

EDITORIAL

The Dateline wins Rising Star award, thanks university and readers

BY INDIRA ZALDIVAR & EDWARD SAENZ

Every year, Student Activities hosts the celebratory One Main Event to recognize organizations and individuals that make student life “amazing” and “create positive change” at UHD.

The Dateline thanks Student Activities for recognizing the devoted newspaper staff as this year’s “Rising Star.”

We were nominated for our hard work from fall 2021 through spring 2022. We thank the university for supporting our work. We want to let our readers know

how being part of the paper has improved our college experience and prepared us professionally.

In this platform, students develop skills through the many roles offered. All majors are welcome.

Fine arts student Giselle Oviedo joined the newspaper as an illustrator in July 2021, ahead of her freshman year at UHD.

Oviedo’s commitment is evident in her beautiful illustrations, which have been over 95.

“The Dateline has made me get out of my comfort zone,” Oviedo said.

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The Dateline staff and alumni show off 2022 Rising Star Award on South Deck on Oct. 28. Courtesy: Executive Director of Communications Marie Jacinto. Back row: Jesse F. Rodriguez, Jema Pantoja, James Jurewicz, Brijanet Figueroa, Sarah Ramirez, and Ryan Price. Front row: Amy Nguyen, Indira Zaldivar, Nohely Martinez, Cristina Ambrosio, Giselle Oviedo and Diana Ambrosio.



UHD Mariachi Los Caimanes perform at the one-year-old 713 Music Hall in downtown Houston on Nov. 14. Courtesy: Jose Vazquez

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

UHD Los Caimanes make history, become 1st mariachi to perform at 713 Music Hall

BY KARLA CARRILLO

On Nov. 14, UHD’s Mariachi band Los Caimanes performed at 713 Music Hall, becoming the first mariachi band ever to perform.

The newest music venue in town opened its doors in November 2021, lining up several renowned artists

before the mariachi band’s latest performance.

Mariachi Director Jose Vazquez expressed utmost gratitude and pride for the band for giving their all for the audience.

Vazquez acquired his bachelor’s degree in music from UH and is a long-time performer in a variety of

bands. in music from UH’s Moores School of Music and is a long-time performer in a variety of bands.

His experience in higher education includes the Lone Star College-Tomball Outreach and the University of Houston’s HR department.

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SPORTS & GAMING

UHD’s cheerleaders bring Gator pride to 73rd annual Thanksgiving Parade

BY JA’MEA THOMAS

The UHD cheerleaders participated in the H.E.B Thanksgiving Parade representing UHD Sports and Fitness.

The UHD cheerleaders were thrilled to participate in the 73rd annual Thanksgiving parade after last year’s cancellation due to an electrical storm.

The roughly 3-mile long parade welcomed first timers and returning Gators to join in the traditional celebration.

Co-captain Andrew Malcolm stated that preparation for the parade was simple. Malcolm wanted to provide a smooth experience for new team members.

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UHD cheer squad, Houston Astros’ Shooting Stars along mascots make appearance at the 73rd annual Thanksgiving parade. Courtesy: Quy Ngo

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Credit: G.O.



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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Interim Assistant Director Jema Pantoja extends Academic Support Center's outreach, prioritizes student experience

BY INDIRA ZALDIVAR & EDWARD SAENZ

After entering as a Writing and Reading Center tutor in January, Jema Pantoja took on the opportunity to serve her alma mater as the interim assistant director of the Academic Support Center for the fall semester when the position became vacant over the summer.

It was a big leap for her to go from professional peer tutor to the boss of her WRC peers and beyond.

However, gracefully, she led as second-in-command of the programs under the Academic Support Center, which include WRC and the Center for Math and Statistics, which offer free writing, reading, math, and statistics tutoring for all UHD students.

The new leadership role expanded her professional capabilities.

"It was my first time to be a boss, so I learned how to be patient and flexible, especially since I work with

students who have other jobs as well," Pantoja said. "I also learned how to take initiative and lead employees to do their best."

Pantoja implemented recognitions for employees of the month, staff of the week, and staff gatherings to motivate student employees.

Starting as a tutor herself gave her insight on how to address internal challenges to improve the experience for employees.

"Seeing how many students developed a relationship with our tutors and become regulars is a testament to the tutors' hard work," she added.

A proud UHD alumna, Pantoja applied knowledge from her master's degree in technical communication (class of 2021) and bachelor's degree in English (class of 2019).

Her love for planning and experience from an internship with UHD Study Abroad and as the social media manager and writer for



Jema Pantoja is a proud UHD MSTC alumna and serves as the interim assistant director of the Academic Support Center for the fall semester. Courtesy: Jema Pantoja

The Dateline aligned with her new duties.

As a student, she found that "not many students know there's a tutoring center or even where we're located," so she took a proactive approach to reach more Gators to use the center.

Outreach efforts included tabling, in-

creasing social media presence, and hosting workshops with professors and culture-themed events that would appeal to the student body, such as a pumpkin decoration contest, El Dia de Los Muertos poetry reading, and a Homecoming office decoration contest.

"I did really enjoy planning the events and the various outreach initiatives."

To encourage more professional development for students, she hosted the two-day "Portfolio Madness" event with a stocking decorating section where students could walk in and get their English portfolios reviewed by WRC tutors.

"I wanted to actively create and do more outreach for the center because I wanted students to know that we're here at UHD ready to help students with any kind of writing and math," Pantoja said.

"One of my greatest achievements as assistant director was to see the increase in students visiting the center and even students interested in applying for a tutoring position."

Outside the academic office, Pantoja indulges in the creative part of her identity through painting, writing, reading, and learning about literary authors and genres. She

is currently working on creating her at-home library.

"It sounds cliché and corny, but without an outlet to express my creativity, I feel stuck and trapped."

As a 27-year-old female boss, she advises women aspiring to leadership positions that patience, resilience, and communication are key.

"It's not always easy being a female supervisor, especially when you're young, but it is important to stand firm in your decisions and trust your instincts."

Next in sight is closing her time with the Academic Support Center and moving on to new creative endeavors.

"I feel it's the norm to have these big career goals and ambitions, and while I think that's admirable, I have a different mindset for my life," Pantoja said. "I want to work on building the life that is right for me and work on my creative endeavors, such as writing, along the way."

Entrepreneur Taeshon Trotter boasts Omicron Xi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

BY ISIAH ARCHIE

Taeshon Trotter is a senior majoring in corporate communications at UHD.

He also is an African American business owner of JuiceBoy Custom Jewelry. In fall 2019, Trotter became a member of Omicron Xi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He later was granted the Polemarch position due to his service and hard work in the community.

"Ever since I joined Kappa Alpha Psi, my life has changed for the better," Trotter said.

As the Polemarch of Kappa Alpha Psi, Trotter was able to meet new people all over the world. The biggest one was meeting Reuben A. Shelton III, the Grand Polemarch (president) of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. at C. Rodger Wilson leadership conference.

"That was an amazing moment to be in Mr. Shelton III presence knowing everything he has done for Kappa," said Trotter.

At the conference, he mentioned it was like being surrounded by iron in every direction.

Everywhere he looked, brothers who have come before him, brothers who joined his chapter after him, even brothers he randomly meets in an airport — men of Kappa desire achievement.

Each brother wants to be the best version of himself that he can be.

"We strive to be ambitious and don't want to play our part but excel in it," Trotter stated. "We are courageous enough to face failure time and time again until we succeed."

As for plans for spring 2023, Trotter an-

nounced that the chapter Omicron Xi of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. will have a spring line.

"We are persistent because we know achievement is not met through quitting," Trotter said.

"But, most importantly, we honestly desire this for each and every one of us because that is what Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. is meant to be."

Other future plans include an informational mid-January to start the spring semester.



Taeshon Trotter (right). Credit: Isiah Archie



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Credit: Edward Saenz

RISING STAR

CONTINUED FROM PG.1

“The Dateline has made me get out of my comfort zone and helped me network with others on campus and out of it,” Oviedo said.

“The Rising Star award for me means, as cliché it sounds, that teamwork makes the dream work,” Oviedo added. “It’s physical evidence of our hard work.”

In addition to the role of illustrator, The Dateline offers roles as writer and photographer, section editor, social media manager, advertising sales, business manager, assistant editor, and editor (in chief).

James Jurewicz, known as the movie reviews guy, has been a longtime Dateline writer since spring 2020.

Besides letting Gators know which movies are worth watching, he has written articles about arts and entertainment, sports and gaming, and cultural events in the city and local communities.

“Along with accommodating my artistic expression and allowing me to build a portfolio of published work,” Jurewicz said, “The Dateline gifted me with a supportive peer group at [UHD].”

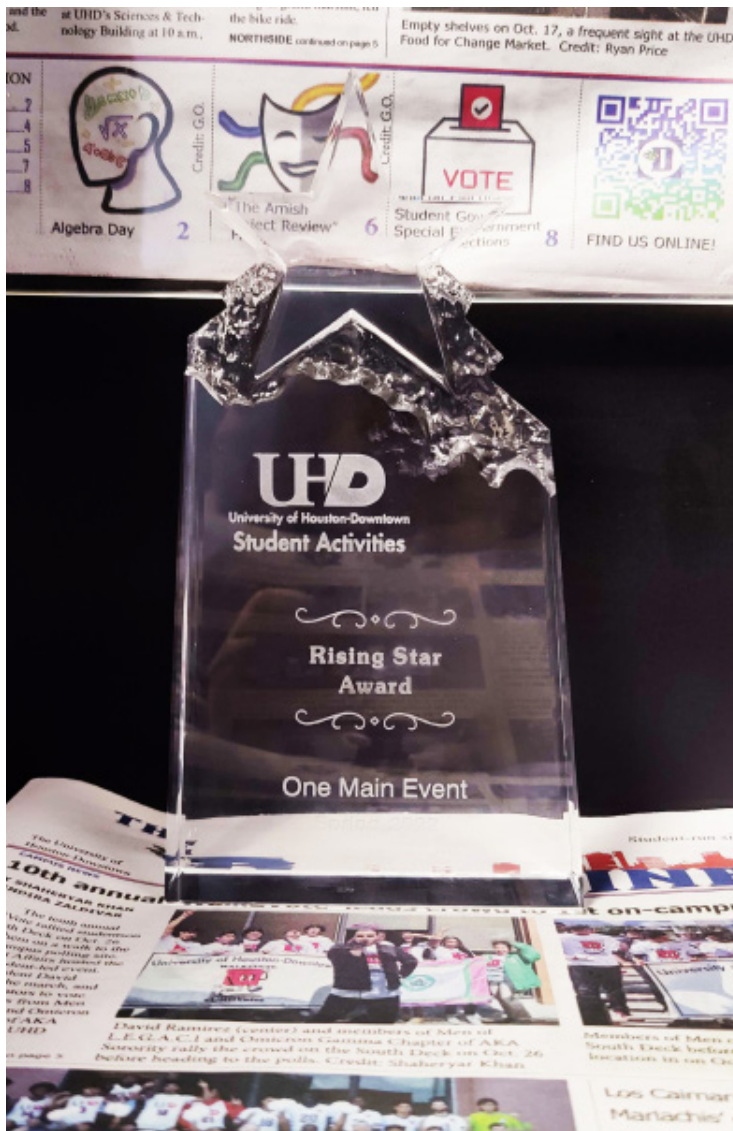
“The Rising Star highlights the quality of our paper and the hard work of our talented group,” Jurewicz added. “People are paying attention to us.”

Our proudest accomplishments include publishing the most editions in a single semester with nine bi-weekly print and digital editions in spring 2022 and the most editions in a single calendar year with 19 editions in 2022.

We published on a consistent schedule to inform our beloved readers returning to campus since the fall 2021 soft opening. Our social media and digital presence saw improvement.

Content-wise, we revamped the sports section as “Sports and Gaming” to include gaming stories to highlight the thriving esports hub on campus.

The editorial vision of the paper was to be hyper-focused on the UHD commu-



Our Rising Star award on our signature black newspaper stands on Dec. 13. Credit: Diana Ambrosio

ity spotlighting the dedicated students, staff, and faculty that make UHD thrive while also shining a light on issues that call the university to pay attention to and help us all move forward in progress.

“Our loyal readers know that we report what we think needs/deserves attention,” business manager Diana Ambrosio said.

Ambrosio joined The Dateline in early fall 2021 as a writer. She has developed better people skills and a stronger bond with the UHD community since her first writing assignment covering the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration from the Marilyn Davies College of Business in September 2021.

“The Dateline made me want to stay at school and participate in activities on campus instead of just coming to school for classes and going back home afterwards,” Ambrosio said.

“Dateline provided me with a safe place and allowed me to make friends that I wouldn’t have met anywhere else.”

A pressing challenge in The Dateline, compared to other organizations that offer professional opportunities at

UHD, such as the American Marketing Association, and UHD Structural Engineering Organization, is the lack of a journalism degree on campus.

However, resiliency is a characteristic Gator trait, and students take on the rigorous challenge of journalism work regardless.

Without a prior class on interviewing, getting sources, and reporting on events, most Dateline members have no experience.

As the head editors, we applaud every member’s commitment to learn and teach on the job.

We teach our peers based on online tools such as the gold standard of news writing, the AP Stylebook, and the journalist toolbox by the Society of Professional Journalists.

Thank you, UHD and Student Activities, for recognizing our dedication to the newspaper, our personal and professional growth, and the UHD community we serve.

We strive to improve and take on new challenges in 2023 through compassionate storytelling and commitment to truth and justice.

THE DATELINE

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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, AP style, 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.



Student symposium highlights projects on clear communication

BY AMY NGUYEN

On Nov. 10, the Institute of Plain English Research organized and hosted the Study Student Symposium on Clear Communication on Zoom as an opportunity to share work about clear communication applied in fields of expertise.

Selected projects from undergraduate and graduate students from UHD and other universities were presented.

The symposium offers an opportunity for students to showcase quality work to the UHD community, enriches their resumes, and allows them to build networks with other students, faculty, and professionals. All participants will receive a \$50 gift card.

The three symposium winners will receive \$200. The winners in the following categories are Gina Greenslate for Best Research Project in Clear Communication, Felicity Tutu for Best Presentation on Concepts in Clear

Communication, and Paris Higgins for Best Product in Clear Communication.

The Keynote speaker was Lucha Morales, an award-winning writer with more than 10 years of experience in content creation for the City of Houston and an alumna of the Master of Science in Technical Communication program.

Among the 12 presenters was The Dateline's Editor Indira Zaldivar. She presented research from her IRB-approved usability study under the guidance of technical communication Professor Olin Bjork.

Zaldivar thanked Bjork and UHD for the opportunity to conduct research.

"Every step of my usability study turned the class theories from Dr. Olin Bjork's usability research class and other technical communication classes into a real-world application,"

Zaldivar said. "Embarking on research, creating deliverables, and publishing a report was very time-consuming, but I am proud to have chosen a capstone for my final experience. It gave me a sneak peek of the possibilities with my new graduate degree."

UHD communications professors Ashleigh Petts, John Rountree, and Natalia Matveeva moderated this event and served as symposium chairs.

The professors also guided the students in a workshop before the symposium.

Clear communication is communication understood by the general public on their first reading.

Effective communicators adapt communication to a specific audience's needs, create accurate, accessible, readable, and usable products.

STUDENT SYMPOSIUM ON CLEAR COMMUNICATION PROGRAM

ASHLEIGH PETTS

LUCHA MORALES



INDIRA ZALDIVAR

JA'MEA THOMAS

GINA GREENSLATE

DALILA JUAREZ

KAREM MALDONADO



FELICITY TUTU

PARIS HIGGINS

JASPER ODAK

SKYE WOODGATE

HOLLAND THOMPSON

ERIOLE RIOS



Credit: Amy Nguyen

LATINX THEATRE & PERFORMANCE
DRA 3301-I (23742)

NEW DRAMA CLASS OFFERED IN SPRING
Assistant Professor
Dennis Sloan, Ph.D.
sloande@uhd.edu

Credit: Giselle Oviedo

CLASS OF 2022

The Dateline Staff Graduates

DIANA AMBROSIO
business manager
B.S. in Criminal Justice

"It has been great going to UHD. I have made many friends and learned so much."

CHANDLER GRIVETTI
writer/photographer
B.A. in English

"Doing perfect isn't me, but doing me is perfect.."

CARLIS A. HENRY
writer/photographer
B.S. in Technical Communication

"For a non-traditional student (older student), I can attest that the quality of instruction and the professors were, across the board, unbiased, professional, and top notch."

Credit: Indira Zaldivar & Edward Saenz

'Andor,' an intricate, nuanced spy thriller, a love letter to rebellion

BY SHAWN AWAGU

If you are looking for an intricate and nuanced spy thriller, "Andor" is easily one of the top TV show releases of the year, delving into several complex and tightly-woven themes.

But this show is not for you if you want a casual, light-hearted watch or a plot-by-punch action/adventure title.

Fundamentally, "Andor" explores the nature of Rebellion under authoritarian regimes. But even from the first episode, it is readily apparent that the show operates by a radically different formula compared to much of contemporary "Star Wars." And it uses three techniques to accomplish this.

First and foremost, "Andor" is a charac-

ter-driven show. The first level of complexity it layers over them is their environment and how they interact with it.

Ferrix, a central location, is a rugged, tight-knit mining community deeply rooted in its history and traditions. Hung up on a rack in the open are the gloves of every miner, each brilliantly colored and customized.

The belltower, rather than simply being electronic, contains an ornate anvil that is rung by a unique set of hammers.

In this culturally rich and supportive environment, the show's protagonist, Cassian (Diego Luna), spent his formative years in and is in stark contrast to other characters in the series.

Arvel Skeen (Ebon



Credit: Edward Saenz

Moss-Bachrach), with whom Cassian shares a roughly similar backstory, had a much harsher life devoid of a supportive community. This likely shaped his later decisions in the series.

The second layer of complexity "Andor" layers onto its characters is a dilemma. Every central character faces one to some extent.

Should Cassian

help the fledgling Rebellion or flee with what little freedom he has? Should Syril Karn (Kyle Soller) ignore his conscience to avoid upsetting the established hierarchy of the Pre-ox-Morlana Corporate Authority, or should he track down the killer of two of his colleagues?

These dilemmas expose character motivations and the essence of who they are.

But every single one of these situations can, one way or another, be traced back to the totalitarian nature of the fascist Imperial government. And this is critical for the last technique—mirroring.

Every central character in the show has some counterpart with whom they contrast.

Skeen is a low life with no friends or family. By contrast, Cassian, who is also a low life at first, is also deeply connected to a loving community, is a critical ingredient to his later decisions.

But Cassian is also an apolitical troublemaker when first introduced, in stark contrast to Karis Nemik (Alex Lawther), a profoundly ideological true-believer revolutionary who fights for his cause.

This complex web

of mirroring allows for exponentially more richness and complexity in the story since every question the story might raise has an answers, counterarguments, and other questions raised by other characters.

The confluence of these factors makes the experience of watching "Andor" magical. It's not a single story.

Moreso, it is a dozen stories of a dozen lives, each asking a dozen questions with a dozen answers, all occurring under the same suffocating tyranny.

And, in watching the conflict arise between these people, you are only left wanting more of this richness.

In a million lifetimes, I'd never fail to emphatically recommend watching "Andor" each time.

'Avatar,' world's highest grossing, yet unmemorable, movie

BY RYAN PRICE

James Cameron's 2009 science fiction epic "Avatar" is the world's highest-grossing movie of all time.

However, despite its success, it has yet to cultivate the fanbase or cultural impact that other popular fiction movies have garnered over the years.

In 2009, writer, director, and producer James Cameron released "Avatar" to resounding success.

By the end of its theatrical release, the film had earned over \$2.7 billion in profit, overcoming Cameron's "Titanic" as the highest-grossing movie of all time.

A re-release following "Avengers: Endgame" pushed the film to a higher \$2.9 billion by the end of 2019.

"Avatar" was well-received at the time, with the most praise for its impressive visuals, music, and

IMAX experience.

Pandora: The World of Avatar, a Disney World theme park, opened in 2017 to overwhelming praise. However, this praise has fallen short since its release. Nowadays, most people only remember Avatar as the movie "with the blue people."

It is a popular meme nowadays to laugh at the lack of memorability of the film.

Very few people can name a single character from the film, popular culture has not seized upon any of its quotes, and there is no merchandise on the shelves for the franchise. This is strange, as other popular science fiction franchises have not had this issue.

One does not have to look far to find children playing with "Star Wars" toys or seeing a bumper sticker quoting Cameron's own "Terminator" or "Aliens"

movies.

For example, in 2019, the YouTube channel jacksfilms hosted a public contest where interviewees could earn a cash prize if they could name a single character from "Avatar." Only one individual walked away with any of the money.

The lack of memorable characters may hold the key to the mystery of the film's elusivity in popular culture.

Tobias Musante, a film professor in Paris with a master's in film history, believes that the failure of Avatar's cultural relevance may lie in the fact that "Avatar" doesn't have great characters.

"[Avatar] came out at a time in film where the actors in the film were becoming less important than the characters they were playing," Musante said.

Musante continued explaining that the film has one-dimensional,

non-memorable characters overall.

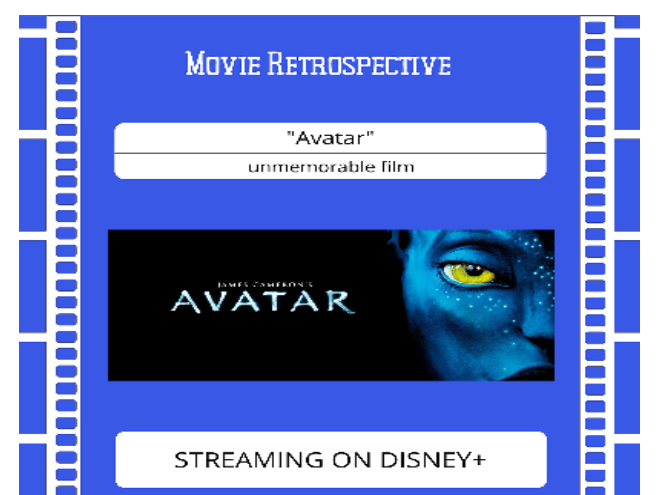
He also points out that people stopped going to the movies to see their favorite actors, "Characters have become very important. People want to see Iron Man, they don't really want to see Robert Downey Jr."

So, without any memorable characters, the movie needs to hold its own based on the story that the screenplay tries to convey.

The generic story of "Avatar" has taken Hollywood by storm for decades. A white man arrives in a foreign country, becomes taken in by that country's culture, and saves the local people by becoming one of them.

Musante elaborates that, in today's culture, film audiences are more attuned to this trope and have begun to reject its appearance in the films that they watch.

"The white savior in film can be traced



Credit: Edward Saenz

back to films like 'Dances with Wolves' and 'Lawrence of Arabia' and found success ... modern audiences are more sensitive to this now and this kind of story is not one that people want to watch anymore."

So, without characters that people remember or a story that audiences want to engage with, a clearer picture can be seen regarding "Avatar's" lack of cultural impact.

The next question is, can Cameron rectify these issues in future

installments?

A sequel titled "Avatar: The Way of the Water" is scheduled to be released on Dec. 16, with an additional sequel nearing completion.

For a sequel to the highest-grossing movie of all time just weeks away from release, look around and ask yourself, your friends, and your family, "Does anyone care?"

The answer would leave Cameron, like the characters in his blockbuster, feeling quite blue.

MARIACHI

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

However, he “just missed working with students” and decided to join our Student Activities department as the assistant director in 2013.

The former president of UHD, Juan Sánchez Muñoz, aspired for a mariachi band to represent the Latino community of UHD

and believed Vazquez was the perfect fit. Due to his music education and theory background, Vazquez became the director of the mariachi band Los Caimanes in 2019.

After rapidly recruiting members, the band endured many monumental experiences, including traveling, performing in private events, and winning mariachi competitions.

Since its founding, the mariachi proudly

represented its school and the community.

During a virtual interview with the director, Vazquez deemed 713 Music Hall to be “the best music venue in Houston!”

“The size is perfect, the layout was very organized, sound checking was a breeze, and watching the students perform was super fun!” Vazquez stated.

Although this venue is only a year old, it did not take long for the

band to adapt to it, and the students provided the best performance for the audience.

From this experience, Vazquez hopes the students learned to connect with the audience by hyping them up while having fun playing.

He endured a similar learning experience amongst the students, accomplishing anything they can put their minds to and reaching for the stars!

Vazquez does not plan to stop there, for this is only the beginning.

He hopes a couple of talented singers in the band will become finalists in the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza Competition next fall!

They plan to travel and perform in more venues and make history!

If you are a fellow student interested in mariachi music and want to experience

significant moments such as these, feel free to email Jose Vazquez at vazquezjo@uhd.edu.

You can find more details about the audition process and specific qualifications on their website: <https://www.uhd.edu/student-life/student-activities/mariachi/Pages/default.aspx>.

The band is open to anyone with musical skills and a great passion for Spanish-speaking music!

Popular comedians make Houstonians laugh, mock city

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

“The Come and Take It” Comedy Festival was in town from Nov. 17-20. This is Houston’s only multi-day gathering of comedians. Along with those visiting the city, local comedians also comprised the show’s talented performers at The Secret Group here in Houston.

Harland Williams, Mark Normand, and Doug Benson are some of the more prominent names in comedy to perform at the festival. Harland Williams took to the warehouse stage around 9 p.m. that Saturday.

Williams is known for his work in stand-up as well as his roles in popular comedy films like “Half Baked,” “Rocketman,” “Superstar,” and “Down Periscope.” The Toronto native opened with some comments about the venue.

“I love to work in a place where after my show I can hang upside down by my feet with pennies on my eyes and sleep in the rafters,” Williams said, referring to the dark warehouse where the show was held, with cold cement floors and large metal support beams throughout.

“Sir you can look away, I hate your eyes,”

joked Williams.

The audience laughed every time he called Texas the Tri-Star state, which eventually evolved into the Tri-State area. He also continually called our city Houston-Town. He was endearing and hilarious.

“Ma’am, you ever climb up a pine tree and dropkick a baby owl in the face? No? Really? Well, it’s gonna happen.” Known for his crowd work, Williams did not shy away from getting to know the audience.

“What do you do in this crazy whacked out world, guy? A pharmacist? Okay, excellent. I wish there was some comedy there,” Williams said.

An energetic crowd was delighted to be part of the show.

“To prove that laughter is the best medicine, I stopped by a local hospital yesterday and I found a floor of the sickest people I could find, and I went right in I laughed at them,” Williams said about his humanitarian efforts. Williams also explored some relevant social issues.

“I care about you, don’t text and drive. You’re typing while you’re driving! That didn’t go down in the ‘70s and the ‘80s. You didn’t see a Ford Pinto

wailing and down the highway at 80mph Some guy pulls up a Samsonite typewriter. Dear Cindy, get the meatloaf ready, I’m almost home.”

The stand-up veteran talked about numerous and varied topics. He even mentioned our local sports teams.

“The Astros? Aren’t they fun? You ever seen them play in outer space? Okay then, you’re not a real fan, are you? I saw the Astros play a game in the Milky Way one night.”

His show had an organic feeling, accented by his zany and receptive audience members. Laughter flowed throughout the comedian’s performance.

He also had solid opening acts, some of whom were local Texas comedians. Williams did have a complaint about his local lodgings.

“We’ll leave the light on for you. Be a little more honest. Shouldn’t it be more like we’re Motel 6 and We’ll leave the diarrhea arc on the wall for you, we’ll leave the old lady from ‘The Shining’ in the bathtub for you. Are you kidding me?”

Here is to hoping the funny man comes back soon to visit Houston-Town in the Tri-Star State.

‘Bones and All,’ terrifying yet romantic story about cannibals

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

A sympathetic cannibal film, “Bones and All,” follows two main characters who eat other people. Branded as a love story, the film is also a horrific and beautiful journey.

Starring Taylor Russell as Maren and Timothy Chalamet as Lee, the film also features the creepiest performance of 2022 by Oscar-winner Mark Rylance as Sully.

“Eating” is never explained or expanded upon; all the audience knows is that it is a compulsive action by the “eaters.”

Maren is warned about fighting the urges of her appetite. Early in the film, she meets Sully, an older “eater” who hopes to become her mentor.

“I smelled you” is Sully’s answer to how he knew Maren was also an “eater.” Maren is appropriately apprehensive towards spending any time with him, helped by the fact that he keeps souvenirs of his killings in the form of his victim’s hair braids tied together.

In one scene, Maren is shown eating regular food and choosing a bowl of Lucky Charms instead of a person. In another scene, Sully is shown



Credit: James Jurwicz

preparing some Cornish Game Hen.

When she meets Lee (Timothy Chalamet), a chronic runaway with a close relationship with his sister, Maren recognizes that they share the same dietary concerns and says she can smell him. Maren chooses to start a relationship with Lee.

Through Maren and Lee’s travels, their romance develops, as do their methods for eating others. Wishing to stop eating others eventually, Maren begins to question the morality of their appetite.

Mark Rylance’s character of Sully is one of the film’s best parts. Eating is just a part of his life, and he takes a demented pride in doing so. Rylance embraced the character’s creepiness, making for an incredible performance of the stalker and killer.

This movie takes a little while to marinate

in the brain. Initially, there is a go-to feeling of revulsion for a film about cannibals.

The next day, however, was not spent hating the film but thinking about the plot and characters. “Bones and All” is a unique experience that sticks to the viewer’s bones long after the credits.

“Bones and All” is not a typical horror film but a blend of various movie genres. Above all, the movie is a romantic road picture whose stars also happen to be cannibals.

What is great about this film is the unexpected nature of the plot. The genre blend allows for an unpredictable story.

There are terrifying scenes in “Bones and All.” Gore is another issue; unfortunately, the realistic and disgusting sounds of a person being eaten cannot be forgotten.

Sports and Fitness Coordinator addresses absent UHD float at Astros parade

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

On Monday, Nov. 7, the Houston Astros celebrated their 2022 World Series victory over the Philadelphia Phillies with a parade through downtown Houston.

Notably absent from the proceedings was the university closest to the festivities.

The 1.7-mile route did not feature a University of Houston Downtown float. UHD should have been in the parade, as the event occurred close to the main campus.

Texas Southern's Ocean of Soul marching band participated in the victory parade. As did

the University of Houston marching band, The Spirit of Houston, who performed while sporting the maroon colors.

What the parade needed was some of our blue Gators! UHD was not at fault for this unfortunate oversight, and our university should have played a part in the celebration.

"UHD was not asked to participate in the Astros parade. We would love to be part of the process next time but was not contacted.

Hopefully in the future we can be on their list," UHD Sports and Fitness Sports Coordinator Justin Sarabia said.

"Both UHD Cheer and Dance will be part

of the Martin Luther King Day Grande Parade on January 16, 2023."

The Cheerleaders and the Gatoettes Dance team were present at last year's MLK Grande Parade. The theme for this year is "Drum Majors for the Dream."

Both Teams represent UHD all over Houston in a variety of events. They also have appeared and performed in many parades, specifically the Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Houston Livestock and Rodeo Parade.

Last year, the teams were on a KHOU CBS Channel 11 news feature for Thanksgiving.



Astros making their way through downtown Houston during parade celebration. Credit: Isiah Archie

Along with their appearances at UHD Sports and Events, the teams compete in the National Cheerleading Association Spring

Classic and the American Dance/Drill Team Collegiate Nationals. The Cheerleaders and Gatoettes will appear in the upcoming

MLK Grande Parade on Jan 16, 2023, at 10 a.m. in Midtown Houston 77002.

CHEER

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

The team reviewed the material and the lineup of how everyone would be organized.

The cheerleaders prepared for the parade, expressing that practicing for the big day was not stressful. One cheerleader, Fernanda Carrasco, stated she practiced for the parade by "remembering to keep [her] posture, form, and shape while are walking."

Malcolm also expressed his excitement about the team and sharing this experience with them. Leading up to the big day, on the morning of Thanksgiving.

"I saw the reality of what was about to happen hadn't really set in yet."

As Malcolm and the cheerleaders were about to join the parade, it was still unbelievable that this was happening.

The excitement started to build as the team arrived at the parade, according to Malcolm. The team

was positioned behind Astro's dance team, the Shooting Stars.

This led the team to shake off their tiredness of the early morning, and their excitement fueled their energy as the parade started, and they heard the crowd cheering.

Some cheerleaders expressed that this was their first time being in the Thanksgiving parade, yet they were nervous and happy simultaneously.

One cheerleader, Emily Islas Villarreal, expressed great excitement about being in the parade.

"I love being the center of attention. I just loved it and had such a fun time," she said. She felt like she was never nervous.

Emily also stated that so many people were at the parade, and she wasn't expecting such a huge turnout.

"The crowd was super upbeat and happy to be there. So it made the experience more memorable, you know," she said.

Another cheerleader, Jestina August,



From left to right: Ashley(left), Vanessa (middle) Fernanda Carrasco and Emily Islas Villarreal on the end) and some of the Astros Shootings Stars members (Astros dance team). Credit: Emily Islas Villarreal

expressed her nervousness about the parade. "We actually started walking down the street to where I was like, I can do this," she said.

She expressed that she does not like big crowds. She was very nervous until they arrived and she saw how friendly everyone was and greeted one another.

Some of the cheerleaders also shared their favorite moments from the parade. Carrasco and Villarreal's favorite moment was meeting the Astros cheerleaders

as they were super nice and took a bunch of photos with them.

August's favorite moment was walking down the street and wishing people a Happy Thanksgiving.

She expressed that this was her favorite moment because when she was younger, she went to parades in Louisiana where she is originally from. In Louisiana, the individuals in the parades only

look at one side and never pay attention to the other side of the crowd.

So she told herself if she's ever in a parade, she would acknowledge both sides of the crowd. "So the whole time, I'm telling everybody happy Thanksgiving, and I'm making sure I do it from both sides now and again," she said. She made sure she turned her head to the left and the right

to greet everyone in the crowd. "I was happy at the end of the day," she said.

The UHD cheerleaders and co-captain felt good about the outcome of their performance in the parade. "I couldn't be prouder of my team," Malcolm said.

They are looking forward to participating again in next year's Thanksgiving parade.

Be more sustainable, adopt a seafood-based diet

BY PAYTIENCE SMITH

Sustainability means meeting our current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. There are many ways to accomplish this: driving less, shopping less, and planting more of your food.

What if I said you could be more sustainable by incorporating more seafood into your diet? That is because seafood is one of the lowest carbon proteins available.

By incorporating more fish or mussels into your diet, you also lower your carbon footprint.

It takes a lot to grow, package, and transport food worldwide. This generates carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses. This process is believed to make up nearly 20 to 30% of the global carbon footprint.

A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gasses generated by human action.

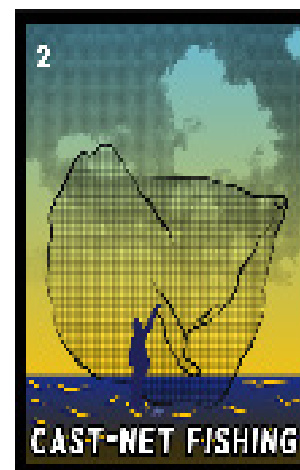
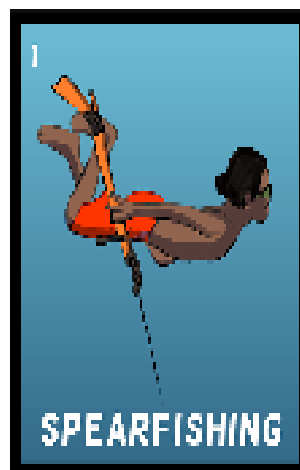
The more carbon in the air then, the higher

the global temperature will become, leading us to experience many other greenhouse effect consequences.

Generally speaking, there are differences in seafood emissions based on effort or how the fish are caught.

Most shellfish and wild-caught, small, and surface-dwelling fishes generate little emissions due to the minimal effort in catching.

Animals like crabs and shrimp tend to be more carbon-intensive due to the necessity of boats or ships that



Illustrations credit: Giselle Oviedo

run on fuel. So smaller seafood and wild-caught like anchovies and mussels tend to be at the top of the list for

nutrient-dense resources with low carbon output. I encourage you to research which seafood you enjoy the most with

a low carbon footprint and work it into your diet at least once a week!

SGA election of rule breaking instead of campaigning

BY ANONYMOUS

UHD has historically always allowed a President and a Vice President to run together to secure their ideas and co-lead the school through tumultuous times.

Also to foster new and exciting programs and changes such as the Food Trucks to campus and the support of many organizations throughout the years.

This year, SGA had no Spring Election and no SGA government leadership from the spring and into the fall semester.

Due to this, a new charter was written that allowed for a fall election to take place, followed by one in the spring of 2023 that would allow for an SGA cabinet to serve a full term.

This election has been anything but what a usual SGA Election is.

It has happened very quickly, so much so that candidates are campaigning the week of the election with hardly any time prior to hold debates or allow students to hear their promises and ideas from candidates.

Some people were

not even aware the election had even begun, but to be fair, most students do not check their emails.

One of the main concerns that have come up from this election is the unfair use of social media and group chats by candidates to push their names and faces in ways that are outlined within the charter and rules of election as unfair and unusable.

Many have been using the UHD Food Market GroupMe, much to the chagrin of the Food Market staff, to promote the election and their names and faces.

This is unfair due to not only the number of people in the chat but the fact that many of those people are there to hear updates on the Food Market, a service for students, not to see people campaign.

And what of the candidates who did follow the rules and have not used the Food Market to campaign?

Many will not recognize their names since they played fair and did not use a public GroupMe to further their Student Government careers.

Another concern is the use of social media for this campaign.

While the use of it is not prohibited, there is a specific stipulation within the rules that students cannot be endorsed by any campus organization funded by the school.

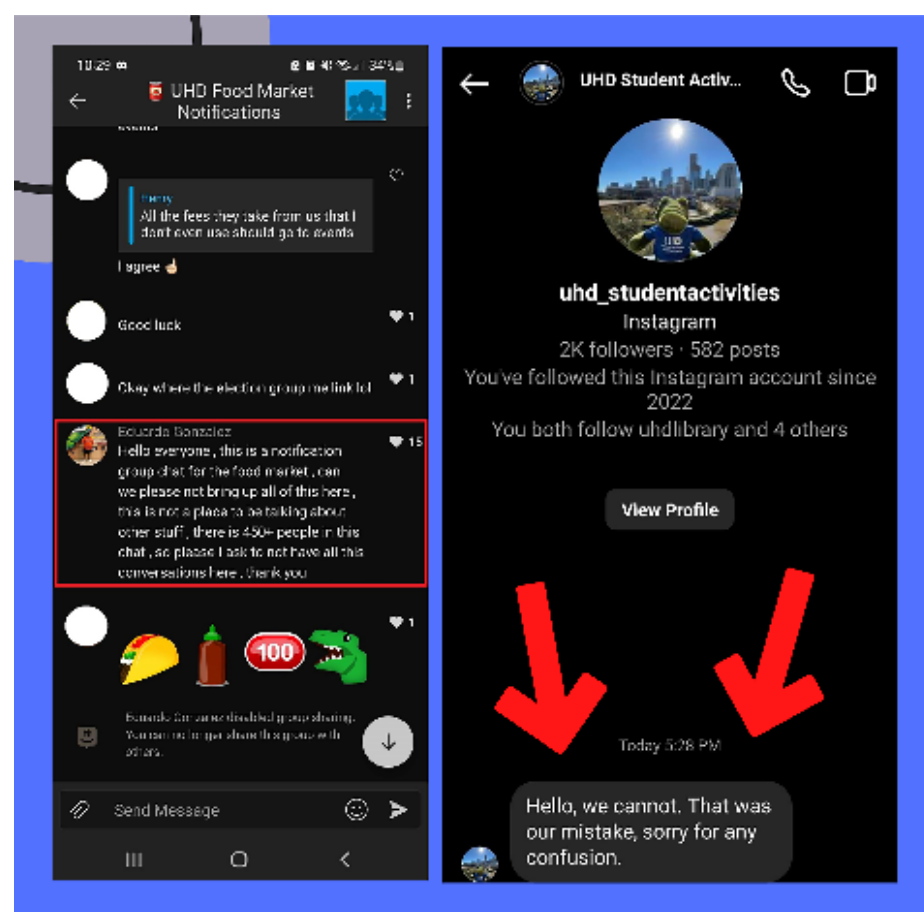
The UHD Student Activities Instagram account posted an advert for a candidate that was up for four hours before it was taken down.

How is it fair that students with so much influence and connections are allowed to campaign this way, blatantly disregarding the rules?

Meanwhile, others who follow the rules fight to get their faces seen and ideas heard without breaking them?

The use of parties can also be seen as a red flag. Wasn't the whole point of the SGA charter to allow a President and Vice President to run separately from one another one of the ways that SGA was attempting to combat corruption and keep any group from having too much power?

It seems candidates have taken a book from the current US election cycle; only they forgot



Credit: Edward Saenz

that to have one party, you must have another party with equal influence.

My thoughts on this election, as a student at UHD, is that it is merely a popularity contest where students who have the most influence and connections within UHD and their organizations have been promoting themselves and getting their faces out there.

This election, while rushed, could have been an interesting

and exciting one had candidates not been forced to campaign the same week as the elections.

Those with better connections and influence in the school are the ones you hear and constantly see.

In contrast, other candidates whose ideas have yet to be heard are left behind.

The important takeaway is this: the issue is not aggressive campaigning and popularity because those

factors have benefited individuals in elections since the beginning of time; the issue is the blatant disregard for rules and protocols with little to no oversight or intervention from the university.

The whole point of this new election cycle was to combat corruption and rule-breaking.

Yet, here we are at the election stages with rampant rule-breaking and almost zero oversight.