

DATELINE:

Volume 55
Issue 3

DOWNTOWN

BREAKING BARRIERS



WHAT'S INSIDE:

People's Pope
SGA Lost?
Motherhood
YES, INDEED!
Stand With PP
Robert Pinsky
Beyond Borders

LULAC
Sports & Fitness
Gator Babies
Day for Night
One Voice
New Laws
Work Study

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Darci McFerran

MANAGING EDITOR

Joshua Burgman

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Kara Moore

Terrance Turner

STAFF REPORTERS

Jason J. Rivas

Elisa Gonzalez

Miguel Nunez

Karen Reyes

COPY EDITOR

Lydia Jackson

ADVISOR

Dr. Anthony Chiaviello

datelinedowntownhtx@gmail.com

713.221.8569

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Anonymous submissions will not be published.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 datelinedowntownhtx@gmail.com or fax them to (713) 221 8569. 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.



www.datelinedowntown.com



www.facebook.com/DatelineDowntown



www.twitter.com/datelinedowntown



[www.instagram.com/
datelinedowntownhtx](http://www.instagram.com/datelinedowntownhtx)



Editor's Desk:

The Peoples Pope

By Joshua Burgman



photo courtesy of goodnewsnetwork.org

On September 24, Pope Francis of the Roman Catholic Church, arrived for his first ever visit to the United States of America. Francis is the first pontiff to visit the US since his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, in April 2008. He arrived in the US amidst a flurry of controversy, praise and hope that reverberates with Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Just days before he landed in Washington D.C. to meet with US President Barack Obama and the First Family, Francis had touched down in Cuba. The Pope's tour of these two nations came after having played a major role in recent developments of reconciliation between the vitreous neighbors; resulting in a reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Washington D.C. and Havana. The significance of Francis' visits did not go unnoticed. Cuba, due to its fragmented relationship with the US, ranks as one of the world's leading

epicenters of poverty, human rights violations, and a healthcare system that is in much need of revitalization. The World Health Organization ranks Cuba as 39th on a list of the world's health systems. Now that Cuba and the U.S. have begun to heal inveterate wounds, it's believed that the island nation will begin to modernize, inevitably moving internal problems towards manageability.

Upon his arrival in D.C., the Pope first met with President Obama and his family, along with other senior officials of the Obama administration. After departing the airport for the White House, Pope Francis greeted thousands of followers, some who had traveled for days just to get a glimpse of the leader of one billion Catholics. What makes this Pope different from previous Popes that have preceded him is his gentle nature and connection with the people. For some reason, disregarding religious affiliation, people seem to flock to Francis and have embraced his humble and liberal ideals.

During his procession through the streets of Washington, a young girl broke through his security detail. As security swiftly ushered her back towards her parents, Francis beckoned for them to bring her to him. As guards presented the child to his Holiness, she boldly slipped him a note which asking him to pray for her family members who are at risk for deportation. The topic of immigration is one of the many hot-button issues which Pope Francis brought up during his speech to a joint session of the US Congress; a stage that has never been taken by any Pope before him.

During his speech to the packed House Chamber, the Pope touched on many topics that are currently causing deep rifts in the fabric of the D.C. political apparatus today. Among them were Washington's slow reaction to climate change, abortion, and arms proliferation. Referencing Abraham Lincoln, an American symbol of freedom and democracy, the Pope said "This year marks the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, the guardian of liberty, who labored tirelessly that 'this nation, under God, [might] have a new birth of freedom.'" He went on speaking in a tone that has become very familiar for a man who has become favorably known as "The People's Pope." "All of us are quite aware of, and deeply worried by, the disturbing social and political situation of the world today. Our world is increasingly a place of violent conflict, hatred and brutal atrocities committed, even in the name of God and of religion."

The Pope's address before Congress was deeply symbolic. It came at a time when every corner of the world seems to be undergoing a struggle to save humanity from what it has become and is becoming. Immigrants from the Middle East and Africa are flooding Europe in numbers not seen since World War II. Boko Haram threatens the stability of Northern Nigeria, and Libya remains entrenched in civil warfare since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2013. The severely damaging effects of climate change are felt all over the world, daily. Francis delivered his speech before Congress, and a day later in New York City, during an address before the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Just before his trip abroad, Francis saw a small dip in polls that measure his likeability among supporters. Although still ranking in the 60 percentile range, it was thought that he would experience another dip among American conservatives after his address before Congress and the UN, but Pope Francis seems to transcend political bickering. His message, polarizing among American Republicans and Democrats, has hopefully ushered in an era of "good feelings." In the coming months, we will see just how much of an impact Francis has made on American society.

Has SGA Lost its Way?

By Terrance Turner

Over the past two weeks, UHD's Student Government Association (SGA) has convened in three meetings that ran the gamut from unsettling to uproarious.

On September 2nd, the organization held its inaugural meeting, in which senators were confirmed and bylaws were discussed. Senator Heather Strange proposed an amendment in which students would have to be enrolled for at least one semester before working on the "e-board" or executive board – a move which sparked pushback from members including then Chief Justice Graham Williamson, who referred to the matter as "completely illogical."

This was far from the only controversial issue. On September 16, a second general assembly was held, this time on the fourth floor of the Academic Building. After the swearing-in of several official positions, including senators and associate justices, a surprising revelation emerged regarding a valuable lost item.

Senator Strange had suggested a four-hour, \$250 course on proper debate protocol, such as how to properly make motions in meetings. She felt this would be of value for SGA's members. In lieu of taking the course, the material had been in the form of a CD-ROM. Although the CD was purchased, it was apparently nowhere to be found. This was a costly misplacement: "We paid 800 dollars for that CD," lamented SGA vice president Weston Gameson.

Later, another even more disquieting development emerged: Associate Justice Chadwick Jones – voted into office just minutes before – announced that the Director of Community Outreach position had been rendered "null-and-void" by Bylaw 8 of SGA's constitution. Somehow, under the revised bylaws, the position no longer existed. This was a paid position, Jones said, so its omission would amount to a misappropriation of funds.

Gameson downplayed the allegation in an interview, saying that a typo was to blame for the mishap. "It didn't eliminate it, it just didn't name that position," he said. "To say that it's a misappropriation of funds is a gross overstatement." Some members within the organization have suggested that the typo was the result of faulty copy/paste maneuvers by whoever drafted the bylaws.

Any fears of future disaster were averted, however, by the SGA Senate meeting on Sept. 25. After a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of Bylaw 8, the members decided that the amendment would protect new students from becoming overwhelmed by the tricky balance of a time consuming e-board position and full-time academic coursework. They also elected to change the wording of the bylaw that had originally erased the community outreach position.

Chief Justice Christina LaPoint stated that the CD in question was actually part of a package that included booklets and other materials – overall the package cost \$800, not solely the CD. In any event, the group chose to proceed with the \$250 debate course, as it had already been earmarked in the budget.

By the end of the meeting, the three main issues that had caused so much trouble seemed to have been skillfully resolved. Only time will tell if they truly have been.

University of Houston - Downtown



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UHD Sports & Fitness

by Christopher Joseph

There are a lot of events going on at UHD. If you stop at any poster board you can see all the local clubs that are offered here. The flyers posted most frequently seem to be about activities that are offered in one place, The Sports & Fitness center.

I got the chance to talk to someone in the UHD community who knew a lot about the happenings of the center. Sports Coordinator, Justin Sarabia, is the overseer of all the sports clubs. His responsibilities include scheduling, hiring, and the training of officials.

As of right now UHD has ten official clubs that are offered to the students: baseball, men's basketball, cheer, dance, powerlifting, men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball, men's and women's wrestling, and the cycling club. The cycling club is one of the few noncompetitive clubs. Normally, it functions as just a place for a group of students to go and ride. Sarabia mentioned the requirements for joining any clubs within Sports & Fitness: students have to be in good academic standing with their classes, have a 2.0 GPA and have a total of six credit hours. However, in the spring, the baseball club will have a different set of requirements for joining. Instead of six hours, baseball players will be required to have twelve credit hours.

Intramural sports are the counterpart of the club sports. However, intramural sports are more for fun, where anyone can play. There is a dodgeball game, badminton tournament, and a bowling tournament. Students, faculty, even Sports & Fitness alumni can participate in the games. With intramural sports there is no competing with other schools. Instead, you compete with friends or other members of the Gator family to see who can come out on top.

There is also help for those who are not trying to get into a sports club, but who focus more on living a healthy lifestyle. Lori Ramirez, fitness coordinator, helps students who are focused on starting a healthier diet. Lori spoke about the three health workshops that will occur throughout the semester. The workshops are free to students and faculty alike. The Sports & Fitness center provides nutrition counseling that will help with meal planning for healthier options. Nutrition counseling costs ten dollars for a forty-five minute session.

Every year the Sports & Fitness staff participates in a canned food drive. The Sports & Fitness team splits into six different groups and they all have a set amount of time to get the most cans. The winning team along with the other five teams all goes and donates to the food bank together. The Sports & Fitness staff are not the only ones who spend their time doing charity work, members of the sports teams also give back to their community. Members of UHD teams are required to participate in one community service event per semester.

The Sports & Fitness team is very interactive when helping Gators with their questions, and even has challenges to help motivate the students to keep up their workout. "The Challenge" is an incentive program that gives rewards to students; items ranging from small trinkets, such as a pen, to a workout bag. There is also "Fitness Bingo," where you get a sticker for each fitness class, healthy workshop or training. As you collect stickers and fill the bingo card, you have the opportunity to win a GO-PRO camera. Go check out the fitness center to see for yourself!

UHD Sports & Fitness Fall 2015 Fitness Programs Studio Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:15	Jillian Michaels BODYSHRED 7:30am-8:00am Crystal	Breathe & Stretch 7:45am-8:15am Nancy	Jillian Michaels BODYSHRED 7:30am-8:00am Crystal	Breathe & Stretch 7:45am-8:15am Nancy	
8:30	*Yoga 8:30am-9:45am Michelle	*Karate 8:30am-9:45am Robert			
9:45	Hip Hop Fitness 9:00am-11:00am Nancy	Zumba 9:00am-11:00am Melissa	Hip Hop Fitness 9:00am-11:00am Nancy	Zumba 9:00am-11:00am Melissa	
11:30	Butts & Guts 11:30am-12:00pm Amanda	Jillian Michaels BODYSHRED 11:30am-12:00pm Crystal	Butts & Guts 11:30am-12:00pm Amanda	Jillian Michaels BODYSHRED 11:30am-12:00pm Crystal	*Women's Self-Defense 10:45am-12:00pm Daniel
12:30	Step Up! 12:30pm-1:00pm Tara	Step Up! 12:30pm-1:00pm Charlie	Step Up! 12:30pm-1:00pm Tara	Step Up! 12:30pm-1:00pm Charlie	
1:15	Ballroom Latin Dance 1:15pm-2:30pm Amanda				
2:30	*Pilates Barre 2:30pm-3:30pm Paris	Boot Camp 2:30pm-3:30pm Juan	*Dance Video Choreography 2:30pm-3:45pm Kaitia	Boot Camp 2:30pm-3:30pm Juan	
4:00	Boot Camp 4:15pm-5:00pm Alex	Zumba 4:15pm-5:00pm Eunice	Boot Camp 4:15pm-5:00pm Alex	Zumba 4:15pm-5:00pm Eunice	
5:15	Zumba 5:15pm-6:00pm Elizabeth	Jillian Michaels BODYSHRED 5:15pm-6:00pm Crystal	Zumba 5:15pm-6:00pm Elizabeth	Jillian Michaels BODYSHRED 5:15pm-6:00pm Crystal	Line Dancing 5:15pm-6:15pm Debra
6:00	Butts & Guts 6:00pm-7:00pm Nancy	*Yoga 6:00pm-7:00pm Bethany	Butts & Guts 6:00pm-7:00pm Nancy		
6:45			*Ballroom Latin Dance 6:45pm-8:00pm Amanda Diana		
7:30					
8:00					
8:15					
8:30					

Aerobic type Classes Yoga/Stretching Martial Arts Dance Classes
Videos are available for check out at any time when classes are not being held Boot Camp/Strength classes

I ❤️ FITNESS
f t i
Don't leave exercise out of your education!

UHD LULAC: An Organization for All

by Jason Rivas

LULAC a UHD: Una Organización para Todos

traducido por Lydia Jackson

In early September, Metro was on campus to sign students up for discounted Q-Cards for the bus/rail networks. About 150 students signed up, making the event a great success. Behind the scenes, Francisco Delgado and his officers were already brainstorming their next endeavor. They represent UHD's LULAC Council 22268, which, along with their members and advisors, Liza Alonzo, Dr. Viola Garcia, Dr. Gene Preuss, and Dr. Mari Nicholson-Preuss, aims to continue bringing attention to student issues and interests.

The League for United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) was established in 1929 in Corpus Christi, TX. Previously, militias from around the state were formed as a means to protect Latin Americans from discriminatory practices. As the Latino population grew, the need for an all-encompassing organization became apparent. LULAC would quickly spread across Texas as a champion for civil rights and education, and an advocate for Latino businesses. In particular, Districts 8 and 18 have respectively been at the forefront of community outreach and service in Houston. Today, LULAC is headquartered in Washington D.C., with approximately 900 councils around the United States and Puerto Rico, offering a wide variety of services and advocacies that address the more prominent issues facing Latinos: education, political influence, housing, family issues, women's rights, and healthcare.

Two years ago, UHD students began showing interest in Latin American, Chicano, and Mexican-American studies. However, the school lacked any specified programs for such studies. What began as an interest in learning more about Latin American History, flourished into something grander: a LULAC council focused on promoting education, community engagement, social equality issues, and immigration reform. Currently, more than 400 UHD students receive DACA deferrals, many of whom were aided by LULAC. They have collaborated with UHD Feminists and UHD's Texas Freedom Network chapter to promote LGBTQ+ and women's rights matters. They regularly volunteer at a number of centers, including the Beacon, and at citizenship drives. They participated in voter registration drives and a mayoral forum with Mi Familia Vota at Rice University, all while continuing to maintain education at the forefront. UHD's student population is about 44% Hispanic, however, LULAC is an open organization and is not exclusively for Latino students. More and more students from different walks of life have joined and even received scholarship opportunities. LULAC believes civil rights are not just Latino issues, but are human issues.

LULAC will be celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15th-October 15th) with a cornucopia of activities. They recently featured and/or will feature the following films: *The Other Side of Immigration*, about undocumented Mexican migrant workers from the perspective of a Mexican community; *A Class Apart: A Mexican American Civil Rights Story*; *In God's Eyes, We're All Family*, about a Supreme Court decision and the issues faced by LGBTQ+ members in a repressive church; and *Latino Americans: The 500 Year Legacy that Shaped a Nation*, about the Chicano movement of the 1960-70's and the Latino growth going into the 21st century.

LULAC will also host an exhibit showcasing Latino WWII veterans, a panel discussion over racism towards Latinos, and presentations on ethics in language and human rights issues by Dr. Rey Romero and Dr. Christine Kovic, respectively. LULAC will also take part in the Financial Literacy Week occurring October 5th through the 12th. After Hispanic Heritage Month, LULAC will again team up with Mi Familia Vota on a non-partisan panel about Proposition 1, otherwise known as HERO. For Día de Los Muertos, they will journey to MECA with Dr. Paul Mandell to take part in the celebrations going on October 31st through November 1st. For the spring semester, plans are already in motion to host monthly guest speakers about perseverance and displaying pride in one's roots.

LULAC's president, Francisco Delgado, believes LULAC is more than just serving one ethnic community, it's about serving all: "Being young councilmembers here at the university, we have the opportunity to not only represent the Hispanic student population on campus, but represent all students on campus." Like several of his fellow members, he is a DREAMer, and with LULAC, they aim to provide for the students of UHD, one dream at a time.

For more information about UHD LULAC, please contact them via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/uhdlulac22268?fref=ts> or by email at lulacuhd@gmail.com.



En los principios de Septiembre, representantes de Metro estuvieron en la Universidad con la meta de registrar a estudiantes para recibir descuentos en "Q-Cards" y con eso poder usar las redes de autobús y tren. Cerca de 150 estudiantes se registraron, convirtiendo el evento en un gran éxito. Detrás de cámaras, Francisco Delgado y sus oficiales ya ponían en acción su siguiente idea. Ellos representan el Consejo LULAC del UHD 22268, la cual, con sus miembros, y consejeros, Liza Alonzo, Dr. Gene Preuss, y Dra. Mari Nicholson-Preuss, tiene el objetivo de continuar brindando atención a las cuestiones y los intereses de los estudiantes.

La Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos (LULAC, por sus siglas en inglés), se estableció en 1929 en Corpus Christi, TX. Antes, las milicias de todo el estado fueron creadas como un medio para proteger a latinoamericanos contra las prácticas discriminatorias. La población latina fue creciendo y al igual la necesidad de una amplia organización se hizo evidente. LULAC se propagaría rápidamente en todo el estado de Texas como un campeón de los derechos civiles y de la educación, y la promoción de las empresas latinas. En particular, los distritos 8 y 18 respectivamente han estado en la vanguardia de la comunidad y servicio en Houston. Hoy en día, LULAC es con sede en Washington D. C., con aproximadamente 900 consejos en los Estados Unidos y Puerto Rico, en el que se ofrece una amplia variedad de servicios y campañas que se refieren a las más importantes cuestiones que se enfrentan los latinos: la educación, la influencia política, la vivienda, las cuestiones de la familia, los derechos de la mujer, y el cuidado de la salud.

Hace dos años, los estudiantes de UHD comenzaron a mostrar interés en estudios de América Latina, chicanos y México-americanos. Sin embargo, la escuela carecía de cualquier tipo de programas enfocados especialmente para este tipo de estudios. Lo que comenzó como un interés en aprender más sobre historia de América Latina, prosperó en algo más grande: un Consejo LULAC se centró en promover la educación, participación en la comunidad, cuestiones de igualdad social y una reforma migratoria. Actualmente, más de 400 estudiantes UHD recibirán aplazamientos en su estado de deportación debido a DACA, muchos de los cuales fueron ayudados por LULAC. Han colaborado con las feministas de UHD y capítulo de Texas Freedom Network de UHD para promover cuestiones de LGBTQ y derechos de las mujeres. Con regularidad se ofrecen en varios centros, incluso The Beacon, y en paseos de ciudadanía. Participaron en campañas del registro del votante y un foro del candidato para alcalde con Mi Familia Vota en Universidad de Rice, todo sin dejar de mantener la educación a la vanguardia. La población estudiantil de UHD es cerca de 44% hispanos, sin embargo, LULAC es una organización abierta y no es exclusivamente para los estudiantes latinos. Todavía existen varios estudiantes que se han unido y además recibieron becas. LULAC considera los derechos civiles no son sólo temas de Latino, pero en temas humanos.

LULAC celebrará Mes de la Herencia Hispana (septiembre 15 a octubre 15) con una abundancia de actividades. Recientemente destacados, o contará con, las siguientes películas: *The Other Side of Immigration*, sobre los trabajadores migrantes mexicanos indocumentados desde la perspectiva de una comunidad mexicana; *A Class Apart: A Mexican American Civil Rights Story*; *In God's Eyes, We're All Family*, sobre una decisión de la Corte Suprema de justicia y los asuntos que enfrentan los miembros LGBT de una iglesia represiva; y *Latino Americans: The 500 Year Legacy that Shaped a Nation*, sobre el movimiento Chicano de los 1960-70 y el crecimiento Latino en el siglo XXI.

LULAC también acogerá una exposición mostrando a los veteranos latinos de la segunda guerra mundial, un panel de discusión sobre el racismo hacia los Latinos, y presentaciones sobre ética de la lengua y cuestiones de derechos humanos por el Dr. Rey Romero y Dr. Christine Kovic, respectivamente. LULAC también participará en la semana de competencia financiera que ocurre el 5 de octubre a través del 12. Después del Mes de Herencia Hispano, LULAC formará un equipo otra vez con Mi Familia Vota en un panel imparcial sobre la Proposición 1, también conocido como "HERO." Para Día de Los Muertos, viajarán a MECA con Dr. Paul Mandell para participar en las celebraciones que serán del 31 de octubre hasta el 1ro de noviembre. Para el semestre de la primavera, los proyectos están ya en el movimiento de recibir a oradores invitados mensuales sobre la perseverancia y mostrando el orgullo de raíces de uno.

El presidente de LULAC, Francisco Delgado, cree que LULAC tiene un propósito que va más allá que solamente ayudar a una comunidad, es para ayudar todos: "Ser jóvenes concejales aquí en la Universidad, tenemos la oportunidad no sólo de representar a la población de estudiantes hispanos en el campus, sino representar a todos los estudiantes en el campus." Como varios de sus colegas, él es un DREAMer, y junto con LULAC, pretenden proporcionar por los estudiantes de UHD, un sueño a la vez. Para más información sobre UHD LULAC, por favor póngase en contacto con ellos vía Facebook a <https://www.facebook.com/uhdlulac22268?fref=ts> o vía correo-electrónico a lulacuhd@gmail.com.

5

**Local
&
Campus
News**

I Stand with Planned Parenthood

by Darci McFerran

There is a war being waged on American soil; a war against women, their bodies, and their reproductive liberty. Margaret Sanger once said, “No woman can call herself free who does not control her body.” Sanger was the founder of Planned Parenthood, and she fought for women’s rights during a time when women were not legally or socially allowed to learn about their reproductive health. Let that sink in for just a moment. Commonly held religious beliefs advocated that it was a sin to learn about such things; therefore, women had no control of their bodies. They were often forced to have child after child with no understanding of how to stop the pregnancies.

This lack of family planning or understanding of prevention kept many women under the control of abusive husbands, and in harmful marriages. The United States of America did not allow women to own property, vote, or take part in the political process at all. The Comstock Laws, known commonly as the “Chastity Laws,” passed on March 23, 1873, were intended for the “suppression of trade in, and circulation of, obscene literature and articles of immoral use.” This vague wording allowed for rampant misinterpretation that was aimed at suppressing women.

In the larger scale of human history, this was a reality for women a mere moment ago. In 1916, Margaret Sanger opened the first Planned Parenthood, which was merely a birth control clinic at the time. A completely radical act during the period considering that the Women’s Suffrage movement, and the right to vote didn’t pass until

August 26, 1920, at which time, three-quarters of the state legislatures ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, which finally gave women full voting rights.

Currently, Republicans are working on defunding the very clinics that have provided countless women access to preventative health care, under the guise of abortion politics. “In 1973,” according to Scholars Strategy Network, “U.S. Justices defined abortion as a privacy right and opened the door wide to abortions at the request of the pregnant woman.” Meaning, the decision to have an abortion was entirely up to a pregnant woman’s discretion. Since their ruling, abortion has remained center stage in American politics and is currently being used to fuel the defunding campaign against Planned Parenthood.

In understanding why this is important, we must first understand what it means. Federal funding of Planned Parenthood does not mean that federal dollars are funding abortions. In fact, it is prohibited under the law by the Hyde

amendment unless it occurs under the specific circumstances of rape, incest, or as a life-saving medical procedure for the mother. As we have historically seen, when we allow vague wording to guide opinions, we are often left draconian laws that do more harm than good.

Planned Parenthood provides healthcare to thousands of women every year who otherwise wouldn’t have, due to lack of financial means. Cutting federal funding from the programs that Planned Parenthood offers means simply that fewer women be able to receive the help they desperately need, especially those who cannot afford the medical costs. So what you’re really “defunding” is birth control availability, cancer screening, medical testing for reproductive illness and diseases, as well as the options for treating them.

**STAND UP FOR
WOMEN'S
HEALTH**



image courtesy of plannedparenthood.org

**Did you know that UHD is Haunted??
The Student Veterans Organization is hosting
their 1st Annual Haunted House**



**Tuesday October 26 - Thursday October 29
Doors Creak Open at 10 a.m. and Slam Closed at 2pm
Room S-244**

**All Decorations were donated by
Halloween Express
who is also giving all students 10% OFF with a Student I.D.**

One Voice at a Time

by Joshua Burgman

100,000 Poets for Change. "Is that enough?" I thought to myself as I entered the Coffee House on the third floor of the academic building. This September the organization, 100,000 Poets for Change launched a city-wide commemoration of the day of solidarity among poets worldwide. September 26th marks the day in which poets around the world unite in their struggle to bring awareness to social issues and injustices. Acting as Master of Ceremonies was Houston Poet Laureate and UHD's own, Dr. Robin Davidson. Dr. Davidson would go on to read some of her own poetry during the event that night, adding her voice to the many thousands that are seeking so desperately to be heard. By the end of the night my question was answered.

We are standing in a moment in time that is defining the future, and the concept of 100,000 Poets for Change is a welcomed jolt of peaceful energy that we need. Poets like Ilyas Brown, Brad Hoge, Jasmine Mendez, Lisa Marano, Eloisa Perez-Lozano, Davidson and many more, shared their art with us that night. Like a potter's hands, their words work to shape our thinking, and very often, to rattle the states of our awareness.

Hosting the event inside of the coffee house was ingenious to me. With downtown Houston as a backdrop, it seemed fitting that the art, voiced and displayed, spoke to social issues that have in the past, and still to this day, threaten the peace of our city and nation. As they spoke, a painter from the creative collective painted a picture that added a visual voice to a new phenomenon that has taken hold of our society; the public vs. the police. In a background of intense reds and blues, he painted the shadows of the terrified hands raised against a familiar form of tyranny. Across both the top and bottom of the painting, in English and Spanish, he wrote "Hands Up, Don't Shoot!"; "Manos arriba, No disparan!" a mantra known by its popularity with the "Black Lives Matter" movement - a movement that's fighting for justice and equal treatment by the police of black and brown people alike. His voice was clearly heard.

So was Lisa Morano's, who shared her work concerning immigration, another social issue that is a major source of conflict in almost every corner of the world. In North America alone, thousands of people leave behind families and bleak futures in search of a better life, a life that begins in the darkness of an unfamiliar country, and culture.

By the end of the night, my question was answered. Are 100,000 poets for change enough? Yes. One is enough. Each poet that spoke that night, spoke so loudly with their words that each, alone, were enough to speak to the masses, and to challenge them as well. It makes sense that our school launched these festivities for the city of Houston. Our blanket of diversity is made from a fabric of many cultures, and every day we challenge ourselves with these same issues. By hosting 100,000 Poets for Change, we are saying, very loudly, that we will fight for equality and justice, one voice at a time.



photo's courtesy of SGA & Creative Collective



Robert Pinsky Visits UHD

by Karen Reyes

The University of Houston-Downtown had the honor of welcoming former US Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky to our campus. Although he has been to Houston many times before, this time UHD students had the opportunity to play host to Mr. Pinsky. The event, held in the Academic Building's Cullen Auditorium, started with a brief introduction by Robin Davidson, UHD's own Houston Poet Laureate, who stated, "Pinsky's eight poetry books, seven books of prose poetry, and the project he conducted as Poet Laureate called "Favorite Poem Project." People around the US would send their favorite poems. Those chosen were recorded reading their favorite poem while explaining why they connected with this particular poem. You can still find these videos in the "Favorite Poem Project" website, some stories are really powerful. Pinsky is also a translator, as he translated Dante's *Inferno* from Italian to English where he kept Dante's own style."

After Davidson's warm introduction, Pinsky took the stage and shared his own philosophy of poetry, saying, "The medium for a poem is not words and certainly not images, but it's a vocal medium, it's the readers' bodies, the audience's. This is the sense on[sic] which poetry is the most physical of all the arts." Wonderful wise words from the poet.

He then proceeded to recite his own poetry which included, *The Samurai Song*, *ABC*, *Rhyme*, *Shirt* all that can be found in his book, *Selected Poems*. He then shared with us, very briefly, his insights into the process he undertakes when writing these particular poems.

Pinsky then opened the floor to the audience and accepted any questions they may have had for him. The audience was shy at first, but after a few jokes from Pinsky to break the ice, a few fans asked their favorite poet questions about his translation works, his poems and even requested specific poems to be read by him.

The event ended with Pinsky reading some of his old, and soon-to-be-released, poetry books. The audience was then welcomed to purchase a personally signed poetry book and have a special one-on-one chat with the poet.

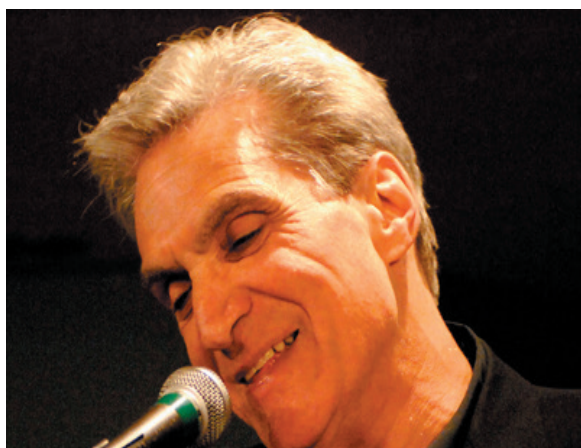


photo courtesy of poets.org

Expressing Motherhood

By Kara Moore

UHD sent out an email this semester announcing that it will comply with a new Texas law that requires mothers be given an area to comfortably express breast milk while on the job. The law, and UHD's recognition of its requirements, has brought to light some questions about, not only employees' right to express breast milk, but the rights of students as well.

There's a decent amount of controversy surrounding women's breasts these days. Between stars like Miley Cyrus coming out in support of the "Free the Nipple" movement, and Facebook taking down pictures of mothers breastfeeding, there isn't much of a way to escape speculation about whether breasts are inherently sexual or just a natural part of a woman's body. It seems that most people, or at least the ones in the Texas legislature, can agree that breasts have natural purposes and an involvement in the health of a baby. That's why the law was passed, and UHD has designated a space for women to pump.

While privacy when pumping sounds like a good thing, it bodes the question about whether employees or students will be expected to go somewhere private when breast feeding as well. There isn't a policy that addresses a student's right to express breast milk in the university's public spaces, whether that be pumping or feeding. Considering how many mothers attend UHD, it's strange there isn't more policy addressing maternal issues.

The current policy in place with regards to employee pumping states that they will have to schedule their pumping around class times and it should not interfere with daily work. When the health center is closed, other arrangements for pumping are to be made with employee relations. Finally, a Lactation Accommodation Request must be submitted to the Employment Services and Operations office at least two weeks before returning to work. A supervisor cannot deny the request unless they can prove that allowing the employee to pump would heavily disrupt office operations.

Considering the media controversy, the many mothers who attend UHD, and the fact that a good portion of employees are also students, UHD needs to look into the kind of policies it desires for not only pumping but breast feeding on campus.



Gator Babies

by Christopher Joseph



image courtesy of goodtherapy.org

Going to college is a huge achievement for a lot of people. However, going to college can add a great deal of responsibility and stress, due to a new environment for those who are fresh from high school. College life is also home to a lot of nontraditional students who may not have been in school for a couple of years, or had begun working on building a family. This can make college especially difficult for the mothers who don't have a proper babysitter or who simply cannot afford sending their child to a daycare while they are in class.

According to AAUW.org, about 40% of those who attend community college are women, due to the affordability of community colleges and the close proximity to their homes. However, within six years of enrolling in a community college, around half of the students have not completed a degree, having either transferred or dropped out. In 2010, about 49% of community colleges provided on-campus daycare, compared to the 57% of four-year public universities who did. Since 2011, 23 out of 63 institutions in Texas alone provide on-campus child care for students.

The University of Houston-Downtown has been making efforts to help the students by building an on-campus daycare. The on-campus daycare was one of the most requested initiatives to be added to the expansion of the school. SGA President John Locke spoke about the process involved in acquiring such facilities: "The only hurdle now is the YMCA, which we are partnering with; to evaluate the space we have and to make sure that it is up to standard." The proposed space is on the second floor, right across the hall from the SGA office.

UHD student Stacey Porter, who is now working on getting her master's degree, shared her personal experience on being a mother of three children, taking a full load of college classes and working full time. Stacey mentioned that it wasn't quite as challenging for her since she had the support of her husband. "If you have a good support system, then you're able to achieve a little bit more; it works out a little bit better," she said. However, there were times where she and her husband had conflicting schedules and it became a bit of a hassle trying to find a babysitter. "While I was getting my bachelor's degree, it would have really helped to have a daycare during those times," she said. Stacey showed great enthusiasm for the idea of a daycare on-campus: "It would motivate more mothers to go back to school. It would be a great excuse for mothers to go to school for their kids."

President Locke and SGA are in the final stretch of getting the daycare up and ready for students. The daycare will not be a traditional daycare; it will be limited to the students who can drop off their child while they attend their class, or if they have classes back to back. The age of the children who will be allowed to be admitted to the daycare will be four and up. The pricing of the daycare will be around \$9, making it cheap for the students, since it is partnered with the YMCA. The daycare will not be manned by the students who are in the Work-Study program, but by members from the YMCA. The daycare is set to be opened sometime during the Spring 2016 semester.

YES, INDEED! Music on Main

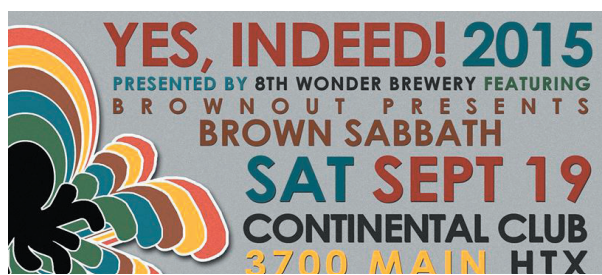
by Miguel Nunez

What is there not to love about Houston when you have a music festival with numerous indie bands from all over Texas taking four stages, with beer and food? Yes, Indeed is a one-day music festival that is in its fourth year here in Houston, and it does not look like it is going to end anytime soon. If anything was clear when I went to this music festival, it was that Houstonians love it.

This festival had four stages and about thirty bands playing. There was the Continental Club, which was the stage for bands like Electric Attitude – a band known for playing a combination of soul, rock, and funk. Also performing were *MYTWILIGHTPILOT*, the Bee Caves, and the Wandering Bufaleros. All these bands had their own style and their own vibe, which lit up the ears of the screaming fans in front of the stages. Everything was connected, so the crowds could walk from stage to stage. The Continental Club, The Pachinko Hut, The Big Top, and the Alley Kat were all bars that hosted each stage and they are all located on Main St., so getting to the locations were easy since the light rail is right in front of each of the venues.

This event was sponsored by 8th Wonder Brewery, Heights Vinyl, Southside Espresso, and Killem Collective. Tickets for the event were only \$15 online and \$20 at the door. Considering how much you got in return, it was not a bad deal. Talent was far-reaching, all the way from native Texas bands like Bee Caves (who have country-like voices with psychedelic flair) and Wrestlers, to bands from New Orleans, like AF the Naysayer. There were even vendors selling merchandise, such as handmade soaps, tea blends (which the vendor told me could cure your colds), and even herbal smokes. If you went to “The Place Upstairs,” you would find yourself in a strange somewhere that feels as if you should not be there. When you step outside of the bars and onto Main St. and stand between the Continental Club and Tacos A Go-Go, you will find a flight of stairs that leads you to--you guessed it--“The Place Upstairs.” There you will find a few shops that sell antiques and vintage clothes. Of course, those stores are open most days, not just when a music festival is going on downstairs.

Overall, the music festival was something you did not want to miss. There was ample parking, a mixed crowd of twentysomethings, and, I believe, more than a few heads of gray hair. You felt welcome at the festival and, while it may not be as big as other well known festivals like Coachella, it still had its own style that could draw in a healthy crowd. Anyone that went would no doubt be leaving with one thought in mind: “I can't wait for Yes, Indeed Music Festival 2016!”



Will Free Press Houston's New Winter Festival Deliver?

By Elisa Gonzalez

The six-year love affair between Houston and Free Press Summer Fest has been a tormented one plagued by mud, flooding, and searing Texas heat. This winter, the city's resident festival throwers, Free Press Houston, are looking to make up for it with “Day for Night”.

Day for Night's website consists of one page. It's a logo, a slogan, "light and sound collide," a set of dates, December 19th and 20th, and a button that takes you to a third-party online ticket vendor. Passes are \$135 for 2-day general admission, and \$425 for VIP. For an unprecedented event with an unreleased talent lineup, Day for Night is asking for a lot of your money.

The festival's air of mystery and high ticket prices ask you to take a gamble, but the media coverage is favorable. Day for Night has so far promised, "Immersive lighting, projection, and video art that will be displayed in two controlled environments, with stages serving as indoor performance halls featuring live musical performances. A third, outdoor stage will showcase continuous artistic content, including music, original video installations, projections, and lighting."

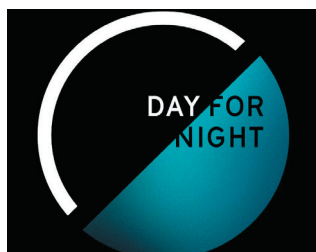
If that sounds like a run-of-the-mill modern music festival to you, FPH publisher Omar Afra wants to assure you that it won't be. "We always knew we wanted to produce a large scale winter event, but we didn't want to just put on another festival. This one has to be different."

To further ensure you couldn't possibly mistake this music event for average, it's all going down at The Heights' Silver Street Studios and surrounding streets. Primarily a collection of hip art studios, this unconventional venue solidifies the claim that Day for Night will be a memorable co-mingling of artistic mediums.

FPSF has similarly advertised itself as a music and arts festival in the past, but with Day for Night, media coverage has evoked a unique and alluring emphasis on the non-music art, which according to Afra, will include, "socially relevant risk-taking art, and the surprises that catch participants off guard to let the magic in."

For some music fans, a winter event absent the Bayou City's wicked heat is enough to win them over, but Day for Night is promising so much more. The only question is: will it deliver?

Tickets for the blind sale have sold out, but they will go on sale again with the release of the lineup, which is scheduled for late September. For updates, follow Day for Night on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook.



New Law Brings Body Cameras to HPD

by Miguel Nunez

Starting September 1, 2015, a new program seeks to equip Houston Police officers with body cameras. It is only a pilot program for the time being where police departments will have the chance to purchase the cameras for their police departments, but then get reimbursed for the cost by the federal government. The program was signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott in an effort to make the public and the police officers that protect the public safer.

Recently, there have been national incidents where police officers have shot unarmed people, seemingly without just cause. Take, for example, an incident that occurred on June 11, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. There, a police officer shot a man that according to reports was "walking with a purpose." The officer that opened fire admits that she saw no weapon at the time but his erratic movements caused her to fear for her life. So she shot the man from her squad car while sitting down in the driver's seat. Another incident occurred in Cincinnati where police shot an unarmed man and father, Samuel Dubose, in the head during a traffic stop. Incidents like these seem to be happening more often all across the nation. Some people argue that it is time to make police officers more accountable for their actions. In an effort to increase accountability, people all across the nation are asking for police officers to wear body cams. Some argue that this will make the police more accountable for the actions they make, while others argue that this is the wrong direction to take.

I had a chance to talk to an ex-police officer and a graduate of University of Houston-Downtown, Randy Krinsky. I asked him what he thought of the possibility of having body cameras on police officers and his response was, "I would have welcomed the idea of wearing a body cam. I would not have thought of it as a hindrance, but as a tool in my favor to lower my liability and show the hard work that I was actually out there doing every day." While Mr. Krinsky's sentiment is something most people share across the nation, especially considering the current environment, that is not the case for everybody. For example the editorial board from Bloomberg View wrote that if officers were given body cams then it would have a negative effect on officers doing their job. According to Bloomberg View, "Officers may be less inclined to engage communities, patrol high-crime areas, or address quality-of-life issues -- loitering, pot smoking, playing loud music -- if they're required to keep their cameras rolling at all times." Bloomberg View went on to write that having cameras on police officers would also lead to an invasion of privacy. It is not surprising to find out that police officers deal with dangerous situations all the time, but they also, on occasion, have to deal with situations that may be embarrassing to the person being arrested. Just imagine for a moment a situation in which someone is drunk and walking around naked. If the police officer is walking around with a camera then that footage would be recorded.

Some people argue that privacy is not an issue. While recordings such as these may indeed happen here and there, the fact remains that police officers already have cameras to a degree. Every police officer's patrol car has a dash cam on it, so this idea that a person's privacy will be violated is a moot point. When one is out in the public sphere, that person should not expect to have the same degree of privacy he or she has in a private residence.

Bloomberg View went on to write, "Cameras also threaten to degrade civic values by turning police officers into walking surveillance tools. This could erode trust between citizens and law enforcement." Bloomberg View seems to forget that we live in a different era where Ferguson happened; people are erupting with distrust for police officers already.

I emailed back with Mr. Krinsky and asked him if he thought there has been a long history of police officers shooting unarmed people without just cause and if the only reason we are now seeing such incidents being reported is

because of an abundance of camera phones. His response was that while on the surface it does seem like there are a lot of police officers shooting people, the fact remains that according to the FBI's UCR (Uniform Crime Report), which tracks statistics concerning crime and police officers, there are millions of arrests nationwide in any given year. Only a few thousand lead to deaths, so it is not a significant cause for alarm.

Yet those numbers may be a little misleading, according to Politifact: "There is no mandate that local law enforcement agencies report officer-involved shootings to the FBI. While 18,000 cities, universities, counties, state's, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies voluntarily participate in the FBI's annual Uniform Crime Report, just a small fraction of them willingly provide data on deadly force and justifiable homicides within their departments." The fact is that most killings by police officers are just not reported to the only organization that actually keeps track of these incidents. Now, in an age where camera phones are more widespread, we are beginning to see some of the actions that police officers deal with each day. Of course police officers have a dangerous job and should pull out their guns when they feel just cause, but each time we are faced with footage of a police officer shooting an unarmed person the question lingers in our minds: why?

Mr. Krinsky went on to write that he believes that training of police officers use to be much different than what it is now, unlike when he was a police officer in the 1990s. He even mentions a story of an ex-military martial arts expert and former bodybuilder who he thought would be perfect for a job as a police officer. Yet he wrote that this man who he thought was a perfect candidate did not end up a police officer because he was not mentally fit for the job. The police department feared that he would hurt himself or others while on the job. It might be that the standards for hiring a police officer have changed but each police department is different so that question is hard to answer.

In an era where camera phones are becoming more common, it may be that if police officers are not ready to don the cameras on their bodies then the public will do its best to use their own cameras to record incidents, just like the ones that occurred in Cincinnati and in Iowa.

People on both sides want there to be less killing of people by police officers but the question still remains on what is the answer to reducing such incidents. Are body cameras really the solution we need?



photo of body cam on HPD officer, courtesy of chron.com

Beyond Borders

by Joshua Burgman

Every day someone is killed on the streets of Syria. A civil war in Libya is destroying lives. Different factions in Northern Africa are tearing the region apart, all the while, displacing hundreds of thousands of innocent people. And they're all going in one direction: Europe.

Syria sits on the southeastern border of Turkey, a direct line to Europe through Istanbul and Bulgaria. Or they choose a second and more dangerous choice, but also the one that is chosen by thousands of refugees a day. It's a trip through Turkey by land, and a boat ride across the Aegean Sea to Greece, on a boat that may not have a destination. If they are successful in making the journey to Europe, usually, their next destination is unknown.

The world watches as members of the European Union, a political and economic union of 28 European nations, frustratingly tries to come to a consensus on what to do. So far, nearly half a million of these migrants have sought refuge in Europe this year alone. Their journey, documented through pictures and film, seem eerily reminiscent of great migrations of human beings in the past. Migrations that began out of desperation, and without consideration for the incredible toll it takes on human life.

Europe, the "World Island," according to Halford Mackinder (1904), doesn't have the capacity to take in the number of refugees that it is trying desperately to maintain. Most of all, and something that hasn't been given much attention, is the possible cultural fiasco that is poised to take place.

In the middle of September, the EU, in an overwhelming majority, agreed upon a dispersal of 120,000 migrants between each of the 28 nations. The minority eastern European cadre of nations voiced strong opinions about accepting large numbers of people without having any option. Countries like Hungary, The Czech Republic, and Slovakia are vehemently against accepting Muslim migrants. Nations in this region are not culturally receptive to those of the Islamic faith. Already, there have been signs of Islamophobia in each country, respectively. According to USA Today, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said that millions of these migrants are "laying siege" to Europe's borders.

These people have no place to go. Their only option is to return from whence they came, and that is no option at all. Families have risked everything, even the lives their children, to escape the war. What happens to them next is at the fate of the EU.



refugees arrive on the greek island of Kos-courtesy of nytimes.com

Can Work Study Work for You?

By Kara Moore

Students are graduating with a lot of debt. How much debt? According to the Institute for College Access and Success, for a majority of students in Texas, their debt will be around \$25,000 upon graduating. Is there any way to combat this crisis? There is: work study. Unfortunately, it's just not an option that's offered to you off the bat.

Chase Otts is a student new to UHD, and part of the second generation of honors students. He took all the loans and scholarships offered to him when he began attending UHD, while simultaneously looking for a job that would allow him to focus on school more. Upon entering the Honors Program, he applied for a position that counted as work study. That's when things got a little complicated.

"The first step was going to financial aid and finding out how much money I had for work study," Chase informed me. Work study is need-based, like most financial aid, and the money paid out to you is determined by the needs you have. "I went in and they told me I only had \$330 for work study – for the whole year. That's when they said I could just give back my subsidized loan."

Financial aid went forth and canceled most of Chase's Fall loan and all of his portion for Spring, putting it toward payment for his work study. Now Chase only has \$830 in debt and a flexible job. It's a good deal, so Chase only had one question: Why wasn't this suggested to him before?

When you fill out your FAFSA, you can check a box saying you are interested in work study. Yet it is something you never hear about again unless you apply for a work study job. Most students would jump at the opportunity to work instead of take loans, so why do schools only offer loans instead of a list of applicable work study positions? It's a backwards system

that puts students into more debt because work study is just one easily-overlooked click on a FAFSA application.

"What they should have done instead of having me take the loan was suggest I look into work study first," Chase said. And he's right. Students should be encouraged to find other ways to manage debt instead of feeling like taking any loan offered is the only option to affording college.

Chase is very thankful for his position as Student Mentor and Tutor for Alvin Johnson, because it allows him time to focus on school, and it cut his student debt tremendously. It just leaves open the question: "How many other students could be graduating with limited to no debt, if work study was an option more openly promoted by financial aid institutions?" Moral of the story? Find work study on your own by utilizing school job postings, as most of those are work study. Don't be afraid to ask teachers or advisors. Any chance to decrease debt is a chance that should be taken.



FREAKY FAST! FREAKY GOOD!®



SERIOUS DELIVERY!™

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

©2014 JIMMY JOHN'S FRANCHISE, LLC ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

 October UHD						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Saver Gator The Basics A300 3:30pm-4:30pm	6 Nadir Gator Financial Hardship N420, 3:30-4:30pm Smart Decisions Reproductive Health Across A300 10am-2pm	7 Neighbor Gator Moving Out A300 3:30pm-4:30pm	8 Green for Gators Scholarships! A300 12pm-1:30pm Transfer Thursday 10am-1pm, 4pm-7pm Erlanger T. Lecture A300 2:30pm-3pm	9 BUSY THURSDAY!	10
11	12 Gators Give Opportunity Fair A300 1pm-2:30pm	13	14	15 Get Your Geek On DC V Marvel A629, 3:30-4:30pm	16	17
MORE EVENTS TO COME! Check back with Dateline at facebook.com/DatelineDowntown						

HEY! Got an event? Let us know at datelinedowntownhtx@gmail.com