

DATELINE

The University of Houston-Downtown

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Student-led fundraiser supports humanitarian efforts for Ukrainians

BY SHAHERYAR KHAN

UHD's International Business Association delighted the campus on March 23 by vending confectionery goods by the Ticket Booth in the One Main Building to raise funds for humanitarian efforts in Ukraine.

IBA member Alona Makarenko is a Gator from Ukraine and was responsible for making the delicious pyrizhky served at the bake sale.

She was very impressed by the turnout that exceeded her expectations.

"The Gator community showed enormous support and concern in supporting Ukrainian democracy," Makarenko said.

"We demonstrated true leadership in organizing the event."

Some delicacies included vanilla and lemon zest cupcakes, macrons made from almond flour, and authentic Ukrainian stuffed buns called pyrizhky.

A sweet option with a mixed berry filling and a savory option with a spinach and cheese filling were available. Conchas were also for sale but no one complained.

UHD Gator Dalila Juarez enjoyed the fundraiser and felt great buying the treats knowing they supported a noble cause.

"Everyone in the organization were so welcoming!"

Juarez shared her thoughts. Her favorite treats from the fundraiser were the macrons, as she says that "were so soft" like "chewy cotton candy."

The war between Russia and Ukraine is in our minds, and there is only so much to help the situation.

Following the event, IBA shared their gratitude toward the turnout.

"Living in the fourth largest city of the country, diversity is everywhere," the organization stated. "As the International Business Association of UHD, we push to bring more attention to international issues happening in the world around us."



Students from the International Business Association organized a bake sale to raise funds for Ukraine. Credit: Shaheryar Khan

International students organize march for peace at TMC



The crowd holds signs and marches for peace in Ukraine in the Texas Medical Center on March 22. Credit: Shaheryar Khan

BY SHAHERYAR KHAN

International students and community members took the streets of the Texas Medical Center to protest the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

On March 22, students from the John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Medical School organized "March for Peace" to raise awareness of the current crisis.

Anna Miao, Dong Ho Shin, Rutvi Shah, and Jovanka Genzel-Augusto are the student organizers of the event and officers of the International Student Association at UTHealth.

"This peaceful march can spread love and peace and raise awareness for the

much-needed humanitarian support, which everyone is able to partake," Shin said.

The students gathered people around the Webber Plaza by the McGovern Medical School Building and distributed signs and drinks.

Shin instructed the crowd at the plaza on how the march would play out.

Protest signs were passed out, and the crowd headed towards the John P. McGovern Texas Medical Commons.

The march gathered the attention of the surrounding medical professionals in the vicinity.

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Credit: G. O.

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Credit: N. S.

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From left to right: UHD student Katelyn Shimek, The Ground Up Operations Manager Luis Chamorro, and The Dateline's Edward Saenz. Credit: Indira Zaldivar

Gators tour city's largest composting facility The Ground UP

BY INDIRA ZALDIVAR

UHD students toured The Ground Up, Houston's largest manufacturer of mulch, soil, and compost in mid-March to learn how a large-scale composting facility operates.

UHD student Katelyn Shimek was one of the three students, representing the university's Garden & Compost Club on the tour of the 27-acre organic waste recycling facility at 9945 Windfern Road.

"[The tour] increased my knowledge by being able to see first-hand how a large-scale composting facility

operates and the limitations it may have," she said. "Increasing composting participation is a necessary step on Houston's path to being a more sustainable city."

The Ground UP's feedstock recycles pre-consumer fruit and vegetable waste, yard trimmings and locally sourced manure to create soil, mulches and compost through blending operators. They also offer boutique soils and special applications.

The compost piles can reach temperatures of up to 160 degrees destroying pathogens and weed seeds from recycled green waste,

according to The Ground Up's Operations Manager Luis Chamorro. Composting is a way to divert organic waste away from landfills. As the largest percentage of all soil pollution and third largest source of methane emissions in the U.S. come from landfills, an increasing number of state governments are incentivizing consumers and businesses to dispose of organic waste by composting.

For example, it is around five times cheaper for Houstonians to dispose of green waste at The Ground Up than in landfills, Chamorro said.

"The landfill is way more expensive," he added. "The reason why this industry exists is because of that reason. The landfill is primarily for post-consumer waste or construction debris or big bulky trash."

Since he was first hired as a sales representative 12 years ago, Chamorro, a native of Colombia, has seen The Ground Up go through ups and downs.

"We went through a very large wave of layoffs in 2020 before the COVID-19 [pandemic] not knowing what was going to happen," he said. "What happened was the business exploited



UHD students Katelyn Shimek, Indira Zaldivar, and Edward Saenz stand before a pile of pre-consumer green waste for composting. Courtesy: Luis Chamorro

because everyone was gardening at home."

Serving plant enthusiasts, homeowners, landscapers, large companies, and more, The Ground Up is one of more than 4,700 businesses contributing to the organic waste recycling industry. Research projects the global compost market worth \$5,974.8 million in 2022 and is forecast to reach \$7,516.5 million by 2028 with a compound annual growth rate of 3.9% during the review period. Besides the contribution to the economy, Shimek wants the UHD community to grasp the environmental benefits of composting.

"Composting is extremely important to help reduce

greenhouse gas emissions from food waste," Shimek said. She started composting at the Mandell Park community garden but then switched to composting in the Heights compost drop-off location that Houston's first composting program instated.

"There are so many options to compost, and it's so easy! You can do it yourself, drop it off at a community garden, or even subscribe to a pick-up service."

For Gators wanting to learn more about gardening and composting, the Garden and Compost Club President Diana Ambrosio said the club will post future events on @uhdgardencompost on Instagram.



A truck unloads pre-consumer scraps of fruits and vegetables at The Ground Up facility for composting. Credit: Indira Zaldivar

University offers free program for more secure password protection



Credit: Taylor Enochs

BY TAYLOR ENOCHS

UHD IT is introducing LastPass, an optional password management tool that remembers personal, educational, and professional passwords and helps log into those accounts as students work.

LastPass can help generate unique passwords to deter phishing attacks.

“I am super forgetful, so I tend to use the same password across many websites which exposes me to cyber fraud,” said The Dateline’s Editor Indira Zaldivar.

“With LastPass, I get to have different passwords across websites and safely store my payment information without the burden of having to remember any of them because LastPass takes

care of it for me!”

Zaldivar continues to praise the service.

“LastPass is a smart and user-friendly tool provided for free by our generous school that helps me do my work faster and safer! I am grateful to UHD for offering us for free this high-tech tool that gives me peace to interact online.”

While its main purpose is to be “like a vault” for your passwords, LastPass can recommend passwords so that you can avoid phishing attacks. Phishing attacks are coined from the term fishing.

Many people try to lure in online users with compelling emails, ads, and websites to gain access to personal information like passwords, usernames, card information, and more.

It may seem like password protection is unnecessary, but phishing is still actively common and not as noticeable as it might seem to be.

Due to the pandemic and remote work, there has been an increase in cybercriminal activity like phishing. A third of workers in the U.S. have clicked a phishing link in the past year, according to Webroot.

As long as you are an active member of UHD, you can use your Gatormail to sign up. Please see the FAQs on the LastPass website for more details at <https://www.uhd.edu/computing/Pages/USS/LastPass.aspx>.

The IT department welcomes feedback as administrators can relay information and update the website.

THE DATELINE

University of Houston-Downtown
1 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002
Office: S-260 Phone: 713.221.8192
editordatelinedowntown@gmail.com

Spring 2022 Staff

- Editor.....Indira Zaldivar
- Assistant Editor.....Edward Saenz
- Business Manager.....Diana Ambrosio
- Social Media Manager.....Dalila Juarez
- Gator Life Section Editor.....Shaheryar Khan
- News Section Editor.....Amy Nguyen
- Opinions Section Editor.....Jordynn Godfrey
- A&E Section Editor.....Carolina Valdez
- Faculty Adviser.....Joe Sample, Ph.D.
- Staff Writer.....Taylor Enochs
- Staff Writer.....Jesse Fitzgerald Rodriguez
- Staff Writer.....Anita Goolcharan
- Staff Writer.....Monica Gomez
- Staff Writer.....Madiha Hussain
- Staff Writer.....James Jurewicz
- Staff Writer.....Jema Pantoja
- Staff Writer.....Sergio Presa Jr.
- Staff Writer.....Taylar Stowers
- Illustrator.....Giselle Oviedo
- Illustrator.....Sarah Ramirez
- Illustrator.....Nathan Serrano

The Dateline is the official student newspaper of the University of Houston-Downtown. Since its first issue in 1982, The Dateline is proud to be “Student Run since Volume One.” We strive to meet the needs of a growing university as well as the growing metropolitan city that surrounds us.

Submission Policy

The Dateline staff consists of students from UHD who complete all tasks required to produce the newspaper, which serves all UHD campuses. The opinions and commentaries expressed within reflect the views of the contributing writers. No opinions expressed in The Dateline reflect the viewpoints of UHD, its administration, or students.

The Dateline reserves the right to edit or modify submissions for the sake of clarity, content, grammar, or space limitations. All submissions become property of The Dateline and may not be returned. All paid writers must be currently enrolled students at UHD. All paid writers must also complete vendor registration with the University of Houston System prior to contributing. Press releases, story ideas, news tips and suggestions are always welcomed. We encourage all students to contribute.

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Professor authors book on story behind One Main Building

BY JESSE FITZGERALD

RODRIGUEZ SR.

The long halls of the One Main Building, a National Historic Building, was once home to the Merchants and Manufacturers M&M Building.

Professor Garna Christian, who teaches history at UHD, narrates the story behind the hard cemented structures that were left behind which resemble a story, a sense of history, so much, that they have inspired this article.

Christian, who authored a book published by UHD honor of the rededication of the One Main Street Building on Oct. 24, 1986, said that the 1920s spawned the imaginative plans for the Merchants and Manufacturers Building. Houstonians witnessed the “largest construction spree in the city’s history.”

The M&M Building was “designed around a mall which allowed merchants to exhibit their wares in proximity to their offices.

The M&M Building, as locals soon dubbed it, featured 14 miles of floor space, nearly 11 acres of offices, 40,000 windowpanes, 17 miles of steel, and nearly two

million feet of lumber.”

Christian remembers in his book that someone once told him that “A man requiring 15 seconds to open a

window would need six hours to perform the task throughout the mammoth building.”

The grandiose

dreams and success of the M&M Building fell short because Wall Street’s encounter with the Great Depression. By 1948, Businessman

H. H. Coffield retrieved the M&M Building from bankruptcy. Coffield had a 50% vacancy in the M&M Building, which needed to be

filled before he too filed for bankruptcy.

“Coffield’s dream, dating back nearly four decades, was also dissipating in the muddy waters of the Buffalo Bayou,” Christian says in his book.

As of 2021, according to UHD data analytics & institutional research, UHD employs an estimated 636 staff from librarians to office and administration support, 766 faculty that rank from professor to tenure and visiting faculty, just to name a few.

Also, UHD currently enrolls over 15,000 students. Demographics in order of leading ethnicity are 53% Hispanic, 19.8% Black, 12.6% white. In terms of gender, women dominate once again with a 63.3% vs. 36.7% male ratio.

In the end, in a sense, the M&M Building still exists, and its foundation still upholds the future for UHD.

UHD is more than just an institution of education, but also a part of history, which continues to develop and pave the way for our future and its leaders in the fields of science, technology, engineers, and mathematics, respectively.



Students taking a break in between classes in the third floor hallway.



Students onboard the bus outside the One Main Building in the 1970s.

Courtesy UHD Library Archives.



Third floor hallway of the One Main Building in 2022.



Redline METRORail stops at UHD in 2022.

Credit: Jesse F. Rodriguez

The Dateline seeks applicants for next Editor

The University of Houston-Downtown is seeking applicants for the position of Editor for The Dateline, the student-run, bi-weekly newspaper.

This paid position begins summer 2022 (\$425/issue) and the applicants must commit to at least the fall semester but ideally the full 2022-2023 academic year. Duties include responsibility for the

overall operation of the paper. Editors assemble and manage a team of student writers and sub-editors and assign them to cover news and events.

Position requires some familiarity with the use of Adobe InDesign page-making software.

The paper runs stories anticipating campus events as well as reviewing them,

including student activities and organizations, academics, athletics and lifestyle, university administration, and student government; also cultural coverage of activities in the theatre, film, music, sports and arts communities, particularly as they are of interest to UHD students.

Qualifications include at least sophomore standing, at least

one semester in residence at UHD, successful completion of basic writing and communications courses, and a current 3.0 cumulative GPA (3.5 preferred). Applications accepted until position is filled.

To apply, please send a letter of interest indicating your reasons and qualifications for applying for the position. Include your resume as well as an

unofficial copy of your UHD transcript.

Send these documents to The Dateline faculty advisor, Joe Sample, associate professor, at samplej@uhd.edu.

Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until position is filled.



Credit: Amy Nguyen

TIPA conference offers media students career-building steps

BY EDWARD SAENZ

From March 23-26, the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association took place in Fort Worth, Texas.

This was the first time the event was able to take place in person since 2019. UHD sent the Dateline’s Editor and Assistant Editor, Indira Zaldivar and Edward Saenz, to attend the conference.

Prior to the start of TIPA, it was announced that the conference had new leadership running it and that since this was the first event after a two-year break, expect there to be hiccups.

“TIPA stressed the commitment to grow as a person and communicator and to help your organization grow as well. There’s always room for improvement and inclusivity,” Zaldivar said about her



Indira Zaldivar(L), Edward Saenz(R) stand with a TIPA sign displaying the new logo.

time at TIPA. The most interesting thing she learned about was the “importance of diversity in news.”

The conference took place at Fort Worth’s Hilton hotel, and from a student perspective the conference went off without a hitch.

Fun Fact, the Hilton Hotel used to be called Hotel Texas. This hotel was the last place John F. Kennedy stayed at, before being shot the next day. The JFK me-

morial was right across the hotel and many students explored it during any down time.

The conference brought the newspaper teams from both two-year and four-year schools as well as professional journalists from across Texas together.

The conference consisted of two main events: the live contests and workshops. The live events involved the students taking on a



Omar Combie shows off one of his first-place awards. Courtesy: Omar Combie

certain task like designing a newspaper front page, writing headlines, or even writing an entire article in one hour.

The Dateline competed in Print News Writing, Editorial/Opinions Writing, Newspaper Design, Copy Editing, and Headline Writing.

The workshops were conducted by advisors from the various schools as well as industry professionals. Lance Liguez, a faculty

advisor at the University of Texas - Arlington, gave a presentation on how to cover breaking news.

Other workshops included how to cover a conflict, different types of jobs outside journalism, and the limitless potential of the field at any age.

The national president of the Society of Professional Journalists, Rebecca Aguilar, gave several presentations on diversity in news media

and how to build your source network. Her workshops were favorites among the students, and all were standing room only.

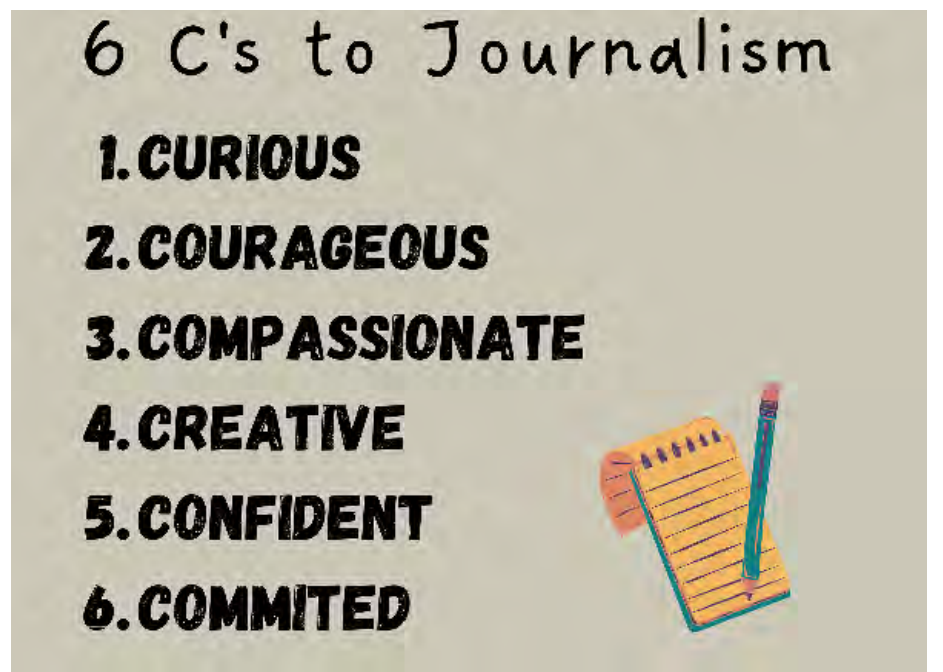
Omar Combie, the paper designer for Midwestern States Universities paper, created the brand-new logo for TIPA 2022.

Combie showed off his design skills by winning both the Yearbook and Magazine Design contests. Combie is a fan of the Dateline, especially our reviews sections.

Unfortunately, the Dateline was unable to win any awards for the school, but according to Zaldivar, the team learned, “a ton about what works and doesn’t work, going forward we want to change a lot with our paper.” Zaldivar said.



Society of Professional Journalists President Rebecca Aguilar (left) and Indira Zaldivar (right) pose after Aguilar’s workshop on building a source network. Credit: Edward Saenz



Society of Professional Journalists President Rebecca Aguilar talks about these six C’s during her workshops. Credit: Edward Saenz

Want to become a better journalist?



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US sends weapons, financial aid to Ukrainian government

BY SERGIO PRESA JR

The U.S. announced that more money has been pledged to help Ukraine fight Russia's invasion.

More than \$1 billion has been allocated by the U.S. government to help build Ukraine's military over the past year.

Along with the money that has been sent, Washington has also sent hundreds of missiles to Ukraine as part of the latest aid package.

As the conflict continues, the way the U.S. gets aid to Ukraine may have to change. It will also have to be evaluated how to help Ukraine survive a long-term war through security and humanitarian aid.

Over the past six months, President Joe Biden has used his executive authority that allows him to respond to sudden emergencies without legislative approval.

Biden's most recent use of his authority was on Feb. 26, with

the approval of \$350 million in security assistance.

Secretary of State for political-military affairs Jessica Lewis told the House Armed Services Committee that the package for Ukraine included Javelin anti-tank missiles.

The missiles can be carried and launched by only one person and can take down helicopters in addition to military tanks.

"Those are probably the most impactful weapons that we can provide the Ukrainians because they can be used by individuals from ambush positions or in lots of different circumstances and they can pretty reliably kill Russian tanks," said the Director of the Critical Threats Project at the American Enterprise Institute Frederick Kagan.

Also, among the weapons sent by the U.S. are hundreds of stinger anti-aircraft missile defense systems, which can be deployed by ground forces.



While it is harder to take down Russian aircraft with the stinger missiles, Kagan said they can "absolutely become a nightmare for Russian helicopters."

U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said the U.S. continues to work with bilateral partners to deliver weapons to Ukraine. However, as Russian forces continue their invasion, the deliverance of aid will get more challenging.

The Biden administration has made it clear that U.S. troops are not being sent directly into the conflict.

However, there have been around 15,000 troops sent to bump up security for NATO's eastern flank over the past few months.



Emmet Till, 14, at his home in Chicago about 6 months before he was killed while visiting family out of state. Courtesy: Gettyimages

Biden signs law making lynching a federal crime

BY SERGIO PRESA JR

President Joe Biden signed the Emmet Till-Anti Lynching Act into law that will make lynching a federal hate crime.

The bill was one of around 200 bills that Congress has introduced throughout the past century attempting to ban lynching in America.

The bill is named after a 14-year-old Black teenager lynched in Mississippi in 1955.

The boy's funeral held an open casket at the request of his mother, to show everyone what was done to her son.

"After more than 200 failed attempts to outlaw lynching, Congress is finally succeeding in taking a long overdue action by passing the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer commented on the bill.

If the bill is signed into law by President Joe Biden, it will make it possible to prosecute a crime as a lynching if a conspiracy to commit a hate crime results in death or serious bodily injury.

The maximum sentence under the act would be 30 years. In 2020, the House passed similar legislation, but

the Senate blocked it. When the House approved the new bill, it was also passed unanimously in the Senate.

"Lynching is a long-standing and uniquely American weapon of racial terror that has for decades been used to maintain the white hierarchy," Sen. Bobby Rush of Illinois said.

Rush also believed that the bill's passage would send a message that our nation would no longer ignore that part of its history. The senator added that the bill would bring the full force of the federal law down on anyone who commits the act.

Houston oil companies suspend operations in Russia

BY AMANDA EUBANKS

Houston-based oil companies Haliburton and Schlumberger responded to the U.S. sanctions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine by suspending their operations in Russia.

Halliburton was first to announce its suspension of current and possible future business in Russia to comply with sanctions prohibiting all transactions in the country.

The company halted all shipments of sanctioned products and currently does not have any business operating there.

In doing so, Halliburton stated in a press release to "prioritize safety and reliability" as its remaining operations in Russia will eventually shut down while Russia's invasion continues.

Schlumberger suspended all investments and technology to its

Russian operations and plan to "monitor the situation," according to a statement.

"Safety and security are at the core of who we are as a company, and we urge a cessation of the conflict and a restoration of safety and security in the region," Schlumberger CEO Oliver Le Peuch stated.

As the war continues, more than 400 U.S. and international companies have shut down in Russia, permanently

or temporarily.

Oil companies such as ExxonMobil, Shell, and BP, were within the first group of corporations to withdraw or suspend operations in Russia.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy asked Congress to stress the importance of U.S. businesses still operating in Russia to leave by stating that the Russian market is "flooded with our blood."



Ocean Rig Athena off the coast of Busan, South Korea. Credit: Edward Saenz

MARCH

Continued from page 1

When the attendees of the event gathered around the final destination, a moment of silence was commenced to pay respects for Ukraine's victims. Shin concluded the event by raising awareness and offering ways to help the victims.

According to the ISA, the surrounding TMC affiliates expressed their gratitude for the march.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, the world has reacted and refrained from silence.

According to recent reports from Reuters, at least 21,000 deaths, 1,900 non-fatal injuries, approximately 10 million people have been displaced, and around

\$119 billion worth of property damage.

People worldwide continue to voice their concerns and show empathy to the victims in Ukraine.

The U.S. has allocated more than \$1 billion in funding towards humanitarian efforts in Ukraine.

To help support the humanitarian efforts, visit doctorswithoutborders.org, unicef.org, and savehechildren.org.



(Left-Right) Anna Miao, Dong Ho Shin, Rutvi Shah and Jovanka Gencel-Augusto. Credit: Shaheryar Khan



Credit: Giselle Oviedo

65 Texas businesses ask governor to abandon anti-LGBTQ legislation

BY SERGIO PRESA JR

In response to GOP-led, anti-LGBTQ agenda, 65 businesses called for Gov. Greg Abbott to abandon legislators' efforts to "write discrimination into law and policy" in an open letter advertised in the Dallas Morning News newspaper.

Some of the businesses include Apple, Google, Microsoft, and PayPal. The businesses signed the letter in partnership with the Human Rights Campaign.

"For years we have stood to ensure

LGBTQ+ people, our employees, customers, and their families are safe and welcomed in the communities where we do business," the letter said.

The letter mentioned Texas's recent attempt to treat parents as child abusers who attempt to help their transgender child access healthcare, such as gender reassignment procedures. The letter said the state's attempt to criminalize parents goes against the companies' values.

The letter also said that the criminalization of parents helping their transgender children is

one of several efforts nationwide to discriminate against transgender youth.

Ken Paxton, the Texas attorney general, targeted gender-affirming surgeries, treatments, and drugs that affected puberty and said they were to be considered child abuse.

In response to Paxton's stance on gender-affirming procedures, Abbott directed the Department of Family and Protective Services "to conduct a prompt and thorough investigation of any reported instances of these abusive procedures in the state.

City, police department start program to reduce recent spike in crime

BY ANITA GOOLCHARAN

While overall violent crime has decreased, aggravated assaults, drug violations, vandalism, and homicides are increasing in Houston.

Since the pandemic's start, overall crime in the U.S. has increased. The Houston Police Department reported a 54% increase in homicides since this time last year.

"Since the beginning of the year, our city has felt anything but safe," Mayor Sylvester Turner stated in a briefing.

Turner and Chief of Police Troy Finner created the "One Safe Houston," \$44 million program to combat the alarming rise in crime.

"The new initiative includes \$5.7 million to pay for overtime for 125 officers, \$1 mil-

lion for a gun buyback program, \$1 million for a program that helps formerly incarcerated individuals get job training, housing and other needs, \$2.5 million for a program to deploy outreach workers and violence interrupters to mitigate conflicts in neighborhoods and \$3 million to help reduce domestic violence," according to U.S. News.

The program hopes to focus on violence reduction and crime prevention, youth outreach opportunities, key community partnerships, and crisis intervention and response and recovery. The primary focus of the program is mental health and domestic violence issues.

Bail bonds have been an essential factor in the increase of violent crimes. Bail bond practices have been an

issue for Harris County for quite some time. Felony defendants were able to violate bond conditions if they were charged with committing another crime.

This allowed the accused to be bonded out on the other charge. SB21 was signed into law to help combat bail bond issues. However, there are still accounts where felony defendants can post bonds since bond companies accept less than the customary 10%.

During a press conference, Turner was asked about the bail bond, and he responded with criticism of bail bond companies. Turner has drafted an ordinance for the Houston City Council. This ordinance will require bail bonds to charge a premium of at least 10% of the bail set by the courts.



Credit: Edward Saenz

Bun B makes history, 1st Black man from Houston to headline Rodeo, 2nd overall

BY MADIHA HUSSAIN

Rapper Bun B made history as the first Black man from Houston to headline RodeoHouston and the second Black person from Houston overall.

Prior to Bun B, Beyonce was the first to make history.

The electric event was dubbed the H-Town Takeover due to the multiple Houstonians performing.

On March 11, the rap icon and former UGK member performed on Black Heritage Day alongside a troupe of other famous Houston artists.

Bun B invited artists like Paul Wall, Slim Thug, Baby Bash, and Letoya Luckett to share the stage with him by personally delivering a cowboy hat to them.

Before his stellar performance, Bun B admitted that being invited to perform at RodeoHouston was quite emotional for him.

He states that while he set out many aspirations for himself throughout his

career, he never expected performing at the rodeo to be one of them.

“I just didn’t think that was a place that would be accepting of me, and 30 years later, boy was I wrong,” he told ABC13.

Bun B opened his performance with some of his greatest hits like “Draped Up” and “You’re Everything.”

He then closed the show with UGK’s most iconic songs, “Big Pimpin’” and “International Players Anthem” as a tribute to his fellow UGK member, Pimp C, who has since passed away. Bun B even made sure to have a dressing room dedicated to Pimp C.

The H-Town Takeover event attracted approximately 75,300 people. Bun B’s performance was the third most attended concert at the 2022 RodeoHouston.

Black history lessons were displayed throughout NRG to commemorate Black Heritage Day.



Credit: Giselle Oviedo

(G)I-DLE returns with hit album

BY JEMA PANTOJA

After a year-long hiatus, (G)I-DLE are back and better than ever with their first full-length album that encompasses their growth and rebellious phase.

The album is (G)I-DLE’s response to the pop-punk revival that has taken over the music industry since 2021. The album consists of eight songs featuring their title track, “TOMBOY.”

Over the past year, (G)I-DLE has faced several scandals, including the departure of former member, Seo So-jin, due to bullying

accusations.

Leader and rapper, Jeon So-eon stated in a press conference that they are facing the world with this comeback “without backing down” and making an album that proves their value.

With “TOMBOY,” (G)I-DLE took influences from alternative rock and pop-punk genres both in their music and attitude. The reverberating guitar riffs and drum beats help deliver rapper So-yeon’s message in the lyrics about rebellion against gender stereotypes.

“Do you want a blonde barbie doll?”

It’s not here, I’m not a doll,” and “I don’t wanna play this ping-pong. I would rather film a TikTok,” the women proudly declare in the song.

With lyrics like these, the audience is thrown back into pop-punk nostalgia reminiscent of artists like Avril Lavigne, The Pretty Reckless, and Paramore.

“TOMBOY” is a song that shows and emphasizes (G)I-DLE’s growth as versatile artists who are not afraid to take risks and speak their truth, as So-yeon sings: “This is my attitude.

Yeah, I’ll be the tomboy.”

The title track “TOMBOY,” along with the rest of their album, illustrates their thoughts on prejudice against women.

With a creative repertoire, (G)I-DLE has more than once proven its value to the music industry with comebacks such as “oh my god,” “LION,” and “Uh-Oh.”

Through mini-albums, (G)I-DLE has proven they can wear and transition from multiple skins successfully.

The song “TOMBOY” is now available on Apple Music and Spotify.

Everything else that happened at the 2022 Academy Awards

BY TAYLAR STOWERS

The 2022 Oscars award show was anything but boring.

This year’s Oscars stepped away from the normal ambiance and authentic setting that the awards show is known for.

The first performance of the night featured Beyonce Knowles. Beyonce performed an original song called “Be Alive” straight from the “King Richard” soundtrack. Venus and Serena Williams introduced Knowles, the world-renowned athletes the film

was based on.

The 2022 Academy Award show’s three hosts were Wanda Sykes, Amy Schumer, and Regina Hall. During their opening monologue they all contributed several jokes aimed at the crowd to get the show started.

After the opening monologue, the award for best actress in a supporting role was announced. Ariana DeBose received her first Oscar nomination and won for her role as “Anita” in West Side Story.

The next award,

for the visual effects category, was presented by Rachel Zegler. While she was initially not invited to the award show, her lack of invitation created an uproar for the Academy. She was then invited to attend and present the award won by “Dune.”

Presenting the best-animated feature award were Halle Bailey, Naomi Scott, and Lily James; all Disney live-action princesses themselves. The award went to the “Encanto” film.

The next award, presented by Youn Yuh

–jung, was a monumental moment in Academy Awards history. Troy Kostur, winner of best-supporting actor for the film “CODA,” is the first deaf actor to win an Academy Award. Troy gave a truly inspirational speech in sign language that touched everyone’s heart.

There was a moment dedicated to the people of Ukraine where actress Mila Kunis took the stage to talk more about her home country.

The next performance was exciting as Megan Thee Stallion, Becky G, and Luis

Fonsi performed an “Encanto” inspired song. Billie Eilish performed “No Time to Die,” and later received an Oscar for best original song.

There were a few other awards given before the shocking ending of the night. Actor and comedian Chris Rock made a joke directed toward Jada Pinkett Smith’s alopecia and her husband Will Smith physically slapped Rock onstage.

After taking his seat, Smith warned him about mentioning his wife to the crowd. After



Credit: Giselle Oviedo

the incident, Smith won the Academy Award for best actor for his role in “King Richard.”

This Oscars show was anything but ordinary and was truly enticing.

Reviews

'Barefoot Gen' calls attention to horrors of nuclear weapons

BY EDWARD SAENZ

“Released in July 1983, the movie “Barefoot Gen” is an adaptation of a Japanese comic strip of the same name.

Created by Hiroshima survivor Keiji Nakazawa, the story is a semi-auto biographical recount of his experiences following the attacks on Japan.

The story follows a young boy named Gen and his family living in Japan during the final months of World War II.

Six-year-old Gen Nakaoka (voiced by Catherine Battistone) and his family live in poverty and struggle to make ends meet.

Gen’s father Daikichi Nakaoka (voiced by Kirk Thornton) is critical of the war.

When he shows up drunk to a mandatory combat drill and talks back to his instructor, the Nakaokas are branded as traitors and are harassed by their neighbors.

“This war, in which people kill each other,

can’t be right,” main character Daikichi Nakaoka said. “Being called unpatriotic is fine. Being called a coward is fine. Protecting people’s lives and one’s own life is true courage.”

To restore his family’s honor, Gen’s older brother, Koji, joins the navy against their father’s wishes where he is subjected to a brutal training regimen by his commanding officer.

On Aug. 6, shortly after 8 a.m., while Gen is on his way to school, the atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima.

Gen’s school friend is killed in the initial blast. He survives and runs home to find his home on fire.

Gen’s father and siblings perish in the fires, but he and his pregnant mother (voiced by Iona Morris) escape.

The stress of the situation causes her to give premature birth; Gen’s new sister is named Tomoko, who dies just days later due to being malnourished.



Courtesy: imdb

In the days following the attack, Gen and his mother witness the horrors brought on by the bomb. Their home lies in ruins, and the city is full of people dead and dying from severe burns and radiation poisoning.

Gen soon begins to lose his hair as an effect of radiation sickness. Gen meets a young boy named Ryuta (voice by Barbara Goodson), who he and his mother take in. In the following weeks, Gen and Ryuta

find odd jobs to help feed themselves and Gen’s mother. Eventually, American soldiers arrive and assist in recovery efforts. Gen and his new family slowly begin to come to terms with their new reality.

The movie has a bright and colorful first act. The show is full of comedy showcasing how Gen and his little brother get up to childish mischief. However, the story still has an ever-present dark under-

tone. At the 30-minute mark, when the bomb drops, the movie’s tone and color palette changes. Everything gets dark and the animation becomes more realistic.

The artists of the show take great care to give the scene of the bomb exploding incredible detail, this famous effect carries on an impression to this day.

Everything from the American pilots in the plane to the buildings and people being incinerated by the bomb, are almost hyper-realistic.

Alongside the artwork the movie’s score is also incredibly well done. The first act of the show has very lighthearted music, and the second half has an ominous tone shift in the music, in many places the music is out right absent.

Both acts are separated by the bomb exploding, which is eerily silent. The show replaces much of the music in the second act by adding a narrator who explains the long-

term effects of the bomb on the city and people.

“Barefoot Gen” takes a unique approach on the concept of war and uses both disturbing imagery and a colorful main character and plot to tell an incredibly tragic story about the end of World War II.

The film reminds the world of the horrors of nuclear weapons.

In a review of the movie from 2016 by the Japan Times, Kris Kosaka gave his opinion on the film and books its based from.

“Nakazawa vividly records how communities will both unite and divide during war and its aftermath, and he left a legacy as poignant and potent now — with Syria’s starving cities and fear-mongering in Europe and America — as it was in the aftermath of World War II,” Kosaka said.

Both the English and Japanese-voiced versions of “Barefoot Gen” are currently available to be viewed on YouTube.

'The Outfit' fosters mysterious dialogue despite single setting

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

“The Outfit” is a mystery-crime film released on March 18 by Director Graham Moore that narrates a rich story executed through tense and thoughtful dialogue.

The film stars Mark Rylance, Dylan O’Brien, Zoey Deutch, Johnny Flynn, and Simon Russell.

The actors perform convincing imitations of Midwestern accents, starkly contrasting the proper English Gentleman’s accent of Rylance.

The film is set in 1956 Chicago and takes place in an upscale custom suit shop owned and run by Leonard (Mark Rylance). One quiet evening, two low-level gangsters and regular shop customers barge in.

Richie (Dylan O’Brien) has been shot in the stomach, and his partner Frances (Johnny Flynn) insists Leonard stitch him up.

Leonard complies, as Richie is the son of the local crime boss Roy (Simon Russell). Warring between Roy’s

family and a rival gang has attracted federal attention. It is rumored that someone among them is an FBI informant.

Leonard must keep his composure to ensure he survives the night. It is not apparent how involved Leonard maybe with criminal activities.

He is a cutter who worked at Huntsman, the most exclusive custom clothing shop in England.

Huntsman is an actual place in London that produces custom clothing for the rich and

famous. Rylance delivers a genius performance as the cutter, something his character insistently differentiates from a tailor.

In 2015, Rylance won the best supporting actor award at the Oscars for the film “Bridge of Spies.”

Mable (Zoey Deutch) is Leonard’s assistant and intended shop successor who acts on par with Rylance.

Their interactions throughout the film show genuine chemistry reflecting a true ongoing work relationship.

“The Outfit” would be suitable to adapt for the stage, benefitted by taking place in one setting for the whole film. Although there is only a single setting, the story is so fascinating; the audience is never bored.

“The Outfit” was produced on a meager \$500,000 budget and written by director Graham Moore.

This film was his first time directing. Moore started as a novelist and won the 2014 best-adapted screenplay Oscar for the film “The Imitation

Game.”

“Every big-time crew from Santa Monica to Coney Island,” says Roy’s character, explaining that “The Outfit” refers to a national crime web for the mafia.

The title “The Outfit” serves a double meaning, referring to the suits made in the shop.

With a small budget and only one set piece, the resulting film is one of exceptional quality. The performances were fantastic, and the story was riveting.

Reviews

'The Adam Project' stirs action scenes with touching bits

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

"Time travel exists, you just don't know it yet," reads the opening crawl to "The Adam Project," a sci-fi action film released on March 11 by Netflix.

This enjoyable watch perfectly mixes action interspersed with touching comedic and dramatic moments. For example, the audience may grasp an emotional depth to the film, by seeing each character grieve in their own way.

Along with the humorous highs in the film, the emotional lows are equally effective.

The film stars Ryan Reynolds, Mark Ruffalo, Walker Scobell, Jennifer Garner, Zoe Saldana, and Katherine Keener.

In "The Adam Project," Ryan Reynolds portrays Adam, an MIA

Air Force pilot who travels back to 2022 to save a loved one. Adam recruits the help of his 12-year-old self, still grieving deeply for the death of his father just 18 months prior.

Reynolds is being pursued by the futuristic time-traveling Air Force, led by the corrupt global tyrant Maya Soriano (Catherine Keener).

The duo attempts to locate Adam's wife, Laura (Zoe Saldana), who was lost to time in a supposed accident.

The film's title refers to a particle accelerator developed by Adam's long-dead father Louis (Mark Ruffalo) which leads him to discover the secrets of time travel.

Reynolds delivers his most earnest performance in a while. While he has humorous dialogue, it is his co-star



Courtesy: imdb

who steals the film. Usually Reynolds is the joker, but Walker Scobell gets the best lines.

"Do they skip leg day in the future?" the

younger Adam asks.

Scobell is the film's standout character as the younger version of Adam. His hilarious delivery of the charac-

ter's sarcastic dialogue is right on par with how audiences would perceive Reynolds as a child.

One of the most interesting aspects of "The Adam Project" is how Adam can function as his own father. Their relationship comes across as brotherly though there are some parental aspects to the interactions.

Adam can impart advice to his younger self that he was otherwise robbed of through his father's death.

Katherine Keener suitably performs as the antagonist in "The Adam Project." Her character is a corrupt government leader, a recurring science fiction trope. There are scary scenes where Keener is digitally de-aged, and the graphics look disturbing.

Director Shawn Levy helmed all three "Night at the Museum" films, producing and directing. "The Adam Project" is the second time Levy worked with the actor Reynolds, the first being the critically and commercially successful "Free Guy" (2021).

Although the film was released on Netflix, "The Adam Project" also had a limited theatrical release. The film looked great on the big screen.

In the past few years, Netflix's filmmaking has drastically improved. Along with larger action movies, the studio's dramatic films are competing with the studio system and winning Oscars.

"The Adam Project" is 106 minutes and now streaming on Netflix.

'Deep Water' shows dark side of picture-perfect marriage

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

"Deep Water," a 2022 Hulu original thriller film starring Ben Affleck and Ana De Armas, sheds light on the troubles behind an apparently perfect marriage.

The base material was originally a Patricia Highsmith novel with the same title released in 1957.

Vic and Melinda Van Allen are wealthy socialites in their small Louisiana town with a highly unconventional marriage.

Melinda can date anyone she wants, and Vic quietly complies although there is a deep look of rage on his face when he sees his wife

romantically kissing her newest boyfriend.

Vic and Melinda are very different parents. Vic is a caring and loving father whereas Melinda becomes easily irritated.

Melinda cares very little for their daughter, Trixie, preferring to spend her time with her boyfriends instead.

The audience meets the couple at a turning point in their one-way open relationship. Vic is now acting passive aggressive toward her boyfriends.

"I don't like Joel," says Their daughter, Trixie. The 6-year-old is intelligent and enough to perceive her mother's changing behavior around her "friends"

that she invites over for a family dinner.

In "Deep Water," De Armas and Ben Affleck star in their most unlikable roles in a long time, if ever. Their characters are both morally reprehensible.

De Armas inhabits a textbook femme fatale in Melinda. She drinks heavily throughout the film, smokes cigarettes, and often wears black. She also seems to keep losing her boyfriends to unusual circumstances.

"A snail will climb a 12-foot fence to find its mate," says Vic to one of Melinda's boyfriends.

Snails are a recurring motif in the film. Vic keeps them as pets in an expansive room

filled with aquariums, beautifully lit by black lighting. The love for snails has expanded throughout Vic's house, Trixie even has a painting of a person riding a snail on her bedroom wall.

Lil Rel Howery offers the only comedic element in an otherwise glum film. He plays Grant, Vic's best friend. Every time he appears on screen, he briefly lightens the mood.

Affleck had the most challenging role in the film because he carried the whole movie, making questionable decisions while still having the audience in his corner.

De Armas is easily portrayed as the film's

villain. Her behavior toward her husband becomes increasingly antagonistic as she openly flaunts her relationships.

In a bizarre scene, Vic inexplicably drinks wine with his 6-year-old daughter. This is the only occasion in the film where he is seen drinking alcohol, previously condemned behavior. Trixie's glass continually changes how much liquid it has from scene to scene in a noticeable continuity blooper.

There are heavy elements of film noir in "Deep Water." The look of the film is dim, as if a lens were placed over the camera lens effectively accentuating

the shadowy atmosphere. Also, Vic Van Allen sounds like a noir name. Other noticeable elements include a cigarette-smoking private investigator and copious amounts of alcohol consumption.

Adrian Lyne directed "Deep Water." There were striking similarities to other romantic neo-noir films like "Basic Instinct" and "Fatal Attraction." The latter earned Lyne a nomination for the Academy Award for directing.

"Deep Water" gets better as the 115-minute runtime proceeds. An entertaining watch, the performances of both Affleck and De Armas elevate the otherwise pulpy material.

Top players to miss Miami Open, Rafael Nadal out due to rib injury

BY MONICA GOMEZ

Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal, the King of Clay, withdrew from the Miami Open a week before the start of the tournament due to injury.

Nadal injured his ribs while competing

at the Indian Wells tournament with Carlos Alcaraz. According to AP News, the injury is a stress fracture, which will have him lose about “four to six weeks.”

His rib injury may set him back from any preparations for future

tournaments such as the Italian Open, French Open, and Madrid Open.

All three are important tournaments for Nadal since they take place on clay courts.

Nadal, who has won 21 Grand Slam men’s singles titles, is current-

ly No.3 in the world and holds the stats of 20-1 for this season.

The King of Clay was off on a winning streak for the 2022 season by holding three singles titles for this season from winning the Acapulco, Australian Open, and Mel-

bourne tournaments.

He ultimately lost the winning streak at the Indian Wells tournament to American tennis player Taylor Fritz.

Nadal last participated in the Miami Open in 2017 and was a runner-up to Roger Federer.

With his withdrawal from the Miami Open, the predictions for winners of the men’s singles are undetermined since Nadal and Novak Djokovic, both top players for men’s singles, are not participating in this tournament.

Overwatch League’s delayed season to take place on new game

BY EDWARD SAENZ

After several months of patient waiting, the start date for the 2022 Overwatch League was announced. In late February,

Blizzard announced a start date of May 5 and the format for the fifth season of their flagship esports.

The announcement comes amid a precarious situation for Blizzard.

In mid-2021, following a string of sexual assault allegations against dozens of employees in the company, all the league’s sponsors ended contracts with the company. The 2021 grand finals also had a

record low in viewership, a trend that held throughout the season.

“This, beta-version of the game the league is gonna be played on is the final hail mary,” said Richard Lewis, the Editor at Large of Dexerto in a live stream following the announcement.

“It’s a mess, and Blizzard is hoping that delaying the league will save their premium esports and push it back to its original heights.”

During the 2021 playoffs, Blizzard announced that the 2022 season would start later than usual, as the plan was to have the season played on the new, yet to be released, verison

of the game, Overwatch 2. The franchise has been on a steady decline, both in viewership and player base for the past several years.

The launch of Valorant in summer 2020 did not help either and took much of Overwatch leagues remaining spotlight, with many of its players leaving to go play Valorant.

In previous years, the Overwatch League has kicked off in early February. However, the 2021 season started on April 16.

Meaning the planned start of May 5 will be the latest for the league yet, and it will fall right in line with rival game Counter



South Korean team at the Overwatch World Cup. Courtesy:Blizzard

Strike Global Offensive world championship, the PGL Antwerp Major.

The hope for Blizzard is that the new Overwatch 2, with its simplified gameplay

and free-to-play aspect, will revive the game and save its dwindling esports scene.

The Overwatch League kicks off on May 5 with the Los Angeles Gladiators

taking on the New York Excelsior.

The Houston Outlaws will play their first game of the season on May 6 against the Dallas Fuel in a classic battle for Texas.





Credit: Giselle Oviedo

World should stand with Ukraine, stop importing Russian oil

BY JESSE
FITZGERALD
RODRIGUEZ SR.

As a bloody war continues in Ukraine, Russian oil is no longer accepted or considered a global asset for the Western Hemisphere's energy sector.

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, the authoritarian leader of Russia who has reigned for over 20 years, must suffer the dire consequences of a Ukraine invasion and possible war crimes.

Death toll rises in Ukraine, innocent civilians die in the streets like animals. As the rippling effect of an unprovoked war trickles near the borders of our United States' NATO allies, America's leaders and defense react aggressively and accordingly.

It is no secret that wars are costly. At this moment, the European Union's economy, as well as the global economy, is impacted by the price of freedom, peace, democracy, and justice.

That being stated, we focus on the global energy sector that is

currently being interrupted by the Russian leader and his mindless actions. But Putin's tactics, policies, regime, and unfortunately, Russia's wealth and empire, will be immobilized and eradicated from the global economy.

The White House, in a statement, said it would stop all imports of oil and gas, amongst other commodities. The United Kingdom and other countries will phase out imports of oil as well.

Russia's oil production accounts for only 11% of the world's total output and is the world's third largest oil producer behind the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

As a result of this disruption in the global energy sector, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, which produces about 40% of the world's crude oil and exports 60% of its oil in total petroleum, produces 400,000 more barrels per day to reinvigorate the global oil demand.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki stated that President Joe Biden and G7 Leaders from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom, and the European Union will announce new economic actions.

These will be designed "to hold Putin accountable for his continued assault on Ukraine and further isolate Russia from the global financial system."

Many well-known businesses strategically pull their interest out of Russia.

To name a few, Goldman Sachs, a major global investment bank, and according to CNBC, Big-Tech firms like Apple, Google, and payment firms like Visa and Mastercard have followed accordingly.

Even transnational companies such as McDonald's and Starbucks have shut down in Russia. I guarantee more businesses will follow the trend if they have not already.

All in all, America's energy sector and global trading relations

are depleting by the day. Our infrastructure needs a grand transformation, untapped proven oil leases need to be granted. We need to focus more on domestic manufacturing and oil production with respect to climate changes.

Texas is the No. 1 oil producer in the U.S., producing a whopping 1.78 billion barrels of oil in 2020, according to Statista.

Saudi Arabia's state-owned oil company now has 100% control of the largest refinery in North America, the Port Arthur refinery in Texas, which can process 600,000 barrels of oil per day.

Saudi Arabia is the largest crude oil producer in OPEC and the second largest total petroleum liquids producer in the world after the U.S., according to the EIA.

In the end, OPEC is a keystone player in our global economy. More importantly, it stabilizes the global energy sector as the Russian Federation, the world's second-highest exporter of crude oil, diminishes by the day.

"The free world is coming together to confront Putin," said Biden in his March 11 address to the nation. "Russia has now become a global economic and financial pariah."

Predictably, as Ukrainians die and over 3 million refugees have fled, Putin shows no signs of surrender or peace talks, especially now that sanctions are in place, "a declaration of war," as he stated.

Will Putin's military charge across Ukraine's border? This is the question that many U.S. political leaders are asking its central intelligent agencies as they acquire valuable intelligence and more data on Putin's progress and his capabilities of attack on NATO or the U.S.

I believe freedom comes at a high cost. Ukraine has paid more than enough in civilian casualties.

"Hundreds of children's hearts have stopped beating" Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky stated to Congress on March 16. "My heart stops

beating too."

We cannot afford to lose another soul at the hands of a totalitarian.

Our military allies need to act immediately before Putin's secret plan to obliterate the European Union is carried through, potentially escalating from a small war into World War III.

"The Destiny of our country is being decided, the destiny of our people, whether they will be free," Ukraine President Zelensky said to Congress as he pleaded for a United Nations no-fly zone.

"Remember Pearl Harbor, remember 9/11, remember all the innocent people who died. Russia has turned the Ukrainian sky to a source of death for thousands of people."

Powerful words from President Zelensky but will Congress promptly do what is necessary? Our hearts go out to the Ukrainian people, the wounded, the loss of poor young and old souls, and for the total devastation that continues during this unprovoked war.