

DATELINE:



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editorial • adj. relating to or preparation of

Women in Combat Positions: Good or Bad?

by Miguel Nunez

At the end of 2015, Defense Secretary Ash Carter ordered the military to open all combat positions to females. The military had until January 1 to make plans on how they would implement women in combat roles, which were usually only reserved for their male counterparts. Although officially women were not allowed in combat positions before this announcement was made, women in the military such as First Lt. Ashley White and Capt. Jenny Moreno were already fighting on the front lines. They were both members of an all-female unit that took part in combat missions and special operations. Both women fought and died fighting for their country and now they are honored for it at National Infantry Museum's Memorial Walk in Columbus, Georgia. White and Moreno, like their male counterparts, have been making sacrifices long before the announcement was made by Ash Carter.

This drastic change in the body of the military is not without its criticisms. The military has been faced with attacks on all sides, even among its own ranks. Capt. Katie Petronio, a female marine captain, said in an article for the Marine Corps Gazette, "For those who dictate policy, changing the current restrictions associated with women in the infantry may not seem significant to the way the Marine Corps operates. I vehemently disagree; this potential change will rock the foundation of our Corps for the worse and will weaken what has been since 1775, the world's most lethal fighting force." She was clear in her article that the Marines are going to be at a disadvantage if women are allowed to integrate into combat roles. For a while, such remarks could have been made and they would have nothing to stand on, but in the preparation of letting women serve in combat roles fighting alongside men, the marine corps decided to do a one-year study on the effects, if any, women had when fighting alongside male marines.

The study had some startling facts. First, it found that all-male units did far better in military situations versus units where men and women were mixed. According to the same study, "All-male units were faster, more lethal, and able to evacuate casualties in less time." The study also went on to say, "All-male squads performed better than mixed groups in 69 percent of the tasks

evaluated." It would seem then that women on the front lines may not be in the best interest of the military.

Another thing to consider was that Captain Katie Petronio said that, while deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, she suffered from polycystic ovarian syndrome which led to infertility. She also suffered from restless leg syndrome and severe muscle atrophy.

Of course, this is not to say women cannot or should not serve on the front lines. As said before, women are already serving in such a capacity. The question for most, like the Center for Military Readiness (an independent and non-partisan educational organization), is whether or not allowing women in combat roles will lead to lessening of standards? Many wonder if women are just not physically capable, but Ash Carter has said, "as long as they qualify and meet the standards, women will now be able to contribute to our mission in ways they could not before." It would seem then that Carter does not intend to let standards in the military wane. This, of course, is a good thing, but many still argue that women just are not physiologically the same as men. While this might be the case, it still does not mute the point that women have already served on the front lines and have done a good job at it. Such as in 2005, when Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester led a convoy in Iraq against

insurgents that attacked her unit, or in 2007, when Army Specialist Monica Lin Brown helped save the lives of her brothers in arms in Afghanistan after insurgents attacked her unit and blew up their vehicle. According to Women in International Security, an organization dedicated to advancing women in leadership roles in the field of international peace and security, "Female service members have earned more than 10,000 combat action badges and Bronze Stars, respectively, and at least 12 Bronze Stars with a 'V.'" It would seem then that women are already putting in their fair share of combat and being recognized for it.

Now that it has become official, more women are seeking combat roles that were historically closed to them before. More than 200,000 jobs will now be open to women interested in joining. What does this mean for the future of the U.S. military? Well, that depends on who you ask. Some will say that women just are not up to the challenge of front line combat and all that entails, thus the military will suffer for it. Others may suggest that women are already on the front lines doing what the men are doing and that there is no reason to say that women cannot.

The future of the military may not be too clear, but one thing is: Certain military roles will no longer be closed off to people just because they are not

a certain sex. In the year 2016, after Defense Secretary Ash Carter made his announcement in late 2015, the opportunity to fight for your country, in every role possible, will be 100 percent open to everyone.



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&
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O'Kane Theater and *The Unexpected Guest*

By Joshua Burgman

By the time this article is published, the O'Kane Theater will be in the final weekend of its production of Agatha Christie's *The Unexpected Guest*. If you missed it, that's unfortunate.

The Unexpected Guest is a story that is set in South Wales during the late 1950's. Christie, who is best known for such works as *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* (1926), *Peril at End House* (1932) and *The ABC Murders* (1935), released *The Unexpected Guest* in 1958. The play became so popular that it attracted the likes of such fans as Queen Elizabeth II. While there is no royal box at O'Kane, the performance was worthy of royalty.

Directed by UHD's Dr. Thomas J. Lyttle, the cast and crew recreated Christie's masterpiece to perfection. The set, designed by Frank J. Vela, was adequately furnished with pieces that transported the audience back to a time when floral sofas with questionable upholstery was all the rage. Originally the story took place on a foggy night, something that did not go unnoticed by the set crew. The elements of fog, and the lighting that accompanied it, designed by Anthony P. Reilly, perfectly shrouded the stage in an air of mystery.

While the stage was appealing and the set appropriately designed for the story—it was the acting that stole the show. Undoubtedly O'Kane Theater has some of the best actors in Houston. One in particular is Ralph St. Vincent Bradley. A junior majoring in political science with a minor in theater, *The Unexpected Guest* was Bradley's third major UHD production and he has yet to disappoint. With each character he portrays, Bradley seems to embody them. As the studious Inspector Thomas in this presentation, he was witty, serious and completely enthralled in solving the murder of Richard Warwick.

Accompanying St. Vincent Bradley's genius on-stage was an up-and-coming star of O'Kane, Jerrell Brown. Brown played the brother of Richard Warwick, Jan. During his portrayal of Jan, who was described as mentally challenged, Brown excellently navigated his way through the mind of a character that seemed deranged at first, but then displayed moments of clarity that only added to the mystery of the story. When asked how he did this, Brown explained how important it was that he "got to know the character," even going so far as to "talk to myself," he said.

Even the role of Bennie, played by Dateline—Downtown's very own Darci McFerran, was a delight. McFerran's role as Bennie must have been challenging. Bennie was responsible for taking care of Richard Warwick. When she discovered him dead, she went through a range of emotions, which McFerran did well to portray, especially at the end of the story when she was tasked with trying to aid Inspector Thomas in his investigation.

Each character already mentioned added so much to the production, but the two main characters, Laura Warwick played by Chelsea Martinez and Michael Starkwedder played by Max Weimmer, completed the talented crew. "We practiced six days a week," they said. "It was intense." It was evident from their performances that their practice was not in vain. Weimmer's portrayal of Starkwedder was inspiring. As the unexpected guest, he boggled the minds of the audience. Weimmer's performance made you want to know who Starkwedder was before he appeared at the home of the Warwicks.

After the show its director, Dr. Lyttle, seemed very pleased with the production that was put on. Lyttle made it clear that his goal is always to "educate" his actors, and what better play to do that with than with one that was written by one of the world's most critically acclaimed playwrights. The last showing of *The Unexpected Guest* at O'Kane will be the weekend of April 9. If you missed out this semester, Lyttle only on had one piece of advice, "try out next semester!"



O'Kane Gallery Presents: A Life in Books: A Bleu Mobley Retrospective

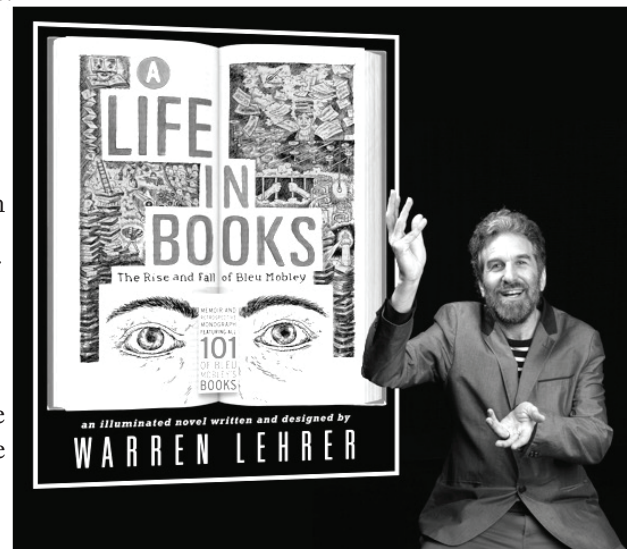
by Karen Reyes

The University of Houston — Downtown's O'Kane Gallery is exhibiting the impressive work of artist Warren Lehrer called, *A Life in Books: A Bleu Mobley Retrospective*. The exhibition is based on his award-winning book, *A Life in Books: The Rise and Fall of Bleu Mobley*. The novel contains 101 books, all written by the fictional protagonist, Bleu Mobley, who while in prison, reflects on his life and career over the course of one night, recording his trajectory into a microcassette.

Warren Lehrer is a writer and designer, well-known in the areas of visual literature and design authorship. Lehrer has received numerous awards, such as the Brendan Gill Prize, the IPPY Outstanding Book of the Year Award and the USA Best New Fiction Award, for both his books and multimedia. Lehrer is currently a full-time Professor at Purchase College SUNY and is a founder of the "Designer as Author" grad program at the School of Visual Arts. The performance and reading of *A Life in Books* first showcased in the Art Book Fair at PS1 MoMa, and from there Lehrer's art has traveled throughout the U.S and Canada, being presented in festivals, universities, bookstores and art centers.

The exhibition is displayed as a retrospect of the life and career of Bleu Mobley, which includes all first editions of Mobley's 101+ cover designs, accompanied by their original catalogue descriptions, interior pages, book-like objects, animations and video performances of book excerpts, performed by the band BETTY, actress and poet La Bruja and beatbox artist Chesney Snow. The exhibition also includes the reproduction of the book composed by Bleu Mobley during his junior high school years, working in a letterpress shop. During the exhibition, Lehrer, with a hint of humor, presents an overview of the life of Bleu Mobley. The retrospective focuses on the creative process of a writer and artist, reflecting on the half century's global events.

Warren Lehrer's exhibition is on view until April 23 in the O'Kane Gallery, now located on the third floor of the Girard Street Building. Make sure to witness this amazing art before it continues its tour across the country.



Hamilton: The New American Classic

Jason Jonathan Rivas

How does a bastard, orphan, son of a whore, and Scotsman — dropped in the middle of a forgotten spot in the Caribbean by Providence, impoverished and in squalor — grow up to be a hero with a universally acclaimed musical on Broadway? His name is Alexander Hamilton and there are a million things he hasn't done, but just you wait... and read what his life's tale has inspired.

Never before have history and the world of the musical affectionately intertwined to create such a tour de force on Broadway. Historically-based musicals, most remarkably *Les Misérables*, have excelled in romanticizing and eloquently capturing historical events on stage. However, wherein *Les Miz* used a historical backdrop to emphasize its fictional account, *Hamilton* is novel in that the musical itself is a fairly accurate portrayal of factual events. Credit for this remarkable stage production deservedly goes to two men: Ron Chernow and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Chernow was a Ph.D. candidate turned freelance writer whose English literature background laid the foundation for the musical. The acclaimed writer wrote the biography *Alexander Hamilton* in 2004. His vivid elaboration and insights of Hamilton's life immersed readers with engaging accounts of an immigrant fighting for his place within the contexts of society. His writing style appealed to both scholars and historians as well as avid readers and thinkers, such as Miranda.

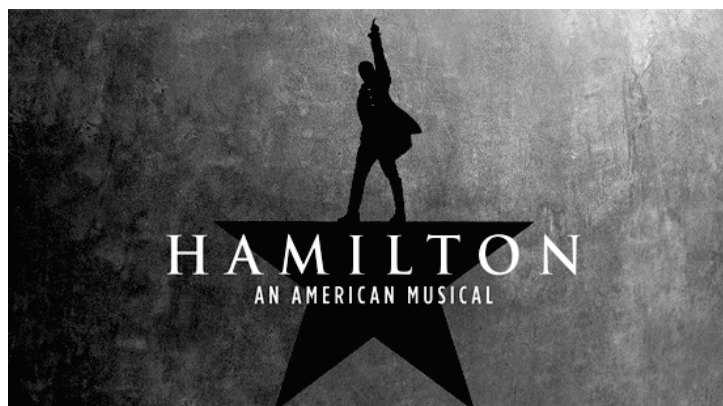
Miranda is a well-respected composer, librettist, and actor who initially earned recognition for his original musical, *In the Heights*. In 2009, Miranda purchased *Hamilton* and was enthralled by Chernow's enticing story of one of America's founding fathers. Inspired, Miranda compelled himself to develop a rap about Hamilton for a fine arts symposium, at the White House. As time progressed, his rap blossomed into a full-fledged musical, with Chernow serving as a historical consultant. Together, they would see to the resurrection of the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury on stage.

The musical is an intricate tapestry of interrelated correlations, conveying a dynamic message to the masses.

Hamilton's upbringing as an immigrant, struggling to survive in a foreign land, is both appealing and personal for many Americans, including Miranda himself. His parents, like Hamilton, emigrated from the Caribbean to the U.S. for better opportunities. Miranda believed Hamilton's story, presented through raps, rhythm, and rhymes, would mesmerize a new generation of theatre lovers and enthusiasts. And through following Chernow's blueprint, Miranda was able to articulate not only Hamilton's pursuit of the "American Dream" to the general public, but keep it relatively factual and authentic.

These forces have converged on 226 West 46th Street to create a hurricane of emotion, enchantment, and inspiration. The show has been sold out since its February 2015 debut, and will run into 2017; several planned tours are in development; an official Broadway recording has dominated the rap and musical charts on Billboard. Miranda, his work, and his company have become pop culture fixtures. But what is perhaps most captivating is *Hamilton*, both the man and musical's central message.

The \$10 bill model and founding father's life was based on the concept of getting a lot farther, working a lot harder, and being a lot smarter than one believes by being a self-starter; in doing so, one is capable of achieving their version of the "American Dream." For Alexander Hamilton, it was about legacy, and as one sees through the pages of Chernow and musical numbers of Miranda, he was successful.



Dawn of Wonder Woman

by Chelsea Chance

Audiences are flocking to theatres in order to see the "ultimate showdown" between two of history's most famous superheroes: Batman and Superman. While that may be the incentive advertisers were promoting, a recent survey conducted by movie ticket sales site, Fandango reveals that 88% of those surveyed were excited to see Wonder Woman in her debut on the silver screen. Despite her status as a founding member of the Justice League, Wonder Woman has never left the small screen until now, which is surprising given the twelve Batman-centric movies produced, with one slated for future release. Add that to the ten Superman movies and what do we get: an abundance of male superheroes and a lack of representation of kick-ass females.

While the film *Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice*, has received mixed reviews, *Wonder Woman* has not. The *Guardian* hailed her as the "best thing in the movie"; *Forbes* said that "we only get enough Wonder Woman to leave us wanting more"; and the entertainment website *The Wrap* said it was she alone who "injects some real vitality into the sludgy, superhero sameness."

The praise, in part, is because *Wonder Woman* is not objectified as a woman and is allowed enough screen time to display her warrior prowess in the film. Despite her limited time in *Batman v. Superman*, *Wonder Woman* exudes the strength and confidence to carry a solo movie franchise. She trumps the bad guys at every opportunity in the film with the help of her signature lasso. In the movie's climactic battle scene, *Wonder Woman*, even amid the destruction and grim environment, flashes a smile while fighting. The grin signaled her confidence and comfort in her fighting abilities as a warrior in her element. Gal Gadot is the first actress to portray *Wonder Woman* in a live-action production since the famous Lynda Carter from the late 1970's *Wonder Woman* TV series. From 1975 to 1979, Carter played the Amazon princess in the television series and has remained the most recognizable face of *Wonder Woman* for four decades.

Thankfully, actress Gal Gadot (the 30-year-old actress is best known for her roles in four "Fast and Furious" films) will be reprising her role as *Wonder Woman* in the self-titled movie due out in 2017 and will go on to repeat her role in the next two DC Comics instalments: parts one and two of *The Justice League*. *Wonder Woman* will be the first female superhero who has ever been given her own stand-alone film, and it will be the first big-budget superhero/comic book movie directed by a woman: Patty Jenkins.



UHD Student Life Center

by Lacresha Rosenthal

On January 4, 2016, I was probably the first person at the door when the Student Life Center reopened for the Spring semester; not only because I made a promise to myself to lose some weight in the New Year, but because as a student at University of Houston – Downtown (UHD) the cost of utilizing the facility is included in our tuition. Once there, I quickly noticed the many postings around the Center announcing the various fitness programs and workshops to be offered in the coming weeks. Until then, I would focus on cardio and basic resistance training to get back in the groove. I had not worked out in years, but being an athlete in high school I was fairly familiar with the gym equipment.

First, I completed the fitness assessment that is required of anyone wanting to take part in a personal training session. This fitness assessment is also a great measuring stick to get an idea of where you are on your fitness journey. Aside from personal training, the Student Life Center offers incentive programs that are designed to motivate participants to adopt a healthy lifestyle. By participating in any of the many fitness programs and workshops, students and staff can accumulate points for the popular “The Challenge” program, and use those points to earn prizes. Also popular, Fitness BINGO! With each fitness program or workshop attended, participants receive a sticker to be placed on the BINGO card. Fill one line and receive a water bottle, two lines a T-shirt, fill the entire card and be entered into a drawing for a Fitbit at the end of the semester.

The first class I attended was “Jillian Michaels’ BODYSHRED” and I was hooked from day one, although I quickly realized how out of shape I was. BODYSHRED is 30 minutes of nonstop High-intensity training (HIIT) that is sure to leave you feeling motivated to do it again, only better. It was during these BODYSHRED classes that I first encountered UHD Fitness Coordinator, and Master BODYSHRED Trainer, Lori Ramirez. Her intense knowledge of muscle groups and other fitness jargon was attention-grabbing, as I am only minimally familiar due to taking an Anatomy and Physiology course a few semesters ago. Lori’s passion for fitness and go-getter mentality prove to be effective in motivating the class to go all out and leave it all on the floor. So, of course, once I read a bulletin that indicated she would be hosting a “Finding Your Keys to Motivation” workshop, I was sure to be there. This workshop was true to its title and assisted attendees in finding what motivated them. During the workshop Lori shared brief details about her own fitness journey and insight into what motivates her. Because of those tidbits of information, I asked Lori to join me for a brief chat:

Lacresha: Are you a student at UHD? If graduated, what is your degree in and why did you choose it?

Lori: I am a proud UHD Alumni! Most people assume I have a degree in fitness, but I actually received my Bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts with a concentration in Art History right before becoming a fitness professional. I chose this degree because my original plan was to become a high school art teacher. Art was my first passion and I’ve always loved to teach, so I figured why not combine the two. I’ve been in art

competitions since the age of 5 and I still paint and draw in my spare time. I’m also an MBA student with a concentration in Leadership here at UHD. I have a genuine desire to learn to be a good leader, rather than simply being in charge. I’ve always ended up with roles as team leader, manager, supervisor, etc., so this degree just seemed to fit me.

Lacresha: As Fitness Coordinator, what are some of your responsibilities?

Lori: Surprisingly, my Fine Arts degree has been a great help in my current position. As Fitness Coordinator, I have to get creative with designing, implementing and marketing fitness programs. I’ve been able to use the knowledge I gained in graphic design, marketing and thinking outside of the box to get creative with these programs. Lots of people think I get to work out and teach classes all day and, as great as that sounds, that’s definitely not the case. Each semester, I create the studio schedule, healthy workshop schedule and incentive programs. I communicate with certification programs off-site, such as Jillian Michaels BODYSHRED, Aerobics & Fitness Association of America, and several others to set-up certification workshops at UHD in order to offer our members a more convenient and discounted way to get certified in these areas. I’m responsible for hiring and training all current and aspiring fitness staff members. I also serve as Co-Advisor to both the cheer and dance teams.

Lacresha: During the “Finding Your Motivation Keys” workshop you mentioned that your family is a contributing factor to you wanting to get and stay fit, would you care to expound on that?

Lori: My family has a history of diabetes, high cholesterol and cancer. My grandparents died of a heart attack, cancer and a diabetes related issue. In my early 20’s, my mother had two strokes and that’s when the importance of health became a reality to me. I was not going to go down the same path and I was determined to help my family realize their health is important. I became a certified trainer and began my own fitness classes which my family immediately joined. My mom went from being on 7 different medications to 0 in less than a year! For me, it has never been about looking good; it’s about your overall health, both physically and mentally. In my family I’m viewed as the fitness person. Knowing this, I feel it’s very important to lead by example. I have to live a healthy lifestyle in order to lead others towards a healthy lifestyle.

Lacresha: A lot of people start out on a fitness journey, but it is short lived. What advice can you offer toward staying the course?

Lori: I often say “You’re stronger than you think.” I truly believe much of fitness is a mind game. You have to be mentally ready to make a change. Not ready to lose weight or ready to get buff. Ready to make a change! I hate to say it but if your mind is

not in it, you will quit. My advice would be: decide whether or not you’re ready to make the change, know why you want to change, make a realistic plan that you are able to stick to and identify the things that will keep you motivated. In the moments you want to give up, bring out those motivation keys and remember why you wanted the change.

Lacresha: How do you stay so fit? Workout routine? Diet?

Lori: Fitness literally is my life, both in and out of work. I work out 6 times a week for about 30-60 minutes a day. My exercises vary, but I’m always sure to hit every muscle. I divide muscles amongst six days like this: push muscles, pull muscles, cardio and core, shoulders, legs, cardio. I usually do some type of HIIT training like BODYSHRED on day 6. I pay a lot of attention to what I put in my body so my meals are very balanced. I’m pretty simple with little time to prepare meals so I prep my food at the beginning of the week. I eat 6 times a day about 2-3 hours apart.

Lacresha: With putting so much energy into motivating other people, what do you do to motivate yourself?

Lori: What the students don’t realize is they’re what motivates me. I could be having a really bad day then teach a class or get into conversation about fitness with a student passing by and they change my entire attitude without even knowing it. Being able to take part in helping others accomplish things and realize that they are more and can achieve more is why I’m in the fitness industry. When I’m not motivated to do something, I just think about all the reasons it’s important that I do, and am reminded of this by all those I work so hard at motivating every day.

The Student Life Center offers an array of reasonably priced specialty services including Swedish and Deep Tissue Massages priced at \$25 for students and \$35 for staff per 45-minute session; Beach Body Boot Camp, MMA Fundamentals, Yoga and Women’s Self Defense Workshops. For a detailed listing of services and pricing, don’t hesitate to visit the Student Life Center from 7am – 9pm Monday through Thursday, and 7am – 7pm on Friday. All programs and classes are held on the third floor of the Student Life Center in the Studio. Be sure to have your UHD ID card or 900 number ready upon entering the facility.



5-Day Orientation for Incoming Freshman

by Kara Moore

You may not know this, but UHD's retention rate is kind of low. Retention measures how many students that start at UHD eventually graduate from UHD. Therefore, it doesn't account for the many transfer students who come from various community college campuses. A low retention rate makes accreditation hard to keep, so the school administration is always looking for new ways to get first-year college students to start and stay at our campus. The newest idea that they hope will work: a five-day orientation starting in the Fall of 2016, for all incoming freshmen.

Sarah Crass, the interim director of student activities and events, explained the genesis of this new program. She explained that the Retention Task Force, a group of professors and staff, met and discussed the best way to improve retention. They looked at the currently employed "Freshman Summer Success Program," which is an optional extended orientation that — when attended by students — often produces higher retention rates. They looked at the University of Texas' "Frog Camp" and A&M's "Fish Camp," and saw that these extended orientation models helped students attach themselves to each of those universities.

"The idea of building this five-day program was, 'How can we build a community among the students that are coming in, because we are a commuter campus and we don't have the ability to do that in residence halls, and then how can we help students understand academic preparedness?'" Crass said, before proceeding into the breakdown of the orientation.

Each part of the orientation will be run by the individual colleges. Business and Public Service will run together, Humanities will have its own week, Social Sciences will have their own week, and an Inter-Disciplinary week will be held last, for those students who are undecided and undeclared. The program will only be for first-time college students, who will be required to sign-up and attend all five days of the orientation. The aim is really for freshmen aged 17, 18, or 19 years old, probably just getting out of high school. "Admitted Students Day," now known as "Gator Ready," will still be required for attendance, and will take place sometime from early June to early July. During that half-day process, students will sign up for a specific orientation that matches their major (or lack thereof). During the actual five days, there

will be events planned by each college, and classes to prepare students for the college curriculum. Sarah stated it will be like a "camp style program (combined) with a traditional orientation." If students cannot attend all five days, they will get a talk about college preparedness. The belief is that students will be coming to UHD three, four, or five days a week, starting that fall and should be prepared to come to a five-day orientation the summer beforehand.

The response from involved faculty is positive so far, according to Crass. "The more we talk to people, the more excited they get about the program," she stated. Current students have some feelings about it, seeing it mostly as a huge inconvenience, but Crass said that it will be hard to tell how incoming students feel until they experience it. The funding for the program will be provided via the orientation fee that all students entering college pay, and then there are two grants that they are also pulling from. The Title V grant money will be reallocated to this new program, and the grant funded "Freshman Summer Success" money will also be partially reallocated.

Will this program be a success? That has yet to be seen. It seems strange to hold such a long orientation at a commuter campus where students are sometimes older and already in the professional workforce. But based on the interview, it looks like the program isn't designed for those students. If it's a success, it will continue on into the next few years. If not, it's back to the drawing board.



Juice Cleansing: May Not Be a Great Diet Choice

by Karen Reyes

With summer vacation just around the corner, it is that time of the year where men and women want to be in their best physical shape, a goal which is often achieved by following rigid diets and equally rigorous exercise routines. With just a click of the mouse, you can choose from millions of diets and exercise plans to jumpstart your weight loss and catapult you towards your summer body. A popular diet fad that many young adults and celebrities seem to subject themselves to is the juice cleansing diet. While some people proclaim high satisfaction with its results, a juice cleansing diet may not be the healthiest choice.

There are many kinds of "juice-cleanse diets" out there, each with their own claim. A juice cleansing diet basically consists of replacing one or two meals with healthy shakes, a mixture of vegetables and fruits of your choice. However, some people completely substitute solid food with just healthy juices for the duration of two, and sometimes four, weeks. The idea of this diet is not only for weight loss, but to give your body, or system, a break from all the junk we usually consume, by giving it pure nutrition. Using this juice cleanse as a detox could temporarily make you feel great, but using it as a weight loss plan is not such a good idea.

Juice-cleanse programs, which exclude solid food, promise to fill your body with hydration and nutrition. Of course, most juicers would lose weight consuming only 1,000 calories per day, but juice cleanses will never accomplish weight loss that can be sustained for a substantial period because you will only lose water weight. Although juicing does provide all the same vitamins and minerals as the daily serving of fruits and vegetables, you can't juice for a whole two weeks, or more, and expect to be healthy. You run a high risk of all kinds of metabolic and electrolyte freak-outs. Our bodies naturally need to consume protein and fats in our diets to keep energized; they fuel our bodies. We need enough calories so that our bodies don't think that we are starving to death.

UHD's Sports and Fitness offers Health and Fitness workshops which help you stay motivated while trying to reach your goals and keep you updated with fitness and diet information that run throughout the year. They also offer various Fitness Programs such as Bodyshred, Zumba, Kickboxing, Yogalates, among many others which are held in our own Student Life Center located on the third floor of the building adjacent to the Academic building.

The juice cleansing diet may be a fast way to lose water weight, but it is definitely not the smartest or healthiest way. Having a balance between a positive exercise and diet plan is the best choice, providing long-lasting results that help you achieve that summer body, all year long.

“Celebration of Expression:” Charity Drag Show Raises over \$1,400

By Kara Moore

StandOUT is UHD’s LGBTQ+ on-campus organization, which hosts a variety of events to raise awareness and provide a safe space for LGBTQ+ students. For the second year in a row, StandOUT hosted its annual Drag Show, titled “A Celebration of Expression,” with the proceeds going towards “Out for Education,” a scholarship fund benefitting Houston-area students. Gathering at Meteor Lounge in the historic Montrose area, a mixed crowd of college students and supporters watched a spectacular show full of drops, splits, and a lot of booty shaking.

If you’ve never been to a drag show at Meteor, I’ll paint you a picture: a stage, with fountains lining a back wall and showers in the middle. A catwalk going down the middle of the dance floor. Posh, armless, off white couches, sitting in rows on either side and in front of the catwalk. Lights flashing all around. TV screens conveniently located in several areas, all playing whatever is happening on stage. In honor of Out for Education, there were balloons and banners carefully placed on the ceiling and stage. Just walking in, the club seemed to promise a memorable night.

Two UHD students performed during the show, and two MC’d during as well. Juan Leija, Co-President of StandOUT and Daral Moore-Washington provided excellent transfers between drag queens’ performances and facilitated questions after each performer’s routine. The first queen did a startlingly hilarious “Dora the Explorer” themed bit; others opted for a more dramatic “Celine Dion” type performance, and one queen in particular dropped to the floor and did cartwheels on the stage. They all had spectacular awards like “Miss Gay Houston,” “Miss Meteor,” “Miss Gay Houston America,” “Mr. All Star Continental”, and “Miss Gay Heart of Texas.” There were two student performers: one who was not dressed in drag and performed a Fall Out Boy song, and another who was in drag. “Devine Intervention” started off with Beyoncé’s new hit “Formation” and incorporated plenty more Beyoncé and Nicki Minaj later on.

At the end of the night there was already over \$1,000 collected, but one queen asked everyone to dig into their pockets and scrounge up what they could, which added several hundred dollars to create a grand total of \$1,407.25 (+ 10 Euros). It was quite a successful night.





Bayou Bash

Crawfish Boil • Live Zydeco Band

2016 Bayou Bash!

Student Activities and Campus Activities Board invite you to our annual Bayou Bash with a crawfish boil, family activities, live music and much more!

Event Details

Bayou Bash!

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

South Deck/Portico (Rain location)

4:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Crawfish Boil and Beer service begins @ 5:30 PM

Ticket Information

UHD Staff, Faculty and Community: \$10.00

UHD Student tickets are FREE (with wristband). Bring your Student ID and a copy of your current class schedule to Student Activities (S204) to get your wristband in advance and skip the lines! Wristbands are REQUIRED for food and beverage

Advance tickets will be available starting Monday, April 11 until Wednesday, April 13 at 12:00 PM. Your ticket includes 1 lb. of crawfish and one beverage.

Music provided by: Platinum Players Zydeco Band

Beverages provided by: Saint Arnold Brewing Company and Coca Cola

For more information please contact Student Activities at (713) 221- 8573 or visit us in S204.

ED'S BAYOU CLEAN UP

Gator up and serve and

Free food! Prizes! & more!

UHD SGA

Date: **Friday, April 15th**

When: **10AM**

Where: **North Deck, near the gym area**

SCA@UHD.EDU

UHD

Crime Within the UH System

By Terrance Turner

Upon returning from Spring Break, you may have seen signs posted on doors (or a GatorMail message, if you actually check it) advising you of an incident that occurred over the break. “An incident occurred in the portico area at 12:50 p.m. Thursday, March 17,” the message read. “Two males, one a student and one who was not a member of the university community, were involved in a physical altercation. Witnesses called police, who took both males into custody after a foot chase. The district attorney’s office advised that disorderly conduct-fighting charges are to be filed on both individuals. The non-member of the university community was also given a written criminal trespass warning not to return to UHD property.”

This kind of message begs the question: how much crime really occurs on the UHD campus? How do those rates compare to that of other campuses in the UH System? Dateline Downtown investigated crime logs for each of the four colleges — Victoria, Clear Lake, UH Main campus, and UH Downtown — from Feb. 2 through April 1. The emphasis was on theft, burglary, and violent crime.

As it turns out, the Victoria campus either has virtually nonexistent crime rates or just errant bookkeeping: the only complaint was a criminal mischief report filed on March 7. UH Clear Lake also had minimal mayhem. For February, there were only three thefts (one of a student’s Jeep), one burglary, and one assault (the wife of a UHCL student. She declined to press charges). In March, there were only two thefts.

UH Downtown was a different story. The February 2 through April 1 report provided on the UHD website (all data was obtained online) uncovered 11 thefts, plus two grand theft auto incidents, for a grand total of 13. In

all, there were 159 incidents over the two-month period; nearly 60% were “suspicious circumstances” or “suspicious person” reports. Only one assault was reported, on Feb. 8. The case was closed with an arrest.

As you might have predicted, the University of Houston (main campus) has the most criminal occurrences of the four campuses. It is also unique in its records: it offers “Daily Crime Bulletins,” as opposed to the monthly ones issued by the other three schools. UH does this with good reason: some of the daily reports take up two pages, and there were 90 recorded campus incidents from Feb. 2 – 16. In February, there were 38 incidents of theft (items stolen included phones, headphones, bikes, wallets, and bicycle tires). One campus burglary was recorded. Seventeen motor vehicle burglaries occurred, including seven on Feb. 3 and five on Feb. 20. There were four assaults, and one aggravated robbery on Feb. 2, where one of two male suspects had a handgun.

In March, the number of thefts dropped significantly to a mere 25, but the items being stolen became more and more diverse. There were three cases of stolen laundry in addition to the usual thefts of bicycles, backpacks, wallets and phones. On March 23, a rather unusual theft: “A UH contractor reported the theft of a leaf blower from the north side of the softball field, between 8:30pm and 10:00pm on 03/19/16.” Four days later, on March 23, another oddball crime:

“A UH student reported that his unattended vinyl records were stolen from his dorm room,” the report said.

On March 31, the plot thickened: “A UH contractor reported the theft of numerous bottles of liquor from a storage closet in the [TDECU] Stadium between 12:00 pm on 03/26/16

and 4:00 pm on 03/31/16.” That same day, “a UH staff member reported the theft of a phone charging station from the first floor of the library, between 2:00 pm on 03/30/16 and 5:52 pm on 03/31/16.” On top of it all, 15 motor vehicle burglaries took place during that month – including one in which a UH student said her parking permit was taken. Seven assaults were committed, three of them between current or former couples.

Worse yet, some crimes involved family members. An aggravated assault with a deadly weapon rocked Lot 12B on March 10: “An unaffiliated male visitor reported that an altercation between himself and his cousin that began off-campus escalated when his cousin pointed a handgun at him,” the bulletin read. The suspect was detained and arrested a short time later – clearing the case with a juvenile arrest. Obviously, safety in any part of the city (or, for that matter, the world) is something one should strive for. Watch out for any suspicious packages or people around campus. But when you visit our sister campus on Cullen, be sure to label your belongings — and hold them a little closer.



ALLEY THEATRE

hosting LORT Conference

Wednesday April 27th @ 4:00pm

The LORT conference is a unique opportunity for UHD students to attend a gathering of approximately 100 arts managers (specifically NFP professional resident theatre companies) from across the nation. In the last three years, LORT has developed an Equality, Inclusion and Diversity initiative. As part of this initiative the Alley has started an Ambassadors program. The purpose is to educate as diverse a population as possible about career opportunities in LORT theatres. We will have a group of people from around the country, who will address an assembled group of students interested in a career in theatre, about job opportunities. This is not an opportunity for actors to learn about how to audition.

*These opportunities are specifically aimed at ADMIN jobs, but designers, directors, and production students are also welcome!
There will be light refreshments and an extended Q&A session!*

*Please RSVP to Ten Eyck Swackhamer
teneycks@alleytheatre.org*

15 Years in North Korea

By: Christopher Joseph

On March 16, 2016, University of Virginia student Otto Warmbier was sentenced to fifteen years in prison with hard labor in North Korea, for stealing a North Korean propaganda sign from a “staff-only” area in the Yanggakdo International Hotel in Pyongyang. “North Korea’s sentencing of Otto Warmbier to 15 years hard labor for a college-style prank is outrageous and shocking, and should not be permitted to stand,” Phil Robertson, deputy director of the Human Rights Watch Asia division, said in an email statement.

Warmbier, 21, was with a China-based traveling company called “Young Pioneer Tours.” He was arrested on January 2, while attempting to leave North Korea from Pyongyang Airport. The crime in question was called an “act of hostility against the state” by the North Korean government.

Earlier this year, on February 29, a press conference was held in North Korea, where Warmbier admitted to stealing the propaganda from the hotel. During his confession speech, Warmbier gave the reason as to why he committed the crime. He claimed that he was manipulated by a member of the Friendship United Methodist Church into stealing the sign, stating the church would then hang-up the sign as a “trophy.” Warmbier also said that the University of Virginia’s own Z Society, a philanthropic organization, encouraged him to steal the propaganda, as an act of bravery that would increase his reputation. Warmbier went on to assert that both the church and the Z Society took advantage of his family’s financial situation. The church, in return for the sign, offered to give Warmbier a used car that cost approximately \$10,000.

“I want to clearly state that I was the political

victim of the United States’ consistent hostile policy against the DPR Korea... The United States administration does not distinguish between friendly and enemy countries. Therefore, they manipulate people like myself to commit crimes in those countries,” said Warmbier during his North Korean press conference.

In a 2014 interview with NBC News, former prisoner of a North Korean labor camp, Hyuk Kim, discussed how he was sentenced to three years of hard labor when he was just 16 years-old. In 1998, Kim was caught crossing the border into China in search for food. Kim was caught by state security and thrown into Jungeori Labor Camp. During his time at the camp Kim’s body withered away, and he only became obsessed with one thing: food.

“Sometimes you get lucky and you were able to catch a rat or two as a snack, which you’d skin, dry the meat out and eat, usually raw. If you had tried to cook the rats, the guards would smell the meat or the fire, and beat you mercilessly,” said Kim. That was just one of the many horrors Kim had to live with during his time at Jungeori; horrors that are seemingly in-store for Warmbier.

Currently there is no petition to give Warmbier a shorter sentence, and this is mainly thanks to social media. Many people who have heard his story believe that Warmbier “deserved it” and that he should have known better to commit a crime in a foreign state, especially in one like North Korea.

A Note from

Professional Society of Criminal Justice Students

For the first time ever, the Professional Society of Criminal Justice Students’ latest honorable guests were FBI’s Agent Baker and Mr. Rangwala. Agent Baker, an accounting major, works with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. During our latest general meeting on March 24th, Agent Baker spoke to us about the various challenges we need to surpass to become an agent. Mr. Rangwala, on the other hand, is currently Houston’s FBI Citizens Academy president, where people who are highly active in their community participate in activities, such as, getting to know what the FBI is doing for the country and appreciate their work.

It is our goal for members to be imperatively involved, not only within our organization, but, also doing community service and reaching their goals in the Criminal Justice field. PSCJS gives our gratitude to one of our members, Kiran Valani, a criminal justice major and psychology minor, who knows Mr. Rangwala as her trainer and being part of the Ismaili Muslim community. Her future goals of serving people and going to graduate school comes to show how our organization works together and for the community. Kiran says, “PSCJS helps polish leadership, explores the criminal justice field, approach people who are already in the CJ community, and look beyond the uniform jobs.”



Turnaround Houston

By Joshua Burgman

While continuing in the traditions of his predecessors, newly-elected Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner has launched an ambitious plan to tackle unemployment and crime by “offer[ing] access to job training, resume writing, tattoo removal social service agencies, educational institutions, counseling and intervention to help hard-to-employ Houstonians turn their lives around,” according to the city’s official website.

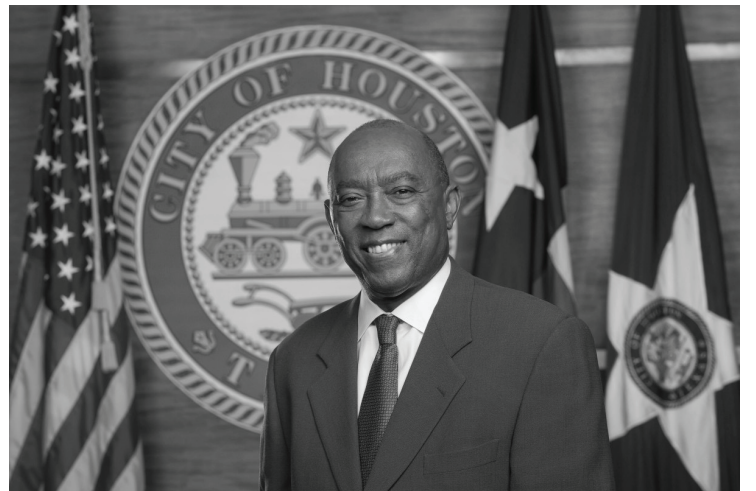
During the City of Houston’s annual March on Crime, Turner announced the creation of Turnaround Houston, an initiative Turner hopes will not only fulfill campaign promises to reduce crime rates, but also provide employment resources for “hard-to-employ” Houstonians, especially those recently released from jail. “There is a part of our city that is in dire need of assistance, and it’s our responsibility to ensure that they are plugged in to vital resources and become a part of our city’s success,” Turner said during a March press conference.

According to the Houston Chronicle, “Each of the fairs will cost about \$6,000 and accommodate about 500 people, with services including resume writing, tattoo removal and job training.” The initiative launched its inaugural resource fair on March 26, at the Sunnyside Multi-Service Center. Weeks before the first fair, Turner sat down with 97.9 The Box’s “Mad Hatta Morning Show” and explained his vision for the fair. “I want it to be more of a resource fair than anything,” he said, noting that anyone can go and fill out an application, but that

without the necessary resources, jobs are a lot harder to attain.

As stated earlier, Turner’s ultimate goal for Turnaround Houston is to hopefully positively affect the areas of Houston that are low-income and high in crime. He believes that, by offering jobs instead of stigmatization, ex-criminals will have a shot at re-entering society without having to worry about recidivism.

According to the City of Houston’s official website, the next resource fair is supposed to be held in May on the east end of the city. Although a date has not been chosen yet, the mayor has encouraged everyone to mark their calendars and tell their friends. If Turnaround Houston is able to change the life of at least one Houstonian, then it will be a success.



Escape Houston: Providing a Noble Service

By Elisa Gonzalez

Being a college student and not having the budget for travel seems like a cruel joke. Your mind is open and receptive to new ideas and information, but you’re stuck in a place that becomes miserably familiar for four or more years. Thankfully, students pining for the kinds of learning experiences that only travel can provide have a new hope: EscapeHouston.com.

This website, a personal savior of mine, describes itself as “a travel blog that covers anything related to travel from Houston to anywhere else. This isn’t a blog about Houston; it’s about bailing-out, skipping town and going on vacation for as cheaply as possible.”

Before finding Escape Houston, most times that I’d considered taking a trip in the past went like this: I would search one of the popular booking sites—like Travelocity or Orbitz—for dates that seemed favorable, and my plans would come to a screeching halt when I saw the price of tickets. Sure, I could have kept searching for different travel dates and compared fares, but that was like a welcome excuse to just save my money instead.

My endless cycle of setting out to travel and then immediately becoming discouraged has been broken by the noble service that Escape provides. They do all the searching and comparing for you, poring through every airline and booking site, and then delivering it to you in a delightfully organized post. Each blog entry includes some incredibly low airfare, a destination and a list of qualifying travel dates. Last year, with the help of this glorious site, I bought round-trip tickets to Chicago for \$88, and Los Angeles for \$120.

In addition to domestic flights that cost less than a pair of sneakers, Escape finds unbelievable prices on international airfare. Some of its most recently posted

deals include round-trip flights to Belize for \$260 and Costa Rica for \$311. If you stay in a reputable hostel, and absorb the culture rather than needless souvenirs, you can have some meaningful and affordable international travel.

As wonderful as this service is, it has an obvious catch: you have to remain open minded and flexible. Instead of holding fast to specific destinations you’d like to see, you should keep in mind that every city has something beautiful to offer. If you research the cities in each of their posts, you could likely develop a newfound interest in one of them.

One final thing to keep in mind is that, as this blog grows in popularity, the deals sell out faster. Luckily, you don’t have to worry about forgetting to regularly visit the site, because you can subscribe to any of Escape’s social media feeds, which include Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and a weekly newsletter that goes right to your inbox. When you see a deal within your budget that speaks to you, you have to be quick, or you could miss out on a life changing experience.



Pension Crisis

By Terrance Turner

On March 16, the credit rating agency, Moody's, downgraded the City of Houston's credit rating. "Moody's Investors Service has downgraded the City of Houston's (TX) general obligation limited tax rating to Aa3 from Aa2, affecting approximately \$3 billion in previously issued bonds," the agency's website said. "The downgrade to Aa3 reflects weakening economic and financial performance driven by prolonged decreases in oil prices. It also reflects the city's high fixed costs, large unfunded pension liabilities (among the highest in the nation), as well as property tax caps." Moody's did, however, praise the "positive actions taken by the new Mayor and his plan to engage several stakeholders to modify the city's fixed costs and generate additional revenues, all within the next 18 to 24 months." As a result of this downgrade, the city's borrowing costs for short-term debt will rise by about \$700,000 a year, according to the Houston Chronicle's Mike Morris.

Two days later, another blow was dealt from a major financial services company: "Standard & Poor's Ratings Services lowered its rating on the City of Houston, Texas' existing general obligation (GO) debt by one notch to 'AA' from 'AA+'. The outlook is negative. "The downgrade reflects our opinion of the city's large unfunded pension liability that has been exacerbated by what we consider optimistic rate of return assumptions and a history of lower-than-actuarially determined contributions,

which the current administration is seeking to correct," the agency's online report said.

The Houston Chronicle's columnist Lisa Falkenberg, who warned of the pension problem in an interview with Dateline Downtown last year, explained the issue in her February 13 article. "In 2001, then-mayor Lee Brown supported state legislation to vastly increase benefits for city workers, under the assumption that it would cost the city little-to-nothing," she said. "Pension boards assured the mayor, city council, state lawmakers and the state Pension Review Board that investments would bring in enough to pay for the lavish benefits if the city would just contribute around 15-20 percent of payroll each year." The city agreed, but the benefits turned out to be much more costly than expected.

Towers Perrin, the actuarial firm hired by the pension boards, severely miscalculated the amount the city would need to pay for pensions (payments made to retirees from a fund they contributed to while working.) "By 2003, the assumption of what the city would have to pay for the municipal fund went from 14 percent of payroll to nearly 53 percent," Falkenberg revealed. Police pension costs went from 16% of payroll to 28%, and the firefighters' share doubled from 15% to 31%.

The amount of unfunded pension liabilities stands at \$5.6 billion, she reported. This is consistent with data

from the city's most recent audit. But the Houston Business Journal's Joe Martin quoted estimates — from the business leaders' organization Greater Houston Partnership — that the actual cost may be even higher: between \$8 and \$10 billion.

Reform is difficult, since pensions are controlled by the Texas Legislature. There will likely be little support for raising taxes or cutting funds for Houston firefighters. To cope with this crisis — as well as with the current budget deficit, estimated at \$126 million — Mayor Sylvester Turner announced in March that he will eliminate 54 currently vacant positions. ABC affiliate KTRK reported that there will also be 40 layoffs of city employees. On the bright side, there will be no cuts to services from libraries or city parks, nor will there be layoffs for HPD. Turner plans to unveil the budget on April 15. But if council members cannot agree on the budget, he cautioned, "the layoffs will exponentially increase."



Sea World Announces End of Orca Performances and Killer Whale Breeding

By Chelsea Chance

On March 17, 2016, Sea World Entertainment released a statement announcing that the killer whales currently living and performing for their facilities will be the last group. The company will immediately cease participating in breeding killer whales and discontinue all live performances featuring orcas. In November of 2015, Sea World announced plans to end killer whale shows at its San Diego theme park, and now the company intends to end all orca shows in San Diego by 2017, while the San Antonio, Texas and Orlando, Florida locations will cease producing orca shows by 2019.

For some, the decision is not surprising and has been long awaited. The last three years for Sea World have been filled with controversy, protests, drops in ticket sales, and a loss of revenue which many attribute to the release of the documentary "Blackfish" in 2013. The documentary revolved around the captivity of the orca Tilikum — who was involved in the deaths of three individuals — as well as the consequences of keeping orcas in captivity.

Audiences everywhere were appalled by the implications of the documentary. Sea World, in turn, tried to dispute the claims made by Blackfish. The company even produced a website, "The Truth about Blackfish," in an attempt to refute the claims that life at Sea World was harmful for killer whales, and that Sea World had ever attempted to cover up the facts surrounding the tragic death of trainer Dawn Brancheau in 2010, as well as the history of Tilikum.

Sea World's hope for the future includes switching

directions by introducing "new, inspiring, natural orca encounters," with educational programs emphasizing enrichment, exercise and health with its remaining killer whales, according to CEO Joel Manby. "The killer whale issue is a growing reason why many people don't visit SeaWorld and this is about doing the best thing for our orcas, our guests, our ambassadors and our company," he said.

The company, which said it has not collected any orcas from the wild in more than 40 years, said its orcas will live out their lives in the Sea World facilities. "They will continue to receive the highest-quality care based on the latest advances in marine veterinary medicine, science, and zoological best practices," SeaWorld said in a statement. "Guests will be able to observe these orcas through the new educational encounters and in viewing areas within the existing habitats."



The Grand Ole Party v. President Barack Obama

Jason Jonathan Rivas

“Hubris is sometimes defined as overweening pride; and pride, we know, goeth before a fall.”—Former Associate Justice Antonin Scalia

The Republican Party’s majority decision to boycott a hearing for President Obama’s Supreme Court nominee—Chief Judge of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Merrick Garland—is more incomprehensible than a Trump/Sanders presidential ticket. It is not a decision that should be held hostage by any major political party. It is a decision that is constitutionally granted, respectfully, to a single authority.

“The world does not expect logic and precision in poetry or inspirational pop philosophy; it demands them in the law,” wrote Associate Justice Antonin Scalia in his dissent of *Obergefell v. Hodges*. While I disagree with Justice Scalia on the interpretation of the Constitution pertaining to the institute of marriage, I will use his own logic and belief in Originalism as a catalyst for my own opinion, which is full of disdain for his party’s ineptitude to execute a basic principle found in Article III of the Constitution.

In the theory of Originalism, one merely needs to interpret the Constitution for what was the original intent of the document. As such, it is a president’s duty to appoint justices to the Supreme Court, as per Article III of the Constitution. It has always been so, since President George Washington appointed Chief Justice John Jay in September of 1789. I cannot help but roll my eyes when Senator Marco Rubio arrogantly interprets the Constitution to fit his personal biases, as well as to mislead his supporters concerning the aforementioned notion. The president is

entitled with the duty to appoint a new justice to the Supreme Court, based on Article III of the Constitution. I repeat myself in hopes of driving reason into the profuse cranium of the near-sighted politician. But then again, perhaps it is too much “Paine” for a parochial politician to have any sort of “Common Sense.”

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell chimed in as well, championing the same rhetoric as the naïve Floridian. Let me remind you, Senator, of historical precedence: fourteen presidents, almost one-third of all U.S. presidents, have appointed twenty-one justices to the Supreme Court, during their final year of a term. Of the fourteen, twelve were deemed “lame-duck” presidents when they made their appointments.

Additionally, there is also precedent on your voting record, Senator. In 1988, you voted for the confirmation of Anthony Kennedy to the Supreme Court. It was President Ronald Reagan’s final year, a “lame-duck” so to speak, yet you confirmed his appointment as is. In fact, Associate Justice Kennedy received a unanimous confirmation. Now, 28 years later, you are pestering the American public with cries of wolf against a president who is intent on executing his constitutional duties. Perhaps you should pick up a copy of Aesop and reeducate yourself before your sheep are consumed by a wolf named “logic.”

My dissent could continue long past a Ted Cruz filibuster against reasoning. However, I will wrap up my opinion with the following: on February 13, Antonin Scalia returned from quail hunting for a well-deserved rest. The Associate Justice, champion of originalism, author of witty and

harsh court opinions (as well as the inspiration for this article), then released his last breath before capitulating his soul to everlasting peace. In doing so, his passing, ironically, created partisan political chaos outside the nation’s highest court.

The Supreme Court will continue to hear cases while, respectfully, observing Scalia’s contributions to the Court. A black cloak is draped across his seat, flags wave at half-mast, and the Court will continue to operate. Cases subjected to a 4–4 decision will uphold the ruling of the lower courts — with no opinion issued by the Court — or may be re-docketed for the fall 2016 session. The Court continues despite partisan political ineptitude rearing its all-too-familiar head into the Court’s domain.

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz stated that the choice of a new Supreme Court Justice should be determined by the people. He is correct; however, it is not a decision in need of a new president to decide. The people have already chosen their delegate, who will carry out their task in due time. The people vote for their preferred representative every four years, as stated in Article II of the Constitution. And the person remains the people’s choice until their tenure ends. As such, it is President Obama’s decision, not the next president’s. I suggest Senator Cruz spend less time indirectly campaigning as the Zodiac Killer and more time enlightening his constitutional knowledge; it’s a killer document.

Are People Actually “Anti-Hillary,” or Just Sexist?

By Kara Moore

In the same way that people wonder “Are Trump supporters just actually racist?” people are asking the question “Are Hillary Clinton defamers just actually sexist?” It’s hard to tell when some of the criticism launched at her, isn’t completely unfounded. She has taken money from Super PACs. She is dealing with a scandal involving the improper usage of her personal email during her time as US Sec. of State, and she was a young Republican.

Then again, many of this can apply to Donald Trump, the leading Republican candidate. He’s taking money from Super PACs – albeit millions less than Clinton. He once stated, in a 2004 interview with CNN’s Wolf Blitzer, that “in many cases, I probably identify more as Democrat.” And while he’s not experiencing an email scandal, his whole campaign is under question for violence. Trump’s campaign manager was arrested for simple battery of a press member, for example. Yet, in a poll by yougov.com, Clinton polled less honest than Trump by a good margin and was ultimately voted the least trustworthy candidate. How can that be, when they have so many criticisms in common?

A research article by Nichole M. Bauer, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Alabama, on whether gender stereotypes have an effect on the success of female candidates, found the results rather inconclusive. Her comment in the abstract is that “I suggest that stereotype reliance depends on whether stereotypes have been activated during a campaign, and it is only when stereotypes are activated that they influence evaluations of female candidates. These hypotheses are tested with a survey experiment and observational analysis. The results show that campaign communication activates stereotypes when they otherwise might not be activated, thereby diminishing support for female candidates.”

This ultimately states that, unless the campaign specifically associates the candidates with the stereotypes of their gender, then gender doesn’t seem to affect whether the politicians receive a positive or negative reaction. The media also seems to be split on whether her campaign is fighting sexism or not. A simple google search proved that half the articles pulled up said the comments against Clinton too often discussed typically female traits (how she looked, whether she was “shrill,” etc.) and the other half said that the only sexism her campaign experiences is when she pulls the “gender card,” inciting people to vote for her regardless of her politics and only because she is a woman.

At the end of the day, it seems to be a bit of a mix. While Hillary might be experiencing some sexism in part (re: Donald Trump’s strange bathroom comment “I know where she went -- it’s disgusting; I don’t want to talk about it”), Clinton is also attempting to call out sexism and draw attention to her gender at any opportunity (re: Her comment during the fifth Democratic debate: “Honestly, Sen. Sanders is the only person who would characterize me — a woman running to be the first woman President — as exemplifying the establishment,”). Either way, any woman in society will experience sexism at some point, especially when that woman is a public figure.

Creationist Mary Lou Bruner Running for Texas Board of Education

By Miguel Nunez

Mary Lou Bruner, who is a 68-year-old retired school teacher, is running for a position on the Texas Board of Education. This, of course, would be nothing to worry about, if the person running did not have opinions that many say should disqualify her from a position on the Texas Board of Education. Bruner, in a post on her own Facebook page (the post has now been deleted) wrote that President Barack Obama was a gay prostitute, and through this prostitution he was able to pay for his drug addiction. Texas Freedom Network, a nonpartisan grassroots organization was able to obtain a screenshot of Bruner's Facebook post and on it the following was written:

"Obama has a soft spot for homosexuals because of the years he spent as a male prostitute in his twenties. That is how he paid for his drugs. He has admitted he was addicted to drugs when he was young, and he is sympathetic to homosexuals; but he hasn't come out of the closet about his own homosexual/bisexual background. He hasn't quite evolved that much!"
Keven M. Ellis, Bruner's Republican opponent in the runoff election scheduled for May has said, "That hate-filled speech that she has is not conservative, it's not Christian."

When Bruner was interviewed by KLTN 7, a news station from Tyler Texas, and was asked about the comments she made about Obama she said, "I don't know, I guess I'm assuming it was true; you're assuming some people assume that it's false, I mean, who knows." She has also made comments about global warming being a hoax and, when questioned about it by the reporter, she said, "I am not ashamed of saying this, because I know I am right." The fact, of course, is that the majority of scientists believe in global warming. According to the NASA website, of all the active scientists that publish their studies on climate change in peer-reviewed journals, 97% or more agree that there is a trend in climate temperatures rising.

Bruner also believes that the Democratic Party is responsible for the assassination of JFK and she is also an ardent believer in the notion that the teaching of evolution in schools is the reason that schools have mass shootings. She also believes that we should ban Islam, and stop all immigration.

She has said that, if elected, she will represent majority rules, saying that, "I will abide by what the majority of the board votes," So, it might seem that if Bruner does get elected, her votes might not mean as much when the other members disagree with her, but her voice

will still have an effect over the board and some believe her opinions are too extreme. While to others she does not seem the extremist type, Tammy Blair, the Cherokee County Republican Party chairwoman, said on Bruner's opinions, "At the end of the day, is Mary Lou a wacko extremist? No, she's a nice older lady who doesn't understand social media and the impact that it can have. I'm still going to vote for Mary Lou, and I'm going to encourage people to do the same."

Blair is not alone. Many Republicans believe that her opinions while some view as too extreme, should not mean she cannot run for the Texas Board of Education. John E. Tweedell, an 85-year-old man from Hideaway, said, "I believe, like Benjamin Franklin said, stand on principle even if you stand alone," Tweedell voted for Bruner in the primary election. It is likely that Bruner will gain the Republican nomination, defeating her opponent Ellis, and face Democrat Amanda Rudolph in the general election later this year in November.

Escalating Terrorist Attacks Highlight Media Biases

By Jason Jonathan Rivas

Brussels, Belgium is supposed to be an international city esteemed for its tranquility and serenity: an avenue for free-thinkers, open-mindedness, and social acceptance. However, the peaceful capital city in Europe was recently the target of a coordinated terrorist attack that left 33 dead and hundreds injured. The media has inundated readers and listeners with insights and reports regarding every facet of the incident. In doing so, they have highlighted their ignorance towards other terrorists' activities in other, non-Western parts of the world.

The Brussels attack, like the chaotic events in Paris last November, shocked the world into acknowledging the potential reach terrorist networks have across the globe. Western media outlets have reflected the notion that these attacks are targeted at Western institutions. And there lies the problem: why is there such an emphasis on escalations between terrorists and the West, when there are countless other terrorist atrocities occurring in other parts of the world?

Take, for example, the mass shooting of the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako, Mali. An Al Qaeda-linked group took 170 people hostage, later killing 20, before the others were freed. This event occurred one week after the Paris attacks, yet received sporadic—if any—media coverage in the United States. Four days later, a suicide bomber exploded near a bus carrying Tunisian presidential guards, killing at least twelve people, in Tunisia. Both attacks occurred in the shadows of Paris, receiving little, if any, media coverage in the United States.

For most Westerners, the next terrorist attack occurred in San Bernardino, CA when a couple killed fourteen people and injured twenty-two others before being gunned down by law enforcement. The FBI is currently investigating if the nefarious duo had any ties to ISIS or Daesh. In January, a suicide bomber accosted European shoppers at a market square, killing 13 in Istanbul. Western media outlets have focused coverage on these two incidents, which just so happened to occur either in the U.S., or an ally of the U.S. with European victims, all while obscuring journalistic coverage of other atrocities being committed elsewhere. Terrorist-linked attacks in: Jakarta, Indonesia;

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; Mogadishu, Somalia; and Grand Bassam, Ivory Coast; have left seventy-four dead, hundreds injured, and near-non-existent media coverage.

An argument may be made that the lack of coverage by Western media outlets is due to their audience. Perhaps Western audiences have minimal interests in foreign attacks because it involves victims they share minimal traits with. Media pundits are quick to point out Muslim attacks against Christian institutions but remain quiet during altercations within the Muslim community; public fervor and anti-Muslim rhetoric have now blossomed into the political sphere, with a number of GOP presidential candidates calling for screenings of Muslims. Yet, while the media displayed wall-to-wall coverage of the Brussels aftermath, seventy-two Christians and Muslims in Pakistan were killed by Taliban fundamental fanatics on Easter. Western media outlets paid diminutive attention to these attacks.

Why is there a general lack of coverage for the majority of these accounts? To put it plainly, these events occurred in foreign lands and involved strangers to the American general population. American culture is based on the foundation of an individualistic collective who, generally, do not compel themselves to care for the lives of others. However, an attack on an American or an American institute is portrayed as an attack on all Americans, just as atrocities against our Europeans/Turkish allies are painted as an indirect attack on Americans. Western media outlets may be to blame, but they are merely giving the people what they want. It is up to you — the reader, the intellect, the human rights activist, the open-minded individual — to ascertain what is really occurring in the world. An attack on a Westerner is equal to an attack on an Easterner: unnecessary and noteworthy.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Give 2 Gators Kick Off Lunch A300 11:30-1:30pm	2
3	4 Workshop on Field Ex. & Internships 1:30-2:30 S604	5 Buddhism, Islam and Christianity: On Public Life Zen Buddhist Center 7-8:30pm	6 Democracy's Challenge 9:30 to 11:45am A300	7 Transfer Thursday 10 - 1pm 4 - 7pm	8 Student Research Conference 7:30 to 4pm A300	9
10	11 Workshop on Resumes 12-1pm S604	12	13	14 Get Your Geek On! A423 3:30 - 4:30pm Part Time Job Fair A300, 11:30-2pm	15 One Main Event & Ed's Bayou Clean Up! 8-2pm	16 UHD Open House!
17	18 Workshop on Workforce Professionalism 12-1pm S604	19	20	21	22 Scholars Invitational	23 First Day of Passover
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Last Day of Passover

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