

A REPORTER'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE HOMELESS COUNT

By Joshua Burgman
Assistant Editor

At the end of January I had the pleasure of accompanying members of the UHD student body as the city of Houston made a count of its citizens who are homeless and precariously housed. What I encountered was the most humbling experience of my life.

The homeless count, or Point in Time count (PIT), it's official name, is a nation-wide effort to account for these citizens for the purpose of allocating funds to accommodate the needs of the city's less fortunate. The count is a requirement made by the federal government on all communities receiving funding from Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In Houston, the community organization, Coalition for the Homeless, spearheads the effort. Their May 2014 PIT Enumeration Executive Summary, prepared by Dr. Catherine Troisi and the Coalition reviewed the count conducted last year. According to the report, "of the total number of homeless persons, 2,291 [or forty-three percent] were unsheltered." The reality of that number was way more shocking than I could have imagined.

The evening began with a mandatory training held at Houston's Neighborhood Resource Center. UHD's First Lady Dr. Bezette Flores attended the meeting, along with SGA President John Locke and members of his administration. After the training students gathered at UHD's Commerce building to regroup and split up into teams.

The group I travelled with included SGA member Nayolis Palo-

mo, faculty member Consuela Cooper and Dateline Downtown photographer Blake McDaniel. We were tasked with surveying the area in and around Houston's downtown library, and were stocked with water, snacks and five dollar gift cards to McDonalds.

When asked about the night; my recollection is that it was beautifully melancholy. It may sound wildly poetic, but after becoming a student at UHD I began to become intimately acquainted with our wonderful city, that night more than ever. It was like taking a closer look

him, he looked upon me with suspicion, but accepted the offer to be surveyed. He asked that I not print his name or take his photo because of the stigma toward homeless people, and told me that he wouldn't want a future employer to know that he was homeless for fear of being turned away. When I shook his hand and turned to leave I thought of my father, who is the same age.

One of my last encounters introduced me to a man who called himself "Rob," and his wife; who was apparently having a conversation with participants

who were silent, and not present. He explained to us that their home had burned down just months before we met, and because they did not have homeowners insurance they were, "stuck out in the cold."

As we were leaving a man approached us in a wheelchair ask-



Photo by Blake McDaniel - Dateline Downtown

at a beautiful painting that I have seen for years, but never really looked at. When our city lights up at night, there is an energy that stirs passions and evoke pride, but as you take a closer look at the canvas, that is our streets, it is easy to see that our portrait is flawed. That night I learned the true meaning of the phrase "a picture is worth a thousand words; each person I came in contact with had a story on their face that could write a book of a thousand pages.

The first man I spoke with was a 52 year old war veteran who did not wish to be named. After fighting in the Gulf War; he now resides on the outside steps of the library. As I approached

ing if we had gift cards left because he was "starving." To our dismay, we were completely out, but in one of the most unselfish acts I'd ever seen, Rob came up to us and handed the man in the wheelchair the only plate of food he and his wife had just received from another kind person. That simple act of generosity and sense of community has made me examine and redefine my understanding of the word humanity, and it is something that I will never forget. I found that their will to survive stems from a lack of alternatives. The count may not be exact science, but it goes a long way in trying to satisfy the needs of our community.





STAFF

Editor in Chief
THEODORE SHULL

Assistant Editor
JOSHUA BURGMAN

Assistant Editor
JUAN HERNANDEZ

Business Manager
TIANNA THOMAS

Staff Reporters

GEROYAL JACKSON

JASON J. RIVAS

SONIA SANCHEZ

RYAN MCCALL

KAYLA FOSTER

ELISA GONZALES

MIGUEL NUNEZ

JHARE' SCOTT

KARA MOORE

DARCI MCFERRAN

Copy Editors

LYDIA JACKSON

Staff Photographer

BEN DESOTO & BLAKE MCDANIEL

Advisor

Dr. ANTHONY CHIAVIELLO

DATELINE.EDITOR@YAHOO.COM 713.221.8275

SUBMISSION POLICY

Dateline Downtown welcomes submissions to the editor from any member of the UH system. Submissions should be no more than 300 words, include the author's full name, phone number or email address, and affiliation with the University, including classification and major.

Anonymous submissions will not be published. Deliver submissions to room S-260, email them to date-line.editor@yahoo.com or fax them to (713) 223 7466. Letters to the editor may be edited for space. They will be edited for spelling, grammar and malicious or libelous statements. Submissions must be the work of the writer and must be signed. All submissions become property of Dateline Downtown and will not be returned. Dateline Downtown is the official student-produced newspaper of University of Houston-Downtown. Editorials, cartoons, columns and letters are the opinions of individual students and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other individual student writers, editors, advisors of the University of Houston-Downtown, its administration or students.

ACRONYMS OR ACCESSORIES?

by Elisa Gonzales
Staff Reporter

Shorthand has value when it's called for. It's succinct, letting you say more within Twitter's 140 character limits. To the busy texter, it's thoughtful. It knows you're busy, and it wants to make things easy for you. The problem with today's shorthand, however, is that so many of the acronyms in mainstream rotation are totally unnecessary.

To set the standard, LOL (laughing out loud) is one of the most valuable common acronyms. It's tacky, but in conversations with loosely held social media acquaintanceships LOL is necessary. LOL users want to be sure you know they're being funny, because they aren't confident in your ability to detect comedy or their ability to be funny. In contrast, an acronym that's reached an undeserved level of success is IMO (in my opinion). Before the Internet abbreviated the phrase in my opinion, people could tell you were expressing an opinion when you did it. For example, a photo of a cute puppy on Facebook, might have the comment "dogs are cool IMO". If you just say dogs are cool, people would know that was a belief specific to you. Nobody assumes you're speaking facts into existence, like if you say cats are lame then that means going forward, cats are definitively lame, without question, universally. Introducing opinions is unnecessary.

In addition to IMO, there are plenty of other expressions that are always hanging around even when nobody really needs them, expressions like TBH (to be honest), IRL (in real life), and SMH (shaking my head). We assume you're being honest, we assume things in life are really real, and it's possible to be dissatisfied without announcing you're shaking your head. Like these, most popular acronyms are expressing truths or images that used to just be implied. In fact, these types of

implications have never really changed; the only thing that's changed is the value of acronyms. IMO isn't just in my opinion anymore. These pointless little tags are in high demand, because for some they say "Here is textual proof that I am modern and cool." For others they say, "I'm digitally and socially skilled. Checkout how clever I can be." They're like trendy accessories. And because their success has been proven, they're effortless choices. When a fashion trend reaches the height of its popularity, the outcome is a dry uniformity. Everyone looks the same, but so what? It's a loss, but a shallow one. When language trends are successful, however, the diversity that's lost is a little more precious. We don't need to search for creative ways to express our thoughts and feelings anymore; OMG is so broad it pretty much covers all the possibilities, good and bad. Also, luckily, LMAO and WTF paint such powerful visuals, and they're so easy to type, we can use them all the time. IMO, The state of digital shorthand has reached the height of irony, because it's so excessive that it just takes up so much time IRL. Also, even though it's often used in an attempt to seem clever, people using it just end up saying the same things over and over. TBH, most of these acronyms are really effective though. They're effective at stifling creativity. SMH.



PRESIDENT OBAMA'S 'FREE' COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT A PRICE THAT MAY PROVE COSTLY

by Jason J. Rivas
Campus Life Editor

President Obama continues to swing for the fences, unintimidated by the right-wing coalition aimed at striking him out, with an ambitious new plan: a two year community college degree to qualifying students, for free. A bold move by Obama, but is it too much of a reach?

The President recently presented his bold new plan in response to the global demand for a highly skilled/trained workforce. Modeled after the Tennessee plan, the initiative would provide those that hold at least a 2.5 GPA and half-time enrollment with free community college tuition. Obama's plan is in response to the globalization of the

workforce, in which American industries and corporations are seeking the brightest minds, often found in foreign countries. The plan seems to help offset future student debt, encourage enrollment for four year universities, and provide a more competitive workforce to the world economy. The White House followed Obama's presser with a state-

ment stating that the proposal would cost approximately \$60 billion, over a 10 year period. Obama is banking that public support will spur bipartisan support. Tennessee is a Republican controlled state, and Democrat controlled Chicago has had a similar plan in place now. "Opening the doors of higher education shouldn't be a Democratic issue

should be handled and cater-made by the states. House Speaker John Boehner called it more of a talking point than a feasible plan. This initiative will be largely paid for and funded by the federal government, so where will they find revenue to pay for the plan? The minimal standards to qualify for the plan may create a more complacent student

body, perhaps not fully committed to their education as opposed to those who pay or earn scholarships for their education. And today's global market now demands more than a bachelor's degree, so what could an associate's degree really do for the American workforce? Perhaps the funding of vocational schools would be more practical for the American workforce. Countries like Germany have long provided free tuition for students, but rising costs to

operate classrooms are rising faster than government funds to finance them, something that the U.S. has had a long history with.

As the sun slowly sets on Obama's presidency, he continues to strive forward with bold and ambitious agendas for the American people.



or a Republican issue," Obama said. "This is an American issue. If a state with Republican leadership is doing this and a city with Democratic leadership is doing it, then how about we all do it." However, the plan does have its detractors. Tennessee Senator Bob Corker stated afterwards that he believes education programs similar to Tennessee's



BAKER HUGHES: HOW WILL THIS AFFECT OUR NEIGHBORING CITY, TOMBALL?

by Kayla Foster
Staff Writer

When Baker Hughes opened its worldwide training facility in Tomball in May 2014 it brought many new faces to the Tomball community. These faces are ones that hold a significant presence to the town in a way that many may not realize.

Small businesses make up this growing town and the Baker Hughes facility, part of the world's largest oil-field service companies, has helped the owners of these businesses exponentially. With people from all over the world coming to this popular facility, there was a constant flow of traffic in and out of these small businesses. Now that Baker Hughes has announced a 7,000 job lay-off, 11% of its total workforce, the shops are not seeing as many new faces as they had in the past.

Many residents of the town are worried about the drop in customers, because that is how they, as well as the rest of Tomball, survive. The layoffs at Baker Hughes may create what is called a "domino effect", or a chain reaction. The definition as explained in Webster's Dictionary says that this is, "a cumulative effect produced when one event initiates a succession of similar events". If people are not shopping at these small businesses because their jobs are cut, or people are not making as much money, these companies cannot survive. The shops are forced to shut down, and then other things start to become affected from the lack of money flow in the area. How can a town survive if its small economy suffers such a devastating blow? . The city of Tomball is not far from UHD's campus, so many students who attend our university that live there may be affected by this economic collapse within our local community.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING IN CROSSHAIRS OF PARTISAN IMMIGRATION BATTLE

by GeRoyal D. Jackson
News Editor

In what has become a surprise to almost no one, the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C. is facing yet another showdown. At stake is funding for one of the most vital agencies in the country, the Department of Homeland Security and a February 27th deadline that threatens a shutdown for the agency and a furlough of 30,000 workers.

House Republicans passed a bill in January to fund DHS operations, however the legislation also included provisions that would basically gut President Obama's executive actions on immigration. In short, the legislation would reverse legal protections for as many as five million undocumented immigrants, including children.

Senate Democrats are united against any legislation other than a "clean" spending bill and

have filibustered to prevent Senate Republicans (who are in the Senate Majority) from taking a vote on the spending bill passed by the House of Representatives last month. President Obama has also promised to veto any spending bills that undo any of his executive actions.

This is where the traditional shutdown dynamic takes a turn. With Democrats and the President solidly united for a "clean bill", the House Republicans have become at odds with Senate Republicans over the issue.

The impasse between Republicans began when Senate

Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell conceded, "I think it's clearly stuck in the Senate," after failing to pass the legislation three times. McConnell then placed the responsibility of a new bill on the House.

In a press conference the following day, a fired up House Speaker John Boehner rejected any notion that the House of Representative would work on or even consider a revised spending bill. "The House has done its job. Why don't you go

ask the Senate Democrats when they're going to get off their ass and do something other than vote 'no'?"

He then advised his Republican counterparts in the senate, to, "...get unstuck."

However with all sides at a stalemate, it is possible that the Republicans have a back-up plan. 12 states including Texas have sued to block President Obama's executive actions. The case is being decided by a judge here in Texas any many speculate the ruling

could come any day. If the court rules against the President's executive actions, it would pave the way for Republicans to temporarily fund the Department of Homeland Security. It would also allow them to roll back many of Obama's signature immigration victories.

While that plan may present a short-term victory for Republicans many observers believe this brinkmanship over Obama's executive orders could likely escalate all the way to the Supreme Court.



© UPI / Landov / Barcroft Media

2014 HOTTEST YEAR ON RECORD

by Ryan McCall
Staff Reporter

NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have indicated that 2014 was the hottest year since record keeping began in 1880, which indicates a and continued a trend of global warming.

Scientists from four worldwide scientific organizations have analyzed global temperatures in 2014 concluding that it is the hottest on record. This shows a continuing trend of warming, not only in the US, but worldwide. Normally temperatures like those seen in 2014 are caused by El Niño, which is when the equatorial Pacific has unusually warm temperatures. This was not the case as El Niño had very little there was very little El Niño effect over the past year. Since 1997 we have recorded ten of the highest global temperatures on record. 2014 was the warmest year, at 0.07 degrees Fahrenheit, warmer than the



previous record in 2010. This has been a trend over the past thirty years. In that time China and India have started to produce similar levels of greenhouse gasses as the U.S. These surges in emissions are expected to accelerate as the two countries develop their industries economies further, leading to an increase in global carbon emissions.

Man-made global climate change is a

hotly contested idea around the world. While a large majority of scientists agree on climate change, the arena of public perception is not so readily convinced.

While the U.S. Senate recently voted 98-1 in answer to the question "is climate change real?", recent polls show only 57 percent of Americans believe in manmade climate change.

Global warming is purported to be caused by large amounts of manmade greenhouse gasses being trapped by our atmosphere. These gasses gas comes from two main sources; the burning of fossil fuels, and methane emissions from large-scale livestock operations. This causes a rise in temperatures globally, which can impacts our weather patterns. One consequence of this is the melting of the polar ice caps at an alarming speed, increasing sea water levels, and endangering millions of people living on or near the coast.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S State of the Union Speech

05

by Miguel Nunez
Staff Reporter

Recently President Obama gave his yearly State of the Union Address which was his sixth in front of a joint session of Congress. An estimated 31.7 million people watched as the president gave his speech at home from televisions and computers. Some of the major points he hit in his speech where topics like free community college, paid sick days, and what he termed middle class economics. Much if not all those topics were not well received by Republicans.

All these ideas such as free community college, paid sick days, and even free child care are ideas that the president believes will help the middle class. For starters free community college is something that the president believes is urgently needed, especially going into the future where he said that most jobs about two out of every three will require a higher education. In order for the workforce of the United States to keep up there must be a present day investment in opportunity. For President Obama that opportunity can only come through making community college free.

Paid sick days was also a big talking point in President Obama's speech. He mentioned that the United States is the only advanced nation in the world which does not promise paid sick days to its workers. The number he mentioned was a large 43 million. This is the number of people who currently work in the U.S. and have no paid sick days. The president said he would be working with individual states to help them adopt new paid sick day laws.

The president also brought up equal pay. President Obama said it was time for men and women to get paid the same amount of money for the same amount of work. He even made a brief joke when he brought the issue up. He said it was time for men and women to get paid the same after all it is the year 2015.

President Obama said that the way he would pay for programs like this would be to have some tax reform. Mainly his focus would be on closing tax loopholes that result in some larger corporations and the top 1 percent of wealthy individuals in the U.S not to pay a substantial amount in taxes.

President Obama also wants to focus on the nation's infrastructure, like bridges and streets that need repair all



across the U.S. He also said that there should be a focus on building modern ports, faster trains, and faster internet. The president made the point that investing in the nation's infrastructure would be a great idea because it would lead to job growth. He did not just stop there though he also mentioned that these jobs in infrastructure would be jobs that would pay better. It would give growth to an already growing economy.

One big topic the president brought that affects not only the U.S. but the entire world was climate change. The president said that 2014 was the planet's warmest year on record. He added to that severe fact only more bad news when he said that 14 out of the last 15 warmest years on record have all been in the first 15 years of this century. It is an alarming fact to say the least. The president though threw in a quick joke saying that the people who deny the evidence for climate change use the excuse of "well I am not a scientist" at which the president said that he is not a scientist either but that he knew a lot of good ones from universities and from NASA. The evidence speaks for itself. Even the pentagon has come forth and said that climate change poses a threat to the security of the United States. All in all Obama's message was a progressive message and that did not sell well with Republicans.

NPR quoted House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) as saying, "All the president really offered last night was more taxes, more government, more of the same approach that has failed the middle class for decades."

Of course one has to only look at other topics that the president discussed in his speech to see how wrong some people might perceive House Speaker Boehner to be. President Obama said that the economy is recovering and he had the numbers to support his claim. According to a CNN article the economy is growing. "More than 2.95 million jobs were created last year, according to the latest figures from the Department of Labor."

These were not the only good news the president had. Through the Affordable Care Act which the president passed, the uninsured rate in the U.S. has gone down drastically. According to the Urban Institute's Health Reform Monitoring Survey, "The number of uninsured non-elderly adults fell by an estimated 10.6 million between September 2013 and September 2014: a drop of 30.1 percent in the uninsurance rate." This is good news considering that an estimated 44,000 people die each year because they do not have health insurance according to a study done in 2009 by Harvard Medical School and published in American Journal of Public Health.

In this year's State of the Union there was also some humor. One humorous moment that stood out the most was when the president made the remark that he no longer has any campaigns to run, at which the Republicans broke out in applause and cheer. The president took it well though when he made the following remark that, "I know because I won both of them." There was a hearty cheer after that one.

NEWS

SUPERBOWL XLIX AND DEFLATE-GATE

by Shannon Wright
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The biggest game in U.S. sports is the Superbowl, and Sunday's match-up between the New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale Arizona didn't disappoint. Wow—what a game! The Seahawks could have had it, but an interception by Malcolm Butler, a rookie cornerback out of Alabama, secured the 28-24 win for the Patriots ensuring that they would return to New England with their fourth Lombardi Trophy.

In the weeks prior to the big game, the media has been in a tizzy over the controversial deflate-gate in which 11 of the 12 footballs owned by the Patriots were found to be as much as two psi (pound per square inch) below regulation during the AFC Championship game against the Indianapolis Colts. The Patriots, who dominated the Colts 45-7, scored four touchdowns in the second half after the footballs were checked and return to regulation 12.5 psi. If it had been a close game, the brouhaha over deflated balls would be understandable, but the fact is it

was a blowout. The media has been milking deflate-gate for every last drop. It seems every newscaster, journalist, celebrity, and sports fan has turned into an expert on the issue, and arguments for and against the Patriots are popping up like a pimple on prom night. Is the culprit the employee who was captured on video taking

that day to reduce the ball pressure by two psi. Did Quarterback Tom Brady and Coach Bill Belichick manipulate the balls to make it easier to grip? Several quarterbacks have openly admitted to trying to get away with slightly adjusting the size of the football in order to give them an advantage. So, obviously this is nothing new; however, it is against the rules and, if the Patriots are found guilty, a fine should be paid. It was obvious that nothing was going to be done about the issue until after the game anyway. The Superbowl generates millions of dollars, and the league would never get in the way of its economic impact.



Will it matter in the end? Not really. Brady and Belichick will still go down as one of the most dynamic duos in the history of the sport. They will both eventually be immortalized and inducted into the Football Hall of Fame, and all of the past week's ear-piercing prattle about deflated balls will be forgotten. And honestly, it was much more fun when the media talked incessantly about Superbowl 2004's nipple-gate.

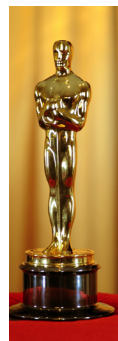
the bag of balls into a bathroom for 90 seconds? If this guy can deflate all these balls in 90 seconds, I say to hell with the NFL—he needs to work for NASCAR. Or was it the cold temperature that affected the pressure of the balls in the same way our tires are affected? One can say that anything is possible, but is it probable? No, the weather wasn't nearly cold enough

by Shannon Wright
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The 87th annual Academy Awards will air on February 22, 2015, at 7e/4p on ABC. Emceeding the ceremony is the multitasking Neil Patrick Harris, who has previously successfully brought down the house as host of The Tony Awards and the Emmy Awards, but this is Harris' first run as Oscar host. His opening numbers are always a perfect blend of song and dance mixed with pop culture and wit.

Initially predicted to be the most uneventful awards show in years, the Oscars have now turned into one of the most highly anticipated shows thanks to the controversial juggernaut "American Sniper." This biographical war drama about the life of Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, the deadliest sniper in American history, has shattered box office records, won praise from veterans and viewers, and caused an all-out social media war between fans and a few celebrities that have criticized the film.

Other films besides "American Sniper" that have churned out stellar performances and are nominated for Best Picture are: "Birdman," "Boyhood," "The Imitation Game," "Selma," "The Theory of Everything," "The Grand



"Budapest Hotel," and "Whiplash."

Julianne Moore is a shoo-in for Best Actress in her brilliant portrayal of a woman coping with early-onset Alzheimer's disease in "Still Alice." The Oscars for Supporting Actress and Supporting Actor will almost certainly go to Patricia Arquette for "Boyhood" and J.K. Simmons for "Whiplash."

The nail biter will be the award for best actor in a lead role with beautiful performances by Steve Carell

in "Foxcatcher," Bradley Cooper in "American Sniper," Benedict Cumberbatch in "The Imitation Game," Michael Keaton in "Birdman," and

Eddie Redmayne in "The Theory of Everything." Redmayne's captivating portrayal of theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and author Stephen Hawking's battle with ALS has earned him a Golden Globe, Sag Award, and a Cinema Vanguard Award, but will the universe grant him the coveted award for excellence in cinematic achievement—the Oscar? One thing is for sure: it won't be easy with a category bursting with so much talent.

Invite a few friends over, pop a bottle of champagne, and dig your toes into the couch cushions to watch some red carpet action on February 22nd.

OSCARS 2015

IT'S TIME TO COWBOY UP!

Shannon Wright
Houston Rodeo

The 2015 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo kicks off March 3-22 at NRG Stadium with the highly anticipated rodeo cook-off set for February 26-28. The cook-off's invitation only tents require bracelets to enter that can sometimes feel as difficult to come by as the golden tickets from "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," but if you're lucky enough to score a bracelet, you'll have access to row after row of tents filled with free booze, championship bar-b-que, and great music!

The month of March is chock-full of bull riding, horse cutting, barrel racing, livestock shows, horse shows and, arguably the best part of the entire night, mutton bustin'! If you've never had the pleasure of watching 5 and 6-year-olds saddled to a sheep while holding on for dear life, you're simply missing out on one of the true delights of living in this great state.

Broncs and bulls not really your thing? The Rodeo's concert series has lined up some amazing talent. Tickets for all shows range from \$18 to \$300 and include access to NRG Stadium, NRG Arena, NRG Center, and the carnival. The full lineup and special event dates are listed below:

Eric Church Mar. 3rd
Hunter Hayes Mar. 4th
Miranda Lambert Mar. 5th
John Legend Mar. 6th
Alan Jackson Mar. 7th
Fall Out Boy Mar. 8th
Justin Moore Mar. 9th
Tim McGraw Mar. 10th
Brantley Gilbert Mar. 11th
Zac Brown Band Mar. 12th
Pitbull Mar. 13th
Billy Currington Mar. 14th
La Maquinaria Notena and la Arrolladora Banda El Limon Mar. 15th
Dierks Bentley Mar. 16th
Ariana Grande Mar. 17th
Florida Georgia Line Mar. 18th
Blake Shelton Mar. 19th
The Band Perry Mar. 20th
Brad Paisley Mar. 21st
Luke Bryan Mar. 22nd

- Weekday performances start at 6:45p.m.
- Weekend performances at 3:45p.m.

Special event dates are:

Go Texans Day Friday, Feb. 27th
Armed Forces Day Wednesday, Mar. 4th
Black Heritage Day Friday, Mar. 6th
Go Tejano Day Sunday, Mar. 4th

Mothers Advocating Medical Marijuana for Autism (MAMMA)

by Kayla Foster
Staff Writer

Marijuana use can mean a lot of different things to many different people, but for these mothers, as stated on the Mothers Advocating Medical Marijuana for Autism (MAMMA) website, marijuana is an, "effective and therapeutic treatment option for our chronically ill children". These mothers and their families are not only here to, "advocate for the legalization of therapeutic cannabis", but to also "educate the churches, politicians and the electorate" about many of the benefits that cannabis can offer to their autistic children and many other co-morbid conditions.



This conservative, Christian organization was co-founded where else but here in the Lone Star State, in the city of Austin. Executive Director, Thalia Michelle, "became passionate about researching non-psychoactive forms and traditional forms of cannabis extracts and their medicinal benefits" when one of her twins, Lance, was diagnosed with Autism in the year 2008. Amy Lou, the President of MAMMA, has three children, in which her middle child has "moderate functioning autism with severe aggressive and self-injurious behaviors". These two women joined teams and started MAMMA in March of 2014 to educate many people in the state of Texas and across the U.S about medical marijuana.

With evidence in Colorado, California, Washington, and Maine suggesting "children with epilepsy and autism were being helped with extracts from the plant", they reached out to other mothers around Texas and the rest of the country who also have children with autism and other medical issues that arise from having autism, to help this organization grow. As stated on their website, "MAMMA seeks to unite the special needs community through education about cannabis therapeutics and raising awareness about its many benefits to our most vulnerable population."

MAMMA has marched the capitol during the annual, worldwide, marijuana march, spoken at churches, and been on FOX News in Austin. These mothers stand for hope that one day their children, and others around the world with many medical conditions that could be helped with medicinal cannabis, will get the help they need without having to move to another state. They recommend everyone to watch the short seven-minute CNN documentary by Doctor Sanjay Gupta called "Weed". Please visit <http://texasmamma.org/> for more information on this organization.

"MUSIC DOING GOOD" SCHOLARSHIP CAM-

by Darci McFerran
Staff Writer

While we all dread the day a professor says, "The class will be working in groups this semester," occasionally it can present a rare opportunity. Such was the case when I took the Non--Profits in America class in Fall 2014. As the title would suggest the class centered on non--profit management and the groups were tasked with designing a special project that directly benefited a local non--profit. During the Universities production of Smokey Joes Café, in Fall 2013, I had the privilege of working with Phillip Hall who is the Musical Director at Music Doing Good. Ultimately, my group decided to do a crowd--funding campaign for Music Doing Good in an effort to raise the amount for a scholarship. Music Doing Good is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to inspire and transform lives through innovative, music--based programming. Their mission was particularly important to me because the arts had a tremendous impact on me as a child and still does to this day. The organizations Scholarship Program grants awards to local students, ages 12--18, displaying financial need and exceptional musical talent to fund lessons and tuition. In addition to this direct benefit, many studies show that learning music can help children to grow and learn in other subjects.

Traditionally when the semester ends so does the project, but I couldn't walk away without reaching the projected goal, so I have taken it upon myself to oversee this campaign through to completion. As of the date that this article was written, we have successfully raised \$355 of the \$1,500 needed for the additional scholarship. This is where I'm asking students, faculty, and alumni to step in and help me see this project through to the end. Music Doing Good awards scholarships in April and I am determined to help provide this additional scholarship for them. As students we can all appreciate the hefty financial burden that accompanies the journey to our



Photo by Darci McFerran - Dateline Downtown

dreams and this is our collective opportunity to "pay it forward". My group set--up a GoFundMe page for the scholarship campaign at www.gofundme.com/MusicDoingGood so that anyone interested in helping can make a donation toward the cause. However, I realize that not everyone can make a monetary donation, because we are college students after all, right? If you cant make a donation but would still like to help, share the GoFundMe page on all of your social media platforms. Every contribution is one step closer to changing a child's life.

DIARY OF ANNE FRANK DEBUTS AT O'KANE IN APRIL



By Karen Reyez
Staff Reporter

The O'Kane Theater (located on N-364) is setting up for their upcoming spring play: a production of the historical play *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

The production, based on the book and play of the same name, tells the story the young Jewish girl Anne Frank, portrayed by Perla Ramirez, living in the midst of the persecution of Jews in World War II, known as the Holocaust. The story begins as Anne's older sister Margot, played by Chelsea Chance, receives a call-up notice from

the Jewish Emigration Office ordering her to report for relocation to a work camp. The family is then forced to speed up their process of going into hiding sooner than they had anticipated.

The Franks are then shepherded into the famous "Secret Annexe". For the next two years in hiding Anne records the events that took place during their confinement up to their arrest on August 1944. Her final entry in her diary was written three days before her arrest.

Anne was then transferred to a concentration camp along with her family. She died in early March of 1945. Her father Otto, depicted by Ralph St. Vincent Bradley, was the only survivor of the family.

Auditions for the bittersweet drama were recently completed with Sarah Nunez, Jerrell Brown, Rolando Cantu Jr., Monica Henderson, Anthony Butcher, Erhan Guner 3, and Brenda Alvarez rounding out the ensemble. Rehearsals are currently underway Monday through Friday with the cast and crew hard at work perfecting their craft.

Directed by Dr. Thomas Lyttle, the university's production debuts April 3rd thru the 11th at the O'Kane Theatre.

by Joshua Burgman
Assistant Editor

The 2015 mayoral race is under way, and while the voter's job doesn't come until November 3, the candidates are hard at work spreading the message of their respective campaigns. Dateline Downtown was fortunate enough to sit down with one of those candidates, the Honorable Marty McVey.

Mr. McVey earned a Bachelors and Masters of Business Administration, with a concentration in management, from American University. He went on to receive a Global Master of Business Administration from Georgetown and a Máster Universitario en Administración Empresas from Esade University in Madrid, Spain, and he has travelled all around the world conducting business and serving communities. He is the founder of Safi Energy, a renewable energy company, and in 2011 was appointed by President Barack Obama to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD); an advisory panel to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) tasked with providing advice on global food security-related issues. Now that he is settled in



Photo by Blake McDaniel - D:D

Houston, McVey has thrown his name in the hat of the mayoral race.

When asked what interested him in being mayor of our great city, McVey said that he loves Houston, and that his goal is to "make sure that Houston has a continued international presence." McVey's long history and experience in the private sector should be seen as an incentive to voters. Houston is already favor-

ably ranked as one of the nation's best cities to find a job, and it seems McVey intends to build on that.

Large numbers of our students at UHD are uninsured, and he believes that investing in educating young people on the benefits of the Affordable Care Act would go a long way in combating low numbers of students who find themselves without insurance; students who are also contributing members of the workforce. "We want healthier people," he said, "Healthier employees are more productive employees."

On immigration McVey's views fall in line with the Obama administration. Regarding the president's 2014 executive actions; allowing nearly five million undocumented immigrants to remain in the country. McVey agrees with the administration, stating "I think that the president's decision was right, I support it. The type of folks that would qualify for that program are the type of folks we want, because they are contributing members of society."

As the campaign gears up, Mr. McVey says he is ready to work for you, and he wants you to know, that as mayor his mandate will always be "to protect Houstonians and to protect the interest of Houstonians."

DEVICES, DOCUMENTS BEING HELD HOSTAGE

by Elisa Gonzales
Staff Reporter

Months after Sony Pictures fell victim to hacking, new forms of ransomware (or digital hostage taking) are now actively targeting personal devices and smart phones throughout the U.S.

Ransomware enters a user's system like a Trojan horse, through an innocent looking email or a link to download helpful software. Once downloaded, the virus will either restrict access to its victims' files or lock their devices entirely and demand money for renewed access.

This is the type of hacking corporate giant Sony Pictures fell victim to last November. After they refused to pay a ransom, hackers identifying themselves as #GOP supplied confidential emails and unreleased films to the public, and Sony reportedly suffered a \$15 million loss in revenue as a result of the attack.

Unlike the one that hijacked Sony's system, the most common form of ransomware virus presents itself as an official law enforcement agency claiming to have identified illegal files or internet activity and threatening criminal punishment unless a fine is paid. Microsoft reports some especially convincing strains of ransomware being deployed by hackers who include official FBI, CIA, and the Department of Justice emblems in their emails and notifications.

While PC forms of ransomware have been around for several years now, these types of hackers only began targeting personal Android and Apple devices within the last year, initially appearing as apps and more recently inspam text messages that include clickable links.

Lookout, a mobile security company that provides support to a large percentage of Android and iPhone user's, warns clients not to grant administrative access to third party applications outside of the Google Play and App stores, and to be mindful of suspicious looking apps within stores. Red flags for untrustworthy applications include a relatively low number of downloads, very few or no reviews, and poorly written product descriptions. Microsoft and Lookout both implore victims not to pay any ransom, advising that there is no guarantee that access to locked data or devices will be granted after payment. Microsoft's website includes instructions for manually removing the virus and Lookout recommends backing up data regularly and downloading a mobile security app to detect malware on applications before installation.

Like all viruses and malware, Ransomware targets victims indiscriminately. As such, smartphone owners and internet users should remain vigilante and remember the most basic anti-virus principle: no matter how alluring they appear, never click any links delivered by an unknown source.

10
Thurs
Feb. 19,
2015

NEWS

MAYOR PARKER NUMBER ONE MAYOR IN USA, NUMBER SEVEN IN THE WORLD

by Kara Moore
Staff Reporter

When Annise Parker was elected in 2010 to represent Houston, she immediately made national headlines. As one of few openly gay mayors in the USA and the only one to represent such a populous city, she completely defied conventional ideas about traditional Texas ideals to become an LGBT leader. She again made headlines in 2014 when she proposed an ordinance that extended federal protections not only to Gay and Lesbian individuals, but Transgender individuals as well.

Today Mayor Parker again makes headlines in 2015, all across the nation and the world. She was announced to be one of the top ten mayors in the world by the City Mayors Foundation which hosts the annual World Mayor Prize. She was the only US mayor to be on the list. The mayors are decided based on the persuasive arguments sent in via email by people all over the world who want to share why they love the Mayor they love.

The comments on Mayor Parker include “Mayor Parker is proof that Houston is more than a conservative, old-guard ruled city. Houston is a progressive and cosmopolitan city full of open-minded and open-hearted individuals. She is a strong leader, a woman who loves

her city and represents it well. HOUSTON LOVES MAYOR PARKER!!” and “Annise Parker should be chosen as World’s Best Mayor because throughout her three terms as Mayor, she has never worked toward the goal of being reelected as Mayor, but rather she works toward doing what is best for the future of the City of Houston.” The World Mayor association described her by saying “Her policies, which enabled the city to remain fiscally healthy during the worst of the recent recession, set the stage for the tremendous economic growth Houston enjoys today. Meanwhile, she champions human rights issues such as by being a pioneer — first openly-gay mayor of a major city — and a role model.”

This kind of praise is well deserved; under her leadership Houston has lessened much of its debt and has recently beat out Austin for the fastest growing US city. She was elected right after Hurricane Ike had swept over, taking what was left and turning it into a home most Houstonians can be proud of. Still, even in winning this prestigious award Mayor Parker was humble in saying “It’s a great honor to be recognized for doing what I love for a city that I dearly love.”

As evidenced by the outpouring of support that got her this award, the city clearly loves her back.

PRESIDENT SEEKS FORMAL AUTHORIZATION OF MILITARY FORCE AS ISIS SINKS TO BARBARISM

by GeRoyal D. Jackson

President Obama made the case to Congress on Wednesday February 11th, to formally authorize the use of military force in the war with the Islamic State also known as ISIS and ISIL. The Obama’s proposal the Authorization of Military Force or AUMF, would limit the president’s authority to wage a military campaign not exceeding three years and would not authorize enduring ground combat operations.

Instead AUMF would give the military the flexibility to tackle “unforeseen circumstances,” possibly by deploying special forces operations in the region.

The President’s request comes on the heels of fresh news of barbarism by ISIS in their assassination of a number of international hostages including the possible indirect death of American aid worker, Kayla Mueller.

In January, ISIS stunned many when a viral video surfaced of the militant group threatening to kill two Japanese hostages unless Tokyo paid a \$200 million ransom. Soon after, they released a subsequent video of the body of one of the Japanese hostages.

The terrorist organization the offered to negotiate the release of the second Japanese hostage, journalist, Kenji Goto in exchange for an Iraqi terrorist member of ISIS on death row in Jordan. ISIS enticed Jordan into prisoner swap exchange by offering the release of Royal Jordanian Air Pilot, Lt. Moath al-Kasasbeh, who had been captured in December 2014 when his F-16 fighter jet crashed over Syria.

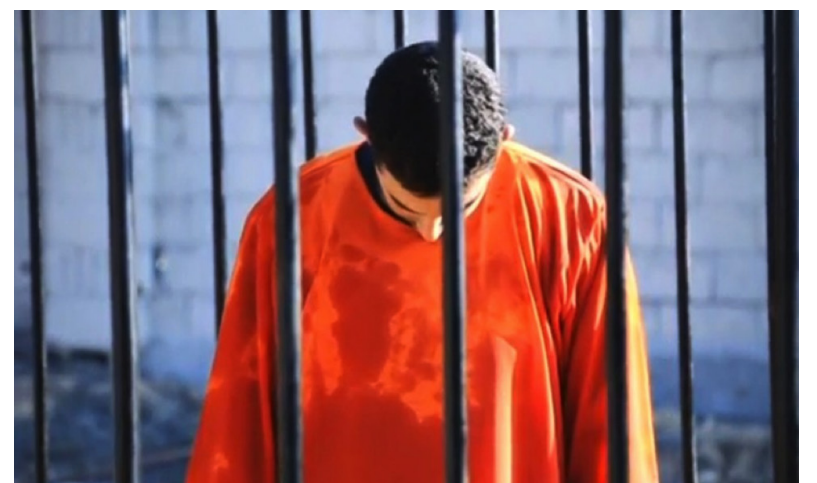
However, when no deal was reached between the countries and the terrorist organization, a video was released on

January 31st showing Goto’s beheaded body.

Four days later, ISIS released a video of displaying the murder of al-Kasasbeh in which is shown burning alive in a cage. The videos sparked international outrage and prompted a forceful response from Jordan. The Jordanians completed three days of intensified aerial bombing on ISIS targets and resumed aerial raids on February 12th.

In addition, a recent U.N. report found that ISIS in Iraq was increasingly in its terror campaign and even going as far as to selling children into enslavement.

Back here in the U.S., Congressional Democrats and Republican largely agree on the proposal, minus minute details. With an NBC/Marist poll showing that 54% of Americans agreeing with the President and a more or less approving Congress, the Authorization of Military Force is likely to become a reality in some form or another.



NET NEUTRALITY

by Miguel Nunez
Staff Reporter

There is a debate going on right now about the future of the Internet. On the one side you have Republicans who are against Net Neutrality like Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas), who has gone on twitter to say, "Net Neutrality is Obamacare for the Internet; the Internet should not operate at the speed of government." Senator Ted Cruz is a good overall representation of what most Republicans think of Net Neutrality. They are heavily opposed to it. They believe that there should be no Net Neutrality and that Internet provider's such as Comcast and Verizon should be able to charge companies however much they want to use their services.

Proponents of Net Neutrality such as Senator Al Franken (D-Minn.) and others are making the case that opponents of Net Neutrality like Ted Cruz do not understand the true issue. If we allowed companies like Comcast to treat certain web traffic different from other web traffic just because a certain company could not pay the bill for premium speed then start up companies would be at a disadvantage. It would be more likely that a company like Facebook, for example could pay this new premium price, but what about other start up companies? Would they be able to pay the premium price? It is unlikely, and it is for this reason that people like Senator Al Franken, are fighting for Net Neutrality. They want the Internet to stay the same. Yet people like Ted Cruz have this false idea that Net Neutrality is nothing more than some sort of government take over of the Internet.

In an op-ed in the Washington Post Senator Ted Cruz wrote the following about Net Neutrality, "One of the biggest regulatory threats to the Internet is net neutrality. In short, net neutrality is Obamacare for the Internet. It would put the government in charge of determining Internet pricing, terms of service and what

types of products and services can be delivered, leading to fewer choices, fewer opportunities and higher prices." The truth is that Net Neutrality would do no such thing. Net Neutrality is the idea that all Internet traffic should be treated equally and proponents say that the only way to do that is to reclassify the Internet into a regulated public utility.

The Republicans in both the Senate and the House disagree though. The Republicans have their own ideas about how the Internet will be treated. Recently in both the House and the Senate the Republicans proposed new legislation that is meant to counter the F.C.C. mandates on Net Neutrality. They believe that the F.C.C. mandates are outdated and that new legislation needs to be put in place. Cable companies and wireless providers are standing with the Republicans and this to some advocates of Net Neutrality is a bad sign. In the past cable companies have been against Net Neutrality.

Of course, any legislation that the Republicans come up with that is against Net Neutrality will likely be vetoed by President Obama. The president has come out as saying that Net Neutrality is something he is in favor of. According to USA Today Obama said that, "an open Internet is essential to the American economy, and increasingly to our very way of life." Of course even though the president is in favor of Net Neutrality that will not stop the Republicans or cable companies from still trying to get new legislation passed that will favor their side.

In late February the F.C.C. is set to vote on new rules for Net Neutrality, and some signs, to the dismay of Republicans, points to the Internet being reclassified as a utility. This is good news for anyone in favor of all Internet being treated equally. Yet it is likely that if this were to happen the cable companies and the Internet providers like Verizon and Comcast would sue to change the rules.

OPINION





By: L. A. Bonté

For more comics and animations visit FilbertCartoons.com

— WE —
MEAT
AGAIN



SERIOUS DELIVERY!™

**TO FIND THE LOCATION NEAREST YOU
VISIT JIMMYJOHNS.COM**