last updated on 12/15/15.



**9**

**WELCOME  
 2016**



**Spring 2016**

**Club Sports Tryout Calendar**

Sport Club	Tryouts	Practice/Tryouts	Location	Games/Competitions
Baseball	January 23 - February 6	Tues, Thurs: 4pm-6pm Sat: 10am-12pm	McReynolds Baseball Field	Saturday and Sunday
Basketball (Men's)	January 4 - January 29	Mon, Wed, Fri: 7pm-9pm	Student Life Center	Friday
Cheerleading & Mascot	January 22 & 29	Fri: 1pm-4pm	Student Life Center	Friday & Saturday
Dance	January 26 & 28	Tues, Thurs: 7pm-9pm	Student Life Center Studio	Friday & Saturday
Soccer (Men's)	January 12 - January 28	Tues, Thurs: 4pm-6pm	McReynolds Soccer Field	Saturday
Soccer (Women's)	January 12 - January 28	Tues, Thurs: 4pm-6pm	McReynolds Soccer Field	Saturday
Volleyball (Women's)	January 4 - January 29	Mon, Wed: 7pm-9pm Fri: 5pm-7pm	Student Life Center	Wednesday

All events, dates, and times are subject to change without notice. For entry registration or more information stop by the Student Life Center or call (713) 221-8225. [www.uhd.edu/sports&fitness](http://www.uhd.edu/sports&fitness)  
 (Updated as of 12/15/15)



**Spring 2016**

**Intramural Sports Calendar**

Entry Period	Starting Date	Entry Fee	Sport	Location
1/20 - 2/2	Tues., February 2	\$20/team	Basketball League (Co-Recreational)	SLC Wes
2/12 - 2/25	Thurs., February 25	\$5/individual	Three Point Contest (Men's & Women's)	SLC East
2/12 - 2/25	Thurs., February 25	\$5/individual	Free Throw Contest (Men's & Women's)	SLC East
3/2 - 3/22	Tues., March 22	\$20/team	Soccer League (Men's & Women's)	McReyno
TBD	April 2016	\$5/individual	Tennis Tournament (Men's & Women's)	UH Hoff.
3/25 - 4/7	Thurs., April 7	\$20/team	Softball Tournament (Co-Recreational)	Memorial

All events, dates, and times are subject to change without notice. For entry registration or more information stop by the Student Life Center or call (713) 221-8225. [www.uhd.edu/sports&fitness](http://www.uhd.edu/sports&fitness)  
 (Updated as of 12/15/15)



## UH Cougars Win the Peach Bowl

by Christopher Joseph

It has been a great season of college football. There has been strong play from your expected top teams. The way the Cougars dominated this season, was because of help from their new head coach, Tom Herman. Herman is a rookie when it comes to being the head coach, but he showed considerable talent. His skills could be derived from his extensive coaching career at schools such as Rice, Iowa State and Ohio State, along with many others. Texas A&M Alumni Floyd Anthony said, “I didn’t think UH would be [as] strong as they were this year—with a new coach (Herman), who had never been head coach, and a new system.” He went on, “I thought it would take some time to build up this team.”

On December 31, Herman led the 14th ranked Cougars to a 38–24 victory against the 9th ranked Florida State Seminoles (FSU) at the Peach Bowl, making the team’s overall record this season 12–1. The way they dominated Florida State had everyone on the edge of their seats. Houston was under the radar for most of the year, but they just kept winning; the Coogs made a lot of noise this season. It was the first time the Cougars beat an AP top team in a bowl game since 1979.

The senior leadership of the new head coach was the key to success this season. You can tell that the players liked and completely trusted Tom Herman to lead them to victory; Herman was a great hire for Houston. “The way that he put in Greg Ward Jr. in a position to succeed was incredible,” said Anthony.

It seems that Houston is making all the right plays. According to the Houston Chronicle’s Joseph Duarte, “Kyle Allen, the former starting Quarterback for Texas A&M, and one of the highly-regarded top QB’s in the nation, will be transferring to University of Houston. And with Herman signed on with Houston for five years, 2016 will be a great year for Houston and will make everyone remember the Spirit of Houston, The Cougars.”



## The Heartening Highs and Lackluster Lows of Houston Sports

by Terrence Turner

After an inauspicious start, the Houston Texans scratched and clawed their way into the 2015–16 postseason. With a blowout 30–6 win over the Jacksonville Jaguars, the Texans upgraded to a second consecutive 9–7 season. This season, they earned a spot in the playoffs. They won their division (the AFC South) for the first time since 2012, breathing new life into the hopes of team fans that maybe—just maybe—their team could advance to the Super bowl.

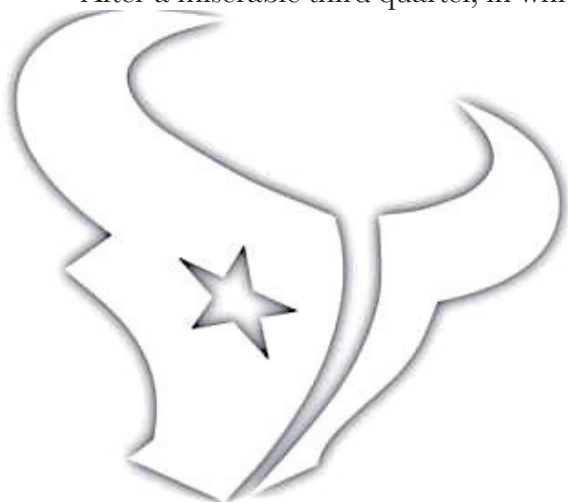
It was not to be. In their big playoff moment versus the Kansas City Chiefs on Jan. 9, those hopes were dashed completely. On the opening drive, Chiefs player Knile Davis returned the kickoff ball for a 106-yard touchdown. From there, things fell apart in horrifying fashion. Defensive end J.J. Watt aggravated a groin injury in the third quarter, the Chiefs defense dominated the team (even forcing a fumble at one point), and Texans quarterback Brian Hoyer threw a career-worst four interceptions.

The statistics (courtesy of ESPN) are staggering. With this victory, the Chiefs have scored their eleventh win in a row – and their first playoff win since 1994 (By the way, that win was also in Houston, versus the Oilers). It was the first shutout playoff game since 2005. But the most memorable (and troubling) statistic is the score. 30-0.

Thankfully, the Rockets are doing somewhat better. After a 4–7 start, which included a four-game losing streak, head coach Kevin McHale was fired on Nov. 19—just 11 games into the season. Interim coach J.R. Bickerstaff became frustrated with the team’s inconsistency, saying on Dec. 26 that they’d “disrespected the game.” Luckily, their Jan. 10 game versus the Indiana Pacers showed signs of life.

After a miserable third quarter, in which they missed 12 consecutive shots and were down 77–64, the Rockets rallied. They tied the game at the end of regulation and stormed their way back for a 107–103 overtime win. After a last-minute clearance to play, Dwight Howard scored 21 points and made 17 rebounds. “He was a monster on the glass. They didn’t have anyone who could guard him one-on-one,” Bickerstaff said later.

Howard wasn’t the only player who shined that night. James Harden overcame five turnovers to match Howard’s 21 points and rack up nine rebounds and nine assists. Trevor Ariza scored 24 points, and Patrick Beverley contributed 16. The gritty win gave the Rockets momentum ahead of their Jan. 12 game versus the Memphis Grizzlies. Can they keep their playoff hopes alive? Only time will tell.



# All Roads Lead to Rome: Eight Teams Vie for Lombardi's Trophy

by Jason J. Rivas

And then there were eight! The quest for Santa Clara and Super Bowl 50 kicked off with a raucous start. In order to hoist the NFL's top prize, two teams must show true grit and ingenuity over the course of the next two weeks.

The Kansas City Chiefs were the first team to punch their ticket to the divisional round, decimating the Houston Texans' offense in route to a 30-0 victory. The Texans head into the offseason with J.J. Watt recovering from groin surgery, head Coach Bill O'Brien in search of new assistant coaches, and no reliable quarterback to entrust the franchise with. But all is not glum for the Texans; they did find ways to win this season, and the defense is still formidable (albeit rife with injuries). A change in philosophy in regards to the QB may be just what the team needs to advance further in the playoffs next year.

As for the Chiefs, they relied on their standard formula of victory: an efficient offense guided by quarterback Alex Smith, and a physical defense that contained their opponents. They have quietly been the best team in the league, leading with an impressive 11-game winning streak (the longest in the league) heading towards Foxborough and the New England Patriots.

New England has struggled as of late, going 2-4 after they started the season by winning 10 straight games. The Patriots have also struggled to stay healthy all season, as they have lost their two top running backs, two injured reserves, and have had an interchanging offensive line that lacks cohesion or the ability to protect QB Tom Brady. However, the team's starters—wide receiver Julian Edelman, left tackle Sebastian Vollmer, defensive end Chandler Jones, and linebacker Dont'a Hightower—have all recovered from their injuries and are game-ready. As usual, tight end Rob Gronkowski remains a formidable athlete for any defender to cover. The Patriots should be able to curtail the Chiefs' efficiency enroute to a trip to the AFC Championship.

On the other side, the Pittsburgh Steelers narrowly absconded from their divisional foes, the Cincinnati Bengals, to punch their ticket to "Mile High" Denver. Pittsburgh's 18-16 victory showed that the defense, although aging, is still a force to be reckoned

with. Injuries have limited QB Ben Roethlisberger to barely managing game leads. As well, wide receiver Antonio Brown and RB DeAngelo Williams have been banged up. The team has managed to show fortitude in achieving victory, but they must face a high horsepower offense in the Denver Broncos.

Denver has home field advantage through the playoffs and a well-rested lineup. Denver still has its physical defense and highly-effective offense on hand. However, Peyton Manning is back under center after sitting out the last two months to recover from a torn plantar fascia in his left foot. This nagging injury could limit his mobility, forcing the Broncos to rely more on their defense to smother the Steeler offense. Despite this, Denver should propel themselves to victory and host the AFC title game against New England.

As for the NFC side of the playoff picture, the Seattle Seahawks managed to keep their hopes of a third straight trip to the Super Bowl intact with a 10-9 victory over the Minnesota Vikings. The game was chilly, with temperatures reaching 6 degrees below zero. Seattle's defense proved, once again, its mastery of the field in limiting Minnesota's offense to scraps. The Seahawks offense was missing its top weapon, with RB Marshawn Lynch ruling himself out from play, but a continued reliance on a ground-and-pound running offense, along with an improbable shank by Vikings kicker Blair Walsh, catapulted Seattle to a showdown in Carolina.

The Carolina Panthers have been the NFL's best team for most of the season, with an unexpected 15-1 season. QB Cam Newton has made his case for MVP of the league by leading his high-octane offense to the playoffs. The defense has maintained

dominance through most of their matchups as well. However, it is noteworthy that most of the teams they faced had losing records, and Seattle is looking to avenge their Week 6 loss to the Panthers. The Panthers face a major test, with the Seahawks battle-hardened for big games. This may be the upset of the weekend, with Seattle forging ahead to the NFC championship.

As for the other divisional game, the Green Bay Packers finally found their groove in their 35-18 defeat of the Washington Redskins. QB Aaron Rodgers led the Packers past their first-quarter lethargic play after illustrating an offensive portrait of success for the rest of the game. The defense, after giving up 11 points early on, clamped down on Washington to allow Rodgers and company to find their groove. However, questions still remain as to whether Green Bay has solved their issues on both sides of the ball as they head for a confrontation in Arizona.

The Arizona Cardinals have been a well-oiled machine all season at 14-2, as they host the Packers. Their offense is smooth, the defense is merciless, and their execution is precise. Their nine-game win streak is the franchise's longest since 1948. They seem to be the favorites going in, but one should wonder if Seattle's 36-6 defeat of the Cardinals in Week 17 exposed a flaw in the blueprints. Even so, Green Bay may still not have enough to unplug the machine, as Arizona may handle business and host Seattle in the NFC Championship.

By the time you have read this, four teams will remain in the hunt for the Lombardi Trophy. Those teams will have the privilege of playing for a spot in Super Bowl 50, the nation's biggest sporting event of the year.



## Catch Me if you Can: Hollywood's El Chapo may get the Green Light

by Jason J. Rivas

"What do you get for the man who has everything?" Sean Penn once uttered this line in the film, *The Game*. For Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, the answer was simple: a Hollywood biopic.

Not since the 1990s, and the fascination of "Where in the world is Carmen Sandiego?" has there been a manhunt of the size and scope as that for El Chapo. To summarize: El Chapo is the notorious kingpin of the Sinaloa Cartel, a ruthless drug-trafficking organization out of Sinaloa State, Mexico. They are responsible for a sizeable portion of the marijuana, cocaine, and heroin smuggled into the United States. He had been on the run since his highly-publicized escape from a maximum-security prison last July. For months, Mexican authorities searched far and wide for the man whose incredible escape left them humiliated on the world stage. On January 8th, the deadliest game of hide-and-go-seek came to an end, when El Chapo was recaptured during an intense raid on his hideout, by Mexican marines. Now, with the kingpin behind bars and facing extradition to the United States, the story appears to be heading towards a conclusion... Or is it?

Not if Hollywood has anything to do with it. In early October, El Chapo secretly met with veteran thespian Sean Penn. The unprecedented meeting was facilitated by Mexican actress Kate del Castillo, who previously had shown interest in developing a film about the head honcho. Penn met with Castillo in Los Angeles, and after a series of developments, Penn was on a James Bond-esque jaunt to Mexico by plane, then SUV, followed by another plane, and more SUVs, before arriving in a remote village within a jungle. Penn was then greeted by a jovial Chapo, who offered him food, drinks, and a "compadre" embrace. The two then spoke, briefly, of El Chapo's life, empire, and, among other things, his encounter with Pablo Escobar. After the meeting,

plans were put forth for another encounter, but rival cartel raids forced the two gentlemen to conduct their interview through visual recording devices. Penn has stated that the follow-up interview lasted approximately 17 minutes, longer than the usual "15 minutes of fame" Hollywood typically dishes out.

Unfortunately for El Chapo, Mexican officials were aware of the meeting with Sean Penn and used intelligence gathered from their lines of communication to close in on him. In fact, when the two met in Durango for their interview, authorities were ready to raid the location. However, the mission was aborted and El Chapo escaped the authorities' grasp until January 8th. But El Chapo is not done shopping his life to Hollywood, according to Sean Penn. "He was interested in seeing the story of his life told on film, but would entrust its telling only to Kate," Penn said in his article for *Rolling Stone*.

Penn did ask Chapo one question of interest for the American public; when asked if he was responsible for America's addiction to illicit drugs, the incomparable drug lord stated: "No, that is false, because the day I don't exist, it's not going to decrease in any way at all. Drug trafficking? That's false."



(image courtesy of The Guardian)  
-El Chapo meets Sean Penn

## The Future is Now

by Christopher Joseph

Back in the day, everyone tried to predict what the future would look like. The world of tomorrow has been the subject of many books, movies, and television shows. One of the most famous movies that takes a leap of faith in guessing what the future of cutting edge technology would like was *Back to the Future 2*. That movie gave birth to a plethora of ideas of what 2015 would be like, with things like actual hover boards, rehydrated pizzas and many more. However, there was one thing the movie didn't predict, Virtual Reality.

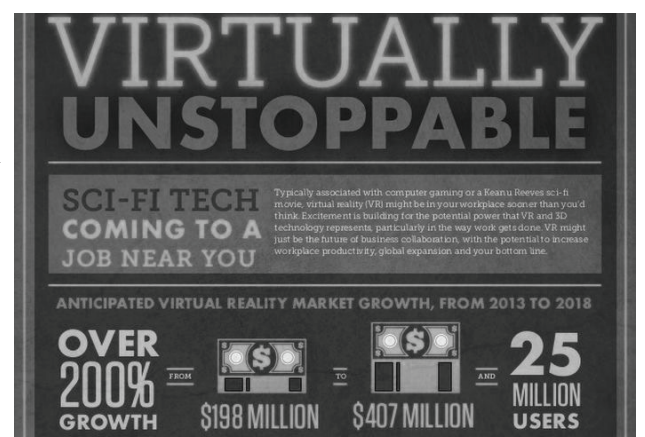
Back in 2009, Palmer Luckey developed the initial prototype of what would become the future of gaming, the Oculus Rift, in his parents' garage. In 2012, Luckey got into contact with game developer John Carmack, who was the lead developer in classic games such as *Wolfenstein 3D* and *DOOM*. Luckey sent the prototype of the Rift to Carmack, and in turn, he demonstrated the Rift's capabilities, in June 2012 at the Gaming convention E3. Soon after, Luckey and Carmack started their Company "Oculus," the company announced a Kickstarter campaign to help further develop the Rift. The original goal was to earn \$250,000, and, in less than thirty-six hours, the company surpassed one million dollars, ending the campaign with a total of \$2,437,429.

The Rift is a head-mounted display system that must be connected to a PC running Microsoft Windows that will run the software. Along with its partnership with Microsoft, the Rift will be sold with an Xbox One Gamepad. Oculus is also releasing a pair of controllers to be used with the Rift, called Oculus Touch. These controllers will be sold as a pair.

The Rift wouldn't be the first gaming system to implement virtual reality. In 1995, Nintendo released the Virtual Boy; it was marketed to be the first "portable" video game console with "true 3D graphics." However, the system was a commercial failure. It suffered from being uncomfortable to play, its high asking price, and the lack of immersive real 3D gaming the system promised. The Virtual Boy ultimately had a poor marketing campaign, and within a year the system was left in the dust.

As of late 2015, Oculus announced a release date for the Rift, set for March 2016; priced at \$599. However, those who help back the project with \$300 or more, will receive the Rift for free keeping; a promise Oculus made back in 2012. Later in the year Oculus will release the Oculus Touch, separately from the Rift.

With the Rift on its way to stores, other companies have hopped on the VR train, such as Samsung and Sony, along with HTC, who is partnering-up with the gaming company Valve, which is a part of Valve Corporation's SteamVR project. Due to the rapid growth in the VR industry, Oculus stated they will release a successor to the Rift roughly 2-3 years after the Rift's release.



# Long Days Journey into Night

by Casey Black

With the premier of a new music festival, things can often become hectic and disorganized. Creating a lackluster experience for festival-goers craving awe and excitement can be detrimental. However, where its predecessors failed, Day for Night succeeded. Spawned by the creators of Free Press Summer Fest, Day for Night is a two-day art and music festival that sought to change how we perceive light and sound by showcasing immersive art installations throughout the festival grounds with world-renowned performers such as Kendrick Lamar, Janelle Monáe and New Order.

Day one sounded off at Green Stage, with Christine Renee spinning disco vibes to a pulsating crowd, later followed by an electric performance at Red Stage from headliners Janelle Monáe and New Order. Janelle Monáe's set was fueled with high energy as she was rolled onto stage restrained to a stretcher, Hannibal Lecter-style, before being set loose on the crowd by band members. She serenaded the audience with funky covers of Michael Jackson and James Brown, including popular singles from her own album "Electric Lady." English rock band, New Order, closed out the night after coming off a sold out tour in Europe for their newest album "Music Complete." The popular electro group hadn't had a live show in Houston since 1989, making Day for Night the first to host the band in their one and only stop in North America. This made the event all the more special for their fans, including high-profile ones.

Famous fashion designer Alexander Wang made an appearance backstage to marvel at their brilliance as New Order performed a two-hour set visiting hits spanning their entire discography. The crowd was electrified, rushing the stage with anticipation. Well in their middle ages, New Order dazzled the attendees with a "back to the future" experience, using three jumbo screens to provide video footage of the band back in the 80's while they performed with their prior younger selves. Lead singer Summer Bernard engaged the crowd: "It's an honor to play for you all in front of this beautiful skyline."

After a successful night, day two rolled in promising the thrills of rap, presenting Death Grips, Flying Lotus, and platinum recording artist Kendrick Lamar. Gates opened to a young crowd of self-proclaimed hip-hop heads dressed casually in jeans, sneakers, and their favorite artist tees. The atmosphere was filled with various aromas, while attendees disputed and gawked over which food trucks to purchase their munchies from.

As the day transitioned into night, the headliners began to take the Red Stage. I arrived to Flying Lotus starting his set performing behind a giant projector screen that displayed an array of different colored lights before showcasing 3D effects that highlighted his name with lasers, which appeared as if they were floating off the screen. FlyLo had fun with the crowd, carrying a grin whenever he maneuvered around stage. Delivering tracks from his rap alter ego Captain Murphy, FlyLo closed his set with "Never Catch Me." The anxious crowd went into a frenzy in hopes that Kendrick would appear out of the shadows and perform his verse on the featured track, but it was a tease orchestrated by FlyLo.

Luckily, the wait was soon over, considering Kendrick was the following act. The Jumbotron glowed with the caption "Never trust a (expletive) with cornrows." Kendrick made his entrance on stage. Greeting a sea of fans, opening with a song titled "For Free," and performing an illustrious set comprised of tracks from his albums "Good Kid, M.A.A.D City," and "To Pimp a Butterfly." Fans rapped with Kendrick reciting lyrics faithfully as he performed "M.A.A.D City." Unafraid to share the stage, Kendrick aimed to leave a lasting impression, stopping the show to handpick several eccentric fans to join him in his performance. One that stole the spotlight was Houston native, Corporate Dough.

Dough grabbed the mic to confess his love for the city, including a shout-out to Houston legends DJ Screw and Pimp C, before spouting off into an off-the-wall freestyle over "M.A.A.D City," after stumbling over the original lyrics. Delivering the final one-two punch to a fantastic weekend, Kendrick ended the festival with a classic from Section 80, "ADHD."

Houston's inaugural Day for Night was splendid and proved that an outdoor music festival in a Texas winter can make for great memories. It offered an exciting and interactive

experience with the biggest names in music. It's easy to believe that Day for Night will become Houston premiere winter festival for years to come.

image courtesy of chron.com  
-stage at festival as the day faded to night



## Cold Liquid Wreaks Havoc in the City of Angels

by Jason J. Rivas

Panic struck Los Angeles on January 4th, as the skies began to fall on helpless citizens. By the end of the day, innocent lives were dampened by a hydrogen/oxygen compound, which scientists now believe is a mythical phenomenon known as rain.

The prophecy of Chicken Little has long said that the sky would fall one day. Once a non-believer, Little attended Tijuana State University and was struck by the gods with an acorn of truth: the apocalypse was coming. After graduation, Dr. Little began his journey across the lands of Southern California, warning others that the sky would be falling. However, many Californians were too busy preparing for their Star Wars: Episode Eight acting auditions to heed the advice of the "wet blanket" prophet.

Now, as his prophecy plays out, the sky is indeed falling, and terror has gripped the lands of SoCal. The hubris of the citizens runneth over as mysterious concentrations of "sky matter" began to form, what meteorologists have coined, "puddles." It is only a matter of time before these docile "puddles" become tyrannical beasts of inundation. Every day, the tides rise to higher and higher levels, some as deep as three inches! The King of California, Jeff Goldblum, decreed that after he finished defeating the aliens at the battle of "Independence Day: Resurgence," that he would return to California to battle with whomever is responsible for the deluge of sorrow.

So far, both ISIS and Poseidon have claimed responsibility for the attacks, but Homeland Security is still in shock and cannot confirm the source. The heroic presidential hopeful, Donald Trump, has now called for a ban on all things H<sub>2</sub>O-based until the nation can strengthen its borders and build a concrete fortification that will keep the alien liquid out of the region. President Barack Obama was quoted as saying, "America, I believe in the Second Amendment, but we need to take the necessary steps to bring about flood-control measures to protect innocent kids from the horrors of Aquaman." Republicans quickly dismissed this as a scare tactic employed to expand Washington's power and believed that arming the "good guys" was the best way to combat the bad guys dampening the California region.

There is also a burgeoning group that claims that the sky is not falling, but experiencing the effects of what they call, "El Niño." These left-wing nut jobs claim that California has been flooded with a drought, now in its fifth year. These virgins claim, no doubt from their mothers' basements, that if the rains continue, then the drought will end. No doubt, these tree-hugging, science hippies have been smoking too much herb to understand the dangers of Dr. Little's prophecy.

Only time will tell if Californians will be able to return to their smog-inducing, traffic-jamming, celebrity-idolizing ways of life but one thing is for sure: sometimes, three inches CAN be a big deal.

## Indecision 2016: Veterans and the Race for the White House

by Jason J. Rivas

It was a cold Sunday morning, and jovial tourists lingered among the alluring attractions of the Santa Monica Pier. In stark contrast to the festivities of the pier, two men solemnly carried a flag-draped casket amidst a shore harboring crosses, stars of David, and crescent stars. The image was a captivating paradox of American life progressing indiscriminately, juxtaposed to the continuation of American lives indiscreetly lost abroad.

Imagine this scenario: a powerful nation is maliciously attacked; a right-wing organization claims responsibility; said powerful nation invades and claims victory over a region in a little over a month, then spends well over a decade trying to maintain said victory. The situation sounds like a summarization of the Vietnam War: tumultuous, convoluted, and avoidable. The U.S.'s war efforts in the Middle East have now begun to descend into the same darkness of a pointless goal. Welcome to the new Vietnam, now under the guise of bringing democracy to the Middle East. In 2017, a third U.S. President will inherit this quagmire, one that George W. Bush initiated, and Barack Obama accelerated. With the rise of a well-rooted, funded, and armed ISIS network wreaking havoc across the region, and even reaching the home front, the future remains chaotic for the men and women of the U.S. military.

Veterans for Peace is an organization that strives to raise awareness to the chaos and sorrow that war causes, through the publication and distribution of various studies, in the hopes of preventing future intensifications abroad. One such study, conducted by Friends Committee on National Legislation, found that in 2011, for every dollar U.S. citizens paid towards the federal income tax, 39 cents (\$1,165,907,000,000) of it went towards Pentagon expenditures towards current and past wars, as well as national defense. The same figures showed that the federal government only spent two cents (\$62,409,000,000) for every dollar towards diplomacy and war prevention measures.

So what does the Pentagon buy with a trillion dollars? Here are a few examples: to equip a soldier for combat operations costs \$17,500 per soldier; a cruise missile flies at

\$830,000; an Abrams Tank rolls out at \$6.21 million a unit; an F-22 Raptor jets for \$150 million; a B-2 Stealth Bomber goes under-the-radar for \$1.01 billion; a Virginia Class Submarine sails for \$2.3 billion; a Gerald Ford class Aircraft Carrier floats for \$13.5 billion; and the U.S.'s nuclear weapons program drops for \$52 billion per year. By comparison, the average median household income is \$49,445; the average cost of a four-year degree plan is \$20,986; the average family health insurance plan is \$15,073, and the median sale price of a new home is \$221,800. Why would the Defense Department take so much money away from Americans that could use those funds to enrich their lives and the nation's economy? The answer has been public knowledge since 1961: the military-industrial complex.

In his ambitious, farewell presidential-address to the nation, General Dwight D. Eisenhower spoke of the military-industrial complex, in which wars would no longer be fought as a means of defense, but as a means to conduct business, headed by leaders within the corporate, political, and military sectors. Since Ike left office, the United States has seen a disturbing rise in the military industry, their profits, and their influence on Washington. It has reached a point at which the United States is fixated on a war economy, in which thousands of Americans are sacrificed on the war fronts while corporations profit from American intervention.

With November elections closing in, presidential candidates are fine-tuning their stances on military spending. Republican Presidential-hopeful Rand Paul has called for a more lean defense budget, going so far as to push for an audit of the Pentagon. Fellow Presidential-candidate Marco Rubio disagrees and is calling for an increase in military spending by one trillion dollars, over a ten year period, into the deficit. Other Republican hopefuls, such as Jeb Bush, Donald Trump and Chris Christie believe in an increase in military

spending and presence abroad.

On the Democratic side, Bernie Sanders has shared Paul's view on auditing the Pentagon. As well, they both believe in a non-interventionist approach to global conflicts. Sanders has also reached out to veteran organizations in his speeches, calling for better services for the men and women affected by the war machine. His opponent, Hillary Clinton, shares a view somewhat similar to her Republican counterparts, in which she would escalate expenditures and presence to combat ISIS. Perhaps it would be most beneficial, though, if each candidate would heed the cautionary words of Eisenhower before building their foreign policy platforms.

The 2016 presidential election is now nine months away. Candidates are inundating early caucus and primary states with arguments as to why they should be the next U.S. President. As so, it is important for potential voters to, not only, logically mull over the issues at hand, but to research each candidate's record to develop an accord with who is the best fit for the job. In the case of the military, perhaps it's time for Americans to elect a President who takes into account the long-term effects of war, through the lens of the countless veterans whose lives have been irrevocably afflicted by short-term military measures, over the short-term goals of the military-industrial complex.

For more information about "Veterans for Peace," visit their website at <http://www.arlingtonwestsantamonica.org/index.html>. For questions to consider when vetting a presidential candidate, visit [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/justin-constantine/heres-what-you-should-ask-the-presidential-candidates-about-the-military\\_b\\_8919638.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/justin-constantine/heres-what-you-should-ask-the-presidential-candidates-about-the-military_b_8919638.html).



(image courtesy of Jason Rivas)

-veterans memorial on Santa Monica Pier

# To Work, Mr. Mayor

by Joshua Burgman

On January 2nd, Sylvester Turner recited the oath that confirmed him as the City of Houston's 62nd mayor—and its second African-American mayor. Turner's achievement of becoming Houston's chief executive can be described as a long walk up a winding staircase—the way to a great office, of course. Not only was it his third time running for the position, but he did so amongst a cadre of experienced and capable competitors.

Houston's 2015 mayoral race was competitive, and 2016 is poised to be a crucial year in respect to the city's most urgent needs. Turner rose to the top of the heap, defeating the likes of former Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia and businessman Steve Costello. After a tie between him and former Kemah Mayor Bill King in November 2015, Turner would eventually bring home the win, defeating King by only a small margin the following December. Now that he has been sworn-in and has a firm grip on the reins of power, the real work begins.

The glitz and glamour of a mayoral election—of the nation's fourth largest city—can often be blinding. Campaigns are a never-ending loop of promises, complaints and political discord. When speaking to a supporter during Turner's election night party, his win was described as “the crown being placed on the head of the prom king.” The underlying truth, seen through the haze of confetti, is that the “prom king” has been elected with the expectation that he will ease the city's most troublesome burdens. Among those with the highest priority: infrastructure and finances.

**Infrastructure:** It's not really news that Houstonians are underwhelmed by, and even angry with, the state of Houston's roads/streets, for the everyday commuter at least. That especially rings true for UHD students, faculty and staff. UHD is a commuter school, situated in the heart of Houston's growing and increasingly diverse metropolis. Everyday travel to the University, whether it is by Metro or personal transportation, is marred by construction and traffic on every highway. In order for the new mayor to be successful, he must find a way to upgrade streets that have been in need of attention for quite some time.

During a conference in January, with members of his newly established pothole “war-room,” Turner is reported to have said, “I know we have set a very high expectation, but that's what people in the city want. They want us to live up to their expectations.” That expectation is that Turner will follow through on his promise made during the campaign, when he

stated that he would create a system, by which potholes would be fixed within 24 hours of being reported.

The mayor's verbal efforts are commendable, but the city stands to be faced with a price tag that is well into the billion dollar range. Notwithstanding the streets, Houston is home to the nation's busiest international water port: the Port of Houston. Understandably—given the recent slump in oil prices and subsequent effects on the energy sector—the Port of Houston commands attention from the city's leaders in respects to its capacity to sustain in a 21st century global market economy. This is something that is even recognized within the highest echelons of the nation's political apparatus. When speaking before a crowd full of people at the annual convention of the American Association of Port Authorities, US Vice President Joe Biden was quoted as saying, “How can we have a 21st century economy with a 20th century infrastructure? It's simply unacceptable.”

**Finances:** Without a doubt, one of the biggest issues the city faces in the coming year has to deal with the city's pension plan. The city's pension, and how it is handled, was one of the most talked about issues during the mayoral campaign. Although they all had different opinions as to what to do about the pensions program, all of the candidates agreed that the city's finances/pensions should be controlled by the Houston City Council, instead of in Austin, where the city's finances are controlled now. With that being the case, it's important to see how Mayor Turner intends to implement change, when he doesn't have very much control to begin with.

According to the Houston Chronicle, “Rising payments have not kept up with the growth in costs [or] the \$3.2 billion unfunded liability that has built up in the police, fire and municipal pension funds.” As more police officers and firefighters retire, the city will be responsible for settling the debt, also known as the “\$3.2 billion unfunded liability.” As it stands now, this is not an obligation the city's purse can fulfill. Whatever the case may be, Turner has his work cut out for him. Another major issue that the new mayor has to focus on is crime, but that also requires that he gets a real handle on pensions; becoming a police officer or firefighter doesn't seem very appealing if the city isn't capable of taking care of the families of first responders in case something should happen to them while working.

Despite the city's woes, it has elected a new leader. The only thing left to do is see whether or not he will accomplish what he promised and was elected to do.

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## Annise Parker: The End of an Era

by Kara Moore

When Annise Parker announced her candidacy for mayor in 2010 after five years on the city council and six years as city controller, she probably didn't imagine that she would receive the national attention that she did. She's not the first lesbian mayor of a city, but she is the first openly lesbian mayor of a major US city, a city in a state known for its conservatism. That alone was enough to attract national media attention to her campaign. When Parker won and became the second female mayor of Houston, it was a triumph that should not be forgotten. Parker worked hard at shaping her legacy. She put in place the controversial plan called “Rebuild Houston,” which raised water bills, but promised to improve the infrastructure of Houston down the road. She also started the “2020 Bayou Greenways Project” to put trails along the bayous again. Through these programs, Parker's impact will be remembered for years to come.

Although Parker was beloved by the city of Houston, she made unpopular decisions. She cut jobs and spending, downsized the government by 1,000 employees, and shortened the hours of Houston libraries and swimming pools. She even worked at obtaining power over the city's pensions for police and firefighters; power which currently belongs to the Texas legislature, in Austin. Ultimately, she failed, but it was another valiant effort at taking control of areas adding to the city debt.

The one big blemish on her esteemed career is the vote on the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO), the ordinance she worked very hard to orchestrate. HERO would've created city protections for race, gender, veteran status, disability, sexuality, etc.; which, all other major cities in Texas have already. Due to a campaign run by the Houston Pastoral Council, which asserted that the ordinance allowed “predators” into city bathrooms, the ordinance failed when it was put to ballot, in November. The loss garnered the same national attention that Parker's original mayoral campaign did. This time, many different news outlets and television shows poked fun at Houstonians for giving-in to fear and actively choosing not to protect its citizens from housing/employment discrimination. While the defeat of the ordinance was a huge blow to Parker, she has promised to continue to work towards equality -- and new mayor Sylvester Turner has promised to look into ways to revitalize HERO in Houston's community.

So far, Parker has not revealed future political plans. There has been talk of her taking a position at Harvard University, however. In an interview with Houstonia magazine, she didn't deny her interest in running for statewide office in 2018, but nothing is yet confirmed for her future. She did say one thing: “I love what I do. I love this city. It's my hometown, and I want to continue to improve it.”

Thank you, Mayor Parker, for your service to this community. I look forward to continuing to cover your political career in the future.

## The Fading Popularity of Beauty Pageants and the Rise of Viral Content

by Elisa Gonzalez

In December, the Miss Universe pageant, having outlived its golden era by about twenty years, entered a new Family Feud-like era. Like the daytime game show, the pageant's host was Steve Harvey. Also like the game show, it failed desperately against the current of America's shifting values, relying on a cringe-worthy mishap for viral recognition.

With the internet blowing up over this year's Miss Universe pageant, there's reasonable suspicion as to whether seasoned TV host Steve Harvey actually did misread the contest winners, briefly crowning Miss Colombia over Miss Philippines, or whether the error was a publicity stunt for an event that refuses to resign to the attic of the American consciousness. Whichever it was, the show's online presence was up more than 100% from the previous year, and there's a lot to be said for why it took such an embarrassing mistake to accomplish that. It could be because the once-narrow definition of beauty that pageants like Miss Universe thrive on is expanding. Film, TV, and the internet are all acknowledging a greater variety of feminine beauty, proving to young girls everywhere that they don't have to look like anything other than themselves to be considered beautiful.

It could also be that women have assumed more powerful roles in recent years, earning recognition for much more than their looks. When beauty queens reigned supreme, there was probably little else that young girls felt they could pursue to earn widespread admiration and fame. To today's young girls, there is probably little that seems impossible.

However, just because beauty pageants are, by definition, valuing women according to looks (pageants contend that "inner beauty" is also taken into account, although the average 35% of points allotted for formal and swimwear says otherwise), that doesn't mean pageant participants aren't educated and accomplished women. Winners also earn money to further their educations and are expected to shed light on a charity of their choosing.

For many, these pageants still serve a purpose. In addition to highlighting their accomplished participants, it's often argued that they empower women by promoting confidence. Even while the idea of a beauty queen is built on old, decaying ideology, if a population of female pageant contestants can find strength and confidence by participating in these shows, then that's a wonderful thing.



It isn't, however, such a wonderful thing when the American audience—whose fading interest in beauty pageants is represented by Miss Universe's last eight years of poor ratings—is tricked into endorsing a dying tradition. But that's the nature of viral content: it brings light to the otherwise neglected attempts at entertainment. It's the way Family Feud manages to stay mildly relevant, purposely engineering categories so as to ensure someone delivers a "hilarious" sexual innuendo.

Perhaps Miss Universe, or other beauty pageants following suit, will think of new cheap ways to steal our attention this year. Or maybe 2015's mishap was truly an accident and the industry will continue to fade out like similar ones that aimed to narrowly define women and beauty.

## Call For Submissions

by Darci McFerran

Gators! As Dateline has continued to grow and improve the newspaper, and what we offer the UHD community, we find new and exciting ways to reach our audience. University students have a unique set of needs that often cannot be met outside of that community. In previous issues, we have made calls for submissions to the paper about what is happening on campus or just responses to what we have published. Receiving responses from our readers helps us keep the students informed on the many organizations and opportunities available to them, as well as how we are doing in getting information out to you.

With that in mind, we want to remind you all that Dateline-Downtown does accept written submissions to the editor. These submissions are reviewed for publication in the newspaper, so please be aware of that when submitting. The purpose of open submissions is to give a voice to anyone in the UHD community that would like to exercise that ability. We do not limit what can be discussed, however, anything not written in an academic format and with a broad audience in mind will either be edited at the discretion of Dateline editors, or not published at all.

Additionally, we are interested in launching a 'classifieds' section to the newspaper for students, faculty and administration to utilize for their individual needs relevant to the campus community. It would be a great way to buy or sell gently used items, look for roommates, study buddies, and promote events around UHD. Generally, the concept of a classifieds section is not unique; however, our classifieds would be unique in that it serves strictly our university.

Finally, Dateline-Downtown will also be accepting "Press Releases" from Student Organizations, faculty, colleges, or administration regarding events or programs that the UHD community would benefit from learning about. These should be written by someone within that organization and provide all of the relevant details, such as time, date, name requirements, etc.

To submit information to either of these categories please send an email to [datelinedowntownhtx@gmail.com](mailto:datelinedowntownhtx@gmail.com) with either "Written Submission to Editor" or "Classifieds Listing" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, contact information, and relevant dates in the first few lines of the body of the email. Please be aware that any submissions need to be received one week prior to the publication of the current issue (see below for deadline dates) or your submission will have to be held for three weeks until the next issue is published. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions regarding the deadline for submissions, and these will be continuously updated on the [datelinedowntown.com](http://datelinedowntown.com) website. We are also happy to share your events and advertisements on our social media platforms, as long as you notify us of what to post and when it will be shared and tag Dateline with #DatelineDowntown!

Thank you Gators! We look forward to hearing from you soon!

CALL  
FOR  
SUBMISSIONS