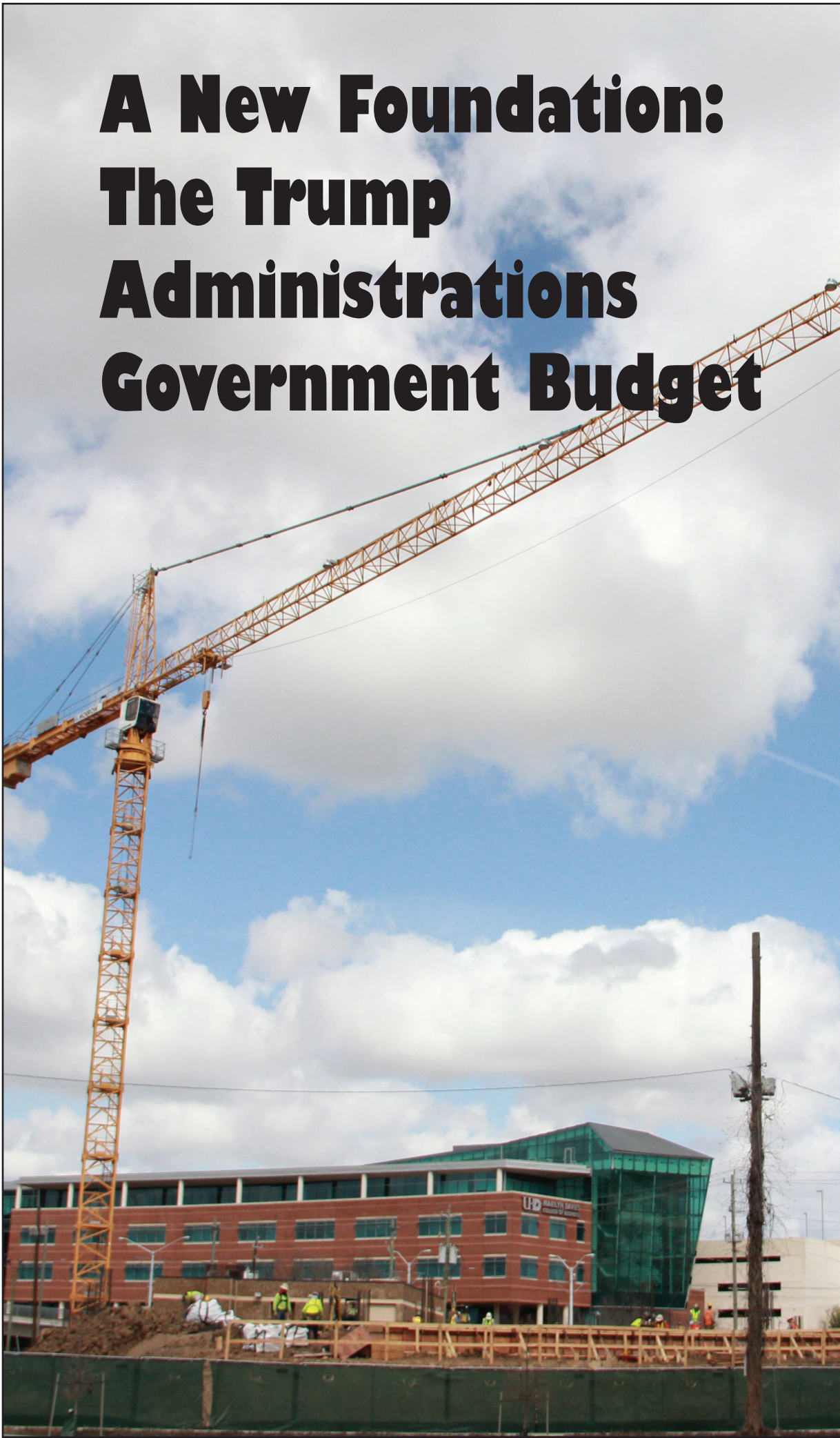


DATELINE: DOWNTOWN

A New Foundation: The Trump Administrations Government Budget



Bayou Review Supports
Art of Inmates
Page 5



The Winter Olympics
Page 8



PAIR Houston
Page 11

2 Staff

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UHD Welcomes iRadio

by Kara Moore

The University of Houston – Downtown’s One Main building is no stranger to radio stations – according to the UHD Archives, in 1948 the first radio studio was set up on the 11th floor and was named KCOH. It was then bought out in 1953 and became “Houston’s First and Only Negro Radio Station” until the studio was moved to third ward in 1955. Now, in modern day, UHD finds itself again welcoming radio back onto its campus with UHD’s new internet radio, iRadio.

Operating out of the re-vamped office with sound proof walls, S1024, it is not just a fun extra-curricular for students, but is a registered class where

you can earn three credit hours. They broadcast every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 am – 2 pm live on the net. Not only do they play some awesome music, but they interview students and faculty, keeping listeners informed about what is

happening on campus and off. They are broadcasting through the uhd.edu webpage and a simple google search of “uhd iradio” pulls up the page in no time. Currently, they have 12 student personalities on air.

When speaking to iRadio’s three advisors Dr. Roubicek, Professor Koenig, and Dr. Logan, they explained just how long this program has been in the process; “It really started about six years ago” Dr. Roubicek said, “I’ve always wanted to have a radio station here and Jose in IT said that he could make that happen but it would need to be an internet radio station.” Their biggest concern was getting students involved, but it was obvious the best way was to start an internship program where students could earn school credit for their work at iRadio. Communication studies majors can take up to six credit hours of the internship, while communication studies minors can take up to three credit hours. They do currently have one station manager, who is a paid employee.

While the idea started roughly six years ago, it was in the last two years that the major push happened which allowed iRadio to launch this semester, on Valentine’s Day. When talking about the student’s who run the station, Dr. Roubicek could only think

of adjectives: “They’re optimistic, they’re fun, they’re bright and terribly creative and we love them to death and that’s why we love having these ‘student personalities’”. Specifically, he said they are journalists like any other who seek out and report on substantial information for the general public’s consumption. They do news, weather, sports but also faculty and student spotlights, and themed playlists. For black history month, they have focused on black musical artists.

Dr. Roubicek is the current head advisor, while Dr. Logan is co-advisor until Dr. Roubicek retires into part-time work in the next year. Professor Koenig is the social media advisor, working with her three social media interns to help support the radio’s goals and spread its reach.

Sitting in on one of their live sessions, Dateline got a live look at just how these sessions go. Working off of pre-planned scripts (and a

bit of ad-libbing), these four interns discussed pop culture and played some “home from school” relaxing jams. While the music played, they expressed just how fun the experience was and how they enjoyed being a part of the bigger picture. A lot of work clearly goes into each live session, as students came in and out and made sure to stick to time, cutting songs or segments if necessary to make sure one segment flowed into the other seamlessly.

They acknowledged they had some bumps on the road, like finding clean songs or maintaining the cast, leaving dead air if the signal drops out. Still, for its first semester, the program is doing well and is experiencing relative success, with these interns most definitely gaining some hands-on experience in an independent environment. Students should really tune in, because they know how to make a playlist.

If you want to get involved with iRadio, Dr. Roubicek suggests reaching out to himself or any of the other advisors, as well as Dr. Murray who is the Coordinator of the Communication Studies Program and the Internship Coordinator.



Fandom Hosts “Lovestock”

by Angel Lopez

The FANDOM club at UHD was originally started in the fall of 2014, however, it first gained recognition in the fall of 2015. The club focuses on bringing together a group of people who are passionate about television shows, comics, movies etc. to create a safe and comfortable space for these people to discuss their love of creative work. This club is incredibly active when it comes to creating events or volunteering. Fandom creates these events, such as the escape room they created and decorated a room with Halloween decorations and gave it a haunted-house feel for the students, and they volunteer at comic conventions to, not only do what they love as a collective group, but to give back as well. In creating and hosting events as well as volunteering, they also have movie outings for the members to come together and discuss new movies or shows they find interesting. The purpose of the club, as mentioned before, is of course to bring together people who want to discuss and express their love for fictional art, however, what stands out about this club is that every member has something different to offer in terms of what fictional work they love—everyone has their own movie, series, comic book they engross themselves in and ultimately, as group, express their love for.

Aside from the modest and diverse nature of the club, Fandom club president Cruz Villafuerte Cardoso says, “with this club, we like to take risks and grow from every event we

choose to host” yet another admirable aspect of this club is that it is incredibly active as well as aware and ready to try new things as a group. Most of the fundraisers they host are to raise money for the members which allow them to buy t-shirts or help pay for any activities they want to do together. This year on February 12th, the fandom club hosted an event they called Lovestock, where they auctioned off some of their members



Photo by Angel Lopez

to raise money, once again, for their club. The event took place in the mural area, where they set up tables with valentine’s day themed goody bags as well as paper hearts along with a sign-up sheet for those participating in the bidding. Each member wore their best clothes and stood on the set-up stage waiting for the event to begin. Once the bidding started each member was presented to the crowd in hopes of getting a date. About ten

of their members were auctioned off and the highest bid of the event turned out to be \$250- the most intense bidding of the event. Their goal with this event was to take yet another risk and try something new in terms having something exciting and different to offer to the students as well as the members.

The fandom club embraces the idea of being passionate about creative fictional work and allows students who seek others who are just as passionate to come together and not just express it but spread it. This club is inclusive of everyone and the social dynamic that it takes pride in makes joining worth it.

What’s Wrong with Turnitin.com, According to Dr. Pavelich

by Naomi Cardwell

Assistant Professor and current coordinator for the Philosophy department at UHD, Dr. Andrew Pavelich read his paper and gave a lecture on “The Immorality of Plagiarism and Turnitin.com” on Thursday, February, 15th. Dr. Pavelich made the argument that Turnitin.com is not a learning tool that helps students create original papers but that it only enhances their ability to write plagiarized papers without getting caught.

Dr. Pavelich unpeels the immorality behind Turnitin.com by first speaking on what exactly makes plagiarism immoral. He stated that by looking at what makes plagiarism immoral in the first place will help us understand how the use of Turnitin.com fuels the problem, instead of solving it. That the way to really fight plagiarism, is to take a radical approach. Dr. Pavelich stated in his lecture that “we want our students to be good students not just write good papers”. Furthering his point on how a student’s honest approach to critically writing and executing a paper that demonstrates what they know should be of a greater value. That Turnitin.com pushes students to adjust the amount of plagiarism to the correct amount where their dishonesty looks as if it was truthfully attempted by the student.

“The problem is that the very existence of the tool that allows students to check their work, and then repair it,

inverts the purpose of academic paper writing from a process to a product. Given this, what we must do is reinforce the real purpose of academic writing. This is, I think, most fruitfully understood in term of virtue ethics. We want our students to be good students—not just to be able to turn in good papers,

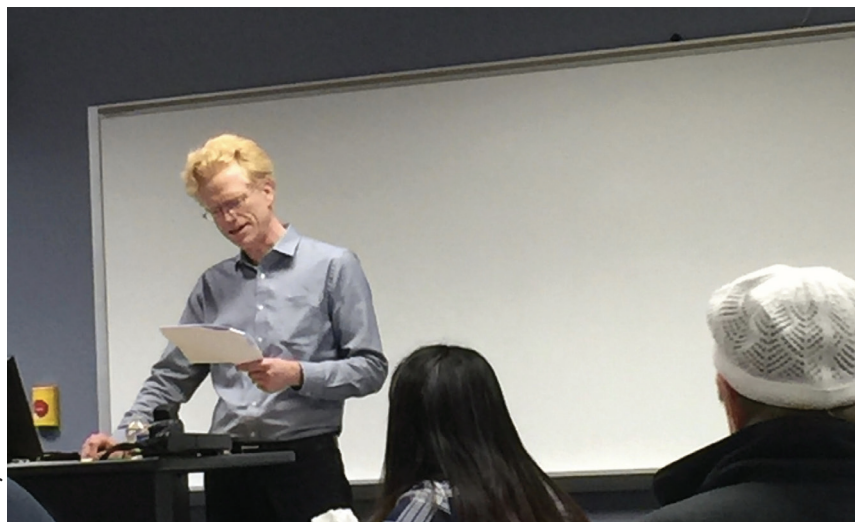


Photo by Naomi Cardwell

but to exhibit the properties of a virtuous student. If non-plagiarized essay writing is going to matter, then we have to make it matter. We need to show our students that we value an essay that shows personal, critical thinking. It is not enough to say not to plagiarize—we need to explain why. Studies have shown that students know what plagiarism is—it’s not a matter of explaining

it—it’s a matter of creating a culture where it matters.”

Dr. Pavelich plans to present his paper in an upcoming Philosophy conference and get it published. After the lecture ended there were many thoughts and questions on the underlying issues and immorality in the educational system. But after speaking with Dr. Pavelich about what he hopes this paper will accomplish he replied with he hopes that this gets other professors to consider the possibility or to grow awareness on just how immoral Turnitin.com actually is.

UHD Literary Magazine Supports

Art of Incarcerated Inmates

by Archie Gayle

On the second floor of the University of Houston-Downtown Main Building, next to Students Activities, is the unlabeled door to The Bayou Review, UHD's Literary Magazine. The Bayou Review was established in the 1980s and has been active for 31 years. The magazine has supported the art of UHD students as well as students from other University of Houston-affiliated campuses. The Bayou Review also accepts art from the citizens of Houston, and most recently, they have turned their focus to the criminal justice system in creating a separate issue dedicated to the writings of incarcerated inmates in Houston and beyond. The issue is scheduled to be released at the end of the 2018 spring semester.

The Bayou Review has rich history within the University of Houston-Downtown—particularly in the college of Humanities and Social Sciences. With its focus in creative writing (poetry, fiction, nonfiction) and art, several creative writing professors have been the faculty advisor for the literary magazine. Dr. Jane Creighton, who teaches various courses in creative writing, composition, and American literature, was the faculty advisor in the late 1990s and early 2000s. In 2006 Dr. Robin Davidson, Houston's Poet Laureate from 2015-2017, served as the faculty advisor until fall of 2017; the current faculty advisor is Professor Daniel Pena, winner of the Pushcart Prize and author of the 2017 novel, *Bang!*

While the list of past and current faculty advisors consist of an array of talented writers, the magazine issues are created almost entirely by UHD students. The semester's theme, design, and accepted work all comes down the decisions of the fiction, poetry, and general editors. The themes of the issues are usually a response to what is happening in the world—particularly in the area of Houston and the lives of UHD students. This past fall 2017 issue, for example, was a direct response to Hurricane Harvey, which struck the entire city and put over 40,000 people out of their homes. The cover is a pair of feet submerged in a room flooded with water, and was created by Rebecca Saenz who was an intern at the time. The fall issue, spearheaded by general editor Michelle Laird, faced several setbacks but the editors and faculty advisor felt that it was their duty to get the issue completed. The fall issue

included a large amount of poetry centering on experiences of UHD students who were affected by Hurricane Harvey.

After speaking with Christopher Miguel Flakus, the current fiction editor, about the spring issue and an accompanying issue that will be released along with it. The material in this sister issue will come exclusively from incarcerated individuals. After receiving multiple submissions from prisoners this past fall semester (a nonfiction piece actually ended up in the fall issue) and even more in the spring, the editors decided to dedicate an entire issue to the artistic expression of people within the prison industrial complex. Chris Flakus was an intern during the fall 2017 semester, and jumped at the opportunity to become the new fiction editor. After asking him how it felt to help publish the works of incarcerated individuals. "For me personally, I've never been more excited about any project that I've taken part of. If you'll allow me to get personal for a second, I've been a part of that system and have had the opportunity to change my life—to reform and get back on track; but a lot of other people, for unfair and unjust reasons including racism, economic situations, etc., get trapped in the system. I'm looking at Harris County Jail as we do this interview and I just think of all the lost lives in there—that will go into the system and be left out of sight, out of mind. The prison system is hidden from society so no one really intervenes or thinks about it because it's not a part of their direct lives."

"I think that what we're trying to do, and what the prison system should be doing, is realize that we're not in the emotions business. We're not in the business of judging. We believe in second chances and that everyone has a valid voice; they can be talented and amazing artists even if they've made mistakes in their past. UHD's a big criminal justice school; a lot of our students are going to move on to work in law enforcement, and this is an opportunity to see inmates as human beings, which is what they are." The Bayou Review has continually supported the works of UHD students and Houstonians, giving individuals of every occupation and major a platform for artistic expression, now they've expanded to helping individuals in the correctional facilities who otherwise wouldn't have a voice.

5

Asian Student Association Host

Lunar New Year

by Delia Leal

Lunar New Year occurred February 16 this year and just as our traditional New Year, it embraces a fresh start and families coming together to blissfully welcome the year with many festivities. It is a time for blessings and welcoming new beginnings such as an opening of a new business. They are big on blessing and will bless a new business with line dancing to the beat of drums or firecrackers. It is a time of joyful celebration that can be felt through the upbeat drumming of music and line dancing. Line dancing is often seen using a dragon or a lion maneuvered by dancers. Other common things to see during the festivity is colorful parades featuring, costumes, floats, firecrackers, and firework displays. It is truly a wonderful experience to take part in especially when being an onward tradition for thousands of years dating back to ancestry.

The Asian Student Association truly showed spirit in



Photo by Delia Leal

celebration despite minor setbacks. Being mindful of other activities going on around campus they managed to parade the dragon through the main halls of the main building. Setting up snacks towards the cafeteria to share the culture's favorites. A popular one being the red bean Mochi which is basically a rice cake stuffed with a sweet filling, usually a sweetened red bean paste. Boba and Milk Tea is another favorite confection

that has quickly turned to a popular demand by the student body. Luckily ASA has made it a staple and are considerate of UHD gators not breaking the bank, so they offer affordable prices. So keep your eyes peeled if these are any treats you have yet to try or are personal favorites. The celebration was accomplished bringing cheer to students through a line dancing performance at the main entrance of the building. With that said let us wish them all a Happy Lunar New Year!

A Budget of Billions

by Jesse Uppal

Commerce. Wealth. Business. Words that are thrown around when discussing a terminal and specific term, the economy. The US Economy is an independent, static entity. It can be both self-regulated and controlled by an external source. The economy is less the amount of wealth a nation holds, and more the flow of wealth through the international spectrum. The constantly changing and extremely hybridized role of the economy in the US has a drastic effect on the budget it has available for the development and progression of the nation. The US Government receives over 3 trillion in revenue per year, which is redirected towards the executive departments that are headed by the cabinet. The cabinet is appointed by the President shortly after they take office. The cabinet heads are designated to use their allocated budgets for their specified uses and usually do not have much wiggle room unless directly instructed by the congressional approval. The budget is then reestablished every year by the current administration while considering the amount that the US made the previous year in revenue.

The budget breakdown is as follows:

- Department of Agriculture – The funding will be reduced by \$4.7B (21%) down to \$17.9B. Funding will continue unhindered towards the inspection agencies to ensure that all meat and vegetable products meet national standards. Wildfire and forest fire protection remains the same as it has been since Former President Obama's first term at \$2.4B. The cuts are being directed towards the National Forest System, more so on the side of increasing the scope of the system. The Budget would limit the System to maintaining only what they currently are responsible for. Cuts would further affect rural areas by eliminating the federal system of regulating their waste and drinking water, allowing private corporations to pick it up and either reduce or increase the cost of living.

- Department of Commerce – The funding will be reduced by \$1.5B (16%) down to \$7.8B. Much of the commercial law in the United States falls in the hands of Congress, with the Department of Commerce and the SCOTUS simply serving as oversight committees. The budgeted amount would target the enforcement of National Trade agreements and would crack down on agitated business practices such as dumping and toxic waste. The Department of Commerce is also responsible for the US Census Bureau, which parts of the budget are allotted across a decade to prepare for the next Census. The budget cuts would extract funding from grants and loans specific to rural business start-ups and minority business agencies. The cuts would further privatize the state manufacturers and eliminate their subsidization. Marine management and general environmental agencies that fall under the Department of Commerce would be cut to fuel the \$1b increase to the National Weather Service to help combat natural disasters.

- Department of Defense – The funding would be drastically increased by \$52B (10%) bringing it to a solid \$639B, maintaining its status of the highest funded department in the Federal Government and outspending over 100 nations in their total GDP alone. The budget increase is largely being funded by the cuts in other departments and focuses on increasing the size and strength of the standard military branches (Army, Navy, Air Force) while also increasing intelligence gathering agencies efficiency in foreign nations. This budget in-

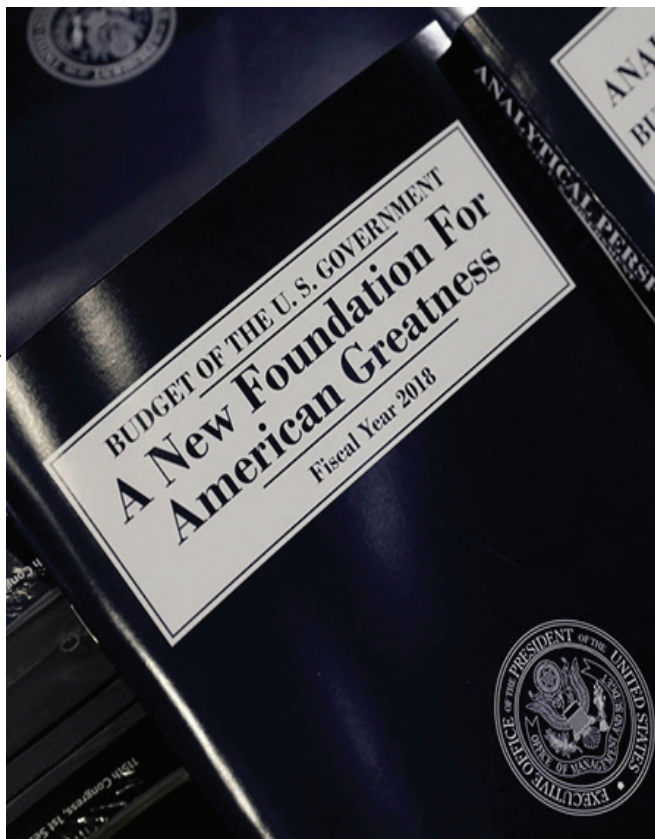


Photo Courtesy of Reuters

crease directly contrasts with the cuts posed by the previous administration and would be the second largest budget increase for the DOD in the history of the US. The increase would fund the modernization of the military branches that is already underway and would increase capabilities of the US fight against ISIS. The budget increase views cybersecurity as high as military readiness and spends a considerable portion of the increase on developing anti-hacking technology and personnel specifically those from North Korea and Russia. Reduces the costs of superfluous military programs and increases the development of both aircraft and naval ships to maintain sea and air superiority over any other nation. This portion of the budget is the only one that is left open-ended to the point where it can be modified at any time it is deemed necessary to continue the process of national defense.

the point where it can be modified at any time it is deemed necessary to continue the process of national defense.

- Department of Education – The funding will be reduced by \$9B (13%) leaving \$59B for the department to utilize. This budget cut will be the third largest cut in terms of actual expenditure (not percentage) and would target specifically grant programs. The budget only has a single increase within the investment of public and private school subsidies and generally either maintains current budgets or cuts costs in other areas. The maintenance of funds will positively allow students with disabilities to continue receiving potential aid. Further budget protections target the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other Minority-Serving Institutions so that the education gap can continue to be closed. The Pell Grant would be able to continue unhindered with the exception that any carryover from the last fiscal year be allocated elsewhere. Federal Work Study and other underprivileged grant programs (TRIO, GEAR UP) would be significantly cut until greater efficiency of the already allocated funds can be established.

- Department of Energy – The funding will be reduced by \$1.7B (5.6%) down to a firm \$28B. The budget remains generally consistent with strict focus on nuclear energy and waste management. Much of this budget simply reduces the scope of all the programs in an effort to eliminate wasteful spending but continues forward with environmental and research projects.

- Department of Health and Human Services – The funding will be reduced by \$15.1B (17.9%) bringing it to a record low of \$69B. Much of this cut is focused on the elimination of the Affordable Care Act and redirects a small portion of the funds towards other medical programs. Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP remain wholly untouched in the definitive version of the budget, while education programs in the health field were effectively slashed as a result. The budget shifts the focus towards more proactive measures and attempts to reduce the need for reactive methods.

- Department of Homeland Security – The funding for this relatively new department would be increased by \$2.8B (6.8%) in the President's effort to crack down on immigration. \$2.6B of the \$2.8B will be allocated specifically for the border wall that was an integral part of President Trump's campaign. ICE and Border Patrol agencies would receive increased



funding for the sole purpose of increasing personnel on staff. Further implements would focus on detention facilities and deportation methods. Non-immigration related budget designations focus primarily on the TSA's ability to fight terrorism and the increase of the NSA's counter-intelligence budget and size. The budget was restructured to increase the funding of natural disaster relief by FEMA after the significant number of blizzards and hurricanes that dotted the end of the 2017.

- Department of Housing and Urban Development – Funding would be limited to \$40.7B decreasing by \$6.2B (13.2%) from the last year. The fund would increase assistance to renters with low economic background while significantly eliminating all grants for section housing and controlled neighborhoods. The budget does include provisions to remain static in homes where children are involved.

- Department of the Interior – The budget for this department would be reduced by \$1.5B (12%) bringing it to \$11.6B. The budget of this department would focus primarily on preservation of resources within the continental US and would privatize smaller agencies in an effort to reduce spending.

- Department of Justice – The budget would be increased to \$27.7B from \$26.6B (3.8%) in 2017. The primary focus for the past 15 years for the Department of Justice has been counterterrorism within the borders of the US and its territories. The law enforcement divisions falling under this department (FBI, ATF, DEA, etc.) would all receive increases in spending for both personnel and technology to further fight crime and foreign elements on US soil. A small portion of this fund would be allotted to anti-immigration specifics so as to expand jurisprudence against immigrant criminals. The budget also expands to reduce prison population and restricts the construction of federal penitentiaries to the bare minimum. The fund will also increase the staff of the US Attorney and the Attorney General's offices.

- Department of Labor – The fund will be reduced by \$2.5B (21%) down to \$9.6B. The budget focuses on increasing apprenticeship and internship position availability. It eliminates programs based in grants and focuses on training youth over unemployed. Deducts funds from OSHA and reduces the number of total employees and programs that proved to be inefficient.

- Department of the State – Funding is to be reduced on three levels. \$10.9B will be reduced leaving \$27.1B (29%) in the base budget for the department. The funds will be split across contingency operations in foreign countries, international aid, and essential tasks related to maintaining US relations with the rest of the world. Primary reductions will be from UN Peacekeeping Operation and Climate Research Programs, of which the US had remained the largest contributor. \$2.2B will be allocated towards embassy defensive reconstruction and security operations. \$3.1B will remain the static number of aid being donated to the Israeli war and security effort. \$1B will still be allocated towards vaccination of children in third-world countries, a program the US has been a part of since 2000. Funding will be significantly allocated towards humanitarian aid specific to non-refugees. The largest portion of the budget cut comes from the removal of US aid to foreign militaries.

- Department of Transportation – The funding is reduced by \$2.4B (13%) down to \$16.2B. Part of this funding would be to privatize a multitude of governmental practices, such as air traffic control and the creation of all future rail systems in metropolitan areas. Deductions would continue by reducing the amount of money available in public transportation grants.

- Department of the Treasury – Funding will be reduced by only \$.5B (4.1%) leaving \$12.1B to still be used. The funding to the IRS would remain largely intact, while increasing security of the Treasury's cyberspace to prevent theft. The reduction only targets downsizing the department by a small margin, leaving virtually all other program and aspect static.

- Department of Veteran Affairs – The funding would be increased by \$4.4B (6%) bringing it to a solidified \$79B. The increase would be largely funded by first eliminating extremely inefficient positions and employees contributing to the vacuum of funding caused by the department. The increases would be applied towards veteran rehabilitation in both mental and physical wellbeing following their service. Increases job programs for veterans attempting to decrease the significant Gulf War homelessness problem.

- Environmental Protection Agency – Funding was reduced by \$2.6B (31%) down to \$5.7B. One of the largest percentage decreases for the 2018 budget, the EPA has significant programs either entirely defunded or privatized. Protection services for water remains the same due to the public crisis created in Flint, Michigan while renewable energy resource regulation and research is completely eradicated. Much of the regional assistance has been deducted, leaving only a blanket amount of regulation across the states.

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) – Funding would be reduced ever so slightly by less than a percent leaving \$19.1B. Much of this department remains largely untouched, with only cuts being made towards NASA's education departments.

- Small Business Administration – The budget for this minor department would be reduced by \$43.2M, bringing it to \$826.5M (5%). Much of this department's funding is based in grants or loans to small business and is indirectly monitored by the Department of Commerce. Part of the budget is designated towards business repair and reconstruction rather than the startup of new businesses, specific to regions with significant numbers of natural disasters.

The debate of this budget between the parties in the Senate resulted in a problematic and dramatic government shutdown at the beginning of the year. Senate Democrats refused to sign any budget that did not include at least a partial reintroduction for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) that was repealed by executive order. Democrats believed that children who had come to the United States held as much right to remain here as any citizen, many of which were students in primary and secondary education. Many of these immigrant children had never seen their country of origin and knew no other home other than the United States. Republicans returned fire in support for President Trump that they would not include anything with DACA if there was not a provision for the extension of the border wall along the Rio Grande. Republicans believed that the completion of the wall (which already covers nearly 2/3s of the border as is) would stifle much of the undocumented situation that currently exists. The final version of the budget included nothing involving DACA, and only partially funded the wall extension.

Following the shutdown, Congress was able to pass the rough version, which edited very little from the initial plan aside from increasing funding for natural disaster relief and suspended the debt ceiling (meaning they cannot spend more than what is in the budget). This budget passed with the narrowest margin possible at 51-49. All 48 democrats voted no and were joined by Libertarian Rand Paul who was against many of the regulatory changes that were included in the bill. Senator Paul was adamant in preventing the budget from passing in its current status and proposed that the tax laws that will be established due to this budget would be catastrophic. The Republican-dominated Senate managed to push the bill through, establishing the government's economy for the following 333 days. If you wish to view the last version (Congress) or the original plan (White House), please utilize the links below.

<https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/hconres71/BILLS-115hconres71rh.pdf>

https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2018_blueprint.pdf

A Wintery Peace in the Korea's.

by Michael Case

The 2018 Winter Olympics are underway in Pyeongchang, South Korea and the world is watching. The opening ceremony was a tremendous display of Korean culture, as well as a show of technological expertise, with a demonstration of 1,218 drones flying into familiar shapes; the iconic Olympic rings, a dove, the symbol of peace, and even a snowboarder, but that was not the biggest headline of the evening. Politics were pushed aside and the nations of North and South Korea rubbed elbows as they walked into the stadium together, under a unified flag. With temperatures below 0, hats, gloves, and feelings of peace kept spectators and athletes warm.

NBC has not been perfect with its coverage; social media has lambasted the broadcasters' constant announcer interruptions and delayed tapings. The time difference from the U.S. to Korea is 14 hours so most results are already online before airing on TV. NBC is waiting until primetime to air coverage, so during the late night/early morning hours when events are live, there is little live coverage found on TV. Streaming is the way to view the Winter Olympics, find all events on the live stream by visiting nbcolympics.com.

Sports

Snowboarding has been exciting during these Olympics, especially for U.S. fans. Shaun White, a U.S. Winter Olympic legend in Snowboarding took home another gold medal with a near perfect run at 97.75. Two 17-year-olds, Chloe Kim from California and Red Gerard from Colorado won their first gold medals before graduating high school. Gerard in Slopestyle, and Kim in Half pipe, Kim even received a higher score than the world-renowned White, at 98.25. Jamie Anderson also won a gold in Women's Slopestyle. While the U.S. was not winning medals early in the games, the snowboard team gave the U.S. some momentum.

Norway is doing its usual routine of cleaning up med-

als, leading all nations. Canada, Germany, and the Netherlands, join the U.S. and Norway as the top medal winning nations. Korea has won three medals and its first ever medal in a non-skating related event. Wearing an Ironman helmet, 23-year-old Yun Sungbin won South Korea's first gold in Skeleton; resembling the superhero flying down the track, the next best time more than seconds behind him. Perhaps inspiring the host country's youth to pursue more obscure events.

Politics

The Republic of Korea (South) and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North) combined to unite the peninsula for the games brought out high profile politicians. North Korea's leader, Kim Jung Un, was not present at the games but he did send his sister, Kim Yo Jong, who sat near South Korea President Moon Jae-in, Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and USVP Mike Pence. No peace treaties may have signed during their stay, but it is nice to see world leaders begin talks for a change. Mike Pence found himself surrounded in controversy for not standing during the entrance of the unified Korean team, critics calling out his hypocrisy due to his 'walk out' of an NFL game last November for players kneeling during the anthem.

Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee, said during his speech at the opening ceremony, "All the athletes around me, ...all Olympic fans watching around the world: We are all touched by this wonderful gesture. We all join and support you in your message of peace. United in our diversity, we are stronger than all the forces that want to divide us." The message the Olympics brings to the masses is a positive one. Bringing people together and celebrating Sport. The human spirit, hard work, determination, and sacrifice are on display world-wide, whether it's summer or winter, the games are always a welcome celebration and bring moments of joy and hope to so many people.

Trump Proposes Military Parade

by Paula Cano

After witnessing the annual Bastille Day parade in France, President Donald Trump was moved and now believes the United States should have a national day to commemorate our military personnel. The Bastille Day symbolizes the beginning of French revolution in 1789, after a mob was able to capture a state prison during the rule of Bourbon monarchy in Paris. Critics claim that for a parade to happen, there must be a military victory as a motive to mobilize personnel into one huge rally, just like the Bastille Day.

The Trump administration is currently exploring the logistics of a possible national homage to the military in D.C. There has been concerns and support regarding the Trump initiative, the supporters believe event like this could bolster military recruitment, and opponents believe there is no purpose on hosting an event like this if there is no grand recent military victory and recommend that the money used to plan the parade could better serve other veteran charity organizations.

Experts claim that a parade would have a positive effect on the number of military personnel; they believe that the current voluntary system would not be able to sustain itself for more than 20 years and the parade could play as an incentive tool to push people to serve. In addition, parade enthusiasts believe a large-scale tribute to American troops has been long overdue and there is a lack of reasoning as to why it should not happened.

The funding for this military spectacle has a price tag of 20 million, which would come out of the 856 million the Department of Defense allocates to recruiting and advertisement. This initiative is also another episode of what Trump's sense of patriotism comprises of, vowing to the idea of America as a nation by pacing out of America's tradition.

Politico articulates that this proposal has caused vehemence among liberals and conservatives like John Kennedy of

Louisiana who claims that "confidence is silent and insecurity is loud". Washington is not new to military parades, at the end of the Gulf War, the populace of D.C and New York convened to celebrate Saddam Hussein's downfall. After World War II there were recounts of grand parades in New York City. New York post recalls Eisenhower's inauguration where he featured an 85-ton atomic cannon, and a ballistic missile. JFK continued to join the list of presidents to pomp our military abilities considering that the day of his inauguration four nuclear missiles were brought out and showcased to the American public.

Opponents argue that the price tag on the military parade is money that could be allocated to influence the quality of housing, health-care and other issues veterans face once they conclude their service. NPR refers to a poll carried out by military times assessing that 89% were against this parade. Sources claim that opposition to the parade comes from both rank-and-file (NCOs) positions and higher ranked officers. Navy seal Robert O' Neill, who was part of the operation to kill Bin Laden, stood against this Trump Proposal labeling a parade as "third world b*s!"

Some worry of the impact to take away active duty troops to march in D.C while they are supposed to be away for training, others claim that military personnel would much rather preserve the four day weekend instead of having to give up a day to be with their family. The logistics that are in need to support a big event such as a military parade have to be well thought out, especially if heavy amount of military hardware is going to be seen strolling down Pennsylvania Avenue in D.C. Whatever the real outcome may be, this proposed military parade has to be an event that calls for unification after all it is much owed to the American public and our military members.

Black Panther Reviewed

by Chris Joseph

9

Ever since Marvel Studios' *Captain America: Civil War* came out in 2016, fans, including myself, have been patiently waiting for the King of Wakanda to make his grand debut in his own film. Just in time for Black History month, T'challa finally rolled out the black carpets as he made his solo debut Feb. 16. The King of Wakanda is going to show just how superhero movies are supposed to be done. Directed by Ryan Coogler (*Fruitville Station* and *Creed*), *Black Panther* follows T'challa (Chadwick Boseman) back to the hidden technologically Advanced City of Wakanda. After T'challa's father's death in *Civil War*, T'challa must now must claim his birthright as King of Wakanda and as the next Black Panther. With the fate of Wakanda in jeopardy-as well as the entire world-T'challa must become the Black Panther and protect the city of Wakanda.

"There is a lot of hype surrounding the film. I'm hearing so many positive things about the film that, so I have to see what all the hype is about. I'm not a superhero movie fan, but I just have to see the hype of this film," Said UHD senior Diana Perez.

Black Panther is a marvel of a film. Coogler's masterful direction brings the entire city of Wakanda to life. The film spends such a great deal of time in Wakanda that by the time the credits start rolling, you almost cannot realize that Wakanda does not exist. The sheer scope of really creative tech throughout the film really shows how advanced this nation is. Shuri's (Letitia White) awesome, jaw dropping inventions rivals that of Tony Starks latest Ironman suit.

The musical score is something very unique, yet it fits *Black Panther* perfectly. Aside from the amazing soundtrack featuring Kendrick Lamar, the entire music of the film felt native to that of Africa. The noticeable African music really cements Wakanda in Africa.

Speaking of Africa, a lot of the costumes worn by the cast-and by the audience as well- was that of traditional African wardrobe. There are very clear references to other African cultures such as the lip plates that are used by the Surma and Mursi tribes in Ethiopia, the Ndebele neck rings that south Ndebele people of Zimbabwe/South Africa, and plenty more traditional African wardrobe.

In an interview with the *New York Times*, *Black Panther*'s Camille Friend, head of Black Panther hair department, said, "We did a totally Afrocentric, natural hair movie...we're in a moment when people are feeling empowered about being black. And that's one thing you see when you watch *Black Panther*. The hair helps communicate that."

The acting is top notch, and that is not saying much because all Marvel movies have fantastic acting, but this film is just incredible. Everyone is in this film is fantastic, each character is likable and charming that you just cannot help

but to cheer them on. Michael B. Jordan's performance is purely amazing. He is easily the standout of this film with his portrayal as a menacing villain. Jordan gives Tom Hiddleston a run for his money as the most charismatic villain.

Although *Black Panther* is a standout Marvel film, there are some issues that are present in the film. Particularly, some of the fight scenes are a bit too dark to see the fight scenes involving T'challa in the *Black Panther* suit. However, the rest of the fight scenes are visually stunning. There are some issues when it comes to the green screen effects that can pull you out from the gorgeous world that Coogler set up.

However these are very small complaints to an otherwise beautiful film.

Filled to the brim with fun and action, *Black Panther* is a great ride for the whole entire family. Given the film's predominately black cast, a group of people on a Facebook group called "Down with Disney" created an event that called for the group to give the film a negative audience score. It is unknown whether or not if its race related, but the group and page has been deactivated, but not before gaining thousands of followers.

Rotten tomatoes weighed in on the issues by saying in a statement, "while we respect our fan's diverse opinions, we do not condone hate speech."

It was later discovered that the group's moderator was revealed to be a self-identified alt-right supporter who was critical of the *Last Jedi*'s apparent "feminist agenda."

Black Panther features a lot of strong female characters, yet the rotten tomatoes audience score still remains positive with a 77 percent and a 97 percent granting the film a certified fresh rating, the highest of any Marvel movie. There were even some tweets about white moviegoers "attacked" by black attendees saying that they do not belong at the screening of *Black Panther*. However, it was proven that these tweets were fake and was putting a negative narrative on the film. Ironically, the film is about standing together as one, seeing past our differences and build together. The film's message is all about brotherhood and inclusion, not hatred and division.

Despite the negativity, *Black Panther* has shattered records. This is the first Marvel film directed by an African-American that brought in roughly around \$201.8 million during the first three days, thus making it the fifth biggest opening of all time. This is Marvel Studio's second biggest opening right behind the 2012 mega blockbuster *The Avengers*.

With *Black Panther*'s successes in the box office, we can expect a revolution in the film industry. *Black Panther* shows just how important black people can be, how strong they can be, how intelligent and beautiful they can be. Long live Wakanda.



A Visit from the Stars

Astronaut visits UHD from Space Station

by Michael Case

Astronaut Joe Acaba visited the UHD campus Tuesday, February 13, all the way from space via Skype. “University of Houston-Downtown, I read you loud and clear,” he said, beginning the talk. The downlink event was hosted in the Welcome Center and was open to students and the general public.

UHD is the only Texas University scheduled to host a downlink in 2018. The event began Friday, February 9, with an open house, available to view were models, a space suit, and artwork from area students, along with NASA representatives to chat and answer questions.

The focus of the event was educating youth about science. Students and teachers were asking questions. Some questions were related to teaching and in-

spiring the younger generation to become interested in science. Others asked about living and doing experiments in space, how to become an astronaut or how to pursue a career in the Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) fields. Any time you can watch a man give an interview while floating in zero gravity is a good time, and the event was ultimately a success.

“Students love science...keep it practical and relate science to their everyday lives... you’ll be successful.” Said Acaba. The STEM on Station initiative, aboard the International Space Station (ISS), aims to connect to classrooms around the world and conduct experiments created by students. Those students

interested in STEM are given a chance to work with astronauts for a once in a lifetime experience. Houston is home to Johnson Space Center which serves as a central hub for NASA, downlink events at UHD hopefully will be repeated in the near future.

Recently, SpaceX made headlines and took over social media when it launched a Tesla into orbit and successfully returned two giant rocket boosters with mechanical precision; the rockets’ landing appeared out of some sci-fi movie. Each rocket landing gently back to earth, simultaneously. A generation of children and young adults gazed in awe, inspired by humanity’s intellectual capability. Elon Musk and the SpaceX team have goals grander than just



Photo by Michael Case

launching a Tesla into space and landing boosters back to earth.

A mission to Mars is still in sight after the success of the Falcon Heavy launch which shows SpaceX is making progress in rocket technology advancement. Musk has even challenged other space agencies, saying “We want a new space race. Space races are exciting.” The launch put SpaceX on a short list of Earth’s available heavy lift rockets. While NASA and other nations’ space agencies are slowly studying and experimenting with rockets and space travel, the private sector is beginning to join the race, and that could be a great thing for the future of space technology.

First Major City to Run Out of Water

by Delia Leal

South Africa’s city of Cape Town, numbering 4 million residents, is facing dangerously low levels of water due to their third year in an ongoing drought. Once surrounded overflowing reservoirs the city now tragically does not have useable water due to droughts and through misuse of natural resource. They are nearing to Day Zero which is set to have taps shut off for all except vital service centers such as hospitals. Day Zero is predicted by water calculating reservoir capacity and daily water consumption. Houstonians find this crazy considering the amounts of water they receive year-round. The city originally calculated to have Day Zero in April but has now pushed to June since the residents made efforts to improve their water consumption rate. Starting in February, residents drastically changed their consumption by only using a little over 13 gallons of water per person per day. While this does not sound too bad, it is enough to completely reframe daily life while remaining conscious of exactly where water is going to. For the most part half a gallon of water needs to be set aside for hydration. Refraining from flushing the toilet unless absolutely necessary considering a single toilet flush uses two gallons of water. Washing the dishes uses up the most water at 30 gallons of water used in only ten minutes, therefore the purchasing of plastic silverware, cups,

plates, and bowls proved to be very convenient. The luxury of long showers no longer exists with two-minute showers becoming the norm. Placing a bucket under the shower head to collect the water running while waiting for hot water in the shower to ensure maximum efficiency in water consumption. These are just some of the few steps taken to avoid the struggles of Day Zero such as traveling to municipal stations to collect 6.6 gallons that will be allotted to each individual. Climate change and poor infrastructure are the leading causes to low water availability in certain areas. Such as in Flint, Michigan people are still careful of the water consumption after a contamination with lead. Sadly many U.S. cities are currently in violation of lead laws meanwhile Cape Town panics to improvise. The U.S. has had some record-breaking droughts since 2013 primarily occurring on the west coast. Indicators of the U.S. drought monitors show that droughts persist for the most part especially as the New Year is here. Currently the most at risk city in the U.S. is Los Angeles with severe droughts and wildfires in the past couple of years. Although LA depends on rainfall, they benefit from the precipitation in the nearby mountains. They can also rely on other natural groundwater resources.

PAIR: Helping Houston's Refugee Community

by Helen Martinez

11

Our UHD community is connected to the flow and growth of Houstonian culture. This culture is one that has been without a doubt influenced by an influx of refugees due to complicated situations from their various countries of origin such as Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and Syria over the years. In fact, Texas, and Houston in particular, has taken in more than their share of refugees. In the fiscal year of 2015 alone, Texas took in 7,479 refugees out of the total 69,933 the U.S. took in as a whole. That is nearly

11% of the total amount of refugees resettled in the U.S. and a large portion arrive in Houston. As one refugee, Al Sudani, describes Houston as "it has a welcoming environment, affordable cost of living, great economy. It's a melting pot for different cultures. If you put all of these factors together, it's a perfect destination for refugees." From the nonprofit work to the delicious food, and rich art and culture contributed to our community, we cannot ignore the substantial population of refugees not only living but thriving alongside us. This is why, in the midst of the uncertainty felt during the Trump presidency, it is important to reassure our refugee brothers and sisters of their place beside us and show our support.

One organization devoted to this is the Partnership for the Advancement & Immersion of Refugees (PAIR.) Their mission is "to empower refugee youth to navigate American society, reach their academic potential, and become commu-



nity leaders." This amazing nonprofit organization provides opportunities for youths, who have left their country of origin and have resettled in greater Houston, and works with them through various programs to help them be better incorporating into the community. PAIR understands that it can be incredibly difficult for these children and youths and so offer a variety of ways to help them adjust and resettlement.

"We forget that these children, at the end of the day, are just children," explains one vol-

unteer, Faheem Bilal, who clarifies that in establishing the UH chapter of PAIR "the most valuable part of his experience has been seeing children become children again."

PAIR does this through their programs such as Global Learners Program, PAIR Summer Program, and Global Scholars Program, all of which assists students in middle or high school inside and out of the classroom through group or one on one mentoring, continuing to learn and improve during school breaks in the year, and providing both work and leadership experience as well as assistance in pursuing higher education.

One of the major ways PAIR is able to help so many refugee youths is through the annual Youth Empowerment Luncheon. This event is the primary source of fundraising for their Annual Fund which "supports up to 400 young refugees in our community each year, providing them with life-changing PAIR programs which instill confidence and leadership and empower them to achieve success in school and in life." The 5th Annual Youth Empowerment Luncheon and Fund Drive this year will be on Friday, May 4, 2018. It is highly encouraged that anyone in the UHD community that is able attends the luncheon or show their support for PAIR and its mission by pledging to donate through their website.

There are other ways for those interested to give back besides the donating via the 2018 Youth Empowerment Luncheon. PAIR Projects offer levels of activities or supplies that can be bought at a set price, such as the Art for the Heart Project which for \$50 provides 1 week of art or activity supplies or the Safe Ride Home Project which for \$100 provides 1 week of after-school bus rides for 50 students. Besides funding these activities, one can also drop off the actual supplies as well as other donations by filling out their In-Kind Needs form.

In addition to this, PAIR accepts volunteers for After School Programs or as Individual Mentors and Translators. According to one of their newest tutor volunteers, Evelyn Garcia, "PAIR benefits our community by providing a bridge to welcome and integrate refugee youth into greater Houston." For further information, including their applications for these volunteer or donation opportunities, visit their website: <http://www.pairhouston.org/>.

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Advice from Your Typical Student

“Do you have any suggestions for studying with other people? I always try to get together with my friends, but we end up getting off topic and joking around. I want to do better in my classes.”

To better answer your question, I will be breaking my tips and tricks for forming effective study groups into sections:

1. Limit the size of your group

One other person is ideal, but I recommend no more than three individuals. Some research says that a study group should have 3-5 individuals, but I know that the larger a group is, the easier it will be to get distracted and start talking about how you cannot wait for the tenth season of RuPaul’s Drag Race to premiere (March 22nd if anyone was wondering) and slay your life. RuPaul said it best, “You better work.”

2. Prepare before the group meets

Establish how long the group will meet and how much material you want to cover (be realistic, do not try to cram 2 months of material into a 2-hour session — it is okay to have multiple sessions or attend a group session and then finish studying on your own). Also, review your notes before you even step foot into the session because if you do not have a starting point to work with, then you might only hold your group members up if they have to stop and explain every concept to you.

3. Set a leader or facilitator

The leader should be responsible for keeping the group on track so that the group’s time is being used as efficiently as possible. They can be the same person or individuals can take turns during each study session.

4. Establish rules

“Rules? Why do I need rules in an informal study session?” Yes, yes I know. The very mention of rules sounds like a buzzkill, but they do not have to be that bad. If you have ever seen Mean Girls, then there is a rule that says, “On Wednesdays we wear pink”. I am not sure about you, but that sounds kind of fun. Unless you do not like pink. Then that is a terrible rule. Anyway, the kinds of rules that I am talking about for study sessions are ones that you think will benefit the group. It is possible that your group might not

need to enforce any rules, but they can definitely make sessions more productive. For example, imagine that one of your group members never puts their phone down and you can tell that they are not fully engaging with the study session that you put aside time in your busy schedule to show up for. Feel the rage boiling inside of your veins and consider proposing a rule where phones can only be used during breaks or after sessions. Also, take a deep breath and think about cute doggies (and kitties) because boiling rage is not healthy.

5. Use group activities

Group activities sound like a conspiracy theory used by interactive teachers because they cannot let us students be antisocial in peace. However, you may find the activities listed below as helpful:

Quizzes: You can quiz each other verbally or make up fake tests to practice

Teaching each other: You can assign a concept to each member and they can be in charge of teaching that concept

Rotating notes: It’s possible that someone caught something in the lecture that you didn’t, ask for their permission to take a picture of their notes

Answering each other’s questions: Everyone can compile a list of topics that they don’t understand and as a group you can tackle each topic

See, no conspiracy theories here. Just good ole learning and interaction (I’m on to you interactive teachers, I see through your Jedi mind tricks and your attempts to show us that socialization is not bad).

Bonus Tip: Block off an appropriate amount of time to meet. Less than an hour is too short, and four hours might be too excessive without a couple of breaks thrown in there. Overall, I am glad to hear that you have consciously decided that you would like to do better in your classes and that you are seeking out information to help you attain that goal. Acknowledgement is half the battle!

Questions? Comments? Are you ready to get down to business to defeat the Huns – I mean form an effective study group? Let me know at typicalstudentadvice@gmail.com.

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