

# DATELINE:



Volume 55  
Issue 5

# DOWNTOWN

Cornel West



## WHAT'S INSIDE:

Cornel West  
Walk 2 Vote  
Obergefell  
Caesar Review  
Turkey to Go  
Can Drive by SVO  
Gators Don't Say  
Coffee Nearby  
HUE Mural Fest  
Star Wars  
ARC Org  
Letters

Campus Carry  
Mayoral Race  
One-Acts  
Round Top  
Thanksgiving Parade  
Gatoettes Giving  
HERO Fails  
Day of Mourning  
Dia de los Muertos  
James Bond  
Baptist Org  
Calendar

Cover Photo  
by Darci McFerran

# 2 Staff

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Darci McFerran

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Joshua Burgman

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Terrance Turner

## **STAFF REPORTERS**

Jason J. Rivas

Elisa Gonzalez

Miguel Nunez

Karen Reyes

Christina Movaghar

Christopher Joseph

## **COPY EDITOR**

Lydia Jackson

## **ADVISOR**

Dr. Anthony Chiaviello

[datelinedowntownhtx@gmail.com](mailto:datelinedowntownhtx@gmail.com)

713.221.8569

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# The Editor's Desk

**3**  
**Editor's**  
**Desk**

## *Our Dear Brother, Cornel West*

by Joshua Burgman

Throughout the halls of UHD have walked many giants; their footprints symbolically etched in the minds of our students. On Nov 6th, they made way for the eternal presence and intellectually enriching activist and theologian, Dr. Cornel West. To be in the vicinity of the greatness that is Brother West, is to undergo a physical and emotional transformation, manifested in the genius of his intellectual and rhythmic oration.

Courtesy of UHD's College of Humanities and Social Sciences, West spoke before a packed house in the Cullen auditorium. From the beginning, he captured the audience, delivering a message that appeared to be cosmically designed for its listeners. A professed "lover of Jesus," West invoked the religious prophet and spoke in a tone that translated peace and a commitment to sustained, yet restrained, militancy. As a man of faith, I liken him to David from the Bible. Like David, he stands before the giants of injustice and oppression, human degradation, and a system plagued by corruption. A giant himself, although not in appearance, West beat at the doors of deception and of a mass apathetic culture full of hatred and bigotry. Hoping to shake loose the shackles of mental slavery, he challenged the audience at every turn, and ultimately posed a question, one that was first asked by W. E. B. Dubois: "How shall integrity face oppression?"

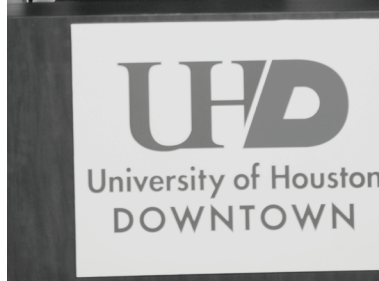
When he spoke, he did so using a symphony of words, rhythmically translating his thoughts in a way that sounded like music to uneducated ears. But this made complete sense, especially when considering the manner in which he tried to help answer the question he so eloquently set before us: "How shall integrity face oppression?" Summoning the majestic and awe inspiring presence of legendary musicians of the past, such as Curtis Mayfield, Gil Scott-Heron, Billie Holiday, Sam Cooke and many more, West used their examples of fearless courage and commitment during times of oppression and great degradation to illustrate what it means to face oppression with integrity. Reaching such levels of enlightened edification could only be achieved, West suggested, by coming to terms with the hour of our great unraveling.

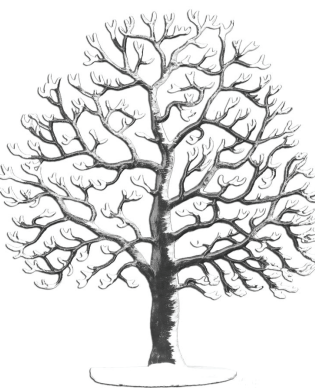
"There is no growth, no maturity, and no development; there is no rebirth," he proclaimed, "without learning how to die." Death! Upon its application to conscious thinking springs forward eternal truth and an understanding of life which subjugates superficiality. Superficiality which, West says, plagues and corrupts the minds of young people today. He expressed his distaste for the adoration and collective praise of celebrities that lack the courage to sustain, and stand on the frontlines of the fight for justice. All the while, their power and influence grows, and continues to shape and mold the minds of our youth. The youth who, as West puts it, have become "well-adjusted to injustice, with big money."

After hearing him speak, West prompted me to reexamine myself, and ask some of the same questions he put forward to us, "the generation of Ferguson." Where did our courage go? Our heroes? The heroes that stand up to deceptive rhetoric, discrimination, and false narratives—those who understand that courage is more than just a word, but an act. Will they take leave of their backseats, emerge from the shadows of defeat, and once again take command of the megaphone of justice? Or have they become too "well-adjusted to injustice," that they are afraid to, as West says, "be committed to raising some of the most difficult questions; the ones that unsettle, and unnerve, and unhouse us?"

The University of Houston–Downtown, more than any other institution in this city and state, should be the epicenter of the driving force behind these questions. The students here are a kaleidoscope of cultural and ethnic diversity, and that should not be taken lightly. Because of it, our reach expands to every corner of the world. As Brother West said, "If you just want to go to a place to get some truncated skill, so you can live in a vanilla suburb, this is not the place!" At UHD, our students are "on fire for truth, and on fire for justice," and our dear Brother's visit and lecture is a testament to that fact.

Photos by Darci McFerran, special thanks to Dr. Gene Preuss for snapping the group shots of the Dateline Staff





## Walk 2 Vote

by Miguel Nunez

UHD recently had its annual Walk 2 Vote event on the campus's South Deck on October 29th. Sponsored by UHD's SGA, the event kicked off with special guests including Rocko Steady, a local hip-hop artist who was there to rev up the crowd, Billie Duncan, a poet who read out loud a poem about the importance of voting, and Mayor Annise Parker, who also talked about the significance of voting. She was dismayed that the crowd, which was likely just over one hundred, was not much bigger.

She made a point that I heard over and over again - not just from professors, but also from some students - that in local elections, there is not the same amount of attention as there is towards national elections. Mayor Parker was quick to point out, however, that local elections have a much bigger impact on your life than do national elections. She used the example of water: if it goes off, who is ultimately responsible for getting it back on? It will not be President Obama, but the people in charge here in Houston, that will make sure that your water gets turned back on as soon as possible. That is why Mayor Parker stressed that everyone should go out and vote in local elections. What mattered to her was the idea that everyone needs to vote. That is how a successful democracy works.

Walk 2 Vote may not have had the big crowd it has had in the past, but one startling fact that I learned while at the event was that UHD is actually one of the few universities that has a healthy percentage of its students voting. According to the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University, over 69% of UHD's student population voted in 2012, versus its university counterparts which only stood at 5-15%. Of course, if things are to remain that way or get better, students need to understand the importance of voting.

Some students are quick to retort the overused response that people say when asked why they do not vote: "My vote does not count. It is insignificant." But Billie Duncan's poem at the event covered this notion well when she said that people died and made sacrifices for you, the voter, to have this one "insignificant" vote. It is not at all insignificant when you look at history and consider how hard many people fought just for the right to have one vote. African Americans and women fought for their right to vote, and veterans went to combat so your one vote could be heard. When you think about this long history of voting, you realize just how big and important your one vote is.

Near the end of the celebration and speeches, Student Government Association President John Locke and some SGA members led groups of students to the Harris County Administration Building on Preston St. so they could cast their vote. When asked what the feel of the event was, President Locke was quick to say that the event seemed to be "re-energizing" the students. Being there at the event, you knew that was true. The crowd at the event was excited. Everyone that had decided to take the walk all the way to the Harris County Administration Building was eager to cast their vote.

Overall, this was the theme of Walk 2 Vote. Yes, it had some local celebrities like Rocko Steady and Mayor Parker, but the event was not about them. The event was more about you as a voter. It is your civic duty to be heard. Hopefully in the coming years, the Walk 2 Vote event will draw even bigger crowds, and more students will realize that voting is not just something they should have to do, but something they are excited to be doing.



Images courtesy of SGA

Pictured: (top) Mayor Parker (bottom) Students at Walk 2 Vote



## Election Day Blues: Houston's Mayoral Race set for a Runoff

by Jason J. Rivas

Thirteen candidates were on the ballot this November. An estimated seven to ten million dollars was spent on the various campaigns, an immense amount by Houston standards. At least half a dozen candidates were seen as worthy challengers for term-limited Annise Parker's seat. But outside forces relegated what was a blockbuster election into a secondary event. HERO took a lot of the attention away from the race, as special interest groups and donors raised immense coffers and awareness for and against the ordinance. Because of this, HERO attracted an exorbitant amount of locals to the polls, increasing voter turnout for mayor by 33% from the 2011 election. Due to this, next month, Sylvester Turner and Bill King will vie for the top position in the nation's fourth largest city.

Former Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia, once a favorite to win the race, saw his polling numbers precipitously drop as allegations of his mismanagement of the Harris County jail system sank his candidacy. Former Kemah Mayor Bill King's message resonated and united the conservative vote behind him, eliminating any hope for the rest of the conservative-leaning candidates, including City Councilman Stephen Costello. The rest of the candidates could not commend a message that would resonate outside their hardcore fanbase. Texas House of Representatives member, Sylvester Turner, was able to capitalize and cultivate a message that successfully reverberated to a broad voter base. When the chaos and confusion settled late Tuesday night, no candidate was able to win a majority of the voting bloc, but Turner and King were able to secure enough votes to advance to the December run-off.

Both men must now concentrate their efforts on convincing enough voters that they are the right person for the job. Houston is at a crossroads: with an estimated \$126 million deficit on the books for the next fiscal year; the city's pension program nearing a cataclysmic predicament; the city's infrastructure network in need of a facelift; as well, its image is in peril after the defeat of HERO.

Next month, UHD will host a mayoral debate that may sow the seeds for one man's success, while "salting the Earth" for another. Hosting the debate continues UHD's efforts to educate its students on the politics that affect them the most, local politics, as well as remaining an active member in the community at large. Whoever walks away with the election will also inherit a restructured seat, as Prop 2 passed, allowing for future mayors to serve two, four-year terms. Election Day is now December 16th, with early voting commencing December 2nd.



PICTURED: mayoral candidates at debate, photo courtesy of houstonmatters.org

# Campus Carry: Part 1

by Joshua Burgman



In August 2016, Texas Senate Bill 11 will go into effect and allow students on campus to lawfully carry concealed handguns, provided they are licensed. The law will go into effect amid a flurry of controversy and ambiguity. So far, the University has held several forums on the issue, and recently, Harris County officials participated in a forum that drew crowds of citizens both supporting and opposing the Bill.

The unexpected high levels of attendance by the public did not go unnoticed. The presence of so many concerned citizens prompted Harris County District Attorney, Judge Devon Anderson, who was in attendance with Houston Police Chief, Charles McClelland, to promise more forums before the law goes into effect. The size of the audience was a clear indication of how important this law is to people. The nature of the conversation that ensued

demonstrated the ambiguity in which the law is shrouded.

From the onset, Anderson issued a caveat to the crowd, "I have had people come to me and ask me my opinion of the law" Anderson said. "My opinion is that I have no opinion. You don't pay me to have an opinion," she continued, "you pay me to enforce the law, and this is now the law." She stood firm on her words. Throughout the forum, which was basically a Q&A, Anderson repeatedly answered questions based on her interpretation of what the law says. When responding to a citizen who asked about guns in schools and university campuses, she said, "If you see a citizen with a gun inside of any school, that's a 911." Anderson was referring to the section of the Bill that demands that any weapon, brought onto campus, must be a concealed one.



There were many questions about the bill that both Anderson and McClelland were unsure about, and they made that plain. McClelland reassured the audience that the questions he didn't have the answers to, would definitely be answered in the near future. "We are working on new training and new protocol," he said. Many citizens had questions about interactions with police, and about being harassed by them even if they possess a concealed handgun license (CHL). To that end, McClelland reminded the audience of their responsibilities as a citizen and CHL holder. "You have to take some responsibility," he said. "your goal is to keep yourself safe, and make the officer feel as safe as possible because he has no clue who you are." Despite anyone's personal feelings toward SB 11, come August 2016, it is the law of the land.

images courtesy of [dailytexanonline.com](http://dailytexanonline.com)

PICTURED: Gun-Free UT and UT faculty protest a rally held in opposition to campus carry legislation

## Obergefell Discussion on the Green

by Terrence Turner

On Oct. 27th, Discovery Green hosted a conversation between two men who changed the legal history of this country. An April 6th profile in the Washington Post makes it clear that Ohio real estate broker Jim Obergefell never intended to be the face of a political movement. Yet, that is exactly what happened to him. On July 11th, 2013, he married his partner of over two decades – John Arthur, who was gravely ill with ALS. The two, who according to the Post had worked together in IT consulting and client relations management – had little time to enjoy their wedded bliss.

"Five days after we got married, we were introduced to a civil rights attorney," Obergefell revealed to the Discovery Green crowd. The attorney, identified by the Post as Al Gerhardstein, told them that Obergefell's name would not be listed on the death certificate as a surviving spouse, since same-sex marriage was, then, illegal in Ohio. Learning that Arthur's last official record as a human being would be incorrect galvanized Obergefell. "That was the first time in my life when I really had to think, 'Well, what do I really stand for? What's important to me? What am I willing to fight for?'" he told the audience. "And I realized what I was willing to fight for were the promises and commitments I made to my husband. Over almost 21 years, we promised to love, honor and protect each other."

Sure enough, when Arthur died, just three months after the wedding, Ohio contested the certificate in court – and won. Obergefell took his case to the Supreme Court. On June 26, 2015, the Court ruled – in Obergefell v. Hodges – that the 14th Amendment of the Constitution guarantees the right to same-sex marriage. The timing was stunning: the Court legalized gay marriage nationwide on the second anniversary of U.S. v. Windsor, on the 12th anniversary of the Lawrence v. Texas case,

that overturned a Texas law that made gay sex illegal, and the day before Houston's Pride parade. Obergefell, who was sitting in the courtroom when the decision was announced, burst into tears. "I just had this great feeling of satisfaction," he said at the event.

Also on stage speaking with Obergefell at Discovery Green, was former Marine Staff Sergeant Eric Alva, who revealed himself with an unfortunate distinction. "I was the first American injured in the Iraq War. I was only in Iraq for three hours when I stepped on a landmine," the former Staff Sergeant told the crowd. "My left leg was broken, my right leg was gone," Alva said. "My right hand was damaged, and you can see the scarring."

Alva, who is gay, was out to many of his fellow comrades during his 13 years of service. But at that time, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Act (DADT) was still in effect, meaning that gay or bisexual members of the military would be immediately discharged upon revealing their sexuality. Ironically, it was marriage equality that spurred him to protest. "I think what got me into this fight after I got injured, was watching my home state of Texas pass their constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage." At first, he was resigned to the law, but eventually he became angry. "I got pissed off," he said. "I have a Purple Heart. I served my country honorably, and there are people sitting in Huntsville here in Texas – in prison, even possibly on death row – who had more rights than I did. And they broke the law. And I just thought, 'this is really unfair... how people's lives were treated, how people's happiness, how people's love were being hijacked by other people's lies or fear.'"

The former Marine took action. In 2007, CNN reported that Alva spoke on Capitol Hill in favor of a law that would repeal DADT and allow gays to serve openly in the armed forces. CNN also found that, by 2005, more than 700 members of the U.S. military had been discharged under the law. In July 2011, President Barack Obama certified the repeal of the law; that repeal became official on Sept. 20, 2011. Alva was seated behind the president when the order was signed. He described the event as "surreal": "It was amazing, it was exciting – it was history."

A theme of the discussion was the now-failed Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO), which would've banned discrimination against 15 protected classes, including race, religion, and military status. Obergefell called the anti-HERO efforts "an incredibly horrible campaign" and urged LGBT Houstonians: "Stay strong. Know your rights." As the strains of Journey's "Don't Stop Believing" played in the background, Alva echoed the song's message by telling the crowd, "Never let them steal your hope."



Image Courtesy of [houstonchronicle.com](http://houstonchronicle.com);

PICTURED: Obergefell at a rally in Austin.



## Student Directed One-Acts at UHD

by Darci McFerran

The University of Houston-Downtown strives to offer the students as many rich experiences and opportunities as they are able to. They seek to provide the students - attending the most diverse school in Houston - major opportunities that are just as diverse. On any given day of the week, you can find multiple occasions to experience both scholastic and cultural extracurricular activities.

As a BAFA major and two-time student director, I look forward to the fall season at O'Kane Theater every year. In addition to the major production of Julius Caesar this semester, O'Kane does a week full of student-directed one-acts. This annual production displays a freedom rarely given to students; having complete creative control allows them to use the class to explore their individual ideals. Each production is directed by one of our peers, who were required to choose a script (or write one), find a cast, and make a multitude of decisions that would impact the final product, which counts for the majority of the class grade.

The O'Kane One-Acts are an opportunity for audiences to see artists testing their creative ingenuity and challenging the convention of traditional theater. If you haven't found the time to attend a performance at the O'Kane Theatre, I strongly recommend that you do now. Both the students and professors that define the heart of this department are incredibly gracious, talented and dedicated to their craft.

Art is meant to challenge us in ways that our daily lives and routines rarely do, to look into the minds of others and allow the differences to affect us. Regardless of whether you typically take an interest in the fine arts, once you have exposed yourself to this unique group of artisans, they will undoubtedly stir the artist within you.

This season promises to be the best yet, with a record number of students participating in the Stage Directing class. The shows will run from November 19th to November 22nd, with varying start times, in the O'Kane Theater on the 3rd floor of the One Main Building. (The theater faces the North Deck.) Each show provides a new set of student directors and unique productions, with two performances delivered in Spanish. Please see the calendar below for specific days and times. All of this is provided free-of-charge, so all you need to bring is your applause and your imagination.

### Upcoming Student-Directed Plays/Scenes

Please join us for the upcoming bill of student-directed One Act plays/scenes. A list of them is below along with the director, stage manager and performance time(s) and date(s). Admission is free. Seating is first-come, first-seated. Come and support our student directors.

#### Thursday, Nov. 19 (8 p.m.)

1. *The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon  
Director: Max Weimner
2. *La Pareja Rara* (The Odd Couple, female version) by Neil Simon (presented in Spanish)  
Director: Paula Oliveira Stage Manager: Esteban Pacheco
3. *It's Too Late* by Vanessa Ramirez  
Director: Vanessa Ramirez Stage Manager: Adela Galindo
4. *February to August* written and directed by Neil Ellis Orts
5. *The Philadelphia* by David Ives  
Director: Daniel Padraig Charamie Stage Manager: Brianne Bueno
6. *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* by John Patrick Shanley and Christian Brunes  
Director: Jerrell Brown Stage Manager: Jocelyn Palomino

#### Friday, Nov. 20 (8 p.m.)

1. *You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running: the shock of recognition* by Robert Anderson  
Director: Ashley N. Peters
2. *Los Vendidos* by Luis Valdez (presented in Spanish)  
Director: Ever David Florez
3. *Sure Thing* by David Ives  
Director: Vanessa Jones Stage Manager: Arthur Jackson
4. *Mere Mortals* by David Ives  
Director: Thompson Antwi Stage Manager: Ashley Carter
5. *The Odd Couple* (female version) by Neil Simon  
Director: Brenda Alvarez Stage Manager: Jackie Bowen

#### Saturday, Nov. 21 (8 p.m.)

1. *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro/music by Jimmy Roberts  
Director: Jordi Viscarri Stage Manager: Perla Ramirez
2. *1x1=1, pero 1+1=2* by Lucia Quintero (presented in Spanish)  
Director: Carlos Cruz
3. *The Florist* by Iris Winston  
Director: Teresa Alaniz Stage Manager: Daral Moore-Washington
4. *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams  
Director: Jason Jonathan Rivas Stage Manager: Hannah Hunn
5. *Variations on the Death of Trotsky* by David Ives  
Director: Laura Price

#### Sunday, Nov. 22 (3 p.m.)

1. *It's Too Late* by Vanessa Ramirez  
Director: Vanessa Ramirez Stage Manager: Adela Galindo
2. *La Pareja Rara* (The Odd Couple, female version) by Neil Simon (presented in Spanish)  
Director: Paula Oliveira Stage Manager: Esteban Pacheco
3. *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro/music by Jimmy Roberts  
Director: Jordi Viscarri Stage Manager: Perla Ramirez
4. *The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon  
Director: Max Weimner
5. *You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running: the shock of recognition* by Robert Anderson  
Director: Ashley N. Peters



## Julius Caesar goes to Roundtop, Texas

by Jason J. Rivas

Deep in the heart of Texas lies the town of Round Top. It is the smallest incorporated town in Texas, with a population of approximately 83 people. Yet, under the visage of the small community is one of the more renowned theatre festivals in the state. This year's 18th Annual Theatre Forum focused on the classical origins of modern-day theatre, and featured a few of UHD's finest thespians and technicians at work.

In 1971, world-renowned concert pianist James Dick and a collection of young, exceptional pianists started a 10-day festival for the performing arts. Dick rented a small space in Round Top's town square and proceeded to nurture and showcase his students' gifts. As the decades passed, the comfy confines of the festival expanded into an internationally-renowned project for ambitious young musicians and distinguished faculty. Today, the endeavor sits on a sprawling, 210-acre campus called Festival Hill, and features a highly respected research center that houses rare books, manuscripts, audio recordings, and archival materials. Additionally, the campus features a plethora of gardens, arboretums, historic venues, and performance centers that host year-round educational seminars and performances, such as the aforementioned Theatre Forum.

The 18th Annual Theatre Forum at Festival Hill was a celebration of certain aspects of modern theatre. This year's edition was coined Out of the Midst of Time, and addressed modern-day theatre's classical origins: Greek and Roman Drama. A host of lectures and performances were featured for a captivated audience eager to understand and appreciate the golden age of Greek/Roman Drama and its influence on the theatre world throughout the centuries. Renowned speakers and performers, such as Tom Foral, Ann Thompson, and Sonja Bruzauskas were present to entertain and enlighten a captivated audience on a variety of aspects of Greek/Roman Drama, including a keynote speech by noted theatrical historian Felicia Londré.

Performances included opera singer/musicologist Vern Sutton, with pianist Keith Weber, tracing one Greek character throughout operatic history in *To Hell with Orpheus!* A musical and historical descent into the underworld. Director/producer Chesley Krohn and her company performed *Athens to Broadway: Classics and the Musical*. Perhaps most noteworthy, though, was the UHD Players and Kate Pogue's presentation of their production of *Julius Caesar*. Mrs. Pogue and her group of student-actors had recently completed their run of *Caesar* at the O'Kane Theatre and later performed the tragedy outdoors, at UHD, in preparation for the festival.

The three-day event also hosted a series of ventures all through the festival grounds. Morning hikes were followed by meals in the Victorian-inspired Menke House mess hall and gardens. Saturday night was capped off with a formal dinner event for attendees and participants. Begun in 1998, the festival serves as a place beyond the pines where theatre/music lovers may gather and share their knowledge and joy for the performing arts.

Ms. Pogue, herself, has produced the festival since its inception, and capped off her distinguished directing/teaching career at UHD with her actors, at the event. To her, teaching and directing at UHD has been a pleasure and she is very appreciative of the exemplary support the university has provided her and her students, throughout the years, and especially those involved in the endeavor to Round Top. "The fact that this university encouraged me, as a teacher, and my students and cast members, to have this experience, marks this as an extraordinary university."



# Caesar Conquered O'Kane

by Joshua Burgman

On Oct. 23rd, I attended the opening of William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar at UHD's O'Kane Theater and, quite frankly, I was impressed well beyond what I was expecting. The stage was simple but well-built, and looked as if it could have been the inside of any ancient Roman dwelling. Notwithstanding the delightful appeal of the stage, the play could have been given on a street corner and my opinion of it would not change. The level of professionalism, depth, and range exhibited by the cast was something to be awed. I am as familiar with Caesar as I am with the changing of the seasons, and yet, at every moment I sat anxiously at the edge of my seat, awaiting the next.

Some time ago I created a list, one that I have added to only a few times. It lists the names of the actors/actresses whom I believe played the roles of their characters almost perfectly; actors who seemed to not only play the character, but to embody it. Among the actors/actresses on that list are Denzel Washington, who portrayed activist Malcolm X in the self-titled biography; Angela Bassett, who portrayed singer Tina Turner in the movie "What's Love Got to do With It;" and actor Daniel Day-Lewis, who portrayed our nation's 16th president in the movie "Lincoln." The night I saw Caesar at O'Kane, I added to that list. To be able to witness, with my own eye, such a level of transcendence of understanding of the craft was masterful.

When an actor begins to embody his character, he no longer acts: he becomes the character. Ralph St. Vincent Bradley was Brutus. Marcus Brutus—a confidant of Caesar's—was, like Caesar, considered one of the saviors of Rome. He stood by Caesar's side in 49 BC as he crossed the Rubicon, marched on Rome, and changed the world forever. Yet, the glory was all Caesar's, and he was more than willing to claim it. Any actor who played Brutus had the task of playing

a large figure in his own right, yet someone who also walked in the shadow of Caesar. St. Vincent Bradley accomplished this without flaw.

Additionally, he was modest and grateful. When I asked him how he prepared for such a role—the role of Brutus can be tedious to navigate; it's extensive and consists of many monologues—he told me, "I study all of the time, and I take my script with me wherever I go, even in the car," laughing subtly.

While I will admit his acting prowess captured me, St. Vincent Bradley's talent was matched on stage by the intensity of the portrayal of Roman General Mark Antony, played by UHD Sophomore Gabriel Monroe. Mark Antony is well-known. He was Caesar's closest friend, fought in many battles with him and even took up the bed of Egypt's Queen Cleopatra after Caesar's death. To play such a man is no small matter. Like the role of Brutus, Mark Antony can be difficult to tackle, but Monroe seemed to do this with ease.

"I've watched both the movies Julius Caesar and Cleopatra," he told me when discussing his methods of preparation, "but really it's all about memorization. I even color code. Color coding is very important in memorization." On the contrary, Monroe did more than just remember his lines. During the funeral scene after Caesar's assassination, when addressing the Roman citizens that had gathered, he delivered his lines with such passionate fury that I almost jumped out of my seat and took up arms with them myself.

Then there was Cassius, the great instigator, portrayed by senior Nicholas Charles Negrón. What Negrón achieved when playing Cassius was quite spectacular. Cassius, a great man in his own right, was the first of the conspirators of Caesar's assassination to plant seeds of treachery in the mind of Brutus. His cunning wit and use of persuasion were essential in ensuring that Caesar's assassination went as

planned, for without Brutus, there was no plan. Negrón's ambitious and mischievous nature on stage was exactly what the role called for. I was especially impressed, as I was with every character, with his ability to place me in the moment.

The accuracy of what seemed to be an almost perfect Shakespearean dialect was incredible. When I asked him how he accomplished this, he credited his success, as did everyone else, to the exceptional direction of Professor Katherine Pogue. "It was all Prof. Pogue," he said. "She is an amazing director." Negrón spoke highly of her and lauded her experience: "She knows everything about Shakespeare. You know, she has written like, five books about him."

Pogue has almost 40 years of teaching experience, a great majority of which has been spent teaching students how to become good actors. She is considered an expert on the playwright William Shakespeare, having written four books on the subject, and directed over twenty Shakespearean productions. I asked her what she said to the cast to prepare them before taking the stage that night. "What I try to tell all young actors," she said. "I remind them to remember to try and maintain a high level of energy. That's very important when performing a production for several nights like they will be." Clearly, her experience did not fail them.

Although I was not able to mention all the actors that played in Caesar at O'Kane, each of their contributions to the production was inspiring. It was my first trip to our small theater on the third floor of the main building, but their brilliant portrayal of this long-standing classic has ensured that I will most definitely return. Indeed, Caesar did conquer O'Kane - and me.

**7**  
**Theater**



*Photographs  
by  
Frank J. Vela*

*PICTURED:  
Cast of  
Julius Caesar  
Performing at  
Concert Hall in  
Round Top Texas  
on Festival Hill*



# 8 Holiday Gobble



## Turkey To-Go, Hold the Consumerism

by Darci McFerran

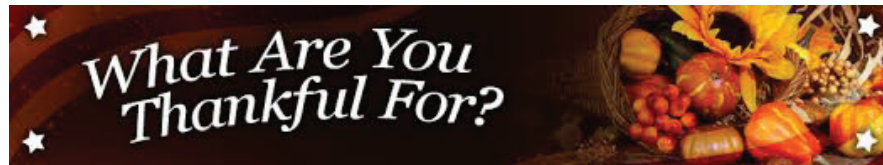
Thanksgiving has become the unofficial start to holiday shopping over recent years, and many retailers and consumers are fighting back. We have all seen the enormous crowds camping outside of the doors of their favorite store, waiting for the discounts synonymous with the closure of Thanksgiving and the start of Christmas shopping. Black Friday, the overlapping of one holiday with another, has been a trending habit that blurs the boundaries between them. Seemingly, Thanksgiving has lost enough importance that immediately following Halloween, ornaments, bows, and Christmas songs on repeat assault everyone.

Whether or not you celebrate the dubious in-between holiday of Thanksgiving, I don't recall getting the memo that it was time to transplant rampant consumerism into the tradition. For more than a few years we have seen a growing number of businesses open on Thanksgiving Day. I watch in horror as the sacred peace of family tradition is broken, and I wonder what is weirder: that I want things to remain the same, or that the whole world seems bent on saturating our traditions with even more consumerism.

I remember when things were not this way. I remember suffering - like my parents did before me - through strained and awkward family dinners. I remember arguments and overeating. But what I remember most is knowing that every year, no matter what, I would have a few sacred days with my family. Maybe it wasn't as perfect as the Rockwell paintings, but it was sacred and special. The busy schedules and intruding outside world disappeared, and I got to absorb the people most like me in the whole world; my family.

It seems that I am not the only person to feel this way about the intrusion of America's favorite villain: consumerism. In fact, campaigns are being started all over the country and are growing in supporters on both sides of the fence. People should be allowed to take the day off, not be forced to choose between their jobs and their families. It's one day on an already-far-too-short list of days we get with our loved ones. Black Friday will still be there, followed by Cyber Sunday, and every other outrageous holiday sale that will swamp our waking hours for four weeks after the turkey is served.

Take the day off, spend it with your family, and be thankful. Talk about the reasons we celebrate the holiday, recognize the truth of what the day meant to Native Americans, and maybe find a way to give back to your community. That is where we will truly find the spirit of the holidays: in our generosity and kindness, in our love, and in our family.



## Veterans Still Serving their Country - One Can at a Time

by Jason J. Rivas

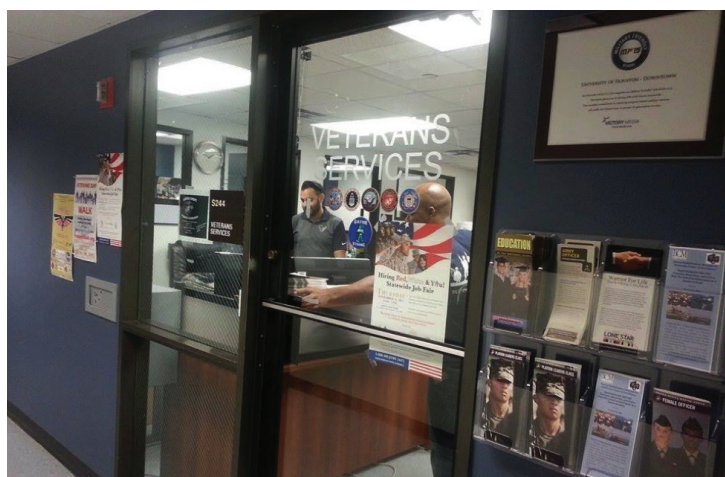
Down on the second floor of the One Main Building stands the SVO, or Student Veterans Office. They represent the men and women who gave their time and diligence to serving their country. Now, as students and staff members, they look to serve cohorts of UHD in need of aid, one meal at a time.

Richard Selvera is the Director of Veterans Services at UHD. Some time ago, he came up with the concept of a food bank to serve financially unstable students. He and his team proceeded to establish networks with the UH-system and the Houston Food Bank to develop the concept. As the plans began to move forward, support for the food bank grew within the university. Donations began pouring in as the service began its initial test-run. Soon after, the SVO decided to expand the bank as an incentive for students to stay in school.

According to Veterans Enrollment Coordinator Crystal Guliford, "Some students have to choose between going to work and other responsibilities, and students are reluctant to come forward and say 'I don't have any food in the refrigerator.' If we can have this available to them and they know it's a resource for them, [then] they won't have to worry about going without food." The SVO hopes to minimize the stigma of accepting aid so that students are more compelled to go to school and continue their education, while feeling comfortable in accepting food aid.

The SVO is still in development on a definite blueprint for the food bank. A recent series of surveys and studies were conducted to determine the long-term prospects of the project. There is a sense of need for the bank, as many UHD students are non-traditional, low-income, on financial aid, and/or a recipient of some form of social service. Many veterans and students have already visited the SVO and received perishables from the bank. The SVO has asked for a short fill-out in order to continue presenting evidence to administration of the necessity of the service. In time, they hope to expand their project from department-run to a university-sponsored venture, complete with a larger, "7/11-style" facility. For now, though, they continue to keep their donations in their office, open to the public.

For the SVO, service to their community continues, regardless of their duty status. They all took an oath to serve and continue to do so, one canned good at a time. If anyone has interest and/or is in need of more information about the food bank, visit their office in S-244.





# Houston's 66th Annual Thanksgiving Day Parade

by Karen Reyes

It's that time of year again! Thanksgiving holiday is just around the corner. The day when we eat a lot of delicious food, including juicy turkey and sweet delicious pie! Let's not forget, it's also the time to unite with our families and have a special time together.

Speaking of family, why not spend the early hours of the holiday with the 66th Annual Thanksgiving Parade tradition? The Houston Thanksgiving Parade began in 1949, when Santa would arrive at Union Station and ride his sleigh to the downtown Foley's. It has been a tradition ever since. The parade entertains more than 200,000 Houstonians. The showcase will include stunning floats, high-flying balloons, marching bands, artistic entries and live entertainment.

The event is set to start at 9 a.m on Thursday, November 26th at Smith and Lamar St. It will then progress north to Walker St, east to Milam St, south to Pease St, west to Louisiana St, north to Clay St, west to Smith St, ending at Smith and Dallas St. There is plenty of opportunity to catch the parade if you can't join us at the start.

Worried about parking? Don't worry any longer. Parking will be available for free in the Theater District Parking Garage. Also metro buses will be running on a holiday schedule and spectator access along the parade route will also be free. Don't forget to bring your favorite blankets and chairs so you can enjoy the parade comfortably!



## UHD Gatorettes Donation Drive

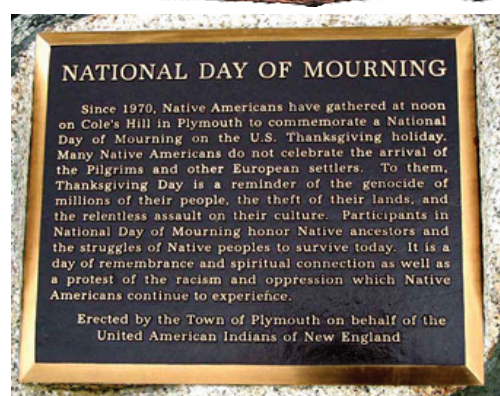
by Christopher Joseph

Thanksgiving is the time of year where people put aside their problems and just have one day of peace with the ones they love the most. They enjoy a big feast and give thanks for the gifts that they have been given. However, there are some who don't have a place to go, a family to love, or even something to eat. Yet, there are those with a heart of gold to help those who don't have much to be thankful for.

Our UHD Gatorettes started a donation drive for the BARC Animal Shelter and Adoptions Center to help the animals who were abandoned, and don't have a place to call home so that they, too, can have a wonderful Thanksgiving. The Gatorettes didn't ask for much when it came to donating for this cause, but every time I passed their bin, it was filled with dog toys, clean pet beds, animal treats, peanut butter, and anything else necessary to help give those animals a comfortable stay at the shelter. Until, eventually, a loving family comes and takes them home.

The Gatorettes have proven to be professionals at volunteering, winning the volunteer awards for having the most volunteer hours out of all the Sports and Fitness clubs here at UHD. But these girls don't volunteer for the awards. They do it because they care, and genuinely want these animals to get the love and care they deserve. Our Gatorettes have proven that they not only have the right dance moves, but also the good will to help inspire other Gators and help those who need it the most.

*The primary fundraiser is over, but the Gatorettes would be happy to tell you where to send donations.*



The National Day of Mourning is an annual protest organized since 1970 by Native Americans of New England on the fourth Thursday of November, the same day as Thanksgiving in the United States. It coincides with an unrelated but similar protest, Unthanksgiving Day, held on the West Coast.

The organizers consider the national holiday of Thanksgiving Day as a reminder of the democide and continued suffering of the Native American peoples. Participants in the National Day of Mourning honor Native ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today. They want to educate Americans about history. The event was organized in a period of Native American activism and general cultural protests. The protest is organized by the United American Indians New England (UAINEN). Since it was first organized, social changes have resulted in major revisions to the portrayal of United States history, the government's and settlers' relations with Native American peoples, and renewed appreciation for Native American culture. -Wikipedia

November is Native American Heritage Month



# 9 Holiday Gobble



## Gators Don't Say...

by Terrence Turner

If you spend a fair amount of time on UHD's campus, chances are that you've seen the face of a fellow Gator staring back at you on a poster that says, "I don't say \_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_." These posters all feature members of UHD's powerlifting team. The project is spearheaded by their coach and the head of the Center for Student Diversity, Equity and Inclusion—Dr. John Hudson.

Dr. Hudson says he was inspired by a similar campaign at Duke University. Athletes on that campus wore their school uniforms and displayed a word they didn't like, then explained why they chose not to use it. Eventually expanding to Duke alumni and schools like Cornell University, it has now reached the University of Houston-Downtown. The Dept. of Public Affairs has handled the photography and text display. The students themselves chose the words used in the posters.

The project, originally with eight posters, was launched in April and May. "I was kind of in a rush to get our initial posters up there," Dr. Hudson admitted, "because in case the University of Florida jumped in, now we have the #GatorsDontSayCampaign." He wanted to emphasize to students that language is always a decision: "We don't have to use terms that are offensive. We don't have to use terms that are demeaning or dehumanizing."

The administration, whose approval was needed for the campaign to move forward, wanted a focus on terms relating to "identity groups." In keeping with this, three of the eight prints were retooled. (One of the edits has already been placed on the school walls.) The six current pictorials address inflammatory terms for rural whites, police officers, LGBT people, and—in Dr. Hudson's case—undocumented immigrants. He said that his poster was among the most controversial. But he placed the negative reactions in context: "They're not reacting to what I say about the use of the term; they're reacting to the issue, and they make the assumption that I'm defending illegal immigration. I'm not. I'm saving. 'Treat people like human beings.'"

### GATORS DON'T SAY CAMPAIGN



He spoke at length about the issue of illegal immigration, which has become a topic of much discussion in this cycle's presidential election campaigns. It is especially prevalent here in Texas. "We live a borderland region," Dr. Hudson stated. "Texas is an odd state. I mean, you have politicians on the right talking tough on immigration and talking about border security and all this, and yet legislature that has the decency to maintain the Texas grants, because they know that there are a lot of kids who grow up undocumented in Texas. They have to go to school, which is to their benefit and to everyone else's benefit. They can't get federal aid, so OK, they'll get Texas aid. They can fill out the TASFA [Texas Application for Student Financial Aid] as an undocumented student. It's kind of odd: you've got the tough talk, and yet there's a recognition that undocumented folks are part of our communities."

The responses haven't been all bad, however. "Overall, it's been incredibly positive," Dr. Hudson said. Parents, and even alumni, at a recent open house event personally expressed thanks and praise to him for the endeavor, he says. In fact, the poster of co-captain Chris Galatoire, which one might expect to be the most contentious, was quite the opposite. "Chris's [poster] was extremely popular," Dr. Hudson said. Some of the most memorable comments, he revealed, were "This makes me proud to be a Gator" or "I've never been this proud of UHD before."

The goal is to expand the campaign throughout the athletics department. "I've mentioned that we want to have other sports clubs participate," Dr. Hudson said. "I think Sports and Fitness likes the idea." But the logistics are challenging. "It's a little harder for me to talk to the other teams because, so far as I know, none of the other teams are coached by somebody who's a full-time faculty or staff member. So I can't just run into them in the hallway or go to their office and talk to them about this," he said. Furthermore, for a photoshoot to occur, five or more people have to be present in the same time block.

The effort to include other sport clubs is ongoing, but you don't have to be a student athlete to participate in the "Gators Don't Say" campaign. "What we're going to do is open it up to anybody who's interested on campus." This opens the door for all UHD students to participate in a campaign that can make for a more inclusive and tolerant campus.



## Finals are Coming! Where Will you Study?

by Elisa Gonzalez

UHD offers two fine options for satisfying caffeine cravings, but those options don't satisfy the need for variety. Sure, the Starbucks is great for picking up a drink before class, and the 40,000 Windows Café is nice for filling time in between classes. But what about those days when you've had your fill of the campus, and you need to be reinvigorated by an interesting new environment? When exams come around and you need to keep studying but you want to get away from the routine, there are a few select coffee shops within a three mile radius that can fulfill your needs.

### Paper Co. Café, 1100 Elder

The drive to Paper Co. is eight short minutes that you'll be glad you spared. This place is surprisingly well-hidden for how large it is. The outside looks like a plain warehouse, but the inside is a brightly lit, modern, and open space. There are plenty of places to sit and lots of places to plug in. Their weekday evenings are slow enough to sit undisturbed for a couple of hours. They serve hot brunch on weekdays until 2:30pm, and it should be noted that all of their profits go to helping support Houston's homeless population.

Warning: They close early at 7pm, M-F and 8pm, Sat-Sun.

### Tout Suite, 2001 Commerce

Tout's is a five-minute drive from UHD. They have the essential studying tools like WiFi, good coffee, and ample seating, but one of Tout's most flattering traits is the fact that they stay open 'til midnight everyday. Their later hours lend focus to the weary student with upbeat music and minimal interruption. For the marathon studier, they offer a varied selection of choice foods and baked goods. To reward a productive session: their character-heavy venue makes for cool Instagram photos.

Warning: Daytime lunch and weekend brunch hours are intimidatingly busy.

### Honeymoon Café and Bar, 300 Main St.

A five-minute walk from campus will get you to this New Orleans inspired spot. Honeymoon looks and acts like a bar, but it's still serious about coffee. The daytime ambiance is lively, but not too distracting. Wifi and tables are plenty. Their style of tables aren't the most comfortable for long studying sessions, but their corner location makes for lots of windows and inspiring lighting. If you're looking to tie up some loose ends on a paper, Honeymoon is great. But if you plan on getting fully involved in a project, maybe try one of the other places. If you're studying hungry, they offer some delicious hot sandwiches. Warning: By night, it's a tightly packed, popular bar.

### Ben's Beans, 1302 Dallas

The 12-minute train ride and short walk to Ben's is worth it if you prefer an almost serene public study environment. Because Ben's is almost always empty during evenings, I assume that its proximity to office buildings and weekday lunch hours are what keep it alive. They don't offer much in the way of freshly cooked food, but there are plenty of cheaply priced vending machine-type items, like chips and granola bars. Interesting local art covers the walls, a good balance of Indie and Top 40 music fills the speakers and WiFi wafts through the unseen waves. Also, if you're into lattes, Ben's offers a wide variety of flavors.

Warning: The area is currently plagued by construction, so parking is difficult. Take the train.

### Double Trouble, 3622 Main

It may be a 14-minute train ride from campus, but your GPA will thank you for it. Double Trouble's daytime hours are a percolating mix of natural sunlight and espresso aroma. It's a petite shop that serves coffee and cocktails, but their coffee is so popular that its scent is ever-present. They have a bar against their large window wall where you can set up with a laptop and ignore the laidback mix of patrons that slip in and out behind you. DT also has a small patio, highly favored by Houston's fall breeze. If a studying session runs long, there's a Taco's a Go-Go just across the street.



# HERO Fails Despite Student Efforts

by Kara Moore

The Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, otherwise known as HERO, was put to a vote this past week. Despite the best efforts of students on campus, 26.9% of registered voters turned out, and the ordinance received a 61% no vote. This is most likely due to the campaign the opposition used, which claimed that HERO would allow men to go into women's bathrooms.

This argument presented by those opposing HERO started a long time ago – 1972 to be exact. In 1972, the Equal Rights Amendment, which was extended to include women, was passed by Congress. Phyllis Schlafly, a lawyer at the time, claimed that if the amendment were to eliminate sexual difference in places like work and schooling, then it would also eliminate sexual difference in bathrooms. This would supposedly allow perverted men into women's bathrooms.

When HERO was first passed by the city council in 2014, this was the same argument made, except twisted slightly to say “men dressed as women in women's restrooms” to reference transgender individuals.

Transgender means a person whose gender identity does not conform to the sex assigned at birth.

HERO opponents used their “men in women's restrooms” argument to get a petition going, which failed, due to the fact that some signatures were not registered to Houston area voters. Then, HERO opponents took the measure to a higher court that decided it must be put to public vote. This is how it came to be on the ballot the week of Nov. 3rd and how it came to fail with a decent majority vote.

The ordinance would have protected

15 minority classes such as race, veteran status, sexual identity, and gender identity. Some of which are protected on a federal and state level, but a local ordinance makes reports of discrimination easier to address because the city can address them, instead of the reports taking months or years to work their way through the state/federal systems. Houston currently has no ordinance in place, even one excluding LGBTQ+ people, which would streamline the process.

HERO was backed by veteran's associations, as well as several big businesses in Houston. Many business leaders worried that without the equality HERO promised, business would be lost for the city of Houston. Since it failed on the ballot, Houston lost its bids to host the College Football Championships in 2018, 2019 and 2020. There is also a petition going to pressure the NFL to remove the 2017 Superbowl from Houston, to which the NFL released a statement saying the vote would not affect their decision, citing that they will make sure the Superbowl makes all people feel welcome and safe.

Students on campus worked hard in favor of HERO. Clubs like UHD Feminists, the Texas Freedom Network, SGA, and Stand OUT! held all kinds of informational sessions, advocated in the halls, and even registered voters. Morgan McAllister, President of Stand OUT! worked with Dr. Nicholson-Preuss to create an event including several experts from the Houston community. Among those in attendance were two Houston lawyers and a director from Young Invincibles: a group focused on empowering young people in economy, healthcare and other areas. With the

failing of HERO, Morgan released to Dateline this statement:

“The anguish we feel is palpable. We are raw and heartbroken, but when such a small percentage of the population even turns out to vote there is little chance for success. We hope going forward that students will take this tragedy as a lesson in the importance of civic engagement. Stand Out will continue to welcome all students, whether LGBTQ+ or ally. We especially want transgender students to know that Stand Out cares about you, even in the wake of all this transphobic rhetoric. Despite the opposition's claims, this ordinance was not about bathrooms. It was about 15 different minority categories being afforded the same rights as the rest of the population. We will continue to fight, we will continue to work for a better future, and we will never give up. The tyranny of the minority may prevail for now, but ultimately justice will win out.”

Mayor Annise Parker has promised to continue to work with the City Council on ways to enact possible “segments” of HERO as long as it still protects all 15 categories of the original ordinance. No law stops the city council from reintroducing similar ordinances even if defeated by popular vote. Sylvester Turner, a mayoral candidate who got the highest percentage of votes in the original mayoral race and is now heading to a runoff election with Bill King, states that he backs HERO and wouldn't necessarily allow the idea to end with Annise. Does HERO really have a chance of coming back, slightly edited? Only time will tell. At the moment though, HERO is in a standstill while liberal lawmakers work to get it going again.



PICTURED:  
HERO Panel Hosted by Stand OUT. The students are taking an active role in trying to get HERO passed. The images were captured prior to voting, but students continue to work towards change today.

Photos by Ignacio Hernandez



## Boycott Star Wars

by Christopher Joseph

“Star Wars: the Force Awakens” has become one of the most anticipated movies of 2015. The hype surrounding this movie has been astounding, with the two movie trailers amassing more than 20 million views on YouTube. The new droid (BB-8) featured in the movie is being sold for more than \$100 alone. But with “Star Wars” rising in popularity, there has been a trending topic that seems to be making headway over all major social media sites: “Boycott Star Wars.”

The main claim of this boycott is that Star Wars is promoting anti-white propaganda and also promoting white genocide. Twitter user @genophilia called out the film’s director, J.J. Abrams, as “an anti-white nut.” The origin of the hashtag had come from a popular website called 4chan. University of Houston-Downtown student Joseph Martinez said, “The hashtag was a prank set up on a website called 4chan with the sole goal of making people mad, and it worked.” “I wasn’t aware it was proved to be a troll post, since it gained quite the momentum on Facebook,” said UHD student Crissi Mechelle. University of Houston alum Meghan Allen said, “We will probably see something of this sort happen again. The more well-known a franchise is, the more it is open to criticism.”

This “prank” was not taken lightly; it had millions of people up in arms, and they were not laughing. The hashtag made its way online since the announcement that the lead character, Finn, is being played by John Boyega, who is African American. This re-sparked a huge debate about people of color in the media, and how the entertainment industry has cast mostly white actors as lead roles. It has often been accused of using people of color as “props,” or as an exaggerated stereotype of their race. “You don’t see many non-white actors in lead roles unless it’s a movie where they are being exploited; you never see people of color in notable roles.” Mechelle said.

However, some people don’t see this hashtag as an issue, but merely as race baiting. “People get offended over the smallest things these days. If people just took the time to see how the hashtag started instead of being up in arms, they would have noticed it was a prank made in jest and bad taste,” Martinez said. But this isn’t the first time that race has become a hot topic, especially with regard to better representation of people of color in movies.

Recently, British author Anthony Horowitz--who wrote Trigger Mortis, the newest James Bond novel--was interviewed by the Daily Mail about his novel. During the interview, Horowitz was asked about the film franchise of the same name, and who should fill the role after Daniel Craig retires from playing Bond. The British actor Idris Elba, who has appeared in critically acclaimed shows like The Wire and BBC’s Luther, was suggested. Horowitz stated, “For me, Idris Elba is a bit too rough to play the part. It’s not a color issue. I think he is probably a bit “too street” for Bond.”

That caused a major outcry from fans of the Bond series who felt Horowitz’s statements were racially loaded, being that Elba--a black actor--was labeled “too street.” After the tremendous uproar from the public, Horowitz later apologized for his statements: “I’m really sorry that my comments about Idris Elba have caused offense. Clumsily, I chose the word ‘street,’ as Elba’s gritty portrayal of DCI John Luther was in my mind, but I admit it was a poor choice of words. I am mortified to have caused offense.”

One student approved of the backlash. “I like how people aren’t taking this sitting down. They are pushing all kinds of buttons about the issue of casting. I’m glad to be alive to see a change for people of color [POC] in movies in my lifetime,” said Mechelle.

“Star Wars: The Force Awakens” stars John Boyega, as the new Jedi Finn; Adam Driver, as the new Sith Lord Kylo Ren; and Daisy Ridley, as the scavenger Rey. Returning faces include Harrison Ford as the Captain of the Millennium Falcon, Han Solo; Carrie Fisher, as Rebel Alliance leader Princess Leia; and Mark Hamill as the master of the force, Luke Skywalker. The film comes to theaters on December 18th, 2015.



## Nobody Does It Better: The Legacy and Grandeur of James Bond

by Jason J. Rivas

In 1953, former British intelligence officer Ian Fleming published Casino Royale, the first book involving James Bond. The book became an instant hit, running through four prints and earning Fleming a three-book deal. In 1962, Dr. No became the first Bond film and was a sizeable hit that led to the creation of the 007 franchise. 50 years later, Skyfall became the series’ 23rd movie, and highest grossing entry ever, with an excess of one billion dollars at the box office. Now Spectre is out and continuing the impact, legacy, and cash cow that is Bond.

Daniel Craig is the sixth actor to play the Bond character. He, Pierce Brosnan, Timothy Dalton, Sir Roger Moore, George Lazenby, and Sir Sean Connery, have all portrayed 007 to evolving generations of fans. Bond has been everything from suave and serious, playful and remorseful, comedic and vindictive, adventurous and innovative, to broody and bruising. Generation after generation have fallen into his charmingly violent visual operas of thrills, chills, and spills. Part of the allure was due, in part, to the evolving social movements and geopolitical state of affairs revolving around each film production. As the West was defiant against the communists of the 1960’s, 70’s, and 80’s, so too was Bond. As Western nations began to recognize more the role of women, appreciation towards different cultures, and expanding on technological achievements, Bond’s films reflected the evolving societal lexicons. Of course, Bond isn’t without his missteps, such as his chauvinistic/misogynistic treatment of certain females as “play things,” his cold mannerisms towards human life, or portrayals of stereotypes negatively associated with certain cultures. However, with every mishap came retribution, with later films featuring strong female leads, emotional sentiment for a lost love, and the enrichment of viewers’ minds through exotic locations and diverse cultures.

Bond’s legacy is built on the premise that, with every new film, comes a new story. Although the official film count is 24, the franchise didn’t release its first “official” sequel until its 22nd feature film, 2008’s Quantum of Solace. This allowed for the series to reinvent itself and keep pace with public perception. Bond has battled Soviets, visited paramount locales (including space), and thwarted international and domestic terrorists to coincide with real world affairs that captivated the public’s interest. Sometimes this practice would lead to cockeyed entries, such as the Star Wars-influenced Moonraker, or the campy Diamonds Are Forever, but the series would reinvent itself with endearing and enduring escapades such as Live and Let Die, Goldeneye, and Casino Royale.

It’s because of Bond’s flexibility that the franchise has continued to not only endure, but grow with each passing entry. In doing so, the Bond filmmakers have developed a winning formula: the gun barrel intro, the pre-opening-credits mini-assignment, the opening credits accompanied by the title track (typically performed by an A-list singer/musician), the assignment, interactions with various “Bond Girls,” the introduction of gadgets, comedic puns, the introduction of major villain and henchmen, insane stunts, fight sequences, globe-trotting, the confrontation with the villain and unraveling of their plans, the showdown and defeating the bad, before walking off with the girl in his arms. This formula has been reworked and expanded to continue the unique appeal of Bond since the franchise’s third entry, 1964’s Goldfinger, considered by many enthusiasts as the pinnacle Bond film.

So what does the future hold for arguably Britain’s greatest export? Spectre, the 24th film, continues Daniel Craig’s argument as the best Bond since Sean Connery donned the tuxedo. The film revolves around Bond investigating the sinister organization Spectre, and its leader, the nefarious Franz Oberhauser (menacingly portrayed by Christoph Waltz). Along the way, Bond meets Dr. Madeleine Swan (Léa Seydoux), a woman of determination and wit, but with an obscured past and clouded heart; Ralph Fiennes, Ben Whishaw, Naomie Harris, Monica Bellucci, and Dave Bautista round out the cast. The opening scenes are spectacular, leading into an intriguing story that continues to develop the mythology of Bond, while tackling real-world issues, such as the necessity of “Old World” espionage in a world dominated by “big brother’s” surveillance, the “New World Order,” created through transnational collusion to protect self-interest, and the depths of secrecy a terrorist organization can achieve.

As for the film itself: the cinematography and score provided mesmerizing moments; the acting is commendable and thought-provoking; the stunt work and special effects brought a real sense of grit, danger, and realism that have become staples for the franchise; and the romantic appeal was touching with a sense of hope. The film, though, does drag a bit in the middle section, as it aimed to add layers of dialogue and story before releasing a cataclysmic and dynamic third act that left the audience gasping for air and wanting more. Despite all its good points though, the film did not surpass the majesty and beauty that is Skyfall, but does accomplish its objective in satisfying an anxious fan base with another superb entry. Spectre is in theaters now, continuing the grandiose legacy known to the world as, “Bond... James Bond.”



image courtesy of 5th Row Joe



# Houston HUE Mural Festival

by Miguel Nunez

A local Houston artist, who goes by the name of Gonzo247, has been creating street art for more than 25 years, and set up a seven-day art festival for Houstonians. The Houston Mural Festival took place from October 17th through October 24th. Artists from all over the world had seven days to complete murals that would be scattered across Houston's EaDo, East End, & Washington Avenue Arts districts. It was around these areas that people could see completed artworks by artists such as Risk, a graffiti artist from Los Angeles; FPLO, a street artist from Brazil; COPE2, a graffiti artist from New York; and NEUZZ, from Mexico City. All these artists, and many, many more, came right here to Houston to show off their artistic abilities.

I even had the opportunity to talk to the man who made all this possible: Gonzo himself. I asked him what the general feeling of the art scene here in Houston was, and his response was that it was "cautiously developing." I also asked him which artist inspired him when it came to his artwork. His response was that the artists he looks up to are always changing. That is the best answer any artist can give. Art should always be changing, and we should always be challenging our beliefs about what art is and should be.

I wish I could have said that I was at the art festival from day one, but unfortunately, I only had the chance to come at the very end of the art festival on October 24th. It is on this day that, come rain or shine, a few artists - along with some of the artworks they were selling - came together in Aerosol Warehouse at 2110 Jefferson Street. They talked amongst themselves and the people of Houston who loved the art and artists. There was music, and even Hennessy cocktails being offered. There was also TopoChico mineral water and some food from Phoenicia Specialty Foods.

Some of the artwork exhibited at Aerosol Warehouse was something you would not be surprised to see as graffiti on the side of an abandoned house, that is what gave the art its street vibe. The art you found here at Mural Festival would likely not be the art you would find at the Houston Art Museum, but art comes in all forms. Gonzo247, and artists like him, bring another aspect of art to Houston.

For example, another artist's work that I was lucky enough to see, The Death Head. An artist from Mexico that is here in Texas working on his craft, talked to me about what inspired his art pieces. One art piece that we talked about was one in which you could see an image of Ronald McDonald, the mascot for the fast food chain, McDonald's. But this Ronald was not your typical clown. In The Death Head's version, this clown had breasts and possessed the head of a ram with four horns while sitting atop a quarter-pounder. I asked him how he came up with that art piece and he simply said he was at McDonald's drawing and that is how it came to be. It never ceases to amaze me how and when artists get inspired.

I asked Gonzo247 if there would be an event just like this in the near future, and with a smile he nodded yes. That put a smile on my face, and no doubt the artists in that building also appreciated that response as well. If you were unlucky enough not to be here at the special events that Houston Mural Festival had going on, do not worry. Gonzo247 feels that events like this will be something that happens again in the near future, and if you want to glance at a few murals from this year's festival, you can just visit their website at [huemuralfestival.com](http://huemuralfestival.com).

*images courtesy of huemuralfestival.com :artists Gonzo247 & Marco Torres*



## A Day to Honor the Dead; El Día de Los Muertos

by Karen Reyes

During the first and second days of November, families come together to honor and remember their loved ones who are no longer with them. El Día de Los Muertos or The Day of the Dead, is a tradition mostly celebrated in Mexico, as it originated from there, but it is also celebrated throughout Latin America. Although we associate death with sadness and sorrow, El Día de Los Muertos celebrates the life of the spirits with their favorite parties, activities and drinks they enjoyed during their lifetime.

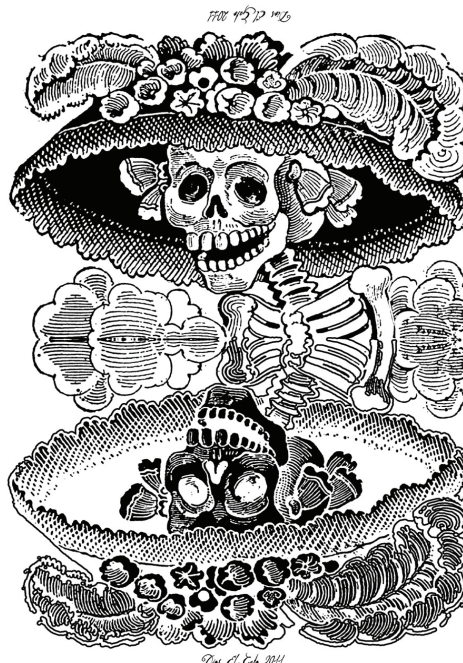
The myth goes, as indigenous people believe, the gates of heaven are open at midnight just after Halloween. On November 1st, all the deceased children, the angelitos, descend from heaven to visit their families for 24 hours. On November 2nd, adult spirits begin their journey to meet with their families, and enjoy the festivities that were prepared for them.

One of the important features of this celebration are the creations of altars, or ofrendas. Families decorate the altars with flowers (especially marigolds), candles, personal items of the deceased, food, sugar skulls, and Pan Muerto; special bread made for this occasion. These items are not just randomly selected by the families, each has a representation. The flowers symbolize the brevity of human life. Marigolds are used to communicate the spirit to the riches of the altar. Candles are guides for the spirits to the altar. Pan Muerto represents the soul of the dead and it's consumed by them when they visit their families. The foods the spirits enjoyed during their life are also placed as an offering to them. Sugar skulls are placed on the altar to honor the return of the spirit.

The celebration doesn't end there. In the afternoon, families take the festivals to the cemeteries. They visit the deceased's graves, clean them, play cards, eat their favorite food, decorate their graves with marigolds and listen to the soul's favorite music.

El Dia de Los Muertos has become increasingly popular in the U.S. It may be because we don't have a special day to honor the dead. Here in Houston, small events and art exhibitions took place around the city on November the first and second. The flea market, Trader's Village, held an event for this celebration. People were welcomed to participate in a contest that involved creating their own altar for their deceased. The three best altars won monetary prizes.

Families dedicate this whole day to their loved ones. They believe that, in return, the deceased will provide protection, wisdom, and good luck; as well as bring all the family together, physically and spiritually, on one day.



# 14 Get Involved Gators



## UHD's Newest Org Aims to Help Man's Best Friends

by Jason J. Rivas

This past summer, a history professor at UHD, Dr. Aaron Gillette, attended an Animal Welfare Conference at Cornell University's School of Veterinary Medicine. He was so enthralled by the experience that he decided to start a club at UHD dedicated to the rescue of homeless cats and dogs in the Houston area. Along with fellow history professor Dr. Jose Alvarez, UHD Sports & Fitness Associate Director Rhonda Scherer, and several other enthusiastic students, faculty members, and staff, Dr. Gillette founded the UHD Animal Rescue Club (ARC).

Houston has one of the largest homeless animal populations in America, with a staggering 1.2 million homeless pets roaming our neighborhoods. Despite the efforts of five major high-intake facilities, and countless rescues, our city also documents some of the most heart wrenching cases of animal cruelty, in addition to the overpopulation crisis. Collectively, 80,000 animals are euthanized every year, with facilities taking in thousands of animals every month. Awareness, education, and proactive public policy are the first steps to Houstonians remedying this problem.

Only a city-wide effort from Houstonians can end such tragedies. UHD's Animal Rescue Club hopes to encourage public awareness of the terrible fate of many of our four-legged companions, and to help save as many as we can. ARC's goal is to focus on educating the public through a series of seminars and workshops. As well, they hope to encourage members and supporters to volunteer at shelters and provide care for animals, with the end goal

of finding each pet a loving, responsible, and "forever" family.

ARC will host a series of on- and off-campus events to raise awareness about pet and homeless animal welfare. They recently hosted an on campus event on October 22nd, with a presentation by Andrea Birkelbach, entitled: "How to Challenge the Status Quo: How to Think Differently by Standing Up for What You Believe in Through Animal Welfare." Andrea is the founder and President of Houston Pets Alive, an organization whose mission is, "to promote and provide the resources, education and programs needed to eliminate the killing of companion animals." She brought several dogs, which she rescued, to the event for the students to meet. Ms. Birkelbach then invited ARC members to volunteer for her organization. In November ARC will run a shelter supply drive on campus. During finals week, the club will host "Pet-a-Pet Week," to give students the opportunity to "de-stress" by playing with cats. In the spring, ARC will provide UHD students with the opportunity to foster or adopt a pet; they will also present other animal welfare activities, and possibly co-host a Houston Animal Welfare Conference, tentatively scheduled for April.

These prodigious efforts by a just-established club may seem daunting to others, but ARC's members are driven by their love and passion for their pets. Every day ARC members see stray dogs and cats around campus, animals chained up in dilapidated environments, and hear the cries of mistreated animals throughout the city. Dr. Gillette himself answered one such

call when he found Teagle, a neglected and seriously wounded cat living in a ruined barn in the middle of a snowy winter in Ithaca, New York. When he first held Teagle, the gravely ill cat purred and licked his face. After such spontaneous love, Dr. Gillette resolved to do everything possible to give Teagle a new life. Teagle now spends his days enjoying the warm Texas sun, and is in perfect health. "I am doing all this because of my love of Teagle. I know all of the ARC members share similar stories, and it is because of the love we get from these pets that we have dedicated ourselves to the rescue of their homeless and abandoned brothers and sisters."

For more information about the Animal Rescue Club, contact them via email at [uhdanimalrescueclub@gmail.com](mailto:uhdanimalrescueclub@gmail.com) or visit them on their Facebook page, UHD Animal Rescue Club, at <https://www.facebook.com/UHDAnimalRescueClub>



## Baptist Student Ministries at UHD

by Christina Movaghar

Monday morning pancakes in the front of the academic building have become a staple this semester. From 8 AM to 11 AM every Monday, the Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) here at UHD gets cooking to kindly serve the student body. Dateline had the opportunity to sit and speak with Dylan Pearson, an intern for the BSM, to learn more about the organization and how it wants to build community on campus.

In fall 2014, Dylan and his co-worker, Meredith Fick, decided to start a few Bible studies at UHD in order to get to know the students. Upon doing so, they realized that because of conflicting schedules, students did not have many opportunities to get involved with campus organizations. It was then that Dylan said "we would try our best to be the glue in between and find students that want to be involved, and help motivate them" to start an organization that is based on love and community. If anyone has been a student at UHD long enough, I'm sure you remember other Christian organizations on campus that have come and gone. Dylan shared that "starting an organization is not easy," but the BSM is determined to try their best to continue the mission at UHD, and share the love of Jesus.

By serving the students and faculty here, they have the chance to reflect Christ's love for His people, while providing a safe place to discuss faith in any aspect. They want to serve the university in any capacity, as well as encourage and build relationships with the students. Whether it be handing out baked goods, or simply being available to chat, the BSM is about loving every student that walks onto campus.

Weekly Bible studies are held at different times to ensure that anyone who would like to attend will have the opportunity. Bible studies are about learning more about what is in the Bible and how students can apply it to their lives. During the studies, students pray, read, discuss and ask questions about the lesson. Here, they get the chance to experience fellowship with other students and share what has been on their hearts during the week. Their goal is to have everyone know and understand the content, as well as to

provide a space where students can ask questions and discuss the passages that are read.

To de-stress or just hangout, students and interns at the Baptist Student Ministries plan weekly outings to get together outside of Bible study and have lunch off of campus. These events get students together and assist in building lasting friendships that have a positive impact on students' lives.

The BSM wants the students to know that they are welcome to join in any event they have and hope to see new faces while serving pancakes and, if possible, during the Bible studies. While the BSM is a Christian organization, they want to encourage any student of any faith to join in on the community they are trying to build on campus.

<p><b>Monday</b> Today we meet for:</p> <p>Free Pancakes: 8-11am (by train) Bible study: 1-2pm (10th floor elevator lobby)</p>	<p><b>Baptist</b></p>
<p><b>Student</b></p>	
<p><b>Tuesday</b> Today we meet for:</p> <p>Prayer: 9-10am (food court) Bible Study: 10-11am, 1-2pm, 3-4pm (10th floor elevator)</p>	<p><b>Ministries</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> Today we meet for:</p> <p>Prayer: 9-10am (food court) Board Games: 10-12pm (40,000 Windows Cafe)</p>	
<p><b>Thursday</b> Today we meet for:</p> <p>Prayer: 9-10am (food court) Lunch in Houston: 1-2pm</p>	<p><b>at UHD</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:bsmatuhd@gmail.com">bsmatuhd@gmail.com</a></p>



Contact  
the  
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**15**  
**Gators**  
**Speak**

**LETTER #1:**

In response to *I stand with Planned Parenthood*

Dear Darci McFerran,

I am writing to express how I completely agree with the column, "I Stand with Planned Parenthood" in University of Houston-Downtown's "Dateline" written by Darci McFerran. There can be some ways to have students to become more aware that there are women who are not alone when debating on Planned Parenthood; possibly by creating student meetings, and have open discussions on how we can improve the awareness of women's alternatives.

I also appreciate how there was influential background for the creation of Planned Parenthood, and how the relation between both the government and planned parenthood was not just affecting some women, but all who are needing clinical services. This is when it was also brought to my attention while reading the article that government is not just defunding abortion, but the clinic all together. Something that is such a huge issue in American politics, it's incredible to find out that it's not very much talked about. More, than ever, women need that certain voice that is able to communicate what most women are too embarrassed to say, and this article did just that. Thank you so much for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,  
Cassandra Maltezos

**LETTER #2**

In response to *New Law Brings Body Camera's to HPD*

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regards to the article "New Law Brings Body Cameras to HPD", published in Volume 55 Issue 3 of Dateline Downtown. As we all are aware, we live in an era where our society literally records every move they make, and especially at the first sign of what they perceive as trouble. Personally I believe that the body cameras will prove to be very beneficial for both the officers and the community. Many of the videos that have been published by the media of police brutality or shooting incidents have been captured from a perspective that constantly portrays the officer to be the wrongful aggressor, but in reality this is not always the case. If these officers had been equipped with a body camera, perhaps there would be less speculation that officers are frequently using excessive force. The body cameras would provide a different perspective of the incident and would aid in investigating the entire situation and not just the portion that a bystander might have captured later into the incident. Also, I think that body cameras could perhaps assist in implementing or developing additional training for certain situations. Of course we cannot assume that all situations will use a cookie cutter solution, but if officers or the community is better informed then it could be possible to prevent further similar incidents. This is a very rough time to work as a police officer and although the body cameras will not solve the bias some members of the community have, nor will it solve occasional misconduct by law enforcement, I believe we are headed in a better direction.

Sincerely,  
Maurice Guerrero Escot

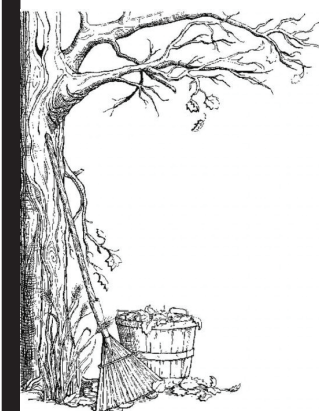
**LETTER #3**

In response to *Gator Babies*

Dear Editor,

I'm writing this letter in response to your article the "Gator Babies." The article raised many good points and in my opinion will drive more nontraditional students to attend college. Although, I am a senior graduating in December, I know if the opportunity for an on campus daycare was available my experience at UHD would have been different. Never the less, I am still excited about the daycare opening in January of 2016. More importantly, I like how the article gave a clear understanding of how the daycare will be ran and the prices. As a mother I know how hard it is to leave your child in the care of others. However, through this article the breakdown of the UHD Daycare information will ease the fear of many parents as well as encourage them to use the facility. Overall, I would like to thank you for publishing this article. I believe by publishing this article students and the community are able to gain an understanding of the important of having an on campus daycare.

Sincerely,  
Patience Harris



# TAKE ME HOME TONIGHT



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## A Thanksgiving Garden

Plant three rows of peas:  
Peace in our hearts  
Peace in our school  
Peace in our world

Plant four rows of squash:  
Squash gossip  
Squash indifference  
Squash grumbling  
Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:  
Lettuce be faithful  
Lettuce be kind  
Lettuce be obedient  
Lettuce really love one another

No garden should be without turnips:  
Turnip for lessons  
Turnip on time  
Turnip to help one another

Water freely with patience; cultivate with love.  
There is abundance in your garden  
Because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden, we must have thyme:  
Thyme for study  
Thyme for friends  
Thyme for family!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Workshop: Study Aids & Self Testing 1-3:15pm S403	10 Workshop: Study Aids & Self Testing 1-3:15pm, S403 Carol Warley Speech 2:30-3:30, B113	11 Making Ends Meet Forum 9:30-11:45am A300	12 Faith and Science Dialogue 6:30pm A300	13	14
15	16 International Education Week Begins	17	18	19 Get Your Geek On 3:30-4:30pm	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30		<i>Thanksgiving</i>			

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