

The Door Finally Closes

UHD's open admissions policy changes in 2013

JAMEE L COX
Editor in Chief

The University of Houston Board of Regents unanimously voted to change UHD's open admissions policy, making it the last public university in Texas to adopt admissions standards.

While transfer students and returning students are exempt from the new admissions guidelines, the Fall 2013 freshmen must meet the standards.

The new automatic admission standards are as follows:

- Freshmen candidates who graduate in the top 25 percent of their high school graduating class will be automatically admitted.
- Freshman candidates who graduate in the 26 to 50 percent of their high school graduating class and have an SAT score of 850 or greater; or an ACT score of 18 or greater; or a minimum 2.5 Grade Point Average will be automatically admitted.
- Freshmen candidates who rank in the lower half of their high school graduating class will require individual review. Review will include testing and assessments to determine college readiness. Following a meeting with a UHD Academic Advisor, an individualized success plan will be created for each student who is reviewed and admitted.

More than 30 percent (approximately 1,100) of UHD's fall 2011 entering class of 3,200 students was comprised of first-time-in-college (FTIC) students.

FTIC students are defined as students who

enter a university or college directly from high school or with no previous regular enrollment at a college, university or community college. Approximately 60 percent of UHD FTIC students require developmental

and decrease dropout rates. In addition, the standards will help to limit student indebtedness that often results from admitting students who are unprepared for the rigors of college and drop out, leaving them with

national for graduating Hispanic and African American students. We are confident that these admission standards will enable our faculty, staff and community college partners a greater ability to provide access to a meaningful experience for college-ready students of all ages and backgrounds while also delivering graduates who are well-equipped to support the fast-growing economy of the greater Houston area," said UHD President, Dr. William Flores.

Dr. Flores has been advocating for admission standards since he assumed UHD's presidency in 2009.

Dr. Flores stated that any freshman that is not admitted would be offered joint admissions to a local community college partner through UHD's Gator Guarantee.

Students participating in the Gator Guarantee will take developmental courses at a local community college, along with a minimum number of core credit courses. These students will have the benefit of access to UHD facilities and services while completing their developmental and core courses.

Upon completion of the developmental and core courses, the Gator Guarantee participants will be eligible to enroll at UHD to complete their bachelor's degree, and will be eligible for a Gator Guarantee scholarship to support their studies.

UHD is the second largest university in Houston and the 15th largest four-year, public university in Texas. One of the most ethnically diverse universities in the country, UHD ranks 37th nationally for graduating Hispanic students with bachelor's degrees and 37th nationally for graduating African-American students with bachelor's degrees. Approximately 2,000 students graduate from UHD each year.

courses and many of these students become frustrated and dropout.

It is expected that the automatic admission standards will improve retention rates of FTIC students, increase graduation rates

significant debt.

"UHD has earned a solid reputation as an opportunity university. According to Diverse Issues in Higher Education, UHD ranks 37th out of 2,100 universities in the



The handrails for the hike and bike trail behind UHD are onsite and installation has begun!

The trail is almost complete!



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Sorry professor, but I do need my phone



Ali Fazal

Staff Columnist

Since the dawn of formal education, I'm sure professors had obstacles in the way of their students' full attention. In the days of Cro-Magnon man, I'm certain that a stray bison wandering outside the cave would distract students from their slates, annoying their professors. Recently, however, smartphones have become a part of our daily lives, and professors do not like it. In most of my classes, professors will announce on day one that cell phones are forbidden and that they are to be turned off whenever in class.

As if anyone ever turns his or her cell phone off instead of just putting it on vibrate.

Either way, I must plead with professors to allow students this one indulgence.

First off, distractions are nothing new. Before texting and tweeting were the norm, students passed notes or whispered to one another. At least smartphone usage is theoretically silent. No rustling paper or whispers to worry about. Students will never sit completely silent and be completely focused.

Mostly, however, I feel like it is time for professors to step into the new millennium. With all due respect, students will never be separated from their smartphones. Most, like myself, sleep with them by their beds and keep them at their side all the time. That's the way the world is now. But, because the technology is so intrinsically engrained into my generation's everyday world, it is no longer a distraction as such. I can check a text message and respond without ever missing a word of my professor's lecture. Our brains are now hard-wired that way. In fact, if I was separated from my phone, I would probably

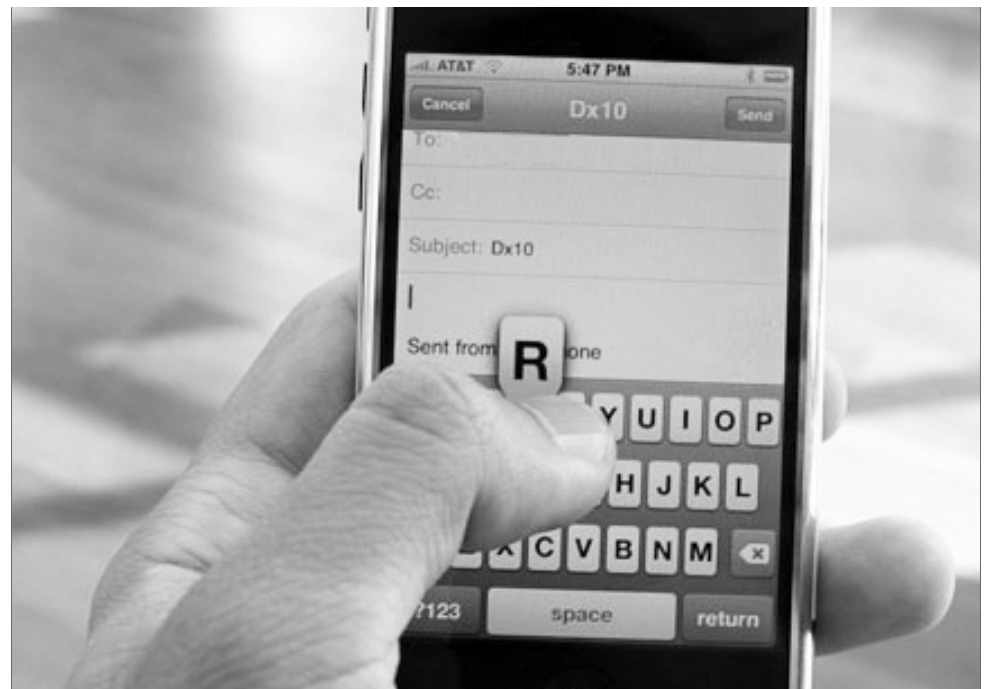
find it harder to pay attention, constantly wondering what messages, pokes or tweets could have come in during my absence.

I mean no disrespect here, but professors will never have the full attention of students. If that were the case, everyone would have a 4.0 GPA at all times. There are always distractions. And sometimes, there are days where our student minds are so occupied with other things that it is hard to pay attention at all.

Standing in front of a room and reading off Powerpoint slides is no longer an effective teaching tool, just as we learned decades ago that constant repetition is not effective.

Students need to be challenged and engaged. In some of my classes, I am so enthralled by the course material that I legitimately do not check my phone. This should be the goal.

However, it is important for professors to note that we do have a diverse student body.



I feel like it is now the burden of professors to adapt their teaching style to suit our new fast-paced generation.

Think of it this way: we are paying to be sitting in class. Would we really want to disengage on purpose?

I have been in classes where every student is covertly checking their phones every few minutes, and I think that reflects more on the poor, outdated teaching style the professor displayed than the students themselves.

Students have kids, responsibilities at work and spouses to worry about. With the rest of the world embracing open communication through smartphones, it is impossible for us to walk onto the UHD campus and unplug ourselves.

I just hope that moving forward, some of the professors clinging to a simpler time will figure out a way to adapt to our new way of learning as well.

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Did UHD 'miss the bus' in parking and transportation?



Ali Fazal

Staff Columnist

When our editor Jamee Cox published an op-ed last issue dealing with parking lot etiquette, I had many students come up to me to voice their opinions about the situation as well.

Ultimately, while everyone's gripes are different, the main thing I took away from my chats with fellow Gators is that no one is happy with the current situation.

No one is looking at parking and transportation as it stands now, and saying 'Wow, UHD did the best they could for their students in this situation'. Ultimately, UHD can't control the fact that there is limited parking space downtown or that Main Street is under construction.

But, they can control how they serve students during this time period, so here are three big problems that I've noticed that make UHD's parking issues go from a mild annoyance to a living hell.

1. Apathetic drivers: I'm sorry, but as students we contribute money to get the best overall educational experience possible. While I believe that students should always be friendly and courteous to our shuttle bus drivers (and not all of you are!), sometimes it is very hard. First off, there is no sense of communication between the drivers and the students. I've been on a bus where the driver went inside the UHD Main building to get lunch, and left students waiting in the bus for 15 minutes. They should obviously get a lunch break, but they also should communicate to the waiting students that they are not popping inside for a quick restroom break. In the Daly Street Lot, drivers will get out of the bus and talk leisurely to one another for several minutes while anxious students can see time ticking away before their classes start. I do not think that this is appropriate or fair to tuition-paying students. Lastly, drivers constantly seem distracted and disinterested in getting students to class. I am

sure that driving a bus in a loop for twelve hours is a dull day's work, but it is a job, and they do get paid for it. On one particularly scary bus ride, a driver was on his personal Blackberry the entire time, WHILE DRIVING. If I'm not allowed to text and drive in my own vehicle, it seems outrageous that a bus driver can carry on while responsible for the lives of 30 students. I captured a picture of the incident.

2. Terrible routes: This is probably my biggest gripe. So even though the vast majority of students park in the main Daly Street Lot and need to be dropped off at the Main building, the UHD shuttle has to take a long roundabout route to accommodate three additional stops (2 smaller parking lots and the Commerce Building), making what should be a 5 minute bus ride take three times as long. I understand that some students need to be picked up and dropped off at those locations, but they are few and far between. Can you imagine if METRO took this approach, having all their buses stop at every stop all over downtown? There should be a few express buses that go straight from Main building to the Main Daly St parking lot, while buses to the other locations (which are more out of the way, and involve at least 10 minutes more driving) can come by sporadically. This serves a majority of the students best, and seems like a more efficient use of the buses we have. If we have 4 shuttles, as UHD claims, why not make 3 of them express shuttles to placate the 99% of students who park in the Daly St Lot and use the remaining one to drive the full extended route?

3. Poor planning: I cannot tell you how many times I have gotten into the Daly Street lot at 11:00am, only to finally reach my class at the Main Building at 11:40, ten minutes late for my class. The reason? The drivers have to wait for some sort of mythical signal from their superior on their work phones before they can leave. As a result, it is common practice for two or three shuttle buses to all be idling in the Daly Street lot, waiting for their signal to leave. To be clear, the buses should ideally NEVER be in the



UHD shuttle driver is seen texting and driving with students on the bus.

Photo by Ali Fazal

same place. In fact, they should be spaced apart so they never even see each other. What is the point of having them cluster together when they should be running in 5 to 10 minute increments? After all, how early should students arrive just to make it to their classes on time?

I will freely admit, UHD is in a difficult situation right now with parking. The Main Street closure has really messed up the flow

of traffic, and obviously students were going to be inconvenienced a little bit. However, the three issues I listed are clearly fixable, but nobody has done a thing about them. While construction and availability are not in UHD's control, the efficiency of their parking and transportation systems are, and it is high time that we, as a student body, hold them accountable.

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Five grammar tricks every student should know

Tom Clements
Special Contributor

In American education, grammar is a lost art. Having taught both grammar and composition in college, I have simplified a large part of the complexity of English grammar down to five main points that students find easy to grasp.

(1) Leaking Oil -- misplaced modifiers

I call the first rule "leaking oil" in order to give students a stark visual to hold on to. More technically, the rule deals with modifiers that point to the wrong noun in the sentence. Misplaced modifiers.

For example: Leaking oil, the mechanic fixed the car.

Clearly, it's the car, not the mechanic that has the oil leak. When a sentence has a subordinated lead-in like this, I tell students to make sure that the first noun after the comma points back to the action being described. The sentence should read: Leaking oil, the car was fixed by the mechanic.

Here's another example of the same principle: As a boy, my grandma read me bedtime stories.

Once again, the wrong noun is pointing to the introductory phrase. My grandma is absolutely not a boy! The sentence should read: As a boy, I was read bedtimes stories by my grandma.

To put this concept into play with real-world questions, consider the following examples and choose the best way to improve the sentence:

(a) Working overtime, the industrial facility was populated by hundreds of technicians.

(b) The industrial facility, working overtime, had hundreds of busy technicians.

(c) Working overtime, busy technicians populated the industrial facility.

In both (a) and (b) it should be the workers, not the facility, doing the work. Only (c) has the correct noun, busy technicians, following the introductory lead-in.

(2) Matching Pairs -- subject verb agreement

The second rule has to do with matching singular subjects with singular verbs and plural subjects with plural verbs. For example: The harmful effects of insulin resistance on the metabolic system is well know.

Notice how the unnecessary prepositional phrases of insulin resistance and on the metabolic system subvert the true relationship between the subject and verb. The subject (harmful effects) is plural so the verb (is) must also be plural. The sentence should read: The harmful effects of insulin resistance on the metabolic system are well know.

Consider the following examples and choose the best way to improve the sentence:

(a) Each of the 5000 spectators are cheering wildly at the game.

(b) At the game, each of the 5000 spectators in attendance are cheering wildly.

(c) Each of the 5000 spectators at the

game is cheering wildly

The answer is (c). To analyze this correctly, ignore the prepositional phrase in the sentence (of the 5000 spectators) and focus exclusively on the subject, which, in this case, is . . . Each. Since each is singular, the verb must also be singular.

(3) Shortest Point -- economy of expression

Grammar Expert



Plus

In English, especially American English, brevity is the heart and soul of popular expression. Think Ernest Hemingway rather than William Faulkner. Short, cryptic slogans like Just do it and No pain -- no gain are part of the cultural landscape because of the direct way they convey information. Take a look at the following sentences and determine which one says the most with the fewest number of words.

(a) The best way to get an exact answer to the question would be to use a calculator.

(b) A calculator would be the best possible way to answer the question exactly.

(c) The best way to get an exact answer is to use a calculator.

Clearly, (c) is the most economical expression and therefore the best choice. There is, however, one important exception to this rule. Parallel structure (comparison mismatch) is the only thing that beats Shortest Point.

(4) Apples and Oranges -- comparison mismatch

Take a look at the following examples and see if you can spot the comparison mismatch.

(a) The novels of Ernest Hemingway are shorter than William Faulkner.

(b) The skyscrapers in New York are bigger than San Francisco.

(c) Buying soda in six packs is usually

cheaper than single bottles.

The first example compares novels to people. The second compares skyscrapers to cities. The third compares buying to bottles. All three need to be made longer in order to be grammatically correct. For example:

(a) The novels of Ernest Hemingway are shorter than the novels of William Faulkner.

(b) The skyscrapers in New York are big-

ger than those in San Francisco.

(c) Buying soda in six packs is usually cheaper than buying single bottles.

These examples are all longer than their incorrect counterparts but the extra words add precision and clarity. In short, parallel structure.

(5) Who 'Dat -- Indefinite Pronouns

Vague and unnecessary pronouns litter the grammar landscape of bad writers. Take a look:

(a) When Kate and Carol went for a winter walk, she forgot to bring her umbrella.

(b) It was so expensive that no one wanted it.

(c) In New York, they like bagels.

In the first example, who forgot her umbrella, Kate or Carol? In the second example, what was so expensive. A painting? A house? Be specific. A yacht! And finally, in New York, who likes bagels? Construction workers, NYPD, radio city rockettes, Hasidic Jews? Use a picture word, something the reader can see, not a fuzzy indefinite pronoun.

One way or another, these five rules cover a broad swath of grammar questions high school writers need to be aware of. A little intuition, a little common sense and a healthy dose of these grammar rules can ensure a top-notch writing style, ensuring academic success in college and beyond.

Larger crowd at Financial Aid Fair

David Melendez
Staff Writer

Inviting high school students to the UHD Financial Aid Fair drew a larger crowd at this year's annual event.

One of the representatives on hand at the fair was financial aid counselor Gabriella Martinez. She said that the financial aid fair is put on every February and the main purpose for the fair is to prepare students for the upcoming school year, as Federal financial aid covers the Fall and Spring Semesters.

"We wanted a great turnout so this year we have incorporated high school seniors into the event and invited them to come and speak with us. This way they are better informed and prepared for college and we do these fairs four hours at a time," said Martinez.

Financial aid reps were on hand to answer questions, show students how to fill out forms and guide students through the various financial aid options available to them.

One of financial aid options is the Texas Application for Financial Aid, or TAFSA. This form of aid is given to foreign or non-citizen students who may not be eligible to fill out a Federal Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA). Some notable facts about the TASFA is that there is no deadline to submit the form, it comes in both English and Spanish and it is financial aid that comes from the State of Texas, not from the Federal government.

According to the event staff, over 10 thousand UHD students are on some form of financial aid and about seven thousand of them are attending classes on a Pell grant.

"Students should apply early. The FAFSA form is available every January for students to fill out," said Martinez.

Activities were included to keep the event fun for participants and included karaoke, bucket pong and group photo sessions.

The UHD financial aid office is located in room S330 in the main building. Counselors are available Monday-Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Fridays.

The UHD financial aid Web page urges students to apply for aid early, due to limited fund availability. Applying early will assist students in obtaining the most amount of funds as possible. The web page is an excellent source for any financial aid subject, and students can look to it for advice whenever they need to.

For more information on UHD's financial aid office, please visit <http://www.uhd.edu/financial/index.html> or call 713-221-8041.

For international students looking for aid, please visit <http://www.finaid.txstate.edu/special/TASFA.html>.

Center for Retail Management offers Webinars

Webinars offer an easy alternative for certificate programs

David Slaughter
Contributing Writer

Since 2010, the Center for Retail Management (CRM) has been focused on serving the educational needs of retail store managers at UHD, and the new webinar certificate program is the newest development.

The 12-session webinar certificate program started on January 17 and runs consecutively as part of a continuing education program. The program targets non-degree seeking students who have a desire for a career in retail management. The curriculum is delivered online every two weeks, with a new speaker each time. The webinars last 75 minutes each and include reading materials and various activities. The webinars utilize industry retail experts that speak on relevant retail topics such as ethics and social responsibility, leadership, risk management, working with suppliers and distribution centers, budgeting, forecasting and setting trends to

name just a few of the many topics.

Some of the speakers include Scott McClelland, President of H.E.B.; Jeff McAllister, Senior Vice-president of Innovations at Wal-Mart; Gary Huddleston, Director of Consumer Affairs for Kroger; and Ron Lucas, EVP, Human Resources at Stage Stores. Ron Lucas from Stage Stores recently

"The retail industry has been overlooked by many seeking careers today. The industry has for many years been tagged with long weeks and long work hours with low pay. That is certainly not the case today. Many managers work five day work weeks and earn well over \$100,000 annually."

-Tracy Davis

Director of the Center for Retail Management

commented about their participation in the program.

"We are excited and committed to the development of the UHD Center for Retail Management and its expanded program. It will offer our community a one-of-a-kind educational opportunity to help local people prepare for an exciting career in one of our

communities fastest growing segments of the economy. We are proud partners with UHD on this project and look forward to participating in the development, work and benefits of this very worthwhile project," Lucas said.

The total cost of the certificate program and all 12 webinars is \$1,250 (UHD Alumni

Even if all 12 are not completed within the same semester, the curriculum provides valuable information for those who have the desire to run their own business or for those that seek to get into a management program in the retail world, according to a retail center source.

"The retail industry has been overlooked by many seeking careers today. The industry has for many years been tagged with long weeks and long work hours with low pay. That is certainly not the case today. Many managers work five day work weeks and earn well over \$100,000 annually. The Certificate in Retail Management is a great opportunity for those who want to begin a career in retail to get a jump on the competition," said Tracy Davis, Director of the Center for Retail Management.

Davis talked about the future expansion of the retail management program at UHD and said, "We are in the process of developing a retail lab that will focus on retail operations and retail support activities, and will have a BBA with a major in retail management available in the very near future."

The next webinar will be held Feb. 28. The topic for that session is, "Working with Suppliers and Distribution Centers." Each individual session is \$125.

Achievement gap continues to widen between rich, poor

Uwire-The achievement gap between the richest and poorest Americans has been widening for decades, and aid at the start of college may not be enough to bridge the divide.

During the past several decades, the impact of a person's income level on her or his college attainment — for better or worse — has been amplified even as income inequality has increased, stalling the traditional equalizing power of a college education.

That's according to a recent analysis by Martha Bailey and Susan Dynarski from U. Michigan's Institute for Social Research. The pair analyzed 70 years of U.S. Census data and compared Americans born in the early 1960s and early 1980s in terms of how many get to college, stay there and come out with a bachelor's degree.

The results shows a clear trend, as the nation's highest earners are several times more likely to stay in college long enough to earn a bachelor's degree by age 25 than the lowest earners.

But the researchers instead focused on the gap between the extremes: Between the two samples, the bottom 25 percent of the country who finished college rose from 5 percent to 9 percent. On the other end of the spectrum, however, the percentage of the country's top earners succeeding in college shot up 18 percent, from more than one-third of the group to more than half.

Meanwhile, shock waves from the 2008 recession still echo throughout the economy and national student debt is at its highest level ever, likely aggravating these effects.

The lowest earners clearly have a wall be-

tween them and college, but what the wall's bricks are made of depends on who's asked. Many social scientists believe the forces behind the numbers extend deep into the country's social and economic landscape.

The pure power of money is hard to ignore, as high-income parents spend almost 10 times as much as low-income parents on each child, according to a recent article in *The New York Times* on the country's growing education gap. Women in poverty are more likely to have an unplanned pregnancy, perhaps persuading many to leave college or never go.

Race and income are also intertwined, as the legacy of centuries of racism that continues today leaves a lasting imprint on the financial resilience of people of color.

But there's more to this trend than just money, many observers agree. Some focus on the impact of parenting, pointing out that low-income families are more likely to have a single parent.

"Early life conditions and how children are stimulated play a very important role," James J. Heckman, an economist at U. Chicago, told *The Times*. "The danger is we will revert back to the mindset of the war on poverty ... (when) giving families more (money) would improve the prospects of their children."

"If people conclude that, it's a mistake," Heckman said.

The problem is instead incredibly complex, said Kelli King, program coordinator for U. Nebraska-Lincoln's William H. Thompson Scholars Learning Community, which focuses on low-income students.

"It's an enormous question," King said. "Is it solely money? No. Is that a factor? Indeed."

Three students and friends at U. Nebraska-Lincoln also pointed to single parents as an important factor, but not just because of the lost half of income.

"In a sense, we kind of owe it to our parents to be here," said Cristina Garcia, a freshman child, youth and family studies major who lives with her dad, to nods of agreement from fellow freshmen Kateri Hiatt and Cristina Moreno. She's the first in her family to go to college, and added that for many students like her, lacking an example and guide in the family can be another barrier.

"I come from a one-parent family and I'm here," said Moreno, a UNL freshman who pointed to a necessary ingredient: hope. "It's possible; of course it's possible. I'm proof."

Bailey and Dynarski suggest attempts to bridge the income-education gap must begin early to be effective.

"Differences in high school completion between children from low-income families and those from high-income families explain half of the gap in college entry," they wrote in their analysis. "Interventions that operate mainly on the college-entry margin — such as scholarships, college outreach campaigns, and mentoring — can only alter the college-entry decisions of those who are able to respond. Those who have already dropped out of high school, in body or spirit, cannot benefit from these interventions."

Along those lines, UNL began the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy in

2006. The program finds gifted, low-income students in middle school and provides guidance and other resources to facilitate acceptance to UNL while holding them to certain academic standards. All three of the freshmen are part of the academy and said they and most of their peers wouldn't be in college without it.

"In addition to financial assistance, students must imagine themselves at a university," Amber Hunter, the academy's director, wrote in an email. "Imagine if you played football but didn't know the rules of the game. How could you be successful and win?"

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Strange but true

by Samantha Weaver

€ It was English philosopher Francis Bacon who made the following sage observation: "The root of all superstition is that men observe when a thing hits, but not when it misses."

€ I'm sure you've seen photos of those picturesque covered bridges. It seems that they would have provided a welcome haven for people driving buggies caught out in the rain. You may be surprised to learn, though, that the bridges weren't designed with a roof for the comfort of travelers. Being made of wood in an era before protective sealants, the bridges themselves needed to be protected from the elements.

€ Most frogs lay their eggs in the water; that way, when the tadpoles hatch they are already in their element. The red-eyed tree frog, however, protects its eggs from aquatic predators by attaching its eggs to the underside of leaves that hang out over a body of water. Once the eggs hatch, the tadpoles fall

into the water.

€ The next time you travel to the United Kingdom, if you visit the university towns of Cambridge or Oxford, you should keep off the grass. Professors are the only ones allowed to walk on most of the green swards in those towns.

€ In ancient Rome, it was widely believed that holding in gas could cause a person to catch a disease or become poisoned. This was such a concern to public health that Emperor Claudius went so far as to pass a law making it legal to fart at banquets.

€ Have you ever known someone who keeps making the same error over and over again despite being corrected? The next time you run into this person, you'll know what to call him or her: a mumpsimus.

Thought for Today: "I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious."

-- Albert Einstein

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UHD HEALTH CORNER

This time of year is when the common cold viruses, influenza virus and bacterial infections can cause symptoms of fever, chills, malaise, runny nose and a sore throat.

The throat is a sensitive part of the body, with numerous nerve endings that help the body to safely maintain normal breathing and swallowing activities. In this manner, secretions or food not meant to be in the respiratory system are kept out of the lungs. However, due to this sensitive nature, when the throat is irritated, it can produce quite an uncomfortable sensation.

Since there are many irritants that can cause a sore throat, including viruses and bacteria, it is a good idea to have a sore throat evaluated by a health care professional.

A viral infection is normally self-limited and is treated by symptom management such as lozenges, salt water gargles or over the counter topical anesthetics. Viral infections that cause sore throat cannot be treated with antibiotics, as the antibiotics are not

effective against viruses.

Students with more serious symptoms, such as enlarged glands in the jaw or neck, fever, chills or the inability to swallow, should be seen by a health care provider. A health care provider can perform a test to check for the presence of Streptococcus bacteria or Strep with a test known as a rapid Strep test. If the rapid Strep test is positive for Streptococcus, then the provider will prescribe antibiotic treatment.

The health care provider can also check for other diseases that can cause sore throat and discuss treatment plans with the patient.

If you have a sore throat, consider stopping by UHD Student Health Services in 320N to schedule an appointment, or call 713-221-8137 to have one of our nurse practitioners check your throat and suggest a treatment.

Dr. Robert Hanks, PhD, FNP-C, RNC
Assistant Professor
UT Houston School of Nursing

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3. Upload a resume
4. Once the resume is approved you can register for the event on jobs4gators

Registration deadline is February 22



jobs4gators

Questions: uhdcareer@uhd.edu or 713-221-8980

Alley Theatre gives lackluster performance

Aaron Stommel
Managing Editor

The Alley Theatre is showing a production of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull* through March 4, 2012 on the Neuhas Stage, but the performances lack that must-see quality.

The *Seagull*, written in 1895, can be considered a dramedy, both drama and comedy, the equivalent (and possibly the first) of a modern day soap opera. It takes place on a Russian estate and is centered around a group of actors, writers, and artists who are all romantically, woefully entwined together.

The characters consist of Arkadina, a famous, very successful actress; her lover and a well known novelist, Trigorin; Arkadina's son Konstantin, who has written a play himself; Nina, the star of Konstantin's play as well as his affections. The play also includes Masha who is secretly in love with Konstantin, though she is loved by Medvedenko, the town's schoolteacher. Masha confesses her love to Dr. Dorn who has secretly been the lover of Masha's mother Paulina.

Arkadina is played by Josie de Guzman who returns from Broadway where she received nominations for her roles in *Guys and Dolls* and *West Side Story*. During the play she is exceedingly flamboyant, always

trying to steal the show, but in a lovable way.

Trigorin is played by James Black who is celebrating his 24th consecutive season at the Alley Theatre as either actor and director with a hand in over 100 productions. Black's portrayal of Trigorin is both endearing and condemning. He brings the audience in close and then offers a surprising turn.

The part of Konstantin is played by Karl Glusman who is making his stage debut at the Alley Theatre. His performance is full of passion, but at times seems a bit forced. The overly passionate, forced performance lends itself more to making the part less believable than the other way around.

Nina is played by Erica Lutz who is making her Alley Theatre debut as well. Her performance is slow to start with a noticeable lacking in the first half. In the second half of the play, however, Lutz quickly turns a corner and enraptures the audience. Her skill lies not in subtlety, but in the overdramatic.

Masha is portrayed by Rachel Tice, another player making her debut at Alley Theatre. In Tice's hands Masha comes across as detached and love lost, just as many see a lover whose love is unrequited.

Medvedenko, played by Chris Hutchinson, is the epitome of a small town schoolteacher. At once shy and bashful, yet deter-



Josie de Guzman as Arkadina in the Alley Theatre's production of *The Seagull*. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

mined to do the right thing even when it is the wrong thing.

Todd Waite, as Dr. Dorn, offers an aloof performance. The good doctor always analyzes the others, but with such airy undertones that both the other characters and the audience come to see him as too detached from the reality surrounding him.

Paulina is played by Kimberly King and is such a small part that it can be seen as just one more point of the lover's octagon. King's performance mainly assists in proving Dorn's aloofness.

The highlight of the play comes early on, during the first act. The part of Sorin, as played by Jeffrey Bean, sets the bar high for this performance of *The Seagull*. His portrayal of the grumpy old man who is still a child at heart gives the audience both laughter and something to think about.

Watching *The Seagull* performed on The

Alley Theatre's Neuhas Stage is unique because of the intimate setting, a stage surrounded by three tiers of seats.

The first half of the play is the most entertaining though not without its problems. The second half, however, makes the play seem to drag though it does answer questions from the first. While some may want to leave at intermission, it is worth it to stay for the twist at the end.

The performances of each cast member vary between forceful and very good, making for an interesting show. *The Seagull* is a good escape from the go-to dinner and a movie night, but the play as a whole lacks that special quality an audience has come to expect.

For performance times or for more information see http://www.alleytheatre.org/Alley/The_Seagull_EN.asp.

Dateline's own Whitney Barrett is seeing stars

Whitney Barrett
Staff Writer

If you're a fan of the Twilight franchise, then you know all about how part one of the fourth movie is already out on DVD.

Finally, fans who have already been numerous times to see the movie in the theatre will be able to get their hands on this interesting movie and watch it on the small screen at home.

In celebration of "*The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn's*" DVD release, which was midnight on February 11, the star Booboo Stewart was in Houston.

It was wonderful to have the pleasure of talking with this up-and-coming dynamic individual who just wants to do it all. He is not only an actor but also a singer, dancer, gymnast, stunt performer, model, musician and even the creator and illustrator of his first comic book "Millennium Man." At only 18 years old, Booboo has definitely been busy and there's sure to be more to come from him.

Stewart had his breakthrough role as Seth Clearwater in "*The Twilight Saga: Eclipse*" and this character becomes more prominent in the final two installments of the saga. His character Seth is everyone's favorite little wolf and clearly he does the role justice.

Q. With any role, whether it's for a movie or TV show, how do you prepare?

A. Well, when it came to the Twilight Saga, I ended up reading the books, read blogs, even asked my mom's friends. I always end up researching a lot when I do a role.

Q. There's clearly a large fan base when it comes to Twilight; can this be hectic for you? How do you deal with it?

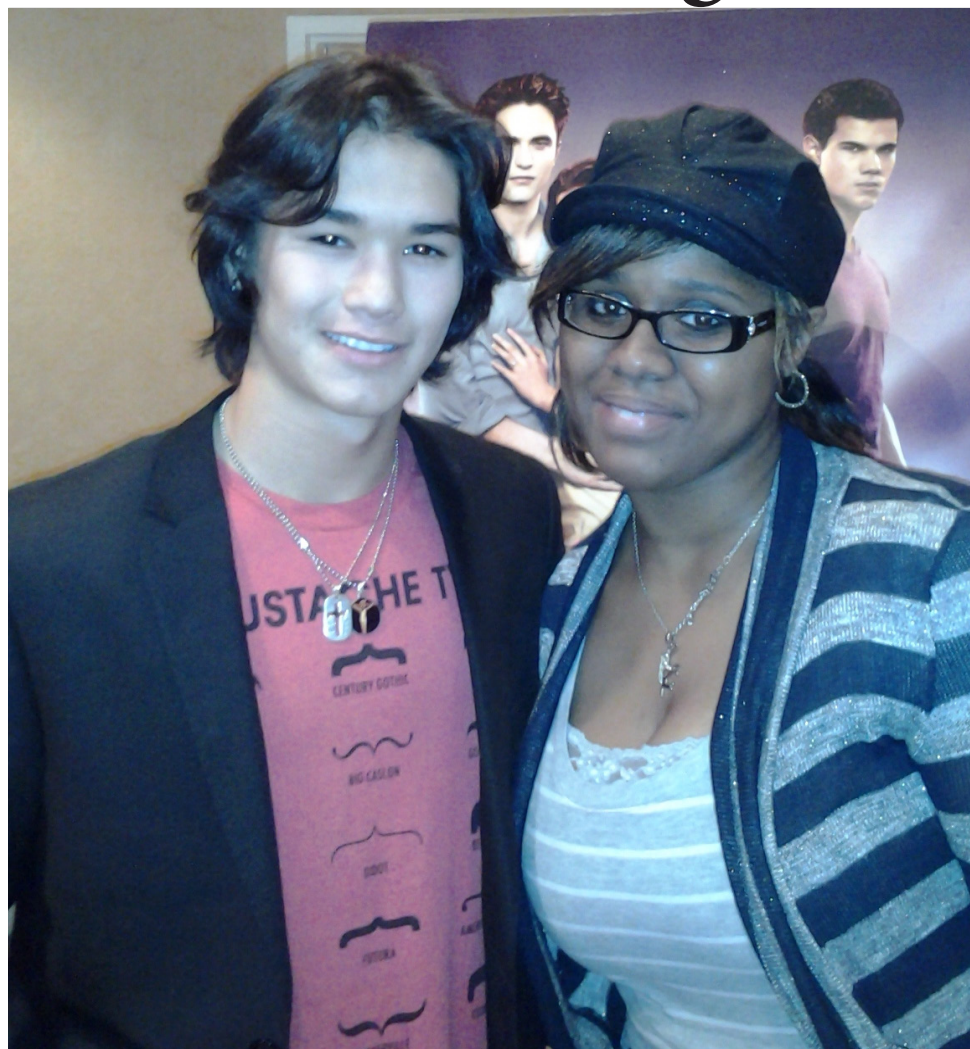
A. Well with any kind of movie with a large following there tends to be a lot of fans. I love my fans and try and go out of my way for them. It comes with the job and at times it can be quite overwhelming but you learn to deal.

Q. So who is your celebrity crush?

A. Zooey Deschanel

Q. Clearly you have won a lot of awards in martial arts, how does martial arts help you with the Twilight role?

A. In martial arts you learn a lot of discipline so it helps when you get done with ya'know like make-up on the set and there's a lot of waiting so it helps.



Booboo Stewart of *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn* with Dateline's Whitney Barrett

This Means War escapes from typical romcoms

Ali Fazal

Staff Columnist

When I walked in to the critic's screening for *This Means War*, I must admit my expectations were pretty low.

As a fan of the romantic comedy genre, I've been pretty disappointed with the offerings over the years. In fact, romantic comedies have become so derivative and underwhelming that the genre as a whole has essentially become a parody of itself. I miss the days when movies like *My Best Friend's Wedding* managed to appeal to both men and women, while being wholly entertaining and original.

While I wouldn't say *This Means War* reaches that hallowed ground, it certainly is the closest we've come in years. *This Means War* is an exciting adventure where elements of action, slapstick and romance all come together to make a thrilling movie-going experience.

Unlike most romantic comedies, *This Means War* does not start off introducing our female lead. Instead, we are treated to some high-octane action right off the bat as CIA agents FDR (Chris Pine) and Tuck (Tom Hardy) get entangled in a simple apprehension op gone wrong. The baddie they are chasing, Heinrich (Til Schweiger), gets away, but Tuck and FDR end up killing his equally evil brother, a move which Heinrich vows to avenge in the future.

Once back home, best buds FDR and Tuck retreat into the loneliness that the life of a CIA operative offers. They do have each other, but they both are looking for 'the one' as well.

Enter Lauren (Reese Witherspoon), a somewhat neurotic but loveable girl who can't seem to ever work it out in relation-



Courtesy Photo

ships. Despite her high-flying career at some sort of Consumer Reports-esque publication, her luck with men is abysmal. She meets Tuck online and they immediately hit it off, to the joy of Lauren's acerbic married friend Trish (Chelsea Handler), who encourages her to get out there because Gloria Steinham didn't do all that she did so that Lauren "could sit alone on the couch like a little bitch."

Just when Tuck and Lauren start heating up, Lauren has a chance encounter with FDR, and despite a rocky start, they start falling for one another as well.

When FDR and Tuck find out about Lauren dating both of them, they vow to not let it affect their friendship while going all out to win her over, spy vs spy.

A light movie like this honestly can be totally sunk with bad performances. Luckily, Tom Hardy and Chris Pine both do an excellent job of making their characters appealing, but vastly different. It's a testament to their acting that it never seems obvious who Lauren is going to choose, a rarity in movie love-triangles.

Reese Witherspoon brings her usual southern-girl charm to the role, but it is Chelsea Handler who steals every scene she is in with her saucy irreverence and deadpan delivery. If this movie belongs to anyone, it is Handler, who even in a life or death situation late in the film, will have you laughing your ass off.

Heinrich eventually does return to stake claim on Lauren as a way of hurting FDR

and Tuck, but luckily the film doesn't devote too much screen-time to this clumsy side plot. The real meat and interest of the film lies in the love stories, and Lauren's choice, and the fact that *This Means War* keeps you guessing while never feeling heavy-handed is something to revel in.

I'm not saying the movie is perfect, but I will say I never checked my watch or phone once. Each scene, whether played for humor, romance, action, or raw emotion, held my interest, and even though Reese Witherspoon didn't pick the suitor I hoped she would, we got a pretty happy ending anyway.

It's not high art, but *This Means War* is certainly escapist cinema at its finest!

Crackle offers free streaming movies, TV with ads

Aaron Stommel

Managing Editor

Crackle.com is a movie streaming Website similar to the Netflix Website, but with one big difference.

Crackle allows the user to stream movies, television shows and other original programming free from Sony Pictures, if you don't mind being interrupted by 10-second ads approximately every 10 minutes. There are also 15-30 second commercials during what would be 30-minute television shows. Ads for Crackle itself can sometimes be seen within the video playback as well.

Crackle streams its video content in flash video format, providing that content through a network that includes YouTube, Hulu, and mobile service providers. It also allows viewing of their content on the PlayStation 3 and Xbox Live after downloading a free application.

According to the Crackle Website, they have "had enough of 'disposable entertainment' that is as relevant as a laughing/dancing baby -- we are here to watch and talk

about the videos that really matter."

Crackle was created in the summer of 2007 and is based out of Sony Pictures Entertainment's studio lot. Crackle, Inc. describes itself as "a multi-platform video entertainment network and studio that distributes full length, uncut, movies, TV shows and original programming in our users' favorite genres."

In addition, the Crackle Website states that it "features original content, including *Trenches* and *The Bannen Way*, which amassed 8.4 million views in February 2010 and more than 13 million views as of March 2010. At the series conclusion it had set records for views for a web series."

Recently, Crackle began to focus on long form programming, or what would be considered longer than average programming.

According to Eric Berger, "short-form episodes had their role on sites like YouTube and other places as the market was developing," he said. "But we think we can create something longer with real talent behind it that can sit side by side with our great library." The website goes to say that projects include *Monster Heist*, *Strand Street*, and an

untitled anthology series that tells paranormal stories.

Other features of the website include allowing users to embed some videos directly into their own site or share content with friends and family via email.

Just as Netflix divides their selections into "New Releases", "Movies You'll Like" and other categories, Crackle has "Top Movies" and "Just Added." Top Movies include selections such as *Year One*, *Groundhog Day*, and *Quarantine* among others and the Just Added selections include movies such as *21*, *Hollow Man*, and *Joe Dirt*.

While the majority of the content is from Sony Pictures, Crackle does offer a broad selection of genres.

Crackle.com also offers an "Add to Queue" feature that allows users to keep track of their content. In addition to this feature Crackle has a very good option for die-hard fans of movies and shows. Users can subscribe to any show or movie and they will receive updates when new content is added to the website. During playback it is possible for the user to buy a movie or TV episode on iTunes as well.

In some instances a movie on Crackle may be replaced with clips from the movie. This happens because the movies on the site are streamed only for a certain amount of time. When that time ends the clips replace the movie for two reasons: it allows the fans of the movie content to enjoy and it acts as a placeholder for when the full-length movie becomes available again.

Crackle's channels and shows reach a global audience across the Internet, in the living room, and on devices including a broad range of Sony electronics.

They currently have a limited number of platforms that can stream their content. The platforms include Blu-Ray Players, Bravia TV, Internet TV, Network Media Player, Streaming Player and PlayStation 3. Crackle is also available through Boxee, Google TV, Logitech Revue, Roku, Sezmi, Tivo, Verizon FiOS and Xbox. A full listing of platforms that can stream content from crackle can be found at: <http://www.crackle.com/out-reach/platforms>.

Hulu airs original content

Aaron Stommel

Managing Editor

Hulu, the Website that offers ad-supported streaming video of TV shows and movies from many different networks and studios has announced it will begin streaming original scripted content.

Hulu has vowed on pushing original content and is doing just that with series like *Battleground* and *Paul the Match Maker*.

According to an article in *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The online video site's first foray hails from 'The Amazing Spider-Man's' Marc Webb and actor-turned-director JD Walsh."

The first original video from Hulu will be *Battleground*, a series set in the world of political campaigns. The video comes from the minds of actor-turned-director JD Walsh and Marc Webb, director of *500 Days of Summer*. The Website will still keep its large portfolio of TV shows, clips and movies,



Paul the Male Matchmaker

Courtesy Photo

and will offer this new content in addition to the old.

"We've developed a lot of relationships with great content owners and we see stories that aren't getting told because they haven't found a home for whatever reason," Hulu's senior vice president of content Andy Forssell told *The Hollywood Reporter* of his inspiration. "We'll look for content that's beloved not beliked. The content that really pays off and punches above its weight in our ecosystem is a show that somebody's going to see and then they want to go email five of their friends or get on Facebook and post about it."

Jason Kilar, the chief executive of Hulu, recently disclosed Hulu's financials and growth to date in a widely read blog post. He stated that the site's monthly paid service can now lay claim to over 1.5 million subscribers and its 2012 plan is to purchase \$500 million worth of content.

Battleground, invented by Walsh, is set in Wisconsin, the childhood home of both Walsh and Webb. It is shot as a mocumentary, the workplace dramedy going behind-the-scenes with an unruly group of campaign workers and volunteers who are living their lives on the campaign trail.

According to the blog on the Hulu Website, Walsh said "I'm excited. I've found that throughout this process that people use excited to mean terrified. So when I hear, 'We're excited about the launch,' All I hear is, 'Are you terrified about the launch?' But, yes, definitely, I'm glad people are gonna get to see it, finally."

In an earlier interview Forssell said, "Nobody's going to dislike this series. They'll either like it or they won't care about it."

The project stars Jay Harden, Teri Reeves, Jack DeSana, Ben Samuel, Lindsey Payne, Jordan T. Maxwell and Alison Haislip. It launched Feb. 14 and will have weekly episodes purposely timed to roll out in the middle of GOP primary season.

Another program will be *Up To Speed*,

from Richard Linklater, the mind behind *Dazed and Confused* and will follow host, philosopher and tour guide Timothy "Speed" Levitch as he helps viewers discover some hidden treasures of famed locations around the country. Six episodes are scheduled to be directed by Linklater.

Paul the Male Matchmaker, an original mocumentary series from *Sex and the City's* Liz Tuccillo and *Mad Men's* Paul Bartholomew has also been announced by Hulu.

The 10-episode series will feature hopeless male matchmaker, Paul, who has almost no affection for women but is determined to help them find a soul mate, anyway.

The series launched Feb. 13, exclusively on Hulu, and stars Bartholomew as Paul. Multiple guests including Janeane Garofalo, *House's* Lisa Edelstein and *True Blood's* Sam Trammell are scheduled to appear on Matchmaker.

Sci-fi *Chronicle* delivers

Whitney Barrett

Staff Writer

So far a majority of the science fiction films last year were of the usual caliber; aliens, super-human powers, Greek mythology, pirates and fairy tales redone. Often these movies can be pulled off stunningly, but as with any movie genre, there comes

In the woods, Steve and Matt have found a strange hole in the ground that emits strange noises.

The three boys drop down into the hole and discover a large, glowing, crystalline object that, upon closer inspection, gives the boys nosebleeds and pain.

The camera suddenly cuts, leaving an uncertain aura. When the camera springs back to life, it is a new camera and weeks have



Some stunts were shot with handheld camera in *Chronicle*.

Courtesy Photo

a time when a new refreshing film that can wow the audience is needed.

Chronicle definitely is a science-fiction film that goes beyond and has viewers wanting more every second. It is a refreshing look on humanity and has an interesting concept.

The characters in the film bond over powers that they possess as they struggle between good and evil and right vs. wrong.

As the film opens, the audience is given a voyeuristic view through the lens of a camera which is focused on the film's main character, Andrew Detmer (Dane DeHaan), a high-school teenager. Andrew randomly videotapes his life, but the film never reveals why or when he began that habit.

Andrew's home life is anything but peaceful as he struggles with the fact that his mother Karen (Bo Petersen), is slowly dying of cancer and his alcoholic father Richard (Michael Kelly), abuses Andrew and blames him for everything. Andrew's life at school is not any better; he is unpopular and frequently bullied.

Andrew's cousin Matt (Alex Russell), invites him to a rave to help him get to know people, but Andrew ends up getting into a scuffle with a guy at the party who accuses him of videoing his girlfriend. Andrew leaves the rave and is approached outside by Steve (Michael B. Jordan), the school's popular star quarterback, who persuades Andrew to join him and Matt, to record a discovery they have made.

passed since the boys discovered the peculiar hole in the ground.

Now all three boys are displaying telekinetic abilities and when they over-exert themselves they suffer from nosebleeds.

When the boys return to where they found the hole it has collapsed and the police have sealed off the area for safety reasons. Left with little answers as to what they found, the boys begin to experiment with their new found abilities.

Matt theorizes that the abilities are like a muscle, growing stronger with use. They develop a close knit friendship, although things change for Andrew and he becomes withdrawn and hostile after a string of misfortunes.

This film is exhilarating, with a fresh young cast of new faces, a smart script and amazing special effects.

It is not just another action film or superhero story. This is a film about a disturbed teenager, who, even with the solace of the other two boys through the bond they have with the power, is still unable to find peace and happiness.

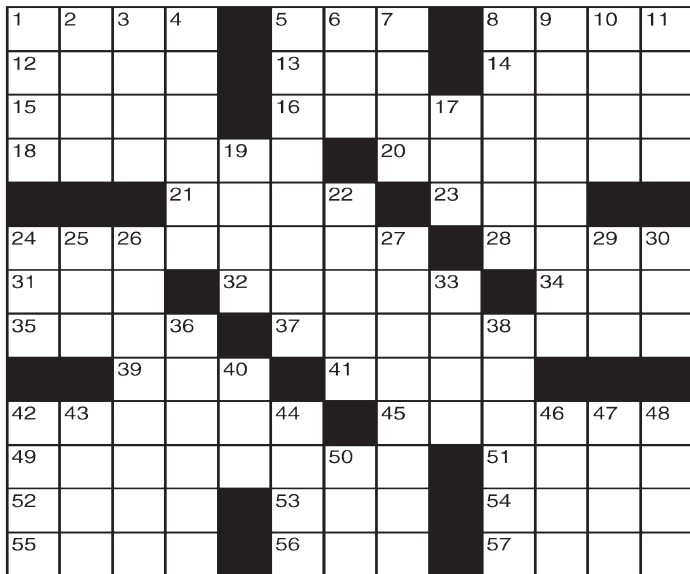
Even with the fast pace of the film it doesn't take away from the story. It is a must see; unique and thrilling. *Chronicle* caters to action fans and anyone who enjoys a good story.

In a time where the documentary type films are overrated *Chronicle* pushes forward, not at all to be clumped with the rest.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Forum garb
- 5 Life story, for short
- 8 Snake's tooth
- 12 Grand tale
- 13 Conclusion
- 14 Operatic rendition
- 15 Painter Chagall
- 16 Being phil-anthropic
- 18 Dull indifference
- 20 Soda-shop treat
- 21 Dire prophecy
- 23 Two fives
- 24 Try
- 28 Antelope's playmate
- 31 Meadow
- 32 Weary
- 34 Firmament
- 35 Departed
- 37 Check beneficiary
- 39 Dandy
- 41 Garbage barge
- 42 Anchored
- 45 It gets the lead out
- 49 Ingratiated
- 51 Staff member?
- 52 Use a teaspoon
- 53 Eggs

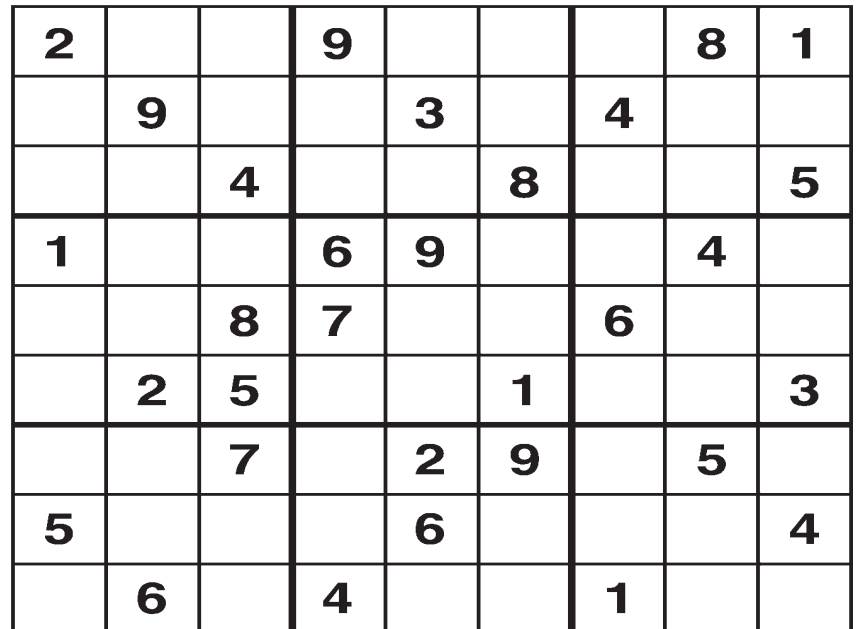


- 54 Two-way
- 55 14-Across, e.g.
- 56 Apiece
- 57 Partner in wartime
- 7 Probability
- 8 Was obsequious
- 9 Sahara-like quality
- 10 1492 ship
- 11 "Eleni" author
- 17 See 29-Down
- 19 Capricorn
- 22 Early periods
- 24 Right angle
- 25 Born
- 26 Jonquil's cousin
- 27 Fragrant wood
- 29 With 17-
- Down, supplement
- 30 Deli bread
- 33 Entrance
- 36 Matador
- 38 African nation
- 40 Carrot companion?
- 42 Disarray
- 43 Aware of
- 44 Let fall
- 46 "Heart and -"
- 47 List-ending abbr.
- 48 Depend (on)
- 50 First lady

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

ON BKGDQKP PDDG OE KLL
ODI TERILP OE GD. PE U
GKYD UO K TEUIO IDNDQ OE
DKO ON BKGDQKP. -
YUOOA BKQWUPWD

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: E equals W

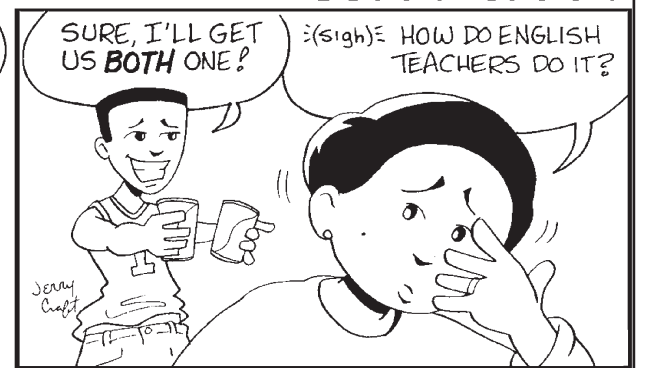
LRK UKE APQH ZLK VKLKY LQHK
ZOKUYB RZJ PKYKULNB ZVWALKV
LRK JNWOZU "EK APB RZPVKP."

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MAMA'S BOYZ

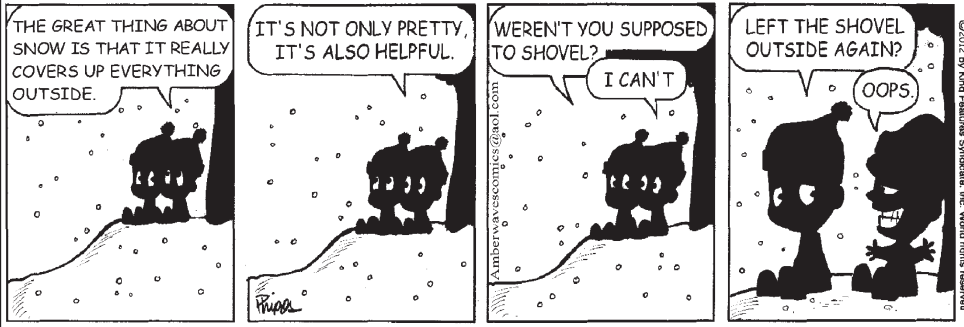
WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM

JERRY CRAFT



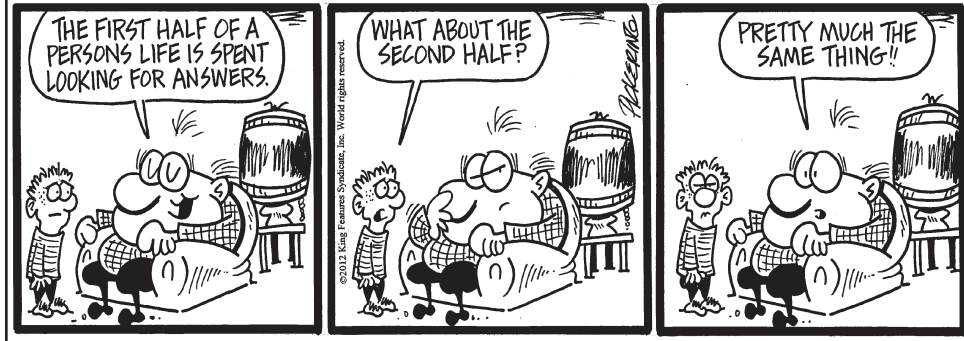
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



CryptoQuote

answer

TV cameras seem to add ten pounds to me. So I make it a point never to eat TV cameras. - Kitty Carlisle

CryptoQuip

answer

The new private detective agency has recently adopted the slogan "We pry harder."

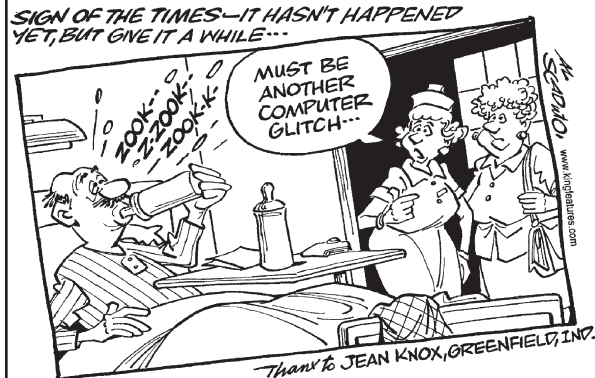
Walk one flight up...
Or two flights down!

You'll burn calories
and save time!

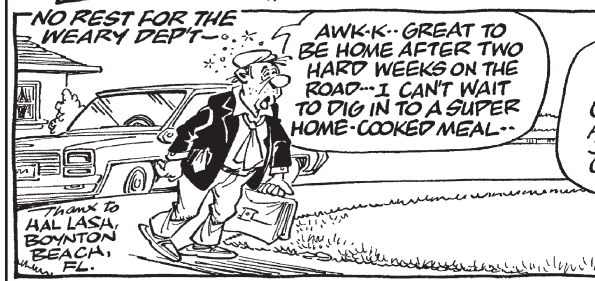


Be Kind to Elevators!

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO



King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

T	A	B	S	W	E	A	T	P	R	Y
S	I	R	H	A	L	L	E	R	O	E
P	R	O	B	A	T	I	O	N	O	V
			O	D	E	H	O	O	V	E
P	E	P	P	E	R	A	N	T	I	
O	U	R	S	E	T	S	I	S	A	L
P	R	O	D	D	O	G	S	I	T	E
S	O	F	A	S	O	R	B	O	O	N
U	T	A	H	A	L	O	N	Z	O	
S	E	S	A	M	E	M	O	A		
U	R	I	P	R	O	M	O	T	I	O
E	G	O	L	O	P	E	D	S	H	E
D	O	N	E	N	T	R	Y	M	O	W

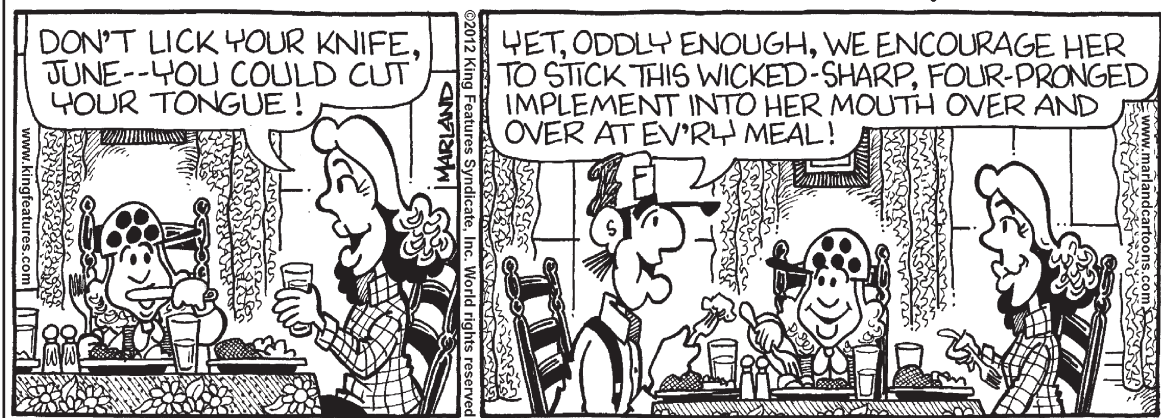
Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

6	9	4	8	2	5	1	7	3
7	8	2	3	1	6	9	4	5
5	3	1	9	7	4	8	6	2
9	2	6	5	3	8	7	1	4
3	1	8	4	9	7	2	5	6
4	5	7	2	6	1	3	8	9
8	4	3	1	5	9	6	2	7
2	6	5	7	8	3	4	9	1
1	7	9	6	4	2	5	3	8

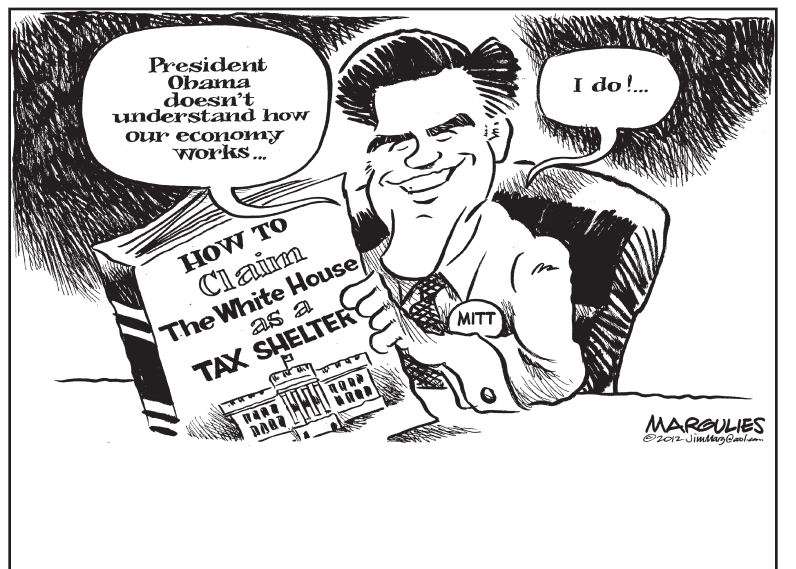
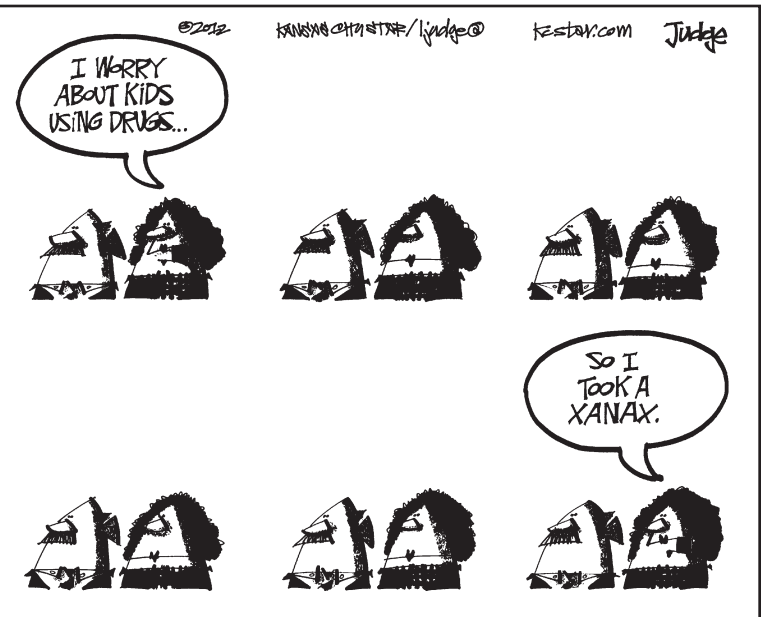
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



INTRAMURAL
FREE THROW & 3 POINT
CONTEST

UHD SPORTS & FITNESS
MEN'S & WOMEN'S
ENTRY PERIOD
FEBRUARY 9 - FEBRUARY 23, 2012

ENTRY FEE
\$5.00 PER INDIVIDUAL

START DATE & LOCATION
 Thursday, February 23 at 3pm
 The Intramural Free Throw & 3 Point Contest will be a one day event and take place in the Student Live Center - West Gym

PLAYERS NEEDED!!!

Open to current UHD Students, Faculty, Staff and other Sports & Fitness Members.
 To register, stop by the Student Live Center or call 713-221-8225
VISIT US AT WWW.UHD.EDU/SPORTS&FITNESS



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**STRESS REDUCTION:
 THE JOY OF HUMOR**

Healthy Seminar

Date: 2/22/2012
Location: 1099-N
Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm

Visit us at www.uhd.edu/sports&fitness

