

DATELINE DOWNTOWN

"STUDENT RUN SINCE VOLUME ONE"

Obama to Increase Pell Grants for Students

Rocio Ortiz
Staff Writer

For the first time, we have a U.S. president that understands the hardships of being a college student and the amount of money that college student must invest in our education. Today, many students around the country are forced to drop out of college or prolong the time to earn their degree because they are force to attend part-time due to the price.

Recently, President Obama has asked Congress to increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$140 to \$5,785, and spend eight billion dollars on job training programs at community colleges. This is huge progress and brings hope for many of the students already in college and those who plan to attend.

The spending plan, which comes roughly three weeks after the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives passed

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(Via Creative Commons)



SGA Elections Face Controversy

Jacqueline Reyes
Editor

Student Government Association (SGA) elections are now underway. With only a few numbers of students running, most positions are left unopposed and the single candidate running for those positions will win by default. As a result, the only candidates for president and vice president who are running on a single ticket, Isaac Valdez, currently Speaker of the Senate for SGA, as President and Kristopher Sharp, currently Senator for the College of Public Service for SGA, as Vice President candidate, have been receiving heat from fellow peers in SGA as well as students around campus.

Since the SGA's constitution has strict guidelines for Presidential

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UHD Students Rally for Immigration Reform



Alma Garcia
Assistant Editor

The last time the United States worked on provisions for an immigration reform

was in 2001. After that the tragic attacks of September 11 and immigration reform was no longer a topic of priority. Twelve years later, immigration reform a dream for many seems to reappear on politi-

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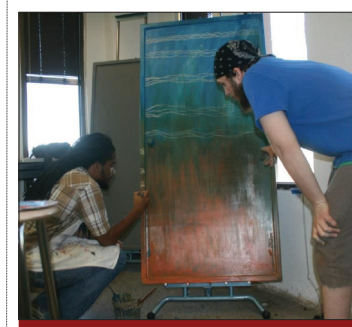
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Meet Your New Editor for 2013



Jacqueline Reyes
Editor

Finally we are back! Due to administrative circumstances out of our control, we have had to miss a few issues. Fortunately, we are back and running now, and hope to make it up to you in this issue and those that follow.

Angelica Leicht, the former Editor, has taken a job elsewhere and can no longer take responsibilities for the Editor position. As a result, I was appointed to this position, but it is really my pleasure.

This is officially my first issue as the new Editor of *Dateline*. I will be in this position for the remaining of the semester, and into 2013-2014 academic year.

So a bit more about myself: I am a junior, majoring in Professional Writing, and minoring in Communications. Journalism is my passion. I found this out long ago, in high school, and since then have been trying to gain as much knowledge and experience in the field as I can.

I am ecstatic that the Student Publications Advisory Committee has given me this opportunity, and I will perform my duties to the best of my capacity. This is as exciting for me as it is nerve-wrecking. I had a small taste my taste as Editor last week, and well, it is very stressful to say the least. I made a few mistakes, however Angelica kindly help me fix these, despite her own busy schedule. But on a more positive note, now I know what to not do and what to do for the next issue. Last week was challenging, but I don't expect anything easy any-

way. I prefer to work hard for it, and see the great results later. I feel even more ready to continue to serve you as your Editor.

I could not end this editorial without first thanking Angelica for temporarily staying on with the staff, and guiding me so well during this transition. Under her management I believe *Dateline* has improved a great deal, and we want to continue improve it. Here at *Dateline* we are thankful for having had such a great editor who has set standards and even after Angelica stepped down, she continued work with us to maintain the quality of the paper. The current *Dateline* staff will always acknowledge you as an awesome editor.

I have many ideas to continue to improve *Dateline* for 2013-2014, which you will see come to fruition in the coming issues. I hope you continue to pick up our paper, UHD's paper, when you see it on the stands.

Look out for one more issue before the semester ends. Best wishes on finals everyone!



candidates, only a handful of students were eligible to run of which Valdez has decided to. One requirement to be eligible to run for SGA President is that a student must have been active in SGA for at least three semesters, not taking into account the semester he or she decides to run. There was an attempt to change this requirement from three semesters to two at an SGA General Assembly meeting last month, but it was ruled unconstitutional. Election applications had already been released at the time the proposal was introduced making it too late to change the qualifications. Opponents of the proposal also stated that the proposal needs student referendum in order to be voted on since it essentially changes the constitution.

A petition was recently circulating the University calling upon students to demand "Opening Up Elections" to more students by other members in SGA. However, those efforts have halted, as the students behind the petition have been told by administrators that it will do nothing. Ever David Flores, a senior in International Business, and Senator of the College of Business for SGA, one of the students involved with the petition believes this is unfair.

"Why is it still being called an election? There is no election," said Flores.

Valdez said he welcomes competition but believes that if students in SGA were truly bothered by this, it would have been addressed earlier in the semester. He also stated that this petition and proposal presented at SGA's General Assembly benefited only one other team.

Despite the discord, the elections will continue. Elections begin this week on Blackboard Learn, where all students will have access to vote. Valdez said he and his running mate will be hosting events through out the week to discuss their platform, and students will be welcomed to speak and ask questions.

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Letter Policy

Dateline: Downtown welcomes letters to the editor from any member of the UH system. Letters should be no more than 250 words, include the author's full name, phone number or email address, and affiliation with the University, including classification and major. Anonymous letters will not be published. Deliver letters to Room S-260, email them to editor.dateline@gmail.com, or fax them to (713) 221-8119. Letters to the editor may be edited for space. They will be edited for spelling, grammar and malicious or libelous statements. Letters must be the work of the writer and must be signed. All submissions become property of *Dateline: Downtown* and may not be returned.

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Rescuers Search For Survivors After Explosion

Via Uwire

WEST, Texas (AP) — Rescue workers searched the smoldering ruins of a fertilizer plant Thursday for survivors of a monstrous explosion that leveled homes and businesses in every direction across the Texas prairie. As many as 15 people were feared dead and more than 160 others injured.

Daybreak revealed a breathtaking band of destruction extending outward from the West Fertilizer Co. in this small farming community about 20 miles north of Waco. The thunderous blast was so powerful that it shook the ground with the strength of a small earthquake and could be heard dozens of miles away.

Searchers "have not gotten to the point of no re-

turn where they don't think that there's anybody still alive," Waco police Sgt. William Patrick Swanton said. He did not know how many people had been rescued.

There was no indication the blast was anything other than an industrial accident, he said.

The explosion rained burning embers and debris down on terrified residents. It leveled a four-block area around the plant, badly damaging or destroying up to 75 houses, a 50-unit apartment complex, a middle school and a nursing home.

All that remained of one home was the fireplace and chimney. Several buildings with smashed roofs and leveled walls still were smoking Thursday morning.

Firm information was hard to come by in the hours after the blast, and entry into the town was slow-going as the roads were jammed with emergency vehicles. Authorities themselves had trouble entering the heart of the blast zone.

"It's still too hot to get in there," said Franceska Perot, a spokeswoman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Among those believed to be dead were three to five volunteer firefighters and a law enforcement officer. The many injuries included broken bones, bruises, lacerations, respiratory distress, and some head

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Congressional Proposals on Gun Control Laws



Wendy Williams
Staff Writer

The re-establishment of the debate about gun control in the United States was prompted by the second deadliest mass shooting in American History December 14, 2012. Twenty year old Adam Lanza entered the Sandy Hook Elementary School, in Newton, Connecticut, and fatally shot 20 children and six staff members. During a televised memorial service for the victims, President Barack Obama emotionally implored the country "will have to change. These tragedies must end!" he said.

The Sandy Hook tragedy encourage Americans to realize that this is an issue that can no longer be ignored. Public shootings have occurred in recent years in which individuals who have acquired semi-automatic weapons used to commit heinous acts of violence against innocent bystanders. The question left unanswered is how these individuals are able to obtain these automatic weapons that have affected the lives of many.

Tucson, Arizona was another scene in which many were shot by a gunman with an semi-automatic weapon. A semi-automatic 9mm glock with a 33 round magazine was used by shooter

Jared Loughner January 8, 2011 when Arizona State Representative Gabrielle Giffords was shot in the head while addressing a small crowd. Although Giffords was not the only victim, reports confirm that she was the intended target.

Some of the Congressional proposals include:

- A criminal background check for all gun sales including those by private sellers once exempt
- Reinstating the ban on assault weapons
- Limiting magazine rounds/cartridges to 10 rounds
- Providing 30 million in grants to schools to assist with the development of an emergency response system
- Providing mental health counseling programs for youth
- Nominating an Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (A.T.F.) director and enforcement of stricter A.T.F. policies and guidelines for gun owners
- More stringent background checks for those purchasing firearms.

Different parts of the country and different political parties seem to be torn on the issue. Republicans share similar views with the NRA (National Rifle Association), both agreeing that stricter laws are unnecessary, especially the requests for more extensive background checks. Democrats, on the other hand, feel that rational and justifiable changes must be made so as to make the changes that will keep guns out of the hands of criminals and those who may use them to do harm.

A Rock In China's Shoe



Enrique Bolivar
Contributing Writer

The United States now joins China in facing yet another dilemma. China's long-term problematic neighbor demonstrated their power hunger. Who is it that I speak of? None other than North Korea.

The first two Kims that lead North Korea, Kim Il Sung and his son Kim Jong Il, had their respective confrontational engagements. One example is in 1983, when South Korean leaders were bombed while visiting Rangoon, Burma. In 1987, a South Korean passenger plane was shot down. And another in the 1990s when North Korea had a uranium enhancement program that violated an arrangement of nuclear weapons. North Korea is and has been a military problem for the People's Republic of China for a while now.

Currently, China is putting pressure on North Korea. North Korea's missile training of the coast has put China in a tough position. The recently elected president of China, Xi Jinping, is now warning North Korea that China is not

going to allow anyone to disturb the peace in East Asia or the world because of selfish needs. According to a professor of China's Foreign Affairs University, there has been "no high-level official contact and the relationship on both sides since North Korea decide to have a nuclear test in February. According to Senator Lindsey Graham, South Korea is "losing its tolerance and would respond if North Korea provokes."

But this is not enough; China must do a lot more than just diplomacy to keep North Korea from destabilizing East Asia. China's long time dominant presence in the region is directly threatened by North Korea. If China is unable or unwilling to keep North Korea in control, the United States along with Japan and South Korea will have to step in and handle the situation. If this happens China could lose the influence it has gained in East Asia and around the world.

This rock in China's shoe could make her fall.

Big Red Exhibit Comes to an End

Rocio Ortiz
Staff Writer

If you love art, well unfortunately, you have just missed The University of Houston Downtown Big Red exhibition located in the O'Kain Gallery. The exhibition came to an end April 18.

This exhibition was hosted in conjunction with the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) 2013 Conference in Houston, Texas.

The art exhibits was composed of fifteen alumni from the University of Nebraska's ceramic graduate program. This specific exhibition marks the retirement of Gail Kendall who built the ceramics program at the University of Nebraska. She led the program at the university from 1987 to 2011.

What makes this exhibition even more special is that the art-work that was exhibited has been art developed throughout the years the program's existence. Many of the alumni that were part of the program were taught by Gail Kendall herself and her colleagues Peter Pinnell and Eddie Dominguez.

This selected group of artists was chosen to reflect the breadth and depth of work that has been done at UNL during Kendall's tenure, and the great strength and versatility of the program as embodied by the work of its alumni.

The program has been very open to the kind of art that the students have developed over the years.



Many of the alumni who took part in this have brought in their own skills and have developed new ideas that have brought success to the program.

The artist participating include: David Bogus, Meredith Knapp Brickell, Jason Briggs, Autumn Cipala, Susan Dewsnap, Seth Green, Aisha Harrison, Roxanne Jackson, Matt Kelleher, Ryan LaBar, Lauren E. Mabry, Joseph E. Pintz, Kari Radasch, Monica Ripley, Jesse Ross

Much of the art exhibited were ceramic pieces that represent the students' culture art personality. One of the pieces was a ceramic piece in the shape of a piece of luggage. What makes this piece quite particular are the small colorful squares covering the luggage, making beautiful patterns all around.

Another unique and peculiar piece was a curved plane made by Lauren Mabry. This specific piece was quite interesting as it looks like a piece of wood with shades of yellow and brown, with what appears to be frozen ice dripping on it.

Without adequate marketing and capital in the minor league system, I fear the worst for our team. In a perfect world, we would see the Houston Aeros leave the minor league ranks and join the NHL as an expansion team, solidifying hockey in Houston.

Aeros Ditch Houston; Flee for Boring Old Ohio for Better Pay

Mark Steven Caffey
Staff Columnist

My first introduction to hockey came when I was eight years old. My third grade teacher was engaged to the coach of the Houston Aeros and she often talked about her fiancé and his hockey team. One may not think of hockey as a Houston pastime, but we definitely have hockey history.

In 1972, the Dayton Arrows moved to Houston and became the Aeros in the World Hockey Association (WHA). They won two championships before the league folded in 1978. The Aeros had a rebirth in 1994 by joining the International Hockey League (IHL) as an expansion team. In 1999, I was there to support the Aeros as they clinch the Turner Cup against the Orlando Solar Bears. In 2001, The IHL dissolved and the Aeros transferred to the American Hockey League (AHL). The AHL provides the minor league structure for the NHL. Unfortunately, the future of Houston hockey is in doubt. They won an AHL champion in 2003 and currently are the minor league franchise for the Minnesota Wild of the National Hockey League (NHL).

The Aeros' lease at the Toyota Center will expire April 2013. As per the agree-

ment with the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority (HCHSA) and the Houston Rockets, the Aeros are permitted to play their home games in the Arena. Annually, the sports authority turns down concerts and other potentially profitable events to accommodate the Aeros. If negotiations fail, the Aeros would likely relocate to Des Moines, Iowa for the 2013-2014 season.

"They (HCHSA) have a business and we have a business and everybody's got their own interests and that's why the process continues... we're in the middle of that process," Aeros general manager Jim Mill said. "We're still talking and that's about the only update I can give you."

It would be sad to see Houston lose its hockey team. Through the years, my daughter and I have attended Aeros games with our trusty cowbells in hand. Hockey is a great sport and I treasure Houston's hockey history.

Without adequate marketing and capital in the minor league system, I fear the worst for our team. In a perfect world, we would see the Houston Aeros leave the minor league ranks and join the NHL as an expansion team, solidifying hockey in Houston.

(Obama Pell Grants continued from page 1)

budgets outlining their own priorities, repeats the president's call to expand and remake the Perkins Loan program, an idea he first offered in 2009.

This would increase spending on Federal Work-Study by \$150-million, doubling the number of recipients over five years, but would provide no increase for Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants. This will increase funding not only in work-study students, but will also increase student involvement in school.

Like the president's last two budgets, the blueprint for 2014 would provide \$1-billion for "Race to the Top"-style grants to states and millions more for a "First in the World" innovation competition for nonprofit organizations and colleges. It would also replace the Teach Grant program with a Presidential Teaching Fellows grant program for the states, an idea that

Obama first introduced in 2011. None of these programs have received funds to this day, largely because of budget constraints.

Community colleges have received \$2 billion of the \$12

billion that the president first sought for them back in 2009. Also under the president's Perkins proposal, the program could possibly grow from \$1 billion to \$8.5 billion. What makes this proposal even more rewarding is that the additional aid will allow schools to keep tuition low, providing "good value" and serving low-income students effectively.

Something else that is new this year is a proposal to peg student-loan interest rates to U.S Treasury securities. Under the president's plan, students with subsidized loans would be charged a rate equal to the ten-year treasury.

Our New America, One Man's Opinion on the Land of the Free

Mark Steven Caffey
Staff Columnist

The warm sun blankets the small crowd. The smell of cut grass and stale beer fill one's senses. As the teams line up on their respective sides, the young and old rise to celebrate America. Belting, off-tone voices proclaim in front of Old Glory "O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!" Land of the free. Free food, free housing and free medicine! Our new America. We are free to enjoy the best our government has to offer. We no longer follow the tired, old traditions of hard work, sacrifice and entrepreneurship. We are a progressive society that strives to leave no one behind and we believe everyone is entitled to have what the successful have.

My fellow red, white, and blue blooded Americans, our new America is doomed. The use and abuse of entitlements are destroying the fabric of our great nation. From her beginning, America has prospered from the contributions of the individual. The increasing use of government entitlements is lessening those contributions and causing ill-effects. When abused, entitlements produce unwanted social, economic, and psychological effects. I absolutely believe when help is needed, it should be provided. But the excessive use and abuse of entitlements are damaging.



(Via Creative Commons)

The American Dream as stated in our Declaration of Independence says "all men are created equal... endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights... Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The American Dream has brought millions to this country in search of a better life, with individual opportunity for achievement. For many individuals, the American Dream has been forgotten, become a faded memory or never known at all. Americans are not willing to engage in a "culture of merit" because the American Dream has been polluted by the "age of convenience."

Our American forefathers worked and sacrificed to ensure a better life for their descendants... including

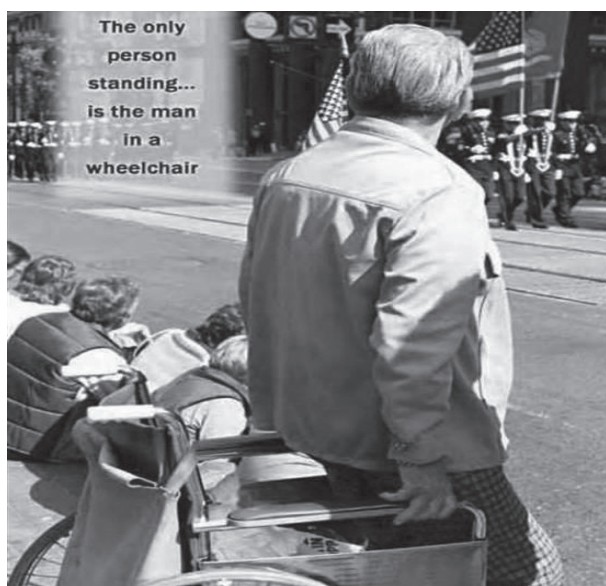
me and you! Since there were no opportunities for entitlements in the past, the only choice was to work hard and succeed or to fail. The success and survival of the family rested on the individual, not the government. Hard work and entrepreneurship helped shape America and her advancement in many areas including medicine, industrial automation, and overall personal convenience.

These actions drove our nation into an "age of convenience." Ironically, the sacrifice of our forefathers created a culture which promotes the opposite of theirs. The noble actions of our past created an American society that has forgotten our history, our establishment and our heritage. Convenience, automation and luxury have transformed many Americans into stewards of the entitlement culture. Prosperity is taken for granted and our nation is spoiled and selfish.

Many individuals blame our government for the abuse of entitlements and the demise of the American Dream. The blame rests with the individual. We Americans are not forced to receive entitlements such as food stamps or unemployment benefits but

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The Man In The Wheelchair, the Only Man Standing



Mark Steven Caffey
Staff Columnist

When I first saw this picture, I was drawn to the American flag in the background. I then noticed the man standing up, partially blocking my view of the flag. My eyes set on the caption and I became emotional. Thoughts of my family and honor came to mind, as well as thoughts of my years in the Boy Scouts and Texas State Guard.

How can an American not be moved by seeing this picture?

This picture reveals much and provides a glimpse of our new America. The color guard represents America, steadily marching forward as our great country has for 236 years. We Americans make a choice of how we use and treat her. The man in a wheelchair represents the American Dream and a "culture of merit". By standing to face the flag, he represents those selfless Americans who sacrificed - who believed that hard work and entrepreneurship would pave the way for future generations and ensure their greatness. The wheelchair represents life's struggles. Although unwanted, these struggles are a part of life. Struggle is a key component of the

American Dream. The man is a dying breed, much like the American Dream. The dream still exists but is only embraced by a declining number of Americans.

The crowd represents our new America: a "culture of entitlement" in the "age of convenience". These individuals believe they are entitled to sit on the curb as the color guard passes by. They appear comfortable and conveniently choose to stay seated. These individuals lack character and are lazy and selfish in nature. The crowd represents a majority of Americans.

Sitting on the curb is a choice - choosing the easy way instead of the hard. Success in America is achieved through hard work, sacrifice, and dedication. My heart wept after seeing this picture. It serves as a reminder of the state of our great nation.

It may not be popular in today's America but standing for the principles of our past - hard work, dedication and sacrifice, is ok! These principles are necessary in restoring the American Dream to the masses.

In my America, you have to work hard and sacrifice for success.

In my America, the thought of every child getting an award for participation - because everyone's a winner - is hogwash. There are winners and losers. You learn from your loss and work harder toward the next win.

Your success starts now at UHD...

1. You must decide that you WANT to be here! Not because Mommy and Daddy want you here.
2. Have specific, challenging goals in place.
3. Work, sweat and bleed with conviction to accomplish what some deem impossible - an education from UHD which will lead to a meaningful and rewarding life built on your own merit.

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The O'Kane Lunch Time Theater

Wendy Williams
Staff Writer

At most theaters it is considered completely unacceptable to eat inside. However, the O'Kane Theater decided it was time to introduce an unconventional method that would allow students to attend a show during their most busiest and important time of the day: Lunch Time.

"Lunch Time Theater" is an event where a 45 minute one-act comedy ran from April 15-19 during, as the title says it, lunch time 1:00pm-1:45pm in the O'Kane Theater. The title of the one-act comedy written by Terrance McNally is Next.

The play presented a two character ensemble. Sergeant Tech was played by Kellie Fondel, a UHD Drama major, and Marion Cheever played by UHD 2005 graduate Herbie Meeks. The admission was free and attendees were encouraged to bring their lunch or a snack was encouraged to "eat while they watch."

The story begins with Sergeant Tech in a physicians coat who calls "Next!". In walks Marion Cheever who has been summoned



(photo courtesy of the UHD Theater Department)

to take the Army draft physical. Because Mr. Cheever is 40 years old, he claims to not be in the best physical condition, yet he is amazed to learn that he is still being considered. Mr. Cheever's character is clever and funny and all he wants is to be heard. Sergeant Tech is the examiner administering the physical. The sergeant's facial expressions clearly showed frustration. There was no room for excuses and you bet, he had heard them all. All the given excuses had one purpose: to keep themselves from being drafted. But Sergeant Tech is firm with Mr. Cheever and does not fall for his antics. The sergeant can handle Mr. Cheever and what Mr. Cheever gives, he gets right back.

The story gets even more hilarious when Mr. Cheever has to get undressed from the waist down for his medical exam. Did I mention that he also needed to be mentally evaluated? Surprisingly, Mr. Cheever passes the physical examination but not the mental evaluation. Mr. Cheever continues to speak to Sergeant Tech who ignores him and has already advised him that he can put his clothes back on and leave. Sergeant Tech finishes typing the

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Bronze Radio Return at Continental Club



photo by Mark Steven Caffey

Mark Steven Caffey
Staff Columnist

Tour and American Idol.

Their name is in reference to a bronze-colored radio that lead singer Chris Henderson and his sister listened to as children. The Connecticut band, formed in 2008, with most of the members having attended the Hartt School of Music in Hartford. Bronze Radio Return's music has received huge media attention from TV channels and shows including ESPN, HBO, MTV, Nissan, the PGA

Chris before their performance last month at the Continental Club in downtown Houston.

Mark: First of all, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you.

Chris: "It's my pleasure. We appreciate you coming out to hear us!"

M: OK, first question. How do you keep your recent success from overwhelming you? To keep everything in check?

C: "Manage the excitement. We set goals for ourselves. When we achieve a goal, we have a beer, pat ourselves on the back and wake up the next day and say 'how are we going to get to our next one?'"

M: With the band's success, changes are certain. Can you describe some positive and negative changes due to your success?

entertaining and meeting people like you. Although, the more you travel, the more your home life and personal life suffer. You have to achieve a balance."

M: Other than music, what other passions do you have?

C: "The first thing that comes to mind is international travel. Learning about different cultures. Traveling with the band has been mainly national travel so we get to visit states like Texas and learn about the region's culture. I would also like to go back to school and study foreign languages."

M: How important are hard work and sacrifice to achieve success?

C: "Extremely important. The day to day excitement drives me to work hard. It's important to have passion in what you do. At the end of the day, we're tired and

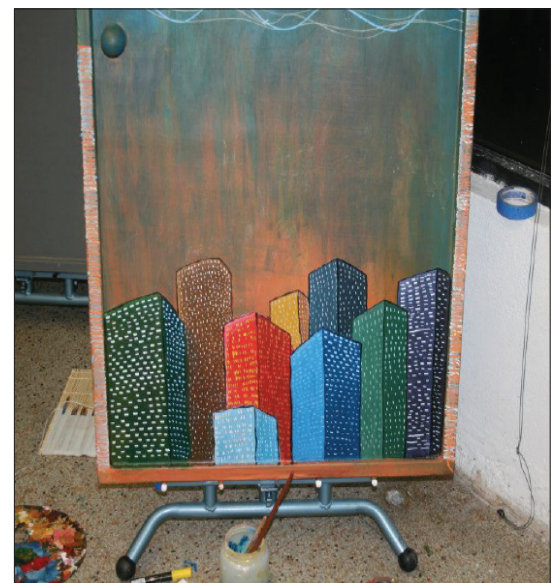
The band is called Bronze Radio Return.

I had the pleasure of speaking with

C: "More travel and we love it. We love

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UHD'S CREATIVE COLLECTIVE CLUB CREATING ART FOR THE COMMUNITY



UHD's Creative Collective Club, pictured above, are tasked with creating art the old school way, and also by painting doors for the community, placing them around the city. They're working with the Open Door Project alongside other universities in Texas.

(Bronze Radio Return continued from page 6)

we look back at what we accomplished through hard work and sacrifice. It makes all the difference."

M: What is the importance of college?

C: *"College prepares you for life. In college, you learn to learn, which helps you develop skills to use daily."*

M: What was your first experience with music as a child?

C: *"It was early for me, in the 4th grade. I wanted to play the drums but got stuck with the bells. The next year, I played the snare drum. It turns out that I played a drum solo and it went well. It was that type of gratification that drove me forward musically. Also, my parents were very supportive of me."*

M: It was a pleasure speaking with you and I wish you and the band all the

best.

C: *"Thank you so much. Good luck in school!"*

As far as their performance that night, the band rocked the place apart. People were crowding the stage, even jumping to the beat. Chris revealed a sultry, folksy voice which complimented the mind altering guitar rips of Patrick Fetkowitz. Also, the ability of Craig Struble to make his harmonica sing was a memorable experience.

Bronze Radio Return is true to their vision of original music. They have that one-of-a-kind funky sound that grabs you and won't let go; a delightful blend of guitar, keyboard and harmonica. There is something pure and deliberate about their sound.

Bronze Radio Return. A group of good hearted souls with a passion and drive equal to none.

The Safety Plan for UHD in Case of an Emergency

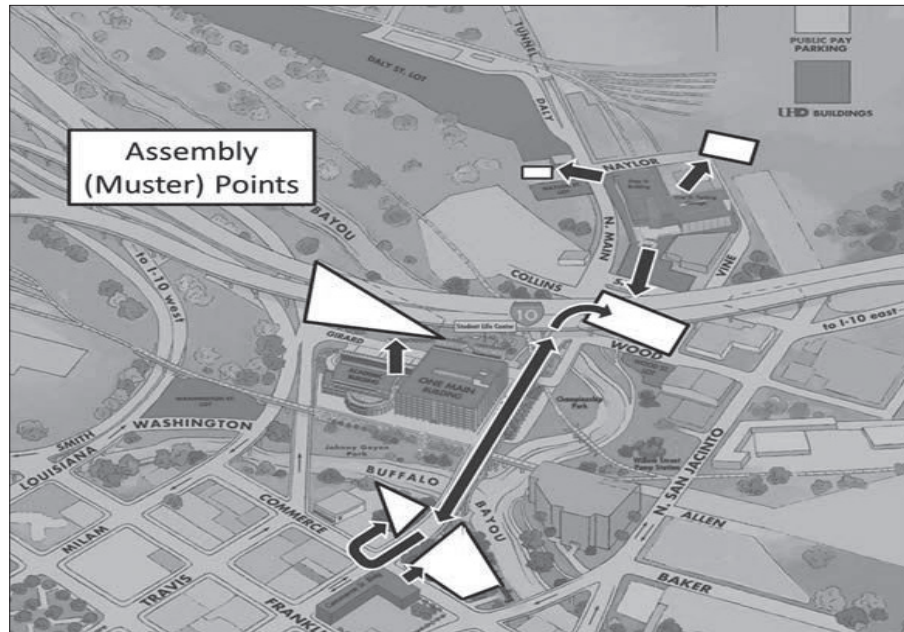
Alma Garcia
Assistant Editor

For many students, the month of April is a wake-up call. Finals are around the corner, and research papers, final projects and graduation are on everyone's mind. The fun of being a college student seems to slow down and students work harder to make it through the toughest month in school before finals. But this April has been a bit different.

To read the news is to feel that the threats are escalating every day. First it was the Lone Star College stabbing that occurred April 9 followed by a bomb threat at the University of St. Thomas two days later. The most recent college attack was at the University of Houston main campus, where two students were robbed at gunpoint.

These incidents have prompted college campuses to dust off their safety plans to ensure the safety of their students, faculty, and staff. Let's be honest, how many students are aware of the safety procedures in case of an emergency? It is surprising to see that not many students are aware that we even have a plan.

While UH-D hopes that we never have tragic incidents like those in other colleges, it is always best to be prepared. Every second counts when there is a potential threat to one's life so it is imperative to become familiar



with the safety procedures. So what should one do in case of an emergency?

First, PRE-PLAN your escape using stairway exits and NEVER use elevators. Their use is reserved for the firefighters and emergency response teams. Always take your personal items, if possible, such as your keys and backpacks.

Become familiar and recognize the types of alarms that the school has. The "Automatic Alarm" plays one contin-

uous whooping tone with the following message: the "Fire/Smoke Reported Alarm" plays two short tones; and the "all clear alarm" also contains two short tones. Because two of the alarms have similar sounds, one must become acquainted with the different messages following these alarms in order to properly evacuate the building.

If there are no signs of fire, continue to proceed to the nearest stairwell and wait for announcements from authorities.

For students with disabilities, there is a form available on the UH-D website under Faculty and Staff Emergency Health and Safety Forms. Be prepared to call the university police to let them know of your location and if possible, arrange a buddy system with someone who is aware of your condition very well.

Always remember to keep all exits, corridors, and elevators free from obstruction and keep the university police phone number on your cell phone in case you need to be located.

For more information on the safety procedures visit the UH-D website at http://www.uhd.edu/facultyandstaff/environmental_health_and_safety/.

Response to the Stabbing at Lone Star - CyFair Campus

Wendy Williams
Staff Writer

Tuesday, April 9, Dylan Quick, a Lone Star College student at the Cy-Fair campus, began going from building to building stabbing fellow students. Quick stabbed at least 14 students before being wrestled to the ground and taken into custody by police. At least four victims were transported by helicopter to local hospitals. Authorities report that Quick may have had an accomplice and this is still being investigated.

Earlier this semester on January 22 at the North Harris campus, there was a shooting that was a result of an altercation between two male students. Trey Foster claims that the altercation started when Jody Neal bumped into him.

A maintenance man at the college, Bobby Cliburn, was an innocent bystander and was shot in the leg. Also reported to have been shot were 22 year old Carlton Berry and 25 year old Jody Neal. Mistakenly Carlton Berry was suspected as the shooter and taken into custody. Trey Foster fled the scene. He was tracked down in North Texas (Plano), returned to Houston by the authorities and charged with aggravated assault. Charges against Carlton Berry were later dropped and he was released from custody.

This has been a turbulent semester at Lone Star College where over thousands of students attend classes. Being that Lonestar Colleges has been the site for the latest acts of campus violence and is located close in proximity to where many students reside, this hits really close to home. College campuses are the one place a student should be safe, yet higher education institutions have been a target for a number of recent shootings and crimes.

Many have come to the conclusion that students who have committed such crimes are due to the lack of mental counseling. As students, the pressure of school, families, jobs and personal problems can be overwhelming. However, UH-D and most higher education institutions offer counseling to their students.



Here at UH-D students are encouraged to speak up about their problems with grades, the difficulty of balancing responsibilities or whether others are bullying other students on campus. Violence should never be the first response to any situation, especially when an innocent person could be injured.

For more information visit <http://www.uhd.edu/counseling> or send an email to student-counseling@uhd.edu or to www.uteap.org. To speak to someone over the phone immediately or to make an appointment to sit down and talk to a counselor call (24 Hours) 713-500-3327 or 1-800-346-3549.

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Social Media May Be Damaging to College Applicants



(Via Creative Commons)

Lily Beatty
Daily Collegian, Penn State U. via UWIRE

The college application process can be overwhelming to high school seniors, and according to a Kaplan Test prep survey, the process has become even more of a challenge in the past year.

The results from Kaplan Test Prep's 2012 survey of college admission offices show a slightly increased use of Facebook and Google as a tool in application evaluations to about 26 percent and 27 percent respectively, compared to the previous year where Facebook was also used 26 percent of the time, but Google was only used 20 percent of the time.

While this statistical jump is relatively small in relation to the year prior, the number of applicants who had damaging material found on their social networking pages that negatively impacted their applications nearly tripled from 12 percent to 35 percent this year.

"The offenses we heard repeatedly [from admission officers] were underage drinking, vulgarities, essay plagiarism, academic offenses and suspect material," Colin Gruenwald, director of SAT and ACT programs for Kaplan Test Prep, said.

Students' social networking profiles might paint a different

(Man in Wheelchair Standing continued from page 5)

Listen up people - life is hard. In America, millions of people are competing for jobs and a better way of life. You either bust your tail to achieve your dream or stick with a large portion of Americans who settle for working at fast food restaurants, accepting government entitlements and live average, uneventful lives. Do you want that high paying job? Big house? Nice car? Stability? Then pull yourself up, take a deep breath and believe in yourself. Push yourself to excellence. If you believe and live in a "culture of merit", you WILL succeed and your rewards will be great.

Will you sit on the curb or stand up and do what is right?

picture of the college hopefuls than they would like.

"The traditional application—, the essays, the letters of recommendation, represent the polished version of an applicant, while often what's found online is a rawer version of that applicant," Jeff Olson, vice president of data science, said in a Kaplan press release.

His advice to students is to "think first, tweet later."

Of the schools polled, only 15 percent of admissions offices have rules in place to guide the use of social media in an application review process, according to the release. This leaves the majority of admissions offices with the ability to search for applicants with no restrictions, besides basic privacy settings.

But that does not mean that all schools are using the Internet as an evaluation tool.

"It is not part of our evaluation process and I cannot imagine it ever will be," David Gildea, associate director of marketing and recruitment for Penn State admissions, said. With social media and the Internet, there is a lot of information that may be or may not be factual, Gildea said.

"It's almost like using Wikipedia as an information tool. You cannot test its veracity," Gildea said. "It's a fun, anecdotal tool."

Gildea also said that with Penn State U. application numbers, it would be nearly impossible to search every student on the Internet.

Penn State is not alone in its non-use of social media in the application process.

The survey shows that about 25 percent of admissions officers are using social networking and 75 percent reported that they are not, Gruenwald said.

"Although more than a quarter of admissions officers have said they go to Facebook or Google, it's still not something they do on a regular basis. We consider this a wild card factor," Gruenwald said.

Kaplan advised students to carefully monitor their privacy settings and to check their digital trail, Gruenwald said. Some students do take precautions when it comes to Facebook.

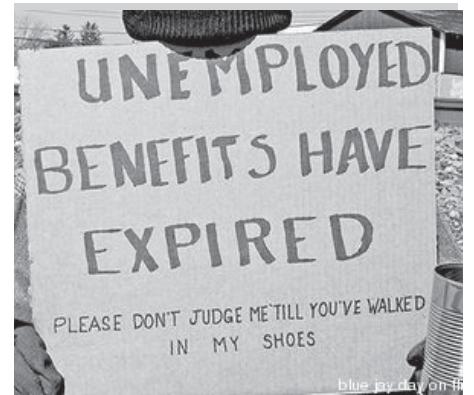
PSU freshman Maria Reviello said she monitors the material that is on her Facebook wall.

"I don't upload pictures from parties and I do not use vulgarities," Reviello said.

Before Reviello applied to colleges, she untagged pictures that could be considered unprofessional.

But even with these precautions, Kaplan advises to not post damaging material in the first place because the Internet has a long memory, Gruenwald said.

"The last thing any student wants is to spend years building their academic credentials, only to have their application impacted negatively by an off-the-cuff comment or negative posting they never should have posted," Gruenwald



(New America continued from page 5)

many individuals choose to unnecessarily. Although entitlements may create a feeling of contentment for the individual, this feeling will not last. These individuals depend on the government, allowing it to shape their destiny. Unfortunately, many Americans allow the "age of convenience" to diminish their work ethic and drive, both which are essential for the American Dream. The abuse of entitlements and the increase of government control is the result of the individual.

The American Dream must be saved by each of us. It is a choice for a "culture of merit" over a "culture of entitlement." To revive the American Dream, we must reestablish our "culture of merit" by revisiting the past. We must understand and appreciate the sacrifices and contributions made by those before us. A change in culture starts with the individual. Parents, teachers and mentors can enthusiastically promote this culture and lead by example. Our children must look to us as the great Americans of our time, anxiously pursuing the American Dream. There must be more focus on individual effort and less on selfish conveniences. The American Dream is based on personal sacrifice, individual character and selfless service. These attributes define a great America.

My fellow Americans, we are losing our identity, focus and drive. Our America needs to revive the American Dream and fall back to the core beliefs and values that made her great; the envy of the world. Less dependency on government entitlements is crucial with greater focus on entrepreneurship and self-respect. Put your heart and soul into everything you do. Depend on yourself, not the government. "...Land of the Free..." Free to work, sacrifice and succeed.

(UHD Students Rally continued from page 1)

talks of immigration reform after they were at a standstill.

As word got around that the possibility for immigration reform was on the move again, activists from all across the country organized a rally to persuade their senators to support the immigration reform. In the heart of Houston on April 10, 2013, UH-D SGA Representative Gus Valtasaros, SGA Senator Antonio Garcia, and UH-D SGA President Ivan Sanchez joined other activists and marched towards Texas Senator Ted Cruz's office and rally for support on the immigration reform.

UH-D SGA Representative Gus Valtasaros believes that the United States will benefit greatly if immigrants are allowed to work legally. "This country has changed and immigrants can do jobs that Americans can't do, it's not that we don't want to do them. We just can't. Most Americans are being educated and they look for white collar jobs, not blue-collar jobs. We need this immigration reform now," said Valtasaros.

For his second term the president asked for all members of congress to work together and find a way to fix their immigration system. Eight senators, four republicans and four democrats, appealed to his request, sat down and have worked on a bill that could change the lives of millions of undocumented people. The bipartisan bill framework for the comprehensive immigration reform was released Tuesday, April 16, 2013.

The framework calls for 1) a path to citizenship for unauthorized immigrants already in the United States contingent upon securing the border and combating visa overstays 2) improving the legal immigration system and attracting the world's best and brightest 3) strong employment verification and 4) admitting new workers and protecting worker's rights. The bill, however, does differentiate based on the immigrant classification the individual falls in.

Under the category of Dreamers are the young people who were brought to the United States before December 31, 2011 and were under age 15 upon entering the country. Dreamers will be able to get a green card in five years and would be eligible to file for citizenship immediately after receiving their green cards.

Agricultural workers would have to wait five to seven years to hold a green card depending on their commitment to work in agriculture.

Already deported immigrants who entered the country before December 31, 2011 and were deported for noncriminal reasons can apply to return to the United States and earn provisional legal status. However, those who have already been deported must prove one of the following: eligible to be a "Dreamer," is the parent of a U.S. citizen, is the spouse of a lawful permanent resident or U.S. citizen.

All other immigrants must prove that they came in before December 31, 2011, pay a \$500 fine plus processing fees and undergo background checks in order to get the provisional status. If the individual holds any felony convictions or three or more misdemeanors, they will be ineligible. Once a person is approved for a provisional status, they can work legally and travel outside of the United States. They will also be eligible to renew their status every six years with a penalty fee of another \$500.

This bill is had been introduced and many activists and supporters of the immigration reform hope for it to pass.

Homemade Hashbrowns You Will LOVE



(Via Creative Commons)

Alma Garcia
Assistant Editor

IHOP'S hash browns are the best. Sometimes they are crunchy, other times soft. Nonetheless, they still have a delectable and mouthwatering taste. But we can't go to IHOP every single day for their delicious hash browns. HELLO? We are college students living on a budget. So in an effort to help you save money I'll teach you how to make your own home made hash brown you will love.

Ingredients and materials:

- Potatoes (any kind, any size, any color, YOUR choice)
- Tony Chachere's More Spice Seasoning
- kitchen shredder
- peeler
- bowl
- plate
- stove (obviously)
- skillet (the bigger the more room there is to prepare more hash browns at the same time)

cooking oil

Prep time: 7-10 min (depending on the number of potatoes)

- 1) Peel potatoes to remove the skin
- 2) Shred the potato or potatoes into a bowl
- 3) Season with Tony Chachere's Seasoning
- 4) Turn the stove on to medium and place skillet on stove

5) Add oil to the skillet and wait for about 3 minutes for the skillet to heat up

Cooking Time: 10 min

- 1) Using your hands, grab a portion of the shredded potatoes and place it on the skillet
- 2) Cook for 5 minutes, or until you believe they are well cooked, pressing down continuously
- 3) After 5 minutes, flip the hash brown on the other side and press down
- 4) When it appears that it is just like you want it, take it out of the skillet and place it on a round plate

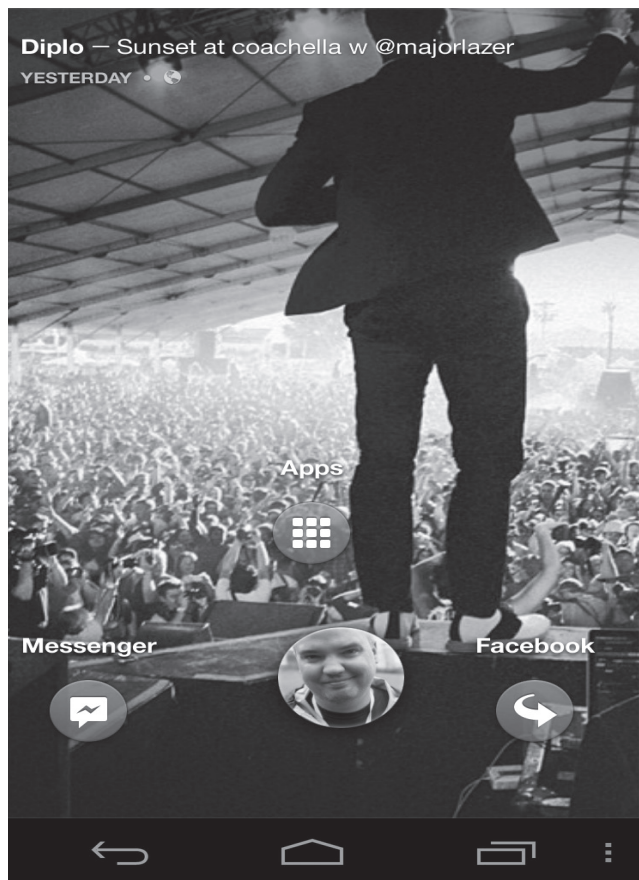
AND YOU'RE DONE! Enjoy.

(O'Kane Lunch continued from page 6)

even placing on the physicians coat himself and being tech and patient. Although funny, this makes you question everyone's sanity. He then approves and clears himself eligible for draft and then yells "Next!"

Hats off to the actors and Terrence McNally. This comedy was a great pick me up and the audience could not stop laughing. The story was relatable and realistic with a touch of non-realism. The props and costumes of the actors added to the realism. The improvisation of Mr. Cheever added the non-realism. Keep the one-act plays coming, or shall we say "NEXT!"

The Tech Files



(via Creative Commons)

Erick Romero
Contributing Writer

As companies begin to lock users into their technology ecosystem, Facebook doesn't stay far behind. Companies like Apple, Google, Windows and now Facebook have put their users in a vulnerable situation. I say a vulnerable situation because most users are already hooked on Facebook.

Facebook Home is a new home launcher for your Android device that will change how you interact with your phone. This new app integrates the phone into Facebook's user interface, allowing users to become well acquainted in a moment's notice, which would most certainly increase the time users spend on Facebook.

The UI places Facebook on the lockscreen with an artsy zoom that shows your latest newsfeed. The Facebook Home App is available for select devices on the Google Play Store.

After trying the new Facebook Home app on a Galaxy Nexus here are some of the Pros and Cons:

Pros:

- The live wallpaper of your

Facebook feed is beautiful. It zooms into your friends' pictures or latest update with their Facebook background as it scrolls on the picture, keeping your phone very lively with automatic updates.

- Intuitive controls such as double tap to like, and hold tap to zoom out.
- Automatic updates in which you can continue to swipe endlessly on your Facebook news feed.
- Chat Heads are a circle pop up messaging that it go off on any app. It really lets you see the multitasking capabilities of your phone. You can turn this option off.
- Runs very smoothly.

Cons:

- Multiple home launchers
- App Drawer is inconvenient, but not fluid with the rest of the app.
- No landscape mode
- No Widgets
- Limits customization
- No zoom-in option on pictures
- The Phone app is not readily accessible and this is a concern since this is still your phone
- Limited availability for devices
- Privacy concerns due to the amount of permissions that the Facebook app asks for

Facebook Home is optimized for the HTC First but it is also available on the HTC One X, HTC One X+, HTC One, Samsung Galaxy S III, Samsung Galaxy Note II, and Samsung Galaxy S 4. The Facebook Home currently has a very unattractive user rating at two and a half stars, but don't let that discourage you from trying a new home experience on your smartphone. Although the app has some room for improvement it is exciting to see what Facebook has done. Although in the future, Facebook should remember that your device is a phone and will place the phone dialer somewhere more convenient. Or perhaps this is how Facebook intends to shape the future of how we primarily communicate with friends and family.

(Rescuers Search continued from page 3)

injuries and minor burns. Five people were reported in intensive care.

In the hours after the blast, residents wandered the dark, windy streets searching for shelter. Among them was Julie Zahirniako, who said she and her son, Anthony, had been at a school playground near the plant when the explosion hit.

The explosion threw her son four feet in the air, breaking his ribs. She said she saw people running from the nursing home, and the roof of the school lifted into the sky.

"Hit the ground, hit the ground," Zahirniako heard a neighbor yell.

"The fire was so high," she said. "It was just as loud as it could be. The ground and everything was shaking."

Authorities said the plant made materials similar to those used in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

The main fire was under control late Wednesday, but residents were urged to remain indoors because of the threat of new explosions or leaks of ammonia from the plant.

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board said it was deploying a large investigation team to West. An ATF national response team that investigates all large fires and explosions was also expected, bringing fire investigators, certified explosives specialists, chemists, canines and forensic specialists.

American Red Cross crews from across Texas also headed to the scene to help evacuated residents.

There were no immediate details on the number of people who work at the plant, which was cited by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in 2006 for failing to obtain or to qualify for a permit. The agency acted after receiving a complaint in June of that year of a strong ammonia smell.

In 2001, an explosion at a chemical and fertilizer plant killed 31 people and injured more than 2,000 in Toulouse, France. The blast occurred in a hangar containing 300 tons of ammonium nitrate, which can be used for both fertilizer and explosives. The explosion came 10 days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the U.S., and raised fears at the time it was linked. A 2006 report blamed the blast on negligence.

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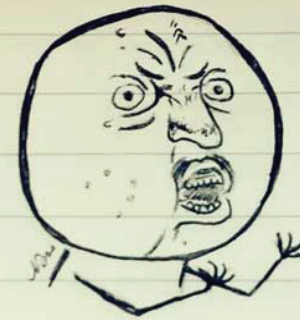
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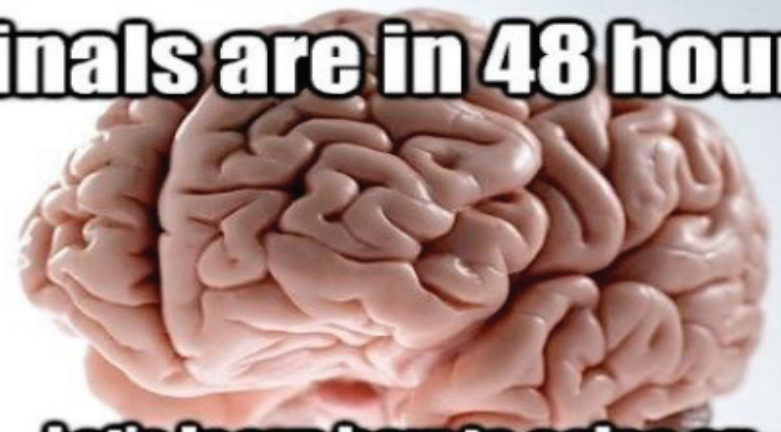
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PROCRASTINATION



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ALONE**

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**Let's learn how to salsa on
youtube!**