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 Synonym For
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Dateline: *Downtown*

April 2 - April 15, 2007 NEWSPAPER FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN Spring Volume 38 Issue 5

S T U D E N T - R U N S I N C E V O L U M E O N E

Texans Sign Brady Baby

By Megan-Murray McDonald
 Dateline: Downtown

The management of the Houston Texans have announced that they have forfeited their number one draft pick this season in an unprecedented deal with the NFL, which will solve their long-term needs at the quarterback position. "We have acquired the rights to all future offspring of Tom Brady," said the Texans' general manager. Brady, as reported in the media, has experienced a lack of protection to which current quarterback David Carr can certainly relate.



"With Tom Brady's accuracy and athleticism, not to mention his stamina and ability to play the field, we should finally have a solution to our quarterback problem in 20 to 22 years," explained a senior vice president within the Texans organization.

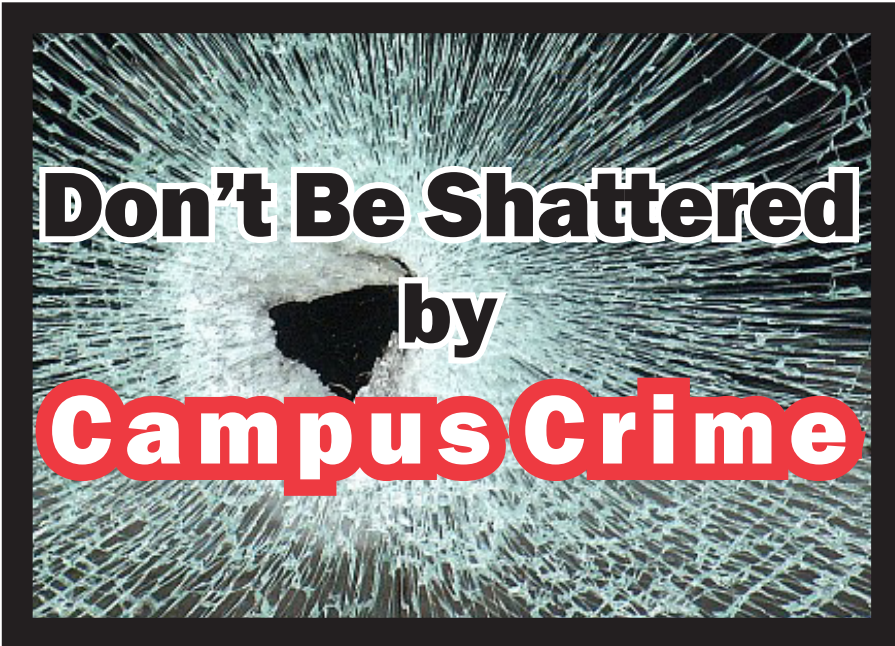
This deal, of course, not only gives them Houston the rights

to the tentatively named Apple Maddox Brady-Monahan and "Wolverine" Brady-Bundchen, but also to any and all other Brady-spawn in perpetuity. All unclaimed children in the Boston area are being cheek-swabbed by Texans scouts for potential DNA matches. "We're looking at a deal that may also fix our problems in the secondary and offensive line, provided Brady is able to continue scoring on such a record pace," one scout confirmed.

Despite the gender of the Brady offspring being unknown, Texans officials remain optimistic that the deal will be received warmly by fans and the media. "Even if our future quarterback throws like a girl, it's a situation our receivers have long since adapted to," one Texans trainer told reporters.

Texans owner Bob McNair could not be reached for comment, presumably because he was busy trying to arrange a hookup between Brady and Venus Williams.

Oh, and by the way...
 APRIL FOOL'S!! ■



google images

By Andre Wojcik
 Dateline: Downtown

Crime and victimhood do not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, or locale. This is certainly true of the campus and student body of UHD. Over the past three months, there has been a rash of criminal activity on and around the UHD campus, judging from all the Crime Alerts posted on campus entranceways. Although only three months into 2007, there has been a lot of work for the University of Houston-Downtown Police Department (UHDPD) so far, including:

- Public lewdness in the library
- Motor vehicle theft, 2 incidents
- Attempted rape
- Assault (non-aggravated), 3 incidents
- Aggravated robbery, 3

incidents, including one in which the victim was assaulted (this time aggravated).

These are only the more grave crimes reported over the past quarter. There have been many reports filed for the lesser crimes of theft and larceny as well. Obviously, UHD is not unique in the sense that, as a university campus in an urban setting, it is as likely a location in which crime may take place as any in the surrounding vicinity. Considering that the student body as whole is much wealthier than many that reside in the area, we tend to appear as easy targets. Still, the crime rate on and immediately around the campus is lower than the surrounding neighborhoods. This is largely due to the fact that UHD has its own police department. Students are covered twice-over, by UHDPD and by HPD (Beat 1A10). However, all this protection cannot prevent every crime from occurring.

Crime occurs, by nature, randomly, and every student of UHD as well as every resident of the city of Houston has a statistical chance of becoming a victim. There are some ways in which students can reduce the chance of becoming victims. According to UHDPD, some measures students can take to do so include:

1. Not leaving books, handbags and other valuables unattended in the cafeteria, student lounge, library, restrooms or other locations.
 2. Not giving locker combinations to anyone.
 3. Marking books for easy identification, should they get stolen. If your books, handbag or other property are stolen, notify the UHD Police Department immediately.
 4. Reporting any suspicious person or activity to the UHD Police Department immediately.
 5. Not walking to your car
- see CAMPUS pg 6**

CORRECTION: Last issue, in our "Where is Your School Pride?" article, Dateline stated that UHD has no sports teams on our campus. What the writer meant was that UHD has no collegiate teams, as does UH-Central. However, UHD has over 15 different intramural sports teams, as well as a variety of sports clubs. In fact, our students compete across the city, and train at our 30,000 square foot Student Life athletic center. In addition, many program and classes for sports and fitness are offered. We apologize for any confusion that this may have caused.

S T U D E N T - R U N S I N C E V O L U M E O N E

Response to Letter to the Editor Regarding “Celebrate You” month for Women

After evaluating Mr. Arp’s letter regarding the women’s month celebration at this university, I was compelled to respond. My initial feeling was that his letter was not only devoid of valid argument but was meant to provoke hostility. The first idea he expressed in his letter was that the current academic community perpetuates a “myth” that the female sex is under privileged in society. With all the history to this point how can an educated individual, regardless of gender, ever deny that women are less privileged? Gender equality and empowerment is something that UHD promotes by the celebration, and should not be attacked for doing so. This celebration of women does not include the denial of the many contributions that males have made for humanity. It is aimed at a diverse minority group, who feel proud to celebrate their significant involvement in society.

It should be noted that “Celebrate You” is aimed at promoting empowerment in a minority group. The dictionary can explain that “while not necessarily a numerical minority, is disadvantaged or otherwise has less power (whether political or economic) than a dominant group.” Additionally, it’s a proven fact that white males are at the top of the economic chain in the world community. Hence, the reason for the lack of a “Men’s Month,” is because males are not a minority.

I would also like to note that Mr. Arp mentioned the men who have died in the past wars our country has been involved in. It should be noted that, at this moment in time, there are women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan along side men. They are being killed as well, regardless of their gender. It is unfair to assume that because men have died in wars, that it “trumps” all the injustices that woman have had to face. It is my sincere request that if an individual wants to make their viewpoints acknowledged, they do so, without ignoring social facts.

Dana Stacey
Senior- BS in Social Science: Psy/Soc

A Letter to UHD President

Dr. Castillo, perhaps prevent future crime!

I wish to remain anonymous, for fear of retaliation for bringing this much media attention! Thank you in advance for your attention to this troubling matter!

A Deeply Concerned Student

I have also attached a link to other crime alert reports: <http://www.uhd.edu/campus/pd/alert.html#update>

At the University of St. Thomas, emergency phone booths are installed throughout the campus. These have big, flashing lights and students can simply press a button for assistance, including a siren that immediately sounds. UHD students must pick up an emergency phone and wait for someone to answer. These phones are not conspicuous and prevalent throughout campus. Is this something that we can request for our university?

Recent criminal incidents have included bodily harm, and are important enough to be circulated in a media forum. Still, I see nothing mentioned in our school newspaper. Instead, we see small white postings, easily obstructed with social events. These should be plastered in red paper, making them more visible, and posted throughout the campus. I have also sent a copy of this email to Mayor Bill White, Dateline, and other local media reporters. I think this should create some attention to our campus and

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Letters to the Editor: Dateline: Downtown welcomes letters to the editor from any member of the UH system. Letters should be no more than 250 words, include author’s full name, phone number or e-mail address and affiliation with the university, including classification and major. Anonymous letters will not be published. Deliver letters to Room S-260 Main Bldg; email them to dateline@gator.uhd.edu; fax them to (713)-221-8119. All submissions are subject to editing.

EDITORIAL POLICY: The opinions and commentaries expressed within reflect the views of the contributing writers. No opinions expressed in the *Dateline Downtown* reflect the viewpoints of the University of Houston-Downtown or its administration or students. *Dateline Downtown* reserves the right to edit or modify submissions for the sake of clarity, content, grammar or space limitations. Electronic submissions should be sent to the editor and all other submissions, which must include a saved copy on a floppy disc, should be sent to the *Dateline Office* in S260. All submissions become property of *Dateline Downtown* and may not be returned. If you have any questions, please call (713) 221-8569.



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Is Former Heroin Addict the Embodiment of Jesus?

By Peter Lovie
Dateline: Downtown

Jesus Christ has returned to Earth and is moving to Houston. So say the followers of Growing in Grace, a religious ministry founded by Jose Luis De Jesus Miranda. Miranda is a 60-year-old former heroin addict who claims to be the incarnation of the messiah. Jose Miranda has reached over 30 countries with a message he claims is the true gospel. He boasts a worldwide ministry dedicated to a reformed religious doctrine with his own personal mix of Christian scripture and Miranda theology.

Dr. Miranda claims the same spirit in Jesus of Nazareth united with him in 1973 when he claims to have had an angelic visitation. As a result, he went from being a born again man of God to being the very son of God, he says. Jose Miranda preaches a message with his own twist, placing him at the center of the new Jesus movement because of his "revelation" of his divine role. He literally holds millions of followers under his spell.

The Gospel according to Miranda says that there is no sin because Jesus took it all away at the cross. Forget all religious doctrines that say people need salvation from their sins. They are all full of lies, taught by ministers who do not understand the truth. Things like theft and

is essential.

One thing is clear. In a complex modern world, many people struggle to come to terms with their own religious beliefs. Many have converted to other religions, or rejected religion entirely. For many, an easy answer to all of life's problems seems like a godsend.

The second coming has dawned. Instead of trumpets and angels, we have Mariachi bands and singers. Who needs a white horse or mule when a flashy car will do just as well with this modern messiah of mankind? Has Jesus come or have we all been taken? What is truth? ■



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What would Jesus do if he was given an expensive car? Readf how Jose feels about lavish gifts from his congregation.

Film Review

Gordon Levitt succeeds in "The Lookout"

By **Stephanie Rancier**
The Battalion (Texas A&M)
U-Wire

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE STATION, Texas - How could anyone get too enthusiastic to see an action movie that stars the weird alien kid from "3rd Rock from the Sun?" Mediocre to bad acting and a predictable plot would seem inevitable in "The Lookout," but audiences will be pleasantly surprised.

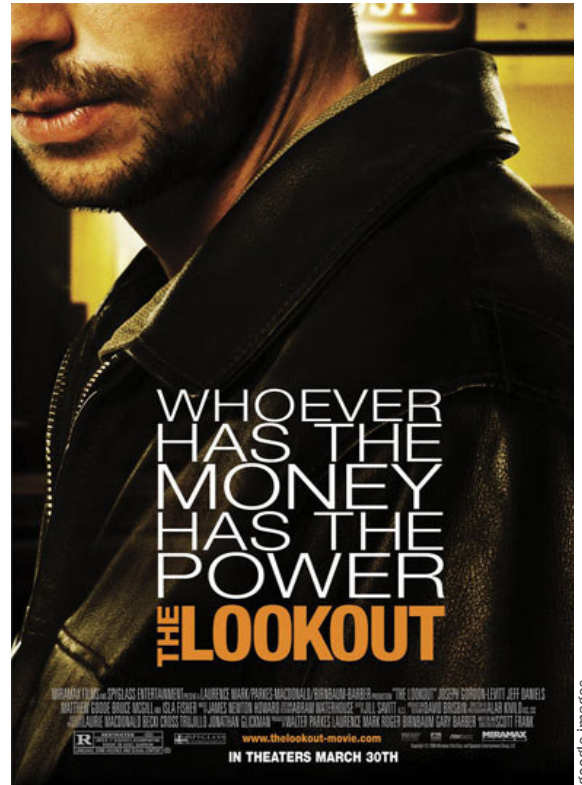
Chris (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) was a high school hockey star everyone admired. An accident that left him with brain damage completely changed his life. Chris left a tension-filled

home with wealthy parents and moved in with Lewis (Jeff Daniels), a funny and optimistic blind man he met in physical therapy. Chris worked as a night janitor in a bank while he and Lewis prepared to open their own restaurant. One night at a bar, Chris meets Gary (Matthew Goode) who claims to have gone to school with him in his glory days. Gary and his band of scandalous partners scheme to take advantage of Chris' disability to manipulate him into helping them rob a bank.

The actors in "The Lookout" deliver impressive performances. Levitt's dramatic and challenging role is quite different from his days on "3rd Rock from the Sun," but he did an exceptional job in defining Chris' complex character.

Daniels' character is blunt and hilarious -- a nice break from all of the on-the-edge drama. Even Isla Fisher ("Wedding Crashers") -- though she had a small part -- impresses with her sensitive portrayal of Luvlee.

Though there were interesting and surprising twists throughout the movie, the ending is a little predictable. But because the film was well written with thrills and profound themes, the expected ending is easily forgiven. "The Lookout" is a creative thriller with many layers that is about overcoming obstacles and self-conflict. There probably won't be great anticipation for the DVD release, but with plot twists, comedy and great performances, "The Lookout" is definitely worth seeing. ■



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Tarantino bringing B-movies back in style with "Grindhouse"

By John Wheeler
Daily Trojan (USC)
(U-Wire)

Reality check. Not only is Quentin Tarantino sitting next to me in this slightly cramped conference room, I've made him laugh. I muttered "Nice!" enthusiastically, but under my breath, as his "Grindhouse" co-director Robert Rodriguez talked about how the screening for their film was the first time that their "bosses" -- executive producers Bob and Harvey Weinstein -- had even seen the film.

Tarantino smiles, raises his eyebrows a little bit and lets out his notorious machine-gun laugh. If it ever seemed annoying or pretentious on TV or in his movies, it no longer feels that way. He's just another film geek, albeit one who managed to turn his cinematic obsessions into popular art.

"Grindhouse" is the latest venture into the worlds of Tarantino and his longtime friend and collaborator Rodriguez. The film somehow finds a way to combine the artistic sensibilities of two masters with the cheese of B-movie schlock. "Grindhouse" is a recreation and update of the films the pair grew up on for an entirely new generation.

"There was more involved in theatrical exhibition, there was more ballyhoo," Tarantino said. "They were big houses, and they had huge posters which would reach 10 feet in the air hanging above the marquee. And there were whole sets of lobby cards, and then you went and saw the movie, and there were all these cool trailers in between and cartoons in the middle of the movie. I mean, it was a whole presentation; there was ballyhoo involved."

Both directors seem to be working on the same wavelength, even though Tarantino worked

with real film and Rodriguez shot everything digitally. The pair had a singular vision from the overarching concept of a grindhouse double feature to the minutiae of the presentation. Both even went so far as to add scratches and burns to the prints for added realism.

"It adds a lot of texture and vitality to it, in a way," Rodriguez said. "It just feels more real in the way that it's all screwed up."

The two maverick directors subjected all of their stars to the grindhouse culture, forcing them to watch their favorite B-movies to understand the film's mission. Some of the actors immediately understood the appeal; others, however, did not receive the films so warmly.

"We had to watch these films, which I thought were dreadful, just abysmal," said Naveen Andrews of "Lost," who plays a mad scientist in Rodriguez's film "Planet Terror."

"I'd look around, and I'd see Robert and Quentin laughing like maniacs. I found it funny for about two minutes. I was embarrassed.

"I thought, 'What am I not getting here? There must be some sort of aesthetic that they've found,'" he said. "I still think that it really has to do with some sort of obscene humor and schadenfreude."

Also along for the ride is veteran action star Kurt Russell, who plays the psychopathic Stuntman Mike in Tarantino's segment, "Death Proof." While Russell is the big name in Tarantino's flick, the story revolves more around the eight

she had accepted it.

"So (Quentin) sent me this script and was like, 'It's about this stuntman, his name's Stuntman Mike,'" she said. "And I was like, 'Oh, brilliant.' I thought we were going to be in the background of the bar, drinking beers while the leads were talking or getting killed or whatever. It wasn't until a month before when he was shooting Robert's movie when he showed me the script and I found out that I in fact didn't have a one-liner, I had a 40-pager."

The biggest name among Tarantino's women is Rosario Dawson, whom Kevin Smith called the "world's hottest geek girl."

Dawson said Tarantino himself would have faced danger had he not let her live out her film-geek fantasy of starring in one of his films.

"Quentin would not be 'death proof' had he not given me one of these roles," Dawson said. "There are eight roles in this movie (for women), and it would have been a really sad day for him had he not cast me in one of them. This is his 'Reservoir Bitches' movie, and I really wanted to be one of those chicks."

"Planet Terror" is a throwback to cheesy zombie movies. Rose McGowan of

"Charmed" plays Cherry, a stripper with a machine gun for a leg. The actress, as with everyone else involved with "Grindhouse," was happy to work with Rodriguez and Tarantino, even if it meant delving into the dark depths of a B-movie horror.

"I don't really care for horror films; they freak me out," McGowan said. "I have crazy nightmares already. But this is more of a 'splatter-fest,' and that word, 'splatter,' is kind of comedic in the first place. It's not as serious."

Jeff Fahey and Michael Biehn, two actors who haven't seen much work since the late '80s, aptly play brothers in "Planet Terror." Both actors are acutely, if not a little defiantly, aware of the rejuvenating effect that Tarantino and Rodriguez's films have on so-called "washed up" actors.

"I guess I know that John Travolta's career was revived; but unlike a lot of people, I never really thought my career was dead," Biehn said. "I'm glad this came along because it will give me other opportunities to work with people like this. The most exciting thing is to be in there with the guys that are really good, and these guys are really good."

Though multiplexes have become modern and film is moving into the digital age, Tarantino and Rodriguez still understand the audience is what makes any film a thrilling, engaging experience.

"We threw in scenes allowing the audience to go 'Oooh!' or 'Ahh' or 'Ugh' -- that's them having a good time," Tarantino said. "We're kind of orchestrating it. If they're not screaming at this moment, we've messed up. If they're not gagging at that moment, we've messed up. If they're not cheering at this moment, we've messed up."

With geek geniuses such as Tarantino and Rodriguez behind the camera and a geek audience in front of the screen, it's hard to imagine the film's a mess -- besides the splatters. ■



Rose McGowan plays double duty in "Planet Terror" and "Death Proof" for movie geeks.

women whom Stuntman Mike terrorizes over the course of the movie.

One of the main protagonists, stuntwoman Zoe Bell, is billed "as herself." The Kiwi actress got the part after playing Uma Thurman's stunt double in Tarantino's "Kill Bill," though she did not understand the gravity of her role until long after

CAMPUS

continued from page 1

alone. This is true for all students, whether using on or off campus lots. Evenings students should exercise even more caution. Use police escort assistance, university shuttle buses, or walk with friends.

Evening students who are concerned about their safety are advised to remain inside the lobby of the One Main building while waiting for bus and other transportation. The Main Street entrance remains open until 10:30pm. Be cautious. If you observe any unusual behavior, contact the Police Department immediately via any police call box.

These steps to avoid becoming a victim of crime is all part of crime prevention. According to HPD, the goal of crime prevention is to break the

Crime Triangle.

When you take away the Opportunity, there is no crime. And remember the key to your personal safety is AWARENESS. Being aware of your surroundings will strip criminals of opportunity. Walking with headphones or cell phones in your ears not only prevents students from this awareness, but also presents an opportunity to the criminally minded. This in no way suggests that victims of crime had it coming because they did not take the necessary precautions, as crime is by nature often random and indiscriminate. However, things like awareness of your surroundings and walking with a buddy to your car at the remote parking lots will lessen the chances of your becoming a victim.

The majority of criminal incidents that take place on or near the campus are perpetrated by non-

students. One of the difficulties of attending a university like ours is that, given its urban nature, the student body has a different set of problems than students at a college town like College Station have to contend with. Situated between downtown, the county jail, two major interstate highways, and a lower socio-economic classed neighborhood, UHD is at a crossroads where people from all walks of life merge.

Right here, our various realities can clash. For example, a student may be worrying about an exam, an upcoming paper, financial aid, or relationship problems. That same student may cross paths with a drug addict who just got kicked out of the program at the Salvation Army (on North Main) because of a relapse. The problems between these two individuals could not be more different. While many of the addicts, homeless, and poor around us are peaceful citizens, we must also realize that some are not as law-abiding as others.

Students, please be mindful of your surroundings. Dateline Downtown extends its regret and sympathies to those who have been victims of crime, especially to those here on campus. Please let us all take the proper prevention techniques to avoid becoming victims ourselves. If you have any questions or comments, please email them to dateline@gatormail.

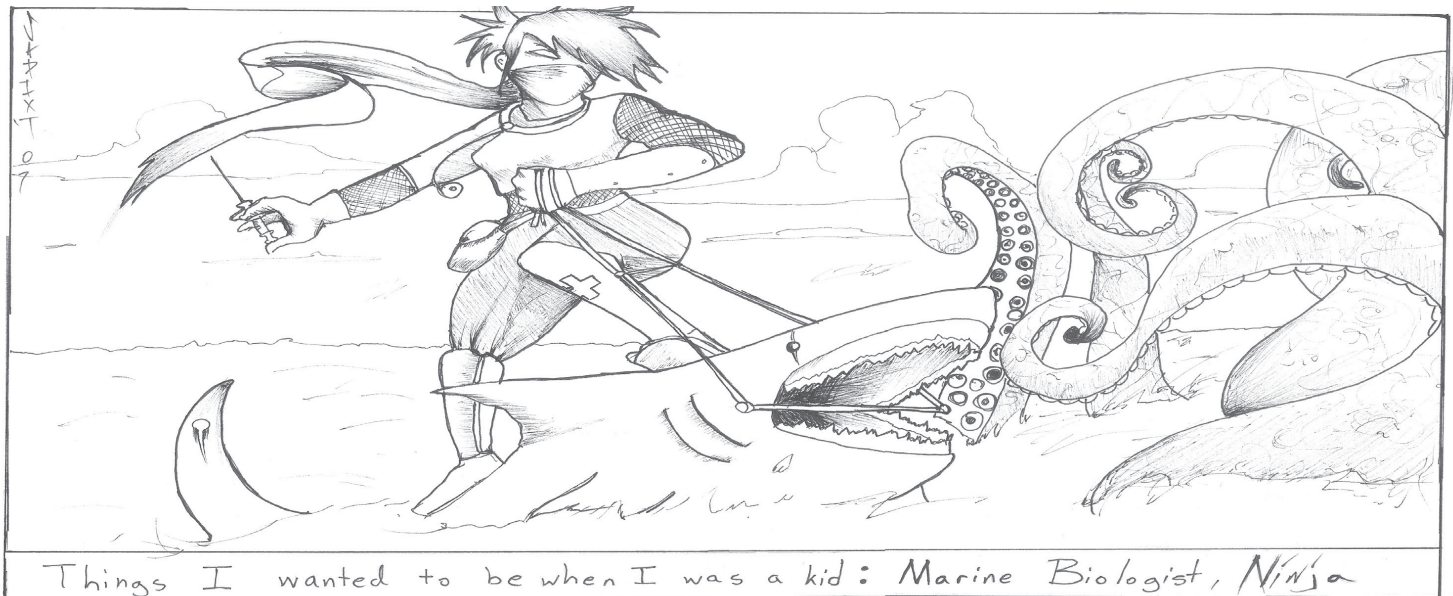
com. Let's start a dialogue and make UHD a better and safer place for us to study. ■

Crime Triangle



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Comic by Sadixt



Gay Is Not A Synonym For Stupid, Kent State U. group says

By Elise Franco
Daily Kent Stater (U-Wire)

(U-WIRE) KENT, Ohio - "That's so gay." It's a common phrase used in everyday language by middle school, high school and college-age students. In most cases, it's a phrase people say when they mean something is dumb or stupid.

And use isn't limited to the straight population only. For April Templeman, co-chair of the Queer Liberation Front, use of the term was something she had to be conditioned out of.

"In high school, I used to say it all the time," she said. "I was young, and I think it has to do with a youth's mentality."

Templeman, senior philosophy major at Kent State University, said she no longer cares for the term because she sees it as another way to marginalize members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

"The movement in the gay community is trying to make people aware of the speech that comes out of others' mouths and make people realize that it can be offensive," she said. "Basically the statement is saying that gay is synonymous with stupid or something else derogatory. Gay does not mean stupid."

Kevin Casimer, president of PRIDE!Kent, said he has always had mixed feelings about the phrase.

"On the one hand, there's a certain inherent bigotry about it that bothers me," he said, "but at the same time, I realize the phrase is so common that when most people say it, they're not even aware of the fact that they're making a derogatory comment

about a group of people."

Casimer, freshman history major, said instead of getting angry or taking it personally when he overhears someone use the word "gay" to mean "stupid," he'll take it as an opportunity to correct them.

"I'll just suggest that they extend their vocabulary, because merely using the word in that way is a sign of ignorance in itself," he said.

Templeman said that before, when a friend would use the phrase around her and then immediately apologize, she would just say, "its OK," but now she also asks them not to say it in the first place.

"It never offended me before, but I can see why it would be offensive," she said. "So now I bring it to peoples' attention if I hear it, ask them not to (say it) and give them reasons why."

Kristy Chen, junior fashion design and merchandising major, said she used to use the phrase all the time until one of her best friends, who is gay, started getting angry.

"I was trying to tell (my friend) that when someone says, 'That's so gay,' he shouldn't take offense if the person is not using it in a derogative manner toward homosexuality," she said. "I suggested, jokingly, that if people felt like it, they could say, 'That's so Chinese,' when they are upset about something."

Chen said she wanted to convince her friend that it shouldn't be offensive unless it was directed toward him in a demeaning way, but since he is still upset by it, she makes an effort not to use the term around him.

Casimer said although he's not really offended when people say, "That's so gay," not all terms associated

with the LGBT community are as acceptable.

"Faggot is something I do feel strongly about," he said. "That word is suggesting that gay people should be burned. It's a continuation of a message of hate."

He said it concerns him to see people who are in the

media spotlight, such as Ann Coulter, use such terms, because it gives young people permission to use it too.

"They will see those people who are nationally in the news and nationally published using it and want to take it as permission to do the same," he said.

Chen said she blames society for making it socially acceptable to use those words and phrases as a part of everyday language.

"I do think if we were able to eliminate those words it would bring our society to a higher level," she said, "And I support that." ■

This is my Writing Arm.
Let's See Yours!



Dateline Downtown
Room 260S | 713-221-8569

Pet Food Drive

Houston Humane Society
April 2 - 20



Due to the recent national pet food recall, UHD is partnering with the Houston Humane Society to help restock their shelves.

Dry pet food only. All brands accepted.

Drop off donations in:

Office of Student
Activities & Events
(S-204)

UHD Information Center
(N-355)



For more information, please call the UHD Information Center at 713-221-8900 or the Office of Student Activities & Events at 713-221-8573

Editor

Editor for UHD student newspaper needed for 2007-08. The Student Publications Advisory Committee is seeking applicants for the position of **editor** for *Dateline: Downtown*, the student-run bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Flexible beginning date, but candidates must commit for the entire 2007-08 academic year. Duties include working cooperatively with student business manager and student advisor, developing and managing a stable of student freelance writers to cover news and events on campus and in the campus neighborhood of NoDo. Must know page-making software program Adobe InDesign. The paper needs stories written both in advance of, and as follow-up to, events of interest to students, including student life, academics, university administration, and student government, as well as cultural coverage of theatre, film, music, and the arts. Typical commitment is 20 hours/week. Qualifications include at least sophomore standing; at least one semester at UHD; successful completion of basic writing and/or communications courses; and the maintenance of at least a 3.0 GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until April 22 or until the position is filled; include names and phone numbers of two references. To apply, download application from UHD web site and forward via email to Dateline adviser, Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiaviello@uhd.edu.

Business manager

Business manager for UHD student newspaper needed for 2007-08. The Student Publications Advisory Committee is seeking applicants for the position of **business manager** for *Dateline: Downtown*, the student-run bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Flexible beginning date, but candidates must commit for the entire 2007-08 academic year. Duties include managing business and financial matters for the paper, in cooperation with the student editor and adviser, and selling advertising space in the paper, including businesses in the campus neighborhood of NoDo. Will train on PeopleSoft accounting system for payroll and accounts. Typical commitment is 20 hours/week; salary is monthly, plus 15% commission on ad sales. Qualifications include at least sophomore standing; at least one semester at UHD; successful completion of basic business courses; and the maintenance of at least a 2.5 GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until April 22 or until the position is filled; include names and phone numbers of two references. To apply, download application from UHD web site and forward via email to Dateline adviser, Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiaviello@uhd.edu.

NEED A JOB?