

DATELINE: DOWNTOWN



Photo by Naomi Cardwell

**Harvey
6 Months Later
Page 5**



Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

Islamic Cultural Event
Rehmatulil Alamin: "Mercy to
the Universe"
Page 8



**Houston Astros Aim to
Repeat
Page 11**

2 Staff

*Got a Story?
Breaking
News?
Suggestion?
Comment?*

**Contact
Dateline:**

*Newsdesk
713-221-8192*

*Submit a form on our
website*

or

EMAIL:

*editordatelinedown-
town@gmail.com*

*Sales
&
Advertising*

*Sales Desk
713-221-8275*

EDITOR- IN- CHIEF

Kara Moore

editordatelinedowntown@gmail.com

713-221-8192

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Jesse Uppal

uppalj1@gator.uhd.edu

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Chris Joseph

cwjoseph93@yahoo.com

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mykal Peterson

peteronm11@gator.uhd.edu

713-221-8275

STAFF REPORTERS

Angel Lopez

Archie Gayle

Delia Leal

Helen Martinez

Jasmine Major

Michael Case

Naomi Cardwell

Paula Cano

ADVISOR

Dr. Joseph Sample

SUBMISSION POLICY

Dateline Downtown welcomes submissions to the editor from any member of the UH system. Submissions should be no more than 800 words, include the author's full name, phone number or email address, and affiliation with the University, including classification and major. Writers Guidelines are available on the UHD/dateline webpage or Dateline-Downtown.com. Anonymous submissions will not be published.

Deliver submissions to room S-260, email them to editordatelinedowntown@gmail.com or fax them to (713) 221 8569. Letters to the Editor and reader submissions may be edited for space, content, spelling, grammar and malicious, vulgar, or hateful statements. Submissions must be the original 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-run newspaper of University of Houston-Downtown. Editorials, cartoons, columns and letters are the opinions of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other student writers, editors, advisors of the University of Houston-Downtown, its administration or students.



www.uhd.edu/student-life/dateline



www.facebook.com/DatelineDowntown



www.instagram.com/datelinedowntownhtx



www.twitter.com/TheDateline

Is the “Austin Bomber” a Terrorist?

by Jesse Uppal

You open your door after hearing a knock from your mailman. You see on your stoop there is a package with no name on it. You do not remember if maybe you ordered something from Amazon and maybe just forgot what it was. You open it and boom, you are dead. Many opened packages just like this in the last few weeks in Austin, Texas and suffered this horrid fate.

Mark Anthony Conditt, a self-proclaimed psychopath, targeted a series of random homes in the southeast Austin area with his package bombs. The neighborhood was widely inhabited by minorities, with both the fatalities of the attacks being African Americans.

The bombings began March 2, 2018 and were designated in a small neighborhood roughly ten miles from the assailant's home. The first of the victims was Anthony Stephan House, who simply brought the package bomb into his home and opened it, leading to its detonation. The

second was a 17 year-old boy who was a mere high school student at the time of the murder. Two others were injured in the bombings, both minorities with one of them being a 75 year-old woman. The bombs utilized by the assailant were pipe bombs that were crafted from everyday household materials.

Corbitt's license plates were eventually identified when he was seen by a security camera purchasing packages at a FedEx store. He was slowly chased by undercover vehicles from the store until he eventually realized that he had been found out. Conditt was rammed off the road in a close-in maneuver by SWAT teams and proceeded to detonate his final explosive, killing himself. One officer was thrown back by the explosion but was not seriously injured.

The ATF searched the suspects home following his death and found a significant number of unfinished explosives, signaling to the intention to introduce more targets. The assailant owned other weaponry, and lived in a house with two other males who had their own collections of firearms and other potentially dangerous objects. Neither of

the roommates were arrested and were simply questioned overnight about the matter. It is currently unknown if they are complicit in the attacks as of yet.

Many media sources jumped straight to the idea that the bombings were race related even before the bomber was identified. Many of these same news agencies posted a photo of Corbitt from when he was in high school. The photo, which shows him smiling and clean-shaven, does not match the significant difference that is exhibited in his current photos where he has grown a beard and looks disheveled. The media goes as far as to posts quotes from his confes-

sional where he portrays no remorse for his attacks next to his happy high school photo.

While it is highly possible and plausible that the attacks were race-motivated, lack of definitive proof have left the issue wide open for speculation. What is currently true is that the victims of the attacks were all



Mark Anthony Conditt; Facebook

minorities, and the assailant had access to a wide array of firearms and weaponry before choosing to resort to explosive attacks. The US has not currently declared him a terrorist and most media outlets will not name him a mass murderer being that there were only two deaths. The current definition of a mass murder is any single person or group that commits more than 4 murders either at the same time or under the same motive. The current definition of domestic terrorism is an internally thought-out ideology that directs an individual to attacking either a person or a group/agency for the purpose of enlightenment or change. As the motive of the attacker is not currently known, and the number of deaths remains low, law enforcement maintains the idea of simply calling him ‘The Austin Bomber.’

Tuition Increase and Study Abroad Fee

by Paula Cano

The proposed tuition increase is “a strategic plan to move the university forward” says David Bradley, Vice-president of Finance. The tuition increases that promise to take the university onto a progressive path totals to 161\$ per year, this encompasses both tuition and advising fee increases. The Provost remarked the amount of change happening at the University of Houston – Downtown during the last five years, and the institution’s transition from an open admission campus to a more competitive one. The University of Houston–Downtown also experienced the highest six-year graduation rate in the last four years, coming from 13% to 28%. The retention rate of transfer students is also up, according to the statistics presented by the Provost, and finance VP Bradley, fragments the amount of growth the institution has undergone. The University has been recognized in two various fields earning the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board STAR Award in December 2017, and UH system board of Regents Excellence Award in May 2017. “To continue implementing the strategic plan, additional resources will be required,” according to the VP of finance, who emphasized the importance the tuition raise is to take the University forward. There was also an institutional improvement in the graduate student Headcount for the fall of 2013 graduate students only filled 271 enrollment slots, a number that went up in fall 2017 totaling 1,514 headcounts. The proposed tuition raise will not affect anyone who is in the fixed tuition plan. The presidential objective will face a 2% budget cut; about 1.5 million dollars will be used to offset enrollment related revenue allotted by the tuition raise. The initiatives the administration will put into play is to improve advising by \$270k, Faculty/Academic by \$716k, and fill key staff positions by \$316k, and the leftover \$329k will be used for non-salary initiatives, amount to \$1.63m in revenue from the increasing tuition. According to the VP of finance, this is “not a lot of excesses” and that the University of Houston-Downtown will still remain as one of the most affordable

higher education institutions in Texas.

On a second note, the International Education committee failed to deliver their presentation regarding their proposed four dollar increase to the international study abroad fee that is currently four dollars. There were several members of the Senate, who expressed opposition to this, Senator Diana Platas and Speaker of the Senate Alan Modrow voiced out their concerns under the basis that students who are not eligible to travel abroad should not carry the economic burden of four dollars. Speaker Modrow erroneously stated and included that DACA students are not to be imposed upon the increase because they cannot study abroad and because they do not qualify for the study abroad scholarship. While this is partially true, that DACA students should not travel abroad under the current political climate, he failed to conclude that DACA students are eligible for the study abroad scholarship. Using and including DACA to oppose a four-dollar increment to the study abroad fee was a fallacious move by the speaker. luckily, the remaining student body representatives voted yes to put this proposal on the ballot for students to vote on it. The petition is currently collecting signatures in S380 (Study Abroad), and S405 (Learning Connection) for the proposed increase. The increase has also been changed to only a three-dollar increase bringing the total up to seven dollars.



Gospel Concert
STARRING
**LUTHER BARNES
& THE SUNSET JUBILAIRE**

**ON SALE
FEBRUARY 1ST.
\$20 ADV.
\$26 DOOR**

LEE WALKER AND SPIRIT

GOSPEL IMPRESSIONS

**PASTOR KEVIN JOYNER
AND MEN OF STANDARD**

GOSPEL 5

NEBO FAMILY LIFE CENTER
10555 HWY 258 MURFREESBORO NC
5:00PM – 7:00PM
SUNDAY APRIL 15TH 2018

INFO/TICKETS CALL 252-370-7635 / BUY ONLINE @ EVENTBRITE.COM

Harvey, 6 Months Later

by Naomi Cardwell

5

“Harvey, 6 Months Later” was a conversation hosted by University of Houston-Downtown about the future of the city of Houston and the recovery efforts established. Chauncey Glover from ABC 13 held a live stream of the Town Hall Meeting. The meeting’s panellists included CEO and President of Catholic Charities Cynthia Colbert, CEO and President of Baker Ripley Claudia Aguirre, President Dr. Juan Muñoz, Chief of Houston Fire Department Chief Sam Peña, Houston Police Department Assistant Chief Larry Satterwhite, Houston Police Department Executive Assistant Chief Max Saket, FEMA Coordinator Officer Kevin Hannes, and Texas General Land Officer Jet Hayes. Each one of these Panellists addressed the pride they had in Houston and their ability to be resilient in the face of Hurricane Harvey.

They also acknowledged what they are doing and what needs to be done in the future for Houston. Cynthia Colbert spoke on behalf of Catholic Charities and Claudia Aguirre on behalf of Baker Ripley, both non-profit or-

ganizations whose goals with Harvey victims is to help people get on the road to recovery with their repairs and with helping them return to a normal state. President Dr. Muñoz spoke on how Hurricane Harvey effected our student body and that “380 students were impacted’ along with our staff and facility. President Dr. Muñoz stated that “UHD provided \$600,000 in support to students”. He expanded on where the money came from, stating that some of it came internally and some was donated from other outside resources. He also spoke about what was offered to our student body post Hurricane Harvey such as the Hurricane Harvey Aftermath Fair.

President Dr. Muñoz said, “We literally had a Harvey Aftermath Fair, you should never have to have that kind of fair..... we should be having career fairs, graduate school fairs, not a Hurricane Harvey Aftermath Fair” in expressing his empathy for the students effected by Harvey. Chief Sam Peña spoke for the Houston Fire Department and stated the continuous focus on resilience then and now. Chief Peña said in regard to Hurricane Harvey, “We went in there under resourced”. He stated that the Houston Fire Department had 10 Boats to cover 650 square miles and had no high-water vehicles

before Harvey. He urged the public that “we have to prepare, we have to budget for the anticipated risk.”

The Houston Fire Department has done just that by making strides to be better prepared for next time. They now have post Hurricane Harvey 16 boats and have put money into training for the first responders. The Chief of Fire Department addressed the mental health repercussions of Hurricane Harvey and that “PTSD is real” and that the people have manifested the grief of Harvey in diverse ways. He spoke on the statistic of suicide calls and said that, “we can’t say that everything is contributed from Harvey but when you have a 70% rise in those type of calls from the same time last year something has got to be going on”.



Photo by Naomi Cardwell

Houston Police Department Assistant Chief Larry Satterwhite stated that “we have to think differently going forward”. Chief Satterwhite talked about the effects the storm had on the Houston Police Department. That the HPD had 166 vehicles destroyed, 5 police stations gone

(one completely under water) and that it would take time for HPD to come back from this. Executive Assistant Chief Max Saket seconded this and spoke of how proud of Houstonians he was, along with Chief Satterwhite saying that the “collective spirit was phenomenal”. FEMA Coordinator stated that “this recovery will take years and frankly cost billion dollars. The FEMA Coordinator spoke on FEMA’s objective towards the end through one of the questions asked and stated that “FEMA is just one part of the solution. Let me help manage a few expectations. The assistance provided with FEMA is not intended to make any one whole, it is really to be that seed money to get your recovery process started”.

Towards the end of the town hall meeting there was Q&A where students addressed the panellists with valid questions about FEMA, infrastructure, mass evacuation, mental health, and funding. The town hall meeting that was held at University of Houston-Downtown was a wonderful opportunity for students to engage in an active and in such a vital conversation about how to address the problems the Houston community is faced with and with the devastating hurricanes we face.

The Parkland Shooting

by Angel Lopez



Photo by Kara Moore

On February 14, 2018 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida experienced what would soon be called one of the United States' deadliest school shootings. 17 students were killed and 17 more were injured by a former classmate armed with an AR-15. Reports state that there were previous complaints about the shooter but nothing was ever done to investigate. 19-year-old Nicolas Cruz began shooting after pulling a fire alarm, and later called 911 pretending to be a victim of the shooting. He was subsequently caught and taken into custody and charged with 17 counts of first-degree murder as well as 17 counts of attempted first-degree murder.

So far, 2018 has consisted of a total of 18 mass school shootings, this one being one of the most unforeseeable tragedies given that Parkland, Florida was listed as one of the safest places in Florida until February 14th. School shootings all have one thing in common when it comes to analyzing how the event could have been prevented: the issue of mental health. The school shooting issue itself is already a delicate topic to touch one, therefore when talking about mental health issues and how they tie into tragedies like this, it is crucial not to dismiss it entirely as a mental health issue. The statement that school shootings are a result of mental illness rather than the guns themselves is a dangerous route to take. Although mental health does play a role in these kinds of situations and it definitely plays into the reason why the shooter made the decision to open fire on innocent people, there are other equally important issues to shed light on. There is no doubt that the gun laws in this country are flawed and many might say that it should not be as easy as it is for someone, especially someone as young as Nicolas Cruz, to acquire a gun therefore, what if any is the best solution for fixing these gun laws? Well, this is where the problem lies when it comes to having the conversation of how we can prevent school shootings.

The National Rifle Association supports gun control to an extent and although they are aware of the loopholes that exist when a citizen is not allowed to purchase

a gun, they continue to push against stricter gun control. The reason for this being that the NRA believes it is not the gun's fault, it is the individual who held the gun as well as their mental state, once again, simply dismissing this as a mental health issue rather than looking at the entirety of the issue of school shootings as well as gun control in general. There is no real answer for a solution, however, there is one step that can be taken not just by the NRA, but by the nation as a whole: if an individual is showing signs of potential harm to themselves or to others, it is important to establish a connection and show clear care for their well-being. Though there is a majority that desires stricter gun control and stricter gun laws, there is also a majority that disagrees with restricting access to these kinds of guns creating a long road to travel in terms of how congress will take action and respond to the increasing number of school shootings as well as how easy it is for the average citizen to obtain what is essentially a war weapon.

Andrew Pollack, whose daughter was a victim of the tragedy, spoke directly to Congress and the President and urged them to stop overlooking how easy it is to obtain a gun but to also focus on the security of the student body. Pollack brought up the fact that this country is able to protect airports; concerts, embassies and even the elevators of the Department of Education but not schools in a tearful urge to congress. In addition to focusing on the mental health aspect of school shootings, it is crucial not to forget about the amount of security a school has for its students. Pollack's speech brings up the argument of what issues this country has prioritized and what issues it has overlooked. "It stops here with this administration and me. I'm not going to sleep until it is fixed." Pollack said speaking about fighting for stricter gun control, once again, urging congress and the president himself to take action before any more students and teachers have to pay the price of falling victim to gun violence, but also of the silence from the law itself.

March for Our Lives

by Kara Moore



On Saturday March 23, 2018 millions of people around the world marched towards their capitols, their politician's offices, or towards U.S. embassies to protest not only the soaring amount of high-profile mass shootings in schools, but in all instances where firearms were used to cause as much death and panic as possible March for Our Lives is the protest movement created by



Photo by Kara Moore

the survivors of the Parkland School Shooting, but their message is for every survivor of gun violence from the streets of Chicago to a gay nightclub in Orlando; And it seems their message is resonating, with an estimated 200,000 attending the march in D.C. and nearly 15,000



Mayor Turner; Photo by Kara Moore

Houstonians attending the Houston march which began at Tranquility Park in downtown. Before the march to Senator Ted Cruz's office began, there were several speakers from the community who voiced their strong support for the movement started by local high school students. Several high school students took the mic to present some more recognizable speakers like Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, Houston Police chief Art Acevedo, and Mayor Sylvester Turner, as well as tell their stories and that of their classmates. Mayor Sylvester Turner told the on-lookers "The power is not just in that building at city hall, it's not just the capital in Austin; the power is not just in the White House or in the halls of Congress; the power is right here." The Mayor also announced the beginning of the "Mayors Commission to End Gun Violence", a move he decided to make after meeting with the student activists and being called upon to do more than support, but to take action.

One memorable speaker was 10-year-old Dezmund Floyd, who went viral after his mother posted their conversation on Facebook where he stated he was willing step in between a gunman and his friends. He stated, "At 10 years old I feel I have lived a full life, I have traveled which is something my friends haven't really done." The original viral post has been shared over 150,000 times. The chants of the marchers included "Hey hey, ho ho,



Dezmund Floyd; Photo by Kara Moore

Ted Cruz has got to go", "What do we want? Gun Control. When do we want it? Now!" and "Tell me what democracy looks like? This is what democracy looks like!". Some people held funny signs, using memes to convey their displea-



Photo by Kara Moore

sure at the current lack of gun control, while others were more serious stating the names of those lost to gun violence. One of the faces of the "March for Our Lives" movement, Emma Gonzalez, was seen prominently being held up by protestors. Several carried signs expressing their displeasure with AR-15's, which have been used in several mass shootings including the Parkland Shooting.

A small collection of three counter protesters were nearby, carrying their weapons openly. They stated that while they heard the message and agreed children should be safe in schools, they didn't agree that banning guns would change anything.

The march over to Senator Cruz's downtown office was relatively short and unfortunately rather short-lived, as the crowd could not fit itself into the street outside the building and the speaker system was not up to par to make every



Photo by Kara Moore

voice holding the mic heard. Police Chief Acevedo ended up directing the crowd to head around the building so everyone could chant outside of

Senator Cruz's office, before heading back to Tranquility Park for closing statements from the student activists.

The activists sang a literal song of friendship and hope, announcing their plan to start a non-profit organization called "Students Rise", geared at encouraging young people to take activist roles in their community and most especially: vote. They reminded people that the best way to make their voices heard was by voting out the politicians they don't agree with.



Photo by Kara Moore

UHD Gives Mercy to the Universe

by Archie Gayle

On Thursday, March 22nd the Center for Student Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion hosted an event celebrating Islamic and Arabic culture, art and religion. This event was *Rehmatulil Alamin*: “Mercy to the Universe,” held in the Milam and Travis room of the Girard Street building. The event featured several guest speakers from the Islamic Da’wah Center and Islamic Arts Society, the latter provided an abundance of Islamic calligraphy and paintings to the festival. The event set out to celebrate Islamic culture at a time when the United States’ political climate seems to denounce it. The Center for Student Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion’s event showed that Islamic culture was not only welcomed at UHD, but it is an imperative part of the university’s demographic.

Rehmatulil Alamin: “Mercy to the Universe” began with a detailed synopsis of the Muslim belief. The crowd members learn that the Muslim belief encompasses all aspects of one’s life. They learn about the four major practices of Ramadan, the ninth month on the Islamic calendar; among these is the practice of fasting from six in the morning until six in the evening. The purpose of this practice is looking inward and elevating the spiritual side of the body. During the fasting, one must evaluate their behavior in the 11 months and determine if their actions have been worthy of admiration or of condemnation. The crowd also learns about the importance of charity in the Islamic faith. A fixed percentage of one’s earnings are required to be given to the less fortunate; often during Ramadan, people will give more than the required fixed percentage. This act of voluntary charity is known as *Sadaqah*. The crowd also learned about Hajj, an annual pilgrimage to Mecca, the Islamic Holy City, that is to be made at least once during the lifetime of every adult Muslim. Every person dresses in *Ihram* clothing, which is a long, white, unhemmed piece of clothing meant to avoid attracting attention.

No matter what the race, history, or class background of the person is, they all dress the same. The only thing that will have made them truly distinct is what they have done on the earth.

Next, the crowd was given a history of Islamic art. The crowd was informed that the art was partially related to religion, but its distinctions also came from the various Islamic regions. Mosques, prayer rugs, and Islamic architecture are some examples of art created for the Muslim faith. The crowd learned about the beautiful history of calligraphy; this included uses of figural representation, where visual images are created using calligraphic symbols. Figural representation is a major aspect of Islamic art. Because there is no idol worship in the Islamic faith—Allah is beyond any physical description—the art is not constrained by realism. This style of art uses an abundance of floral and geometric patterns, which can be seen in Islamic mosques, paintings, and prayer rugs.

One of the final guest speakers of the night was Dr. John Hudson, Director of UHD’s Center for Student Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. He spoke about UHD and the city of Houston’s diverse population, and the importance of integration. Learning, he said, is his favorite part of the job. Many crowd members who were not familiar with Islamic culture left the event with a larger perspective of the world and took with them its universal teachings. I spoke with Dr. Hudson after his speech about introducing students to new cultures. “I feel like I’m the luckiest guy in the world.” He said. “To get the chance to help put together programming that is not just a learning opportunity but a chance to change people’s lives—it feels great... To be in a position that can make an impact on students in any way I can, and make this a welcoming and safe campus, that’s a privilege. I wake up in the morning—unless I work too late— and I can’t wait to get to work.”

Walk2Vote in the Primaries

by Chris Joseph

Well, it is that time of year again where the Student Government Association (SGA) rally together a bunch of students together with a day of food and fun. However, with all the food and fun to be had SGA required one thing from the students: To vote in the Texas primaries.

Led, organized, and created by students, Walk 2 Vote has been getting students to vote since it was first formed in 2012. Walk 2 Vote has the students walking down to the nearest polling office and voting. This event happens every time there is an election. Filled to the brim with music, food, and keynote speakers, Walk 2 Vote is more of a celebration of the 26th Amendment of the Constitution that granted citizens of the ages 18-20 the right to vote.

On March 1st, there was nothing but pop music blasting from the south deck as a herd of students were lining up to get slice of the free pizza that was offered. As the students munched down on their lunches, you had a healthy number of aspiring officials who were looking to be elected, passing out propaganda to the students.

As they were handing out flyers and pamphlets with the position they were running for and the accomplishments, some of the candidates actually stopped and discussed some of the issues with the student body.

“I had no clue who these people were, but I know for

sure who I am going to vote for because when he talked to me, he got my name and told me what he was for, not just shaking my hand and leaving me to read his pamphlet,” said University of Houston-Downtown student Lissette Perez.

After Houston singer Mel Rose sang the national anthem, the students were full and the candidates finished

speaking with the students, it was time for the main event. Walking to vote. The students, which was roughly around 20-30 people in the line, had lined up right behind members of the SGA as they walked down Main Street chanting “Walk 2 Vote” all the way down the Harris County Tax Office

As the train of young voters made their way down

to the polling office, you had the candidates still passing out their information to the people of Houston, trying to sway them into voting for them and their cause.

In 2012, the first Walk 2 Vote rally amassed a record breaking 70% of UHD student population to register, and according to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), about 71.5% of those students voted in the elections and also having an overall voter turnout rate of 50%.

Walk 2 Vote was a massive success as plenty of gators made a difference for their future.



Photo by Chris Joseph

Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go

Blind

by Chris Joseph

Just last month, one of the most interesting, bizarre, and entertaining plays came to the University of Houston-Downtown. Fresh from the windy city of Chicago, Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind does something vastly unique from other plays that have ever come to the O'Kane Theater.

Created and directed by Chicago native Greg Allen, Too Much Light is a play that houses 30 different short plays

within. However, the cast has roughly one hour (60 minutes) to complete all 30 plays in the allowed time frame. Too much light is an audience interactive play where the audience has an important job, they get to choose what play they want to see by yelling out a number each time a cast member screams out "curtain!"

Before walking in, you were given a name tag with some random name that the cast will call you

by as you walk on the stage. Once the show got started and the audience was informed at how this particular play worked, everyone in the stands immediately livened up and started screaming out a number, causing the cast to run, jump, and quickly set up the stage for that play.

The plays alone were something of interest, as they were all over the place. There were plays that were about domestic abuse, racism, setting up a date for a girl and her girlfriend, and three dudes coughing and flipping off a red umbrella as they walk around in a circle. There was even some political skits that threw some shade at our presidency.

The more interesting aspects of this play was when the audience got involved with the cast. Often enough, members from the crowd were used to help with one of the skits. When the audience got involved, that is when the theater erupted with laughter as the unsuspecting students react to situation they were put in. "I was expecting this to be so much fun. This was a cool experience, I'm glad that I came to watch before it ended," said UH student Justin Hyman.

"Too Much Light" debuted in Chicago in 1988, when Allen was just 26 years old. Allen based his play on his aesthetic on Neo-Futurism.

In an interview with UH news, Greg Allen said, "I pulled together various

elements of surrealism, data and much more to form my aesthetic of Neo-Futurism, which is the idea that theater by its very nature is by being in the right here and now with the actual people who are present in the room."

For 28 years, Allen's play was the longest running shows in Chicago until its end in 2016. However, this does not mean that Allen's legacy stops in Chicago. Too Much Light is now performed in various theaters around America and has even expanded across the globe. Just last year alone, there were about 94 productions of the play performed worldwide. It just goes to show that "Too Much Light" is too much fun.



Photo by Chris Joseph

Health Week

by Delia Leal

The University of Houston Downtown cares about their students, faculty, and staff, with their health being a top priority. That is why the Student Government Association created a series of health focused events, starting off the week by bringing awareness to one of the most overlooked issues, mental health. SGA set up a table handing out snacks and pamphlets and emphasized that seeking help for any mental health issue is not something to be ashamed of.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Omicron Gamma Chapter sorority partnered with NAMI to promote awareness. NAMI is a massive mental health organization dedicated to helping better people's lives that have been affected by mental illness. Their table had an assortment of tools to help educate people of psychotic depression and what to do in a mental health situation. They even had fact sheets of common disorders such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). Including a helpful flyer overviewing mental health medications. The organization has beneficial tools and is happy to share with any that are interested or in need. The student

counseling services were also present to remind students that there are free counseling services right on campus.

SGA also hosted "Know Your Status Day" by partnering with the Avenue 360 Health & Wellness to conduct free HIV screenings. After filling out the consent form and proceeding to the waiting room there was free food offered alongside safe sex education. The wait time only being about 20 minutes conveniently coincided with the quick one-minute results with the test being conducted by a simple pin prick. The entire process was kept confidential by minimizing the amount of people in the room to 3 patients. Once completing the screening there was a free shirt and fanny pack handed out. Impressively, hundreds of students were open to participating in the event. Thanks to many of UH's great organizations such as the Asian Student Association, American Medical Students Association, The Campus Activity Board, Be A Teacher Club, Urban Educators Literacy Society, StandOUT!, Texas Freedom Network, the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and many more for successfully collaborating with SGA to contribute and make the event possible.

Jordan Peele, Guillermo del Toro Win Big as Academy Plays it Safe

by Michael Case

The 90th Academy Awards aired on ABC Sunday night, March 4th, in Hollywood, California. Last year's event ended with drama as "La La Land" was incorrectly announced by Warren Beatty and Fay Dunaway, instead of actual winner, "Moonlight". This year, producers of the show and the host Jimmy Kimmel played things safe and Beatty and Dunaway received retribution, announcing the winner of Best Picture to "The Shape of Water" with applause. The awards given felt deserved by fans those who won, and it felt like a night of few surprises.

Recent movements such as #Metoo and the Dreamers were represented, as well as people of color with numerous nominations, awards, and presentation duties. With the #OscarsSoWhite movement in recent memory, the Academy has been under pressure to change and evolve with the times. Kumail Nanjiani and Lupita Nyong'o had message to dreamers and film-goers. "We are dreamers...dreamers are the foundation of Hollywood" said Nyong'o with Nanjiani adding, "...to all the dreamers out there, we stand with you."

The 90th Academy Awards were filled with firsts. Jordan Peele for "Get Out" was the first African-American writer to win the award for Best Original Screenplay. He was also nominated for Best Director and Best Film. This triple nomination for a

first-time filmmaker has only happened two previous times; Warren Beatty (Heaven Can Wait) and James L. Brooks (Terms of Endearment). Kumail Nanjiani became the first Pakistani-American writer nominated for Best Original Screenplay, along with his wife Emily V. Gordon, for "The Big Sick". Music superstar Mary J. Blige became the first to be nominated for Best Actress and Best Song, both for the Netflix film "Mudbound".

The Mexican creative community has much reason to celebrate. Guillermo del Toro, born in Guadalajara, became the third Mexican-born director to win Best Director in the last five years, joining Alfonso Cuarón (2014: Gravity) and two-time winner Alejandro G. Iñárritu (2015: Birdman; 2016: The Revenant). The Pixar/Disney film "Coco", a Day of the Dead inspired movie, won for Best Animated Feature to the delight of fans across the globe. The wonderfully, sweet song "Remember Me" from Coco also brought home the Best Original Song award, the movie is heavily influenced by Mexican music and the plot revolves around it, quite a fitting award.

The always incredible Francis McDormand won Best Actress for Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri and she also won best speech of the night. Brimming with excitement and emotion, Mrs. McDormand asked all the nominated women from the evening to stand with her. The actors, writers, designers, cinematographers, directors, and songwriters all stood and joined her with the crowd applauding in agreement, these women must be heard and taken seriously. "We all have stories to tell and projects we need financed. Don't talk to us about it at the parties tonight, invite us into your office or you can come to ours...and we'll tell you all about them."

While the Oscars did not have high ratings, some experts believe it was not entirely politically-based. The most viewed ceremony was in 1998, with Titanic grossing more than any movie ever at that point, with \$659 million in the US alone, and over \$2 billion world-wide. This year's highest grossing Oscar-nominated film was Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk" which made \$188 million domestically, and \$525 million total box office. People are cutting the cord in large numbers, so that will skew the data as well. Though they may not be perfect, the Oscars are the premier ceremony dedicated to film, the artists involved, and the idea that dreams do come true.

**WHERE
FRESH
& FAST
MEET®**



ORDER ONLINE!

**VISIT JIMMYJOHNS.COM
TO FIND A LOCATION NEAR YOU**

World Series Champion Houston Astros Aim to Repeat as Baseball's Best Team

by Michael Case

The 2017 World Series Champion Houston Astros return to baseball Thursday, March 29th, against the intrastate rival Texas Rangers. The Astros are looking to repeat as World Series Champs, a feat that has not been done since the New York Yankees won three straight from 1998-2000. The offseason was filled with parades, parties, and a tour of the World Series trophy, or the Commissioner's trophy, around Texas. The first World Series win for Houston capped off an incredible year for the Astros and its fanbase. The team looked great when Hurricane Harvey devastated

the city and affected the team's momentum and schedule. However, the people of Houston, and the Astros knocked the dust off and got back to work.

While last year's team felt like one of destiny after the storm, the 2018 Astros will surprise no one. The Astros looked like contenders all year in 2017, they won the World Series, and kept a great, young core together while adding another starting pitcher in the offseason. However other teams are making moves as well. Fellow American League (AL) contenders, the Yankees, added more hitting power with all-star Giancarlo Stanton in February. The National League (NL) World Series representatives in 2017, the LA Dodgers, have retained the talent to repeat as NL champions, and the Cubs who won the series in 2016 made numerous offseason moves to try and get back to the Fall Classic.

Ace pitcher for the Astros, Dallas Keuchel, had choice words for the league and a shot at the Cubs with his recent quote at a Spring Training game. When asked if the Astros would have a post-World Series hangover, which is common for teams (as recently as the Cubs missing the 2017 playoffs completely), Keuchel responded, "We aren't the Chicago Cubs."

The confidence and bravado this team shows is well earned and refreshing for Houston sports fans. The city has not seen a championship in the major three sports since the Rockets of the mid-90s. Winning ways are back for the Astros and confidence along with it.

With Spring Training underway, predictions from national sports analysts are everywhere. While no pundits see the Astros taking a step back, most think the classic franchises like the Yankees, Cubs, and Dodgers are emerging as early favorites. Houston fans and players are used to being overlooked, and

the team has been laser-focused this offseason. The young core of AL MVP Jose Altuve, World Series MVP George Springer, and all-star Carlos Correa look to improve upon their play last season and lead their team to a second World Series.



Early in Spring Training, first baseman Yuli Gurriel injured his left hand and had surgery to repair it, he will be back late-April or early-May, but must serve a five-game suspension. The Astros signed starting pitcher, Gerrit Cole, from the Pirates, after trading a pair of young, unproven pitchers. The Astros now have a great four-game starting pitching rotation of Verlander, Keuchel, Cole, and McCullers Jr., along with an impressive line-up of hitters. The Astros look to contend for the World Series in 2018 and beyond, the future and the lights are bright in Houston.

Advice from Your Typical Student

“My younger siblings have been asking me about college and coming to me for advice on it. However, I have not had a great college experience myself. I want to be the role model that I never had since I am a first-generation college student and the first one in my family to go to college, but I don’t know how. Any advice would be appreciated.”

First, I would like to congratulate you on your achievements. Having the opportunity to pursue higher education is very big and being a first-generation college student is even bigger. I am also a first-generation college student, so I can understand the gaps in guidance and resources that are present when deciding to take the next step in education. A lack of role models and help can act as barriers to those like us who are essentially navigating uncharted territory.

However, I would like to encourage you to focus on your accomplishments. You have successfully made it to college. A lot of people do not make it to college for various reasons and even less successfully complete college. Whether or not you are just starting college or starting to finish up, you have a story to tell. Although you did not have a role model entering college, believe in your ability to guide others. No one said that being a role model was all cupcakes and chocolate chip cookies (although those sound pretty good right about now). To me, being a role

model is about using your experiences and things that you wish you would have known in the hopes that you can help someone.

Your siblings trust you. They trust you enough to seek advice from you. You do not have to have everything all figured out in order to be a role model to them. You just have to be open and honest about your journey and maybe in doing that you might stumble upon some realization about yourself. You mentioned that you have not had a great college experience. Why do you think that is and what do you think would result in a better college experience? These are the sort of questions that can come from doing some self-reflecting. You may find that they can help you figure out how to better navigate your college experience so that you have more success. Other relevant questions that might require some critical thinking are “What am I having for lunch today” and “Is it nap time yet”.

Questions? Comments? Are you ready for nap time? Let me know at typicalstudentadvice@gmail.com.

Signing Off,
Just Your Typical Student



UHD

IT SURPLUS STORE

QUALITY USED COMPUTERS FOR CURRENTLY REGISTERED STUDENTS \$125-\$175

www.uhd.edu/itsurplus

Limited quantities. Check website for availability.
Must be clear of holds
Limit 3 per fiscal year (Sept 1 - Aug 31)
Proceeds go to UHD Scholarship Fund

