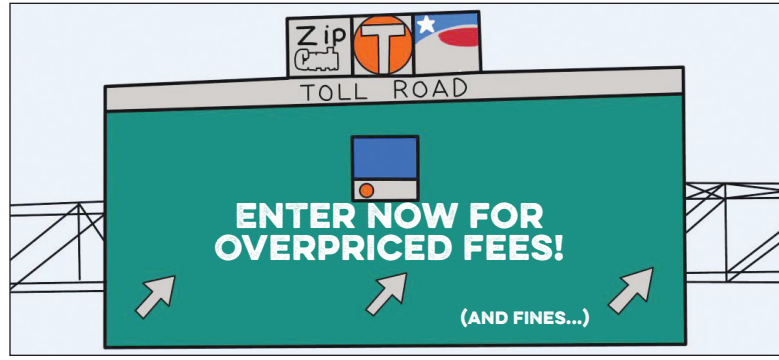


Bears Baseball A play-by-play from victory to loss, *Page 6*



Toll Roads (Why) toll roads suck, *Page 2*



The Last of Us Video game adaptation tests positive among fan base, *Page 4*



THE BROOKHAVEN COURIER

Award-winning student news since 1978

Fentanyl continues to kill students

Early College High School at Brookhaven Campus informs parents and students of the dangers of fentanyl March 4.

By **Andrea Olan**
Managing Editor

Three deaths and 10 overdose cases have been reported in students from the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District since September 2022, according to the Department of Justice.

Parents and students attended a presentation on March 4, held at BHC and hosted by the Early College High School Parent Teacher Student Association, seeking explanations and answers about the rising

cases of fentanyl overdoses.

Fentanyl is an opioid used for pain relief and anesthesia in hospitals. Fentanyl is 100 times more powerful than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin, according to the Drug Enforcement Agency.

Eduardo A. Chávez, special agent in charge with DEA Dallas, was the speaker for the presentation. "Fentanyl is unlike any drug we have seen in past years," Chávez said. "This is a topic that is very important to us."

Chávez has 23 years of experience with ongoing leadership in

investigations on recent overdose cases in the area. Chávez said it is important to inform vulnerable family members of the dangers of fentanyl. During his presentation, Chávez switched between English and Spanish to accommodate all attendees present.

"In a medical situation they'll put it in an IV, they'll liquify it and give it in small dosages," Chávez said. "But its natural form is a white powder." The most common form in which fentanyl is sold is pills. Illegal manufacturers are producing them

with indistinguishable differences to oxycodone or Xanax pills.

Chávez said fentanyl's effect on the body is relaxation and pain relief. Unlike cocaine or methamphetamine, fentanyl causes sedation, respiratory depression and decreases heart pulsations. "It blocks the pain receptors to your brain," Chávez said. "You

won't get the typical high you get from methamphetamine."

Illicit fentanyl is manufactured in China. The raw product is then shipped to Mexico, where drug trafficking organizations convert them into pills, according to the DEA. Chávez said the profit margin is attractive to resellers, since the price range for one pill is \$10 - \$30.

"We have never seen any drug with such a small dose causing this many deaths," Chávez said. According to a report published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, 77% of adolescent drug overdose deaths in 2021 were related to fentanyl.

Chávez showed a two gram packet of sugar to the attendees. He said with two grams of fentanyl, illicit manufacturers could make up to one thousand pills. "One thousand people could die if this was fentanyl," he

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Photo by Trennt Rhea

The Early College Center construction site on the east side of Brookhaven Campus March 28.

ECCHS to receive new V Building

By **Gabriela X. Zuniga**
Copy Editor

New construction at Dallas College Brookhaven Campus continues. W Building, previously Brookhaven's workforce building,

is being renovated, and additions are being made. V Building will be a new addition to Brookhaven Campus.

Construction began in February 2022 on the northeast side of Brookhaven for the use of

Early College High School students. These buildings were named the Early College Center. ECC will house Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Early College High School

• **ECHS**, *Page 7*

International student enrollment soars by 84%

By **Andrea Olan**
Managing Editor

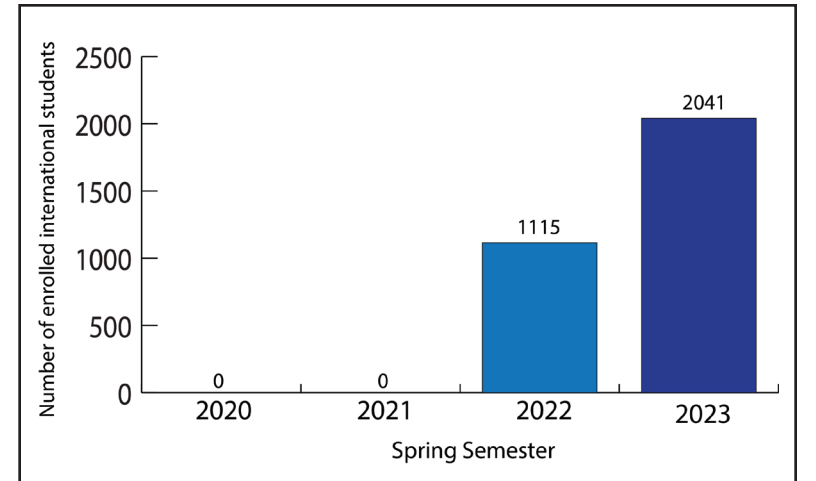
In Spring 2023, 2,041 F-1 students were enrolled in a certificate or undergraduate degree at Dallas College. This was an 84% increase from the previous year, according to a report provided by Quenton Lowery, a Brookhaven Campus designated school officer for registration and admissions. In Spring 2022, 1,115 F-1 international students were enrolled at Dallas College.

The F-1 visa allows international residents to enter the U.S. as full-time students at a certified college, university or other academic institution. After earning their degree, students must return to their home country or find a job that will sponsor them to work in the U.S. after graduation.

Dallas College experienced a decline in F-1 students seeking a certificate or degree in Fall 2020. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2020, 0% of enrolled students at Dallas College were F-1 visa holders.

Lowery said the COVID-19 pandemic halted enrollment for F-1 students, bringing it to 0% for three semesters during lockdown.

The Department of State suspended embassy services



Source: Quenton Lowery

worldwide due to travel and sanitary restrictions in March 2020, creating backlogs and extended waiting times for those applying for visas, especially international students.

"Starting Summer and Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, there were a few transfers, but [there were] pretty much no additional [international] students," Lowery said. Dallas College F-1 students currently account for approximately 3% of the student population.

According to the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers' economic analysis for the 2021-2022 academic year, international students contributed \$33.8 billion to the U.S. economy, in addition to creating

335,423 jobs in the academic year. Lowery said international and F-1 students are important for the enrichment of Dallas College programs and culture, adding different perspectives and interests. Lowery said regardless of being pressured to fulfill certain requirements, F-1 students excel in their chosen programs.

Sofia Reyes, a Dallas College international student, said Dallas College has provided her with resources to navigate the enrollment process and make connections on campus. Reyes said she appreciates Dallas College providing international students with a Designated School Official, or DSO, that assists F-1 students

• **Enrollment**, *Page 7*

College students face housing insecurity

By **Leonardo Rosas**
Contributing Writer

Dallas College students who are evicted are more likely to drop out and not return than students who are not evicted, according to a 2022 study by Dallas-based nonprofit Child Poverty Action Lab, or CPAL, and the

Labor Market Intelligence Center at Dallas College.

Housing insecurity is a problem for many community college students. According to a 2020 survey by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, 52% of students at two-year colleges reported some form of housing insecurity.

CPAL's study found that market rent prices are too steep for a typical college student's income. Dallas College students would need to earn at least \$60,000 annually to afford market-asking rent prices as of the second quarter of 2022. The median annual income for Dallas College students is \$28,000.

Camille Gilchrist, Director of GIS and Data Visualization at Dallas College, said Dallas College students who are evicted not only fail to complete their credentials but also lose money they have invested, as well as the potential to earn a higher wage.

• **Evictions**, *Page 7*

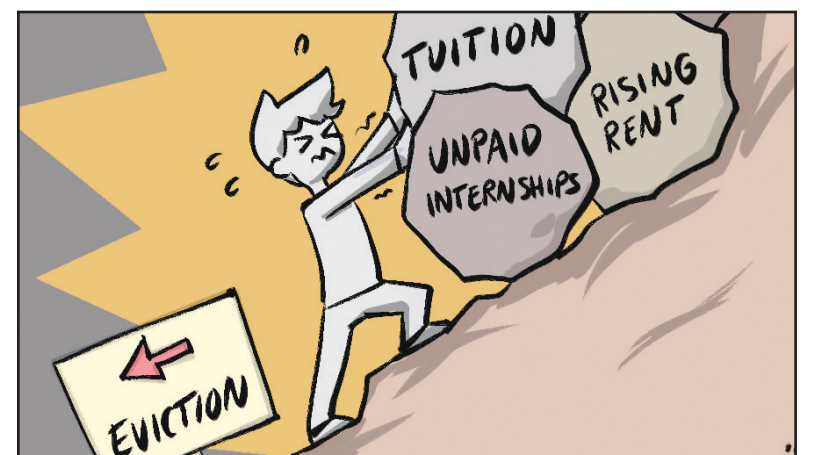
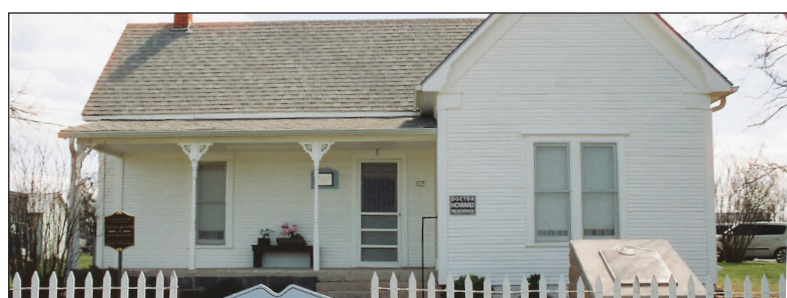


Illustration by Maria Elena Franco



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Holocaust Collection
Library holds more than 500 books about the Holocaust, *Page 3*

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Brightspace
Blackboard dropped for Brightspace, *Page 7*

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OPINION

Toll roads should be eliminated

While driving home from work at 5 p.m., you notice something ahead of you: brake lights. You slow to a stop and join every Texan in a statewide tradition known as rush hour traffic.



Trennt Rhea

You are tired, hungry and just want to go home. You notice a triggering sign that reads "toll road." You enter through the on-ramp, and now you must pay a fee. There is even more traffic than before. You finally get home at 6 p.m.

Why do toll roads exist? There are different answers to this question – one of them is the size of Texas. Texas is a massive state, being the second largest state in the United States after Alaska.

Due to the sheer size of Texas, automobiles and the highway system have become a requirement for basic living. Truly, if it were that simple, traffic would not be a problem, and toll roads would not exist.

During the nineteenth century, the economic boom of transportation took place. The locomotive replaced horses as the main mode of transportation in the United States. Locomotives allowed businesses to transport products across the United States, which would bring in capital. Aside from the obvious financial benefits, locomotives also provided a way for people to easily travel from one city to the next and back without moving to a new home.

One hundred years later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt enacted the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1944, ushering in a dark, bleak

and dreadful future for travel in the United States. However, American bureaucracy ensured that funds for the interstate system would not be allocated until 1956, when the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 was signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

With this law, the atrocious and appalling toll road system was put in place in Texas. The first toll road in Texas was opened in 1957. This toll road was between Dallas and Fort Worth and it cost 50 cents to drive from one end to the other. This toll road is now Interstate 30 highway.

Modern toll roads function by taking a picture of your license plate when you enter an entrance ramp to the toll road. The camera identifies the vehicle's owner and a bill is sent to that person. You can also get a toll tag called TxTag, which makes it cheaper to drive on toll roads.

Operations of the toll roads in Texas are managed by the Texas Department of Transportation or TxDOT, and are further delegated to political subdivisions, or authorities, by region and county. The North Texas Tollway Authority or NTTA, operates all toll roads in the DFW metroplex.

The State of Texas has 25 toll roads. This is more than any other state. One reason for toll roads' existence is the funds received through government bonds, which are repaid by toll road drivers. These bonds are used to maintain the toll roads and additionally used for road construction. This explains why toll roads exist, but it does not explain the need for them.

Avoiding traffic and providing convenience are other arguments. These are not good enough reasons for toll roads to exist, and drivers should not fall into this absurd argument.

Toll roads do not deter traffic, and



Photo by Trennt Rhea

Tollway sign states the price of the LBJ TEXpress lane underneath I-635 on March 9.

they most certainly are not convenient. If they were, traffic and accidents caused by drivers exiting the express lane on I-35 would not be a problem.

If toll roads were convenient, there would be no traffic on I-635 on a Thursday afternoon. Toll roads are simply not convenient, even with the Dallas North Tollway or DNT, right in the middle of Dallas.

The amount of money involved in toll roads maintenance is absurd. According to an NTTA financial report, NTTA's total system revenue for 2021 was over \$900 million, and according to their 5-year outstanding debt, they owed \$1.2 billion between 2017 and 2021.

They could pay off a huge portion of their debts using just a year's

worth of revenue. Instead, NTTA supposedly needs to use most of their funds to maintain the toll roads.

In 1975, WFAA did a story on the DNT increasing to 25 cents for admission on the highway. The NTTA authorities in 1975 said not enough cars were using the tollway to pay off the road's \$33.5 million construction. The original cost for admission to the DNT was 15 cents. The authorities in 1975 also predicted it would be free to drive on the DNT by 2005. The price today is 20 cents per mile.

The closest toll road to Brookhaven Campus is the I-635 LBJ Express, which cost \$2.6 billion to complete, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. It took five years to build and was finished in 2015. Has the LBJ Express helped alleviate

traffic on I-635 after spending a massive amount of money to build? I drive on that highway almost every day. It has not helped with traffic in any way. I-635 also ranks as the 17th most congested highway in Texas, according to TxDOT's 2022 top 100 most congested road segments in Texas.

How does this affect me as a college student? I have been driving on Texas roads since I was 16 and typically drive anywhere from 15-45 minutes in the DFW area. I know at what time I need to leave for class or meetings, but you cannot beat traffic. I used to have a toll tag, NTTA's convenient card supposedly made it cheaper to drive on toll roads. I found out I was actually paying more when I had a toll tag.

After I stopped using a toll tag, I accidentally merged onto the DNT and was charged a very large bill due to late fees. This is how the toll roads get you. They have prices that are difficult to understand and then charge late fees after sending the bill late in the mail.

Toll roads are designed to help drivers with convenience and avoiding traffic. Instead, they do the opposite. Toll road authorities have funds to fix the messes they cause, but choose not to do so. It is an abysmal system that overcharges in the name of maintenance and construction.

Texas is truly a beautiful state and you should drive its highways without being hindered by an unacceptable, substandard excuse for a money laundering scheme.

Three reasons to love Culver's

Every January, for 15 years, I traveled to Indiana to visit my great grandmother and celebrate her birthday. It had become an unofficial tradition to eat at the fast-food restaurant



Tabitha N. Tudor

Culver's down the street each time we visited.

Fresh falling snow coats the signature blue roof in a layer of white, while

the blinking neon open sign signals you to turn into the parking lot. Each memory is full of warmth and comfort, from eating a signature ButterBurger, to dipping crinkle-cut fries into fresh frozen custard while gusts of winter winds whisper along the frosty windows.

I love Culver's for its variety, convenience and philanthropy.

A midwestern classic that originated in Wisconsin, Culver's is the perfect fast-food restaurant that makes you feel at home. They have a variety of comfort food classics such as burgers, chicken tenders, fries, cheese curds, onion rings and even seafood. There is something for everyone, including soups and fresh salads.

If you are in the mood for something cold, their fresh frozen custard hits the spot every time. You always start with a chocolate or vanilla base and customize the flavor profile with a vast selection of toppings that get incorporated with the fresh custard. The custard is consistently soft, smooth, creamy and made fresh.

Sometimes you may not have the availability to dine-in in person, but with a drive-thru, curbside pickup, and an option to order ahead with the Culver's app, you will be able to save time while still enjoying a delicious meal.

Both Culver's locations in Flower Mound and Lewisville are open



Illustration by Lyall Leo

from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. So, you can enjoy anything on the menu for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or even a snack break. This restaurant provides convenience with ease. If you have any questions, the customer service is held to the same high standard as their food.

Since 2013, Culver's has cultivated the Thank You Farmers Project, which supports agricultural education programs that advocate smart farming practices to ensure Americans have quality food to serve the growing population,

according to Culver's website.

In 2020, as farmers and food banks struggled due to the global pandemic, Culver's created a fundraiser, Concretes for a Cause, that got customers involved by simply donating one dollar for every concrete mixer ordered, to local food banks and Feeding America.

According to Culver's website, Culver's has donated over \$4 million to various agricultural education initiatives, including National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the National FFA

Organization. When you choose to eat at Culver's you are supporting more than just a fast-food restaurant.

Culver's is best known for their signature ButterBurgers and fresh frozen custard. Culver's, a regular cornucopia of comfort food, enables you to try a different item on the menu for each future visit.

Each bite and crafted scoop fills you with joy and comfort. Food has the power to trigger positive memories, and Culver's has always provided me with a positive experience.



THE BROOKHAVEN COURIER

Award-winning student news since 1978

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The Brookhaven Courier, a designated public forum, is published monthly as a laboratory publication of the journalism and photography classes at Dallas College Brookhaven Campus. Any thoughts or ideas, either expressed or implied, in this publication, are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty or student body of Brookhaven Campus. The Brookhaven Courier welcomes feedback from our readers. Letters may be published without a name, but the original letter must include a signature and phone number, or it will not be published. The Courier reserves the right to edit letters for spelling, libel, grammar and length.



NEWS

Controversial book resurfaces again

By Sheree Peart
Contributing Writer

On July 9, 1950, the Stephenville Daily Empire Tribune published a small blurb reporting another Dallas Home exploded from another bomb. This was the fourth bombing since February of that year.

The historical events leading up to this ugly truth seem to have been forgotten by some. Thanks to the curiosity and determination of a few people, the story wouldn't remain buried.

Coined as the most dangerous book in Dallas by D Magazine, "The Accommodation: The Politics of Race in an American City" is a historical book penned by Jim Schutze. In it, Schutze shares the miraculous story of how this book made it through the toughest of times.

The 261-page book addresses how white business establishments co-opted Black leaders to prevent riots in the late '60s. It also outlines the history of race relations between Blacks and whites and the bombings of Black communities in the 1950s.

When Robert Frese, editor for Taylor Publishing Company, proposed the book idea to Schutze, the author wasn't sure how successful it would be. "This is a very tough topic for Dallas," Schutze said. "I don't know if anyone here would publish a book on it."

He said Frese responded, "You write the book. I'll fight off the bears."

Schutze had some doubts, but dedicated his time to research and



Courtesy of R. C. Hickman

NAACP members protest discrimination at the Texas State Fair in October 1955.

interviewing his sources. He spent long hours in the library. As the deadline for the book approached, Frese told Schutze he had to get it done sooner because there was a problem. Frese said he could not talk to him about it or Frese would lose his job. "Just get it done sooner or it's not going to happen," Frese said. He moved the deadline up by several months. Schutze met the deadline.

One Friday, three days before the book was scheduled to be printed, Frese called Schutze and told him they got the page press ready

for print on Monday. During this time, in order to print customized text for books, printing plates were used. They were placed on a printing press.

"It's way too late for them to kill it now," Schutze recounted Frese telling him. However, on Monday morning Schutze received a phone call from a choked up Frese who said: "They're back there ripping the page plates off the press. It's not going to happen. They killed it."

Schutze said, "Who killed it?" Schutze said Frese told him that if

he shared who killed the book, he would be at risk of being fired. But Schutze said he knew who killed it.

So who killed the first copy of "The Accommodation?" Some say it was Taylor Publishing Company of Dallas that allegedly dropped it because of low sales, but Schutze told a different story during an event as a keynote speaker at Dallas College Cedar Valley Campus hosted by campus president Joe Seabrooks.

In the 1980s, Schutze was a young columnist for The Dallas Times Herald and also worked

with the Dallas Citizens council, a private leadership group that helped run the city.

During a war of words, Schutze defended the book to then City Attorney Alex Bickley, saying "The Accommodation" was a history book and most of Schutze's sources were from the Black community, who had not forgotten the bombings that had occurred and how the Ku Klux Klan ran the city. Schutze's main concern was that there would be disappointment in the Black community if the book was not released. Bickley's concern was that the book would upset the white community.

On Sept. 26, 1986 the story of getting this book published and distributed broke in a New York Times article, "Withdrawal of book roils Dallas' racial feelings."

In the article, Frese was quoted saying, "Jim is saying things about Dallas that aren't all nicey-nicey, and it's so image-conscious here, you can't say anything negative."

This caught the attention of the Citadel Press of New Jersey. The company printed 5,000 copies of the book and shipped them down to Dallas. Half of those copies were destroyed in a warehouse fire.

Frese said there were fears of adverse local reaction to the book, and so it went underground. There were only a few rare copies circulating. According to a D Magazine

2015 article, the book was so rare, the cheapest copy was listed on Amazon.com in late March that year for \$989. Now, the book sells on Amazon for \$30. Older used copies sell on sites such as Ebay and Etsy for \$200-\$400.

In 2013, the book started to surface in a low-resolution PDF online. Many young people were curious. They wanted to know why the city of Dallas was the way it was. "The truth will out," Schutze said, during the CVC Black history event, quoting William Shakespeare.

To this day, there are still some who don't want the history of

Black people to be shared, Schutze said, referring to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis's proposal for the Stop W.O.K.E. act, which would limit and prohibit how public schools and businesses discuss race and gender.

Will Evans, founder of Deep Vellum Publishing, asked Schutze to re-publish "The Accommodation" during its online resurgence in 2013.

He saw what Schutze couldn't see in the book – its value and voice that will no longer be hidden. Evans printed over 30,000 copies, some of which went to schools.

He was also able to obtain funding from many organizations such as The Dallas Foundation, Laura and Walter Elcock, Thomas Reuters and Dallas College.

"This is a very tough topic for Dallas."

– Jim Schutze, Author of "The Accommodation: The Politics of Race in an American City"



Illustration by Lyall Leo

African American Read-In returns

By Jayline Quintana
Contributing Writer

Students, staff and faculty gathered to celebrate Black poetry, and to participate in an open conversation during the return of the annual Dallas College Brookhaven Campus African-American Read-In. Up until the February 2020 Read-In, the event was hosted in the Performance Hall in C Building. The event returned this year for the first time since 2020 and was held in the S Building Lobby near the Information Desk on Feb. 13.

Sean Guinyard, Brookhaven Campus multicultural affairs coordinator, hosted and planned the event, made introductions, and gave a quick overview of the event and guest speaker, before turning the floor over to local poet and creative, Tro'juan Henderson.

Henderson, a Dallas College Cedar Valley Campus alumnus, went viral in 2017, while working as a Lyft driver, for his response after refusing to take an intoxicated woman home and bring her into her apartment. In the video, Henderson said he denied the request, and offered to instead drive the woman and her friends home together.

The women declined, and Henderson ended the video advocating for people to take care of their vulnerable friends. Today, Henderson works as a mentor, leads creative workshops and helps organize events for BlackLit, a local bookstore focused on Black literature.

Henderson has participated in Dallas College Read-Ins before, and enjoys both performing for and watching the events. "It takes you back to the elementary stage of loving something," Henderson said. He said he hopes the event introduces more modern day poets and styles to students.

This year's read-in provided a more intimate conversational experience, with Henderson sharing his personal anecdotes behind each of the four pieces he performed, and opening up the floor to questions and comments from the audience.

Henderson's first piece, a critique on modern day hip-hop, ignited a compelling conversation on misogyny and toxic masculinity, as Henderson and audience members discussed the impact certain lyrics like "put molly all in her Champagne she ain't even know it," from American rapper Rick Ross's "U.O.E.N.O." has on young teens.

Henderson's second piece touched on identity, sparking strong snaps and nods of approval from audience members. Henderson discussed how the struggles Black Americans go through negatively impact young Black children.

Henderson's third piece, an ode to Black women's struggles, evoked even more snaps and nods.

Henderson's final piece focused on his complicated relationship with his mother. Henderson's story encouraged audience members to share about their own relationships with their parents. "I loved when everybody started sharing stories," Johannes Beckle, a Dallas College student, said. "This event is important because it helps people relate to each other and learn new things."

Guinyard said Dallas College hopes to bring awareness to the importance of Black History Month and things deeply rooted in Black Art. He hopes more students and staff participate next year. "Keep an eye out for the Read-In posters around campus," Guinyard said. Henderson hopes the event will encourage more students to find a healthy outlet in writing.

Library hosts Plotkin Holocaust Collection

By Emmy Hardy
Copy Desk Chief

Three green bookshelves sit directly behind the stairs on the first floor of the Learning Commons at Dallas College Brookhaven Campus. On these shelves are a set of books, each marked with a Star of David symbol. This is the Diane M. Plotkin Holocaust Collection.

The collection has been at Brookhaven since 1994, when former English faculty member Diane Plotkin unveiled the display. Since then, the collection has changed its location in the Commons over the years. "It used to be on the second floor, but it was moved downstairs," Toby Baldwin, a librarian at the Learning Commons, said.

Plotkin, as well as her husband, possessed a particular interest in the topic of genocide and shared a passion for spreading awareness of the tragedy. Having known Holocaust survivors herself, some in her own family, Plotkin felt the need to educate students at Brookhaven Campus on the historical event.

To the side of the shelves stands a sculpture depicting two hands outstretched toward each other, one with a concentration camp identification number on the wrist. Barbed wire fencing looms behind the hands, while a miniature train track is placed in front of them, leading into a tunnel from which the shadow of a Holocaust transport train emerges. Above the tunnel, a plaque reads, "Ignorance of these events can only fuel the threat of similar atrocities." The quote is attributed to a former student of Plotkin.

The plaque is not the only contribution to the collection by a former student.

Down the hall to the left of the collection, eight canvases hang on the long outer brick wall inside the Commons. A plaque hangs next to the art, with the title, "Lest we forget."

The paintings were done by Kemberly Dvornik, another former student of Plotkin. Dvornik

visited Brookhaven on Jan. 21 with her family and friends. When Dvornik was in the art program at Brookhaven Campus, her portraits were selected to be displayed in the Commons as part of the collection.

Dvornik died on Jan. 25. "She was very proud of the fact that her eight canvases were still here," Olga Henson-Murr, a librarian in the Commons said. "My heart goes out to Kem's family and friends. I am so glad she was able to see the paintings before she passed away."

Plotkin's goal with the collection was to educate students about the Holocaust and make

sure people were aware of the history behind it. In her time as an instructor for Brookhaven Campus, as well as The University of North Texas, she was known to

include information on the Holocaust in her English courses.

Plotkin additionally taught courses on Jewish studies and Holocaust-related literature and media. She also penned a 1988 book titled, "Sisters in Sorrow: Voices of

Care in the Holocaust." The book was co-written by Roger A. Ritvo, a biographer and prominent researcher. The book contains firsthand accounts from women, specifically nurses, who served in Europe during the Holocaust.

"Ignorance of these events can only fuel the threat of similar atrocities."

– Former student of Plotkin



Photo by Trennt Rhea

Diane M. Plotkin Holocaust collection donated in 1994 in L Building.



Photo courtesy of Olga Henson-Murr

Kemberly Dvornik views her canvases in Learning Commons on Jan. 21.



ARTS & CULTURE

— Review —

'Creed III' uppercuts box office expectations

By **Tajjai Wallace**
Staff Writer

"Creed III" is the latest addition to the Creed film series and the Rocky saga as a whole. This time around, the main character faces his past. The movie stars Michael B. Jordan as Adonis, as well as Tessa Thompson as Bianca Creed and Jonathan Majors as Damian Anderson.

The film begins with a flashback sequence. A young Adonis sneaks out late on a school night to hang with his friend Damian so he can help him with a boxing match.

Adonis is in Damian's corner to motivate, help and watch his friend win the amateur fight.

After the win, the two stop at the store, where the young Adonis sees someone from his past, and things go left. Damian pulls his gun to protect Adonis.

When police arrive, Adonis runs and gets away, while Damian is caught and arrested.

Fast forward to the present: An adult Adonis runs into Damian, who has been in prison for 20 years. They catch up and have lunch. Damian recalls how he tried to contact Adonis with letters, but Adonis never received them. Damian proceeds to ask Adonis for a title shot. Adonis is forced to decide whether he thinks his friend is ready to fight or whether his choice will backfire.

From a fan's perspective, the movie's storyline resembles "Rocky III" from the Rocky Saga. If you aren't familiar with "Rocky III", it is the film in which Rocky (Sylvester Stallone) and Clubber (Mr. T) had their showdown.

Clubber was also a fighter who was released from prison and

demanding the title.

The only difference between them is that Adonis and Damian grew up as childhood friends.

The ongoing Creed series is an excellent replication of what made the Rocky series so special to the older generation. However, Rocky himself was not in this film because it didn't fit Sylvester Stallone's standards.

According to Screen Rant, Stallone said: "That's a regretful situation because I know what it could have been. It was taken in a direction that is quite different than the one I would've taken it. It's a different philosophy."

Jordan makes his directorial debut with the film, bringing his perspective to a national stage. If you didn't already know, Jordan is a big anime fan. In his debut, he professes his love for it as well. Some moviegoers have compared scenes of the film to the

legendary anime series "Dragon Ball" and "Naruto." The familiar angles are noticeable and brilliant to anime fans.

The part of the film that stood out to me the most was when the big fight happens. In parts of the fight, the film breaks down what Adonis and Damian are really fighting for. From trauma to bad experiences and abandonment, there is a deeper connection to both characters.

The only major flaw I found with the film was the pacing. The ending felt rushed and unrefined, but it wasn't bad enough to destroy the whole film.

"Creed III" broke a domestic box office record by becoming the first sports film to gross over \$100 million, according to Variety Magazine. "Creed III" is one of those movies viewers can predict but still enjoy. Movies like those are always classics.

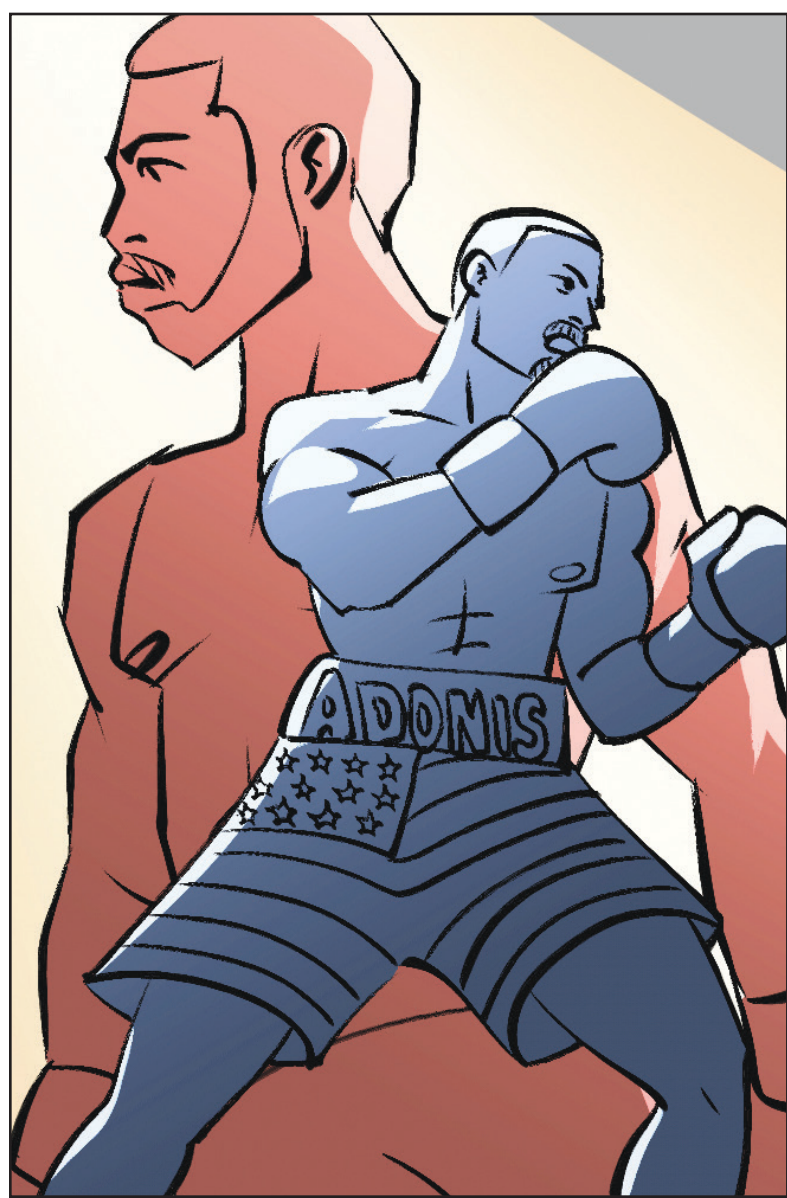


Illustration by Maria Elena Franco

— Review —

'Cocaine Bear' brings sloppy CGI, mediocre acting

By **Jack Rhoden**
Contributing Writer

The movie "Cocaine Bear" is based on a true story, as hard as that is to believe. In September 1985, convicted drug smuggler Andrew Thornton flew a plane with 880 pounds of cocaine. He believed he was being tracked by the government and threw out the cocaine over the Chattahoochee National Forest, before deciding to parachute out of the plane and let it crash.

Thornton was found dead in the driveway of a suburban home in Knoxville, Tennessee, with \$15 million worth of cocaine strapped to his body. Not long after, a black bear was found dead in the Chattahoochee National Forest of a drug overdose from ingesting cocaine.

From that peculiar real life incident, film writer Jimmy Warden came up with the brilliant idea for a movie that details the timeline of events of a bear on cocaine.

I sat down to see a low budget B-rated movie about a bear on

cocaine, but the cheesiness was gone by the first half. It is a dark comedy in tone, atmosphere, direction and writing with a bear turning people into human al pastor.

The film has a weird magical property to it. Whenever I found myself getting bored, like a hit to the head, the movie would suddenly go off on a random tirade or plot point and regain my attention.

The oddest part of the film was how character driven they wanted it to be, spending more time focusing on a group playing 20 questions than on the bear. It felt like the second half of the film had a director swap and a mad rush to get the film out. Stylistic editing choices disappeared along with the skillfully shot scenes and written characters.

There is a strong indie feel. Gore is excluded for the most part. They clearly had talented special effects artists, but kept leaning too hard on the "practical is better" ideology. This resulted in shots of poor quality limbs that seemed to be made of foam and

dollar store paints.

The set design was economical, yet effective. The movie, for the sake of budget, used public places including parks and forests, with the areas being modified to suit the plot of the film. The trees in particular were made to look dying and sick, as the movie's plot revolves heavily around trees.

The casting choices were solid, although a few performances left something to be desired. The only two who gave a decent performance were the two main male characters, Eddie (Alden Ehrenreich) and Daveed (O'Shea Jackson Jr.).

All scenes where direction, writing and set design were emphasized shined. Unfortunately, the actual bear in the movie titled "Cocaine Bear" suffered from poor CGI effects.

Nevertheless, I would recommend watching "Cocaine Bear." I am happy lower budget films are making their way to theaters more consistently.



Illustration by Lyall Leo

— Review —

'The Last of Us' breaks new ground for video game adaptations

By **Gisselle Garcia**
Contributing Writer

HBO Max's original post-apocalyptic series "The Last of Us" is proving to be one of the best video-game-to-television adaptations to date, as well as one of the best post-apocalyptic zombie-type series'.

"The Last of Us" stays true to the video game, enough so that fans of the game can appreciate all the details. The narrative is compelling and entertaining enough for those who are just now hearing about the franchise to enjoy it just as much as the game's original fan base.

The original game, "The Last of Us," was first released in 2013 by video game developer Naughty Dog, and went on to sell about 20 million copies for Sony's PlayStation consoles, spawning both a limited-run comic series and a hit sequel game, "The Last of Us Part II," according to the Los Angeles Times.

Since then, the original game has received a remastered edition and is now being adapted into a nine-part series on the streaming service HBO Max, with season one

concluding on March 12. The series has been renewed for a second season.

Unlike typical zombie movies where a man-made experiment goes wrong, the zombie-like humans in "The Last of Us," known officially as the infected, become infected by a fungus, for which there is no known cure. The storyline of the series follows main characters Joel Miller (Pedro Pascal), a man who lost his daughter when the outbreak first happened, and Ellie Williams (Bella Ramsey), a girl who was bitten by one of the infected, but is seemingly immune to the effects.

Joel is given the task to transport Ellie as "cargo" because she potentially holds the key to finding the cure to the deadly fungal infection that has transformed much of humanity into the mindless infected. Together, Joel and Ellie journey across several states to find the rebel group known as "The Fireflies."

As the pair journey on they go through rigorous challenges, facing various types of infected. What may come as a shock to those who haven't played the video game, what seems to be even more dangerous

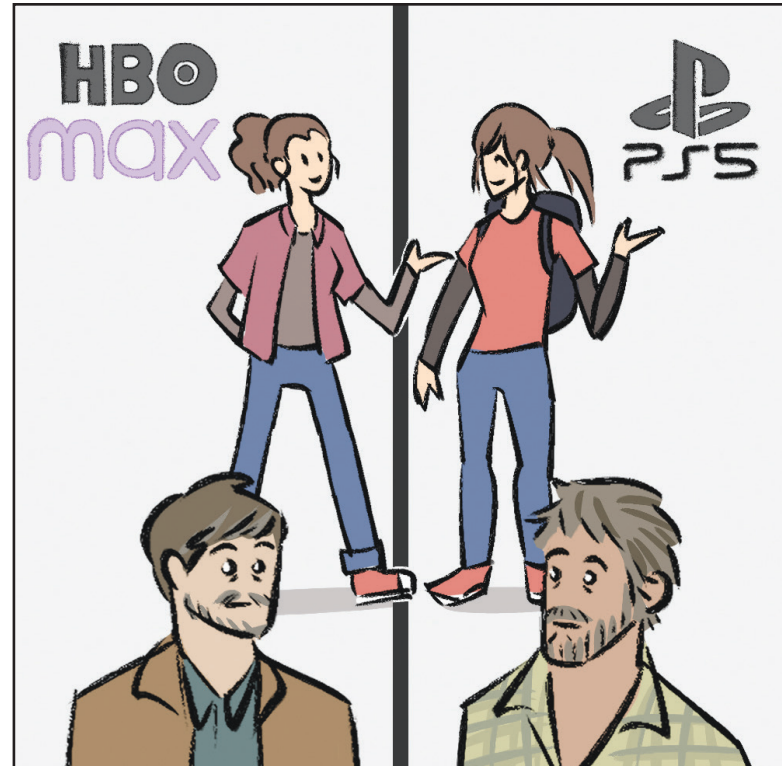


Illustration by Maria Elena Franco

are non-infected people who have turned against other survivors. The characters encounter the most grotesque infected, all very different from one another: clickers, runners and bloaters.

Although the infected play a

huge part in the series, the surviving people also play a very important role. Throughout the game and series, it is demonstrated that humans can be even more monstrous than the infected.

The prime example of this is the

Federal Disaster Response Agency, or FEDRA. They are the form of government in charge of the United States and their history in the 20 years since the outbreak isn't great. They face accusations of senseless murder, rape and torture. Democracy is non-existent and residents don't have a say in what goes on in their communities.

Although the series has an eerie and bone chilling aura to it, as the side characters' stories are explored, it is made clear there is also a message of love. The series does a great job of expanding the individual characters' stories and has representation for the LGBTQ+ community and for people with disabilities as well.

This alone makes the series stand out and makes it one of the best current shows with a growing viewership every Sunday when episodes release, with the season one finale garnering over 8.2 million viewers according to HBO, despite The Oscars airing on the same day. According to Forbes, there was an increase of at least one million viewers every week.

The visuals of an adaptation are very important to viewers who

have experienced the original game. The viewers will want it to be a verbatim recreation of the video game with all the same gory scenes, costume designs, settings and dialogue. "The Last of Us" television series production designer, John Paino, has an important role to fulfill.

According to Insider, each episode cost around \$10 million to make. In the same article, Paino said: "I can't confirm the exact amount, but I have a feeling it was north of that. We built a lot because our show is set in the United States and Canada has a different architecture." A large portion of the series production took place in the Canadian territory of Alberta.

The series has proven to be one of the first successful video-game-to-television adaptations, and the gaming community as well as new viewers' reviews reflect that.

There is more to expect from Joel and Ellie's story after their journey in this first season, with more new characters and insight into how the apocalyptic world continues to develop.



ARTS & CULTURE

Theater thrives despite streaming

By Kamila Vargas-Gonzalez
Contributing Writer

Dozens of video streaming services on people's devices continue to dominate over other forms of entertainment. But with a community's passion, live theater is thriving, despite its competitors.

Those involved in theater in Farmers Branch, Texas, share the belief that live performance theater will remain relevant for years to come.

David Moore, executive director of The Firehouse Theatre, sits in an office filled with stacks of paperwork, vibrant flyers and a few scattered props. He describes the most recent changes they have experienced. "After having been closed for 14 months [due to the pandemic] ... The audience didn't all come back at one time," Moore said. "They dribbled back slowly."

In recent months, The Firehouse Theatre has had an influx of people attending shows. Moore said: "We

did 'Beauty and The Beast' last December and had a lot of sold-out houses. And we just finished 'Spamalot' in February and had a lot of sold-out houses. Last October seemed to be a turning point because now we've had four or five events consistently have good attendance."

Moore said the popularity of video streaming services has also affected the theater. He said, "We also lost some [audience members who'll] never come back to live performances because they've switched over to Netflix."

Anthony Nelson, an aspiring actor and a Dallas College student, said people might not be as intrigued with theater compared to video streaming services. "I know a lot of people, they love CGI, they love big blast explosions and all that. But you know, theater doesn't have that. But if it did, I feel like a lot of [young people] would go to the theater," Nelson said. "I also know a lot of people who don't want to go out and visit

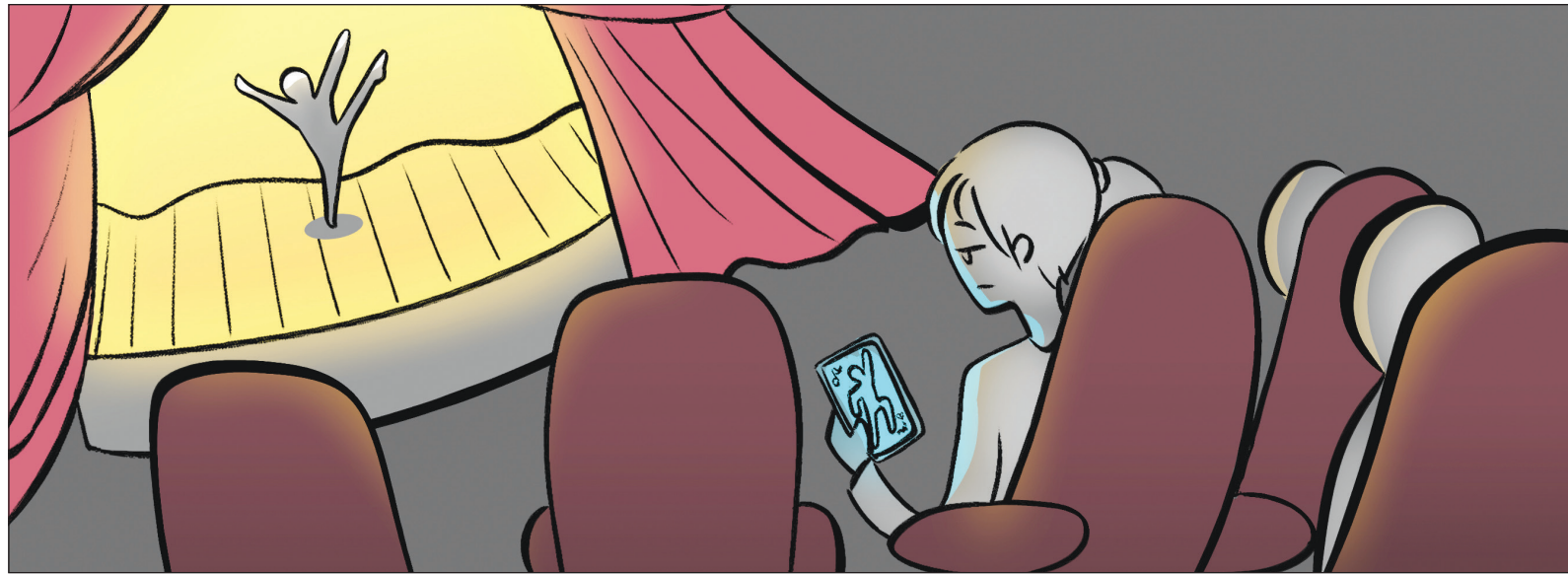


Illustration by Maria Elena Franco

a theater when they could just sit at home and watch a movie."

Nelson sits up as he begins expressing his fondness for theater and recalls his experience performing in "We Are Pussy Riot or Everything is PR" by playwright Barbara Hammond at Brookhaven Campus in the Fall 2021 semester.

"I really love theater," Nelson said. "People sitting there watching me act live and not pre-recorded. It's just very exciting to be seen like that."

Darise Error, Theatre Brookhaven department chair and theater professor at Brookhaven Campus, said live theater still matters because it fulfills

people's need for connection.

Error said: "When we go to a theater we both connect with the actors/characters and with our fellow audience members. We feel their smiles and laughter, which helps us smile and laugh as well. We feel their tears and sniffs, which helps us to respond authentically according to our

emotions as well."

Error strongly suggested continuing to use other alternatives to watch live performances. "Now, if tv/film is the only way for you to see live performances, then that is better than nothing," Error said.

The Firehouse Theatre is located at 2535 Valley View Lane.

Museum celebrates author Robert E. Howard

Project Pride and the Robert E. Howard Museum presents annual Howard Days April 28-29 in Cross Plains, Texas.

By Trennt Rhea
Photo Editor

Brick buildings, small businesses and grass could describe almost any small town in Texas. One particular town in West Texas sets itself apart from the others. Cross Plains, Texas is a town with a population just shy of 1,000 people.

What this town has that others do not is a different kind of history. Cross Plains is where the father of sword and sorcery was raised. His name was Robert Ervin Howard.

Howard was born on Jan. 22, 1906. Howard loved reading and writing and found school to be joyless. He grew up with the same small-town Texas attitude many at the time possessed, but also constantly found himself at a crossroads between living in a small

town and loving fantasy.

He did not grow up around people who thought about the same things. Howard also enjoyed boxing and became an amateur boxer. With these different inspirations, Howard eventually became a professional writer.

Howard and his family moved to Cross Plains in 1919 when he was 13 years-old. Howard submitted stories to magazines, although most of them were rejected. Eventually, by the early 1930s, he was submitting stories to *Weird Tales*, a pulp magazine. Around this time, Howard took a trip to South Texas where he wrote his most famous poem, "Cimmeria," and conceived the character of Conan the Barbarian. Howard wrote more than 800 poems.

One of the most important people in Howard's life was his

mother, Hester. She instilled a love for poetry and literature in her son and supported his writings. She was the biggest influence on him as he grew up. When her health declined in 1936, so did Howard's. He died by suicide in the summer of 1936 when he found his mother could not wake from her coma.

Howard's success came after his passing. The "Conan the Barbarian" series was republished in the late 1960s, leading to a popularity uptick in the 1970s known as the "First Howard Boom."

The "Second Howard Boom" occurred during the early 21st century when new collections of Howard's works were printed with restored, original text.

This boom had a movie released in 2011 about his character Conan. The characters of *Kull*

the Conqueror and *Solomon Kane* also received movie adaptations, in 1997 and 2009 respectively.

Howard's house in Cross Plains is still standing today, and was converted into the Robert E. Howard Museum. The museum is part of the National Register of Historic Places. It is fully owned and maintained by Project Pride, a nonprofit organization that encourages residents and businesses in Cross Plains to clean up their yards or business premises. Project Pride bought the home in 1989.

Arlene Stephenson, the president of Project Pride, said Project Pride wanted Cross Plains to look more attractive than other small towns.

"Cross Plains is at a main intersection of two busy highways," Stephenson said. "A lot of traffic comes through here. We also

wanted to retain the history of our area." Project Pride had to completely restore the house to how it originally looked. Lots of research went into the effort.

The museum has become increasingly popular in the Robert E. Howard community. People from all over the world come to visit the museum.

Stephenson said, "We find it almost impossible to believe that somebody from overseas would be so excited that they would make this the focal point of their trip to the US." There is even a German professor of American literature named Dierk Gunther from the University of Tokushima in Japan who comes to the museum.

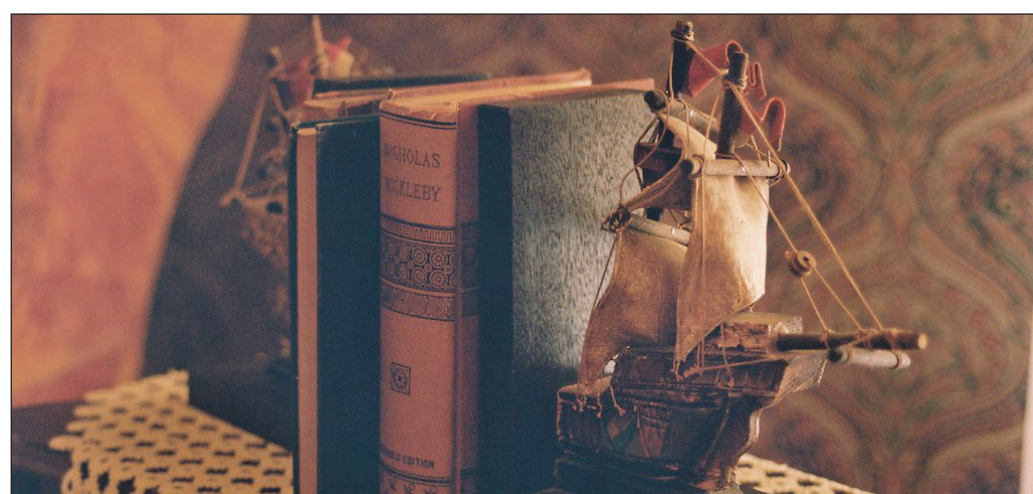
Project Pride hosts a yearly event known as Howard Days at the museum to honor the life and legacy of Robert E. Howard.

Howard Days is typically in June, but this year it will be held on April 28-29.

The event has many activities including a Cross Plains walking tour, as well as panels with guest speakers and a keynote speaker. The library also displays original Robert E. Howard typescripts and original *Weird Tales* magazines.

One of the most interesting things that happens during Howard Days is when attendees go to the front of the museum and read Howard's poem, "Cimmeria," in their native language.

There have been as many as nine different native speakers reading the poem. "We have had people from Russia, Norway, Germany, Ireland and Japan all read the poem. People have also read it in Gaelic, Latin and even Old English," Stephenson said.



Photos by Trennt Rhea

Clockwise from top-left: Located in the Robert E. Howard Museum, this 6-foot-wide room was where Howard wrote all of his stories; the exterior of the Robert E. Howard Museum in Cross Plains, Texas March 14; refurbished furniture in the living room section of the museum; an assortment of books bookended by two halves of a small detailed ship; a replica of items Howard would have on his desk; a replica of Howard's Underwood No. 5 typewriter on his desk.



CAMPUS

Districtwide new name change form

By **Emmy Hardy**
Copy Desk Chief

A new name policy has been introduced at Dallas College for students who wish to go by a name different from their current legal name.

The student must fill out a form, after which their chosen name should appear in eCampus and Microsoft Teams. This new policy comes in the wake of multiple efforts by students, staff and faculty to change the previous rule.

Prior to the introduction of the new policy, if a student wished to have a different name displayed in the Dallas College system, they would have to provide a court order or equivalent legal documentation authorizing a full legal name change.

Chris Schlarb, a coordinator for Student Life at Brookhaven Campus and adviser for PRISM – the student-led LGBTQIA+ club on campus – said: “The LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group leadership advocated for a process and form for a long time, and we finally found a top administrator, Rachel Wolf (director of institutional effectiveness & accreditation), who made it happen.”

Currently, a student wishing to go through the name change process

must contact each system (eCampus, Teams, etc.) with the form attached as proof in order for the change to take effect. “The College needs to streamline [the process] so that submitting this form changes all compatible systems,” Schlarb said. “That’s the next improvement we would like to see.”

Schlarb is one of many people who pushed for the change. Scarlett May, an English instructor and faculty member at Brookhaven Campus, has been campaigning for a policy change since Fall 2022.

May said: “At the start of a 1301 class in Fall semester, when I asked for students’ preferred names and pronouns on Day 1, I became aware that two of my students had very different names from the ones shown on eCampus.”

May said after she talked to her students, she learned they had been told to fill out a form when they registered for classes. However, the only effect this had was the students seeing their name correctly in the gradebook, while their classmates and instructor continued to see their deadname.

This resulted in the students’ deadnames appearing on any online discussion posts/forums hosted on

eCampus, a frequent occurrence in many courses. “This was just absolutely unacceptable to me,” May said.

What came next was, in May’s words, “a frustrating few months.” May went to various entities asking for advice on what she could do to fix this problem for her students. “I was constantly referred to phone numbers that weren’t answered or to the form students could fill out in registration which clearly didn’t achieve anything useful,” May said.

May became increasingly frustrated with the lack of progress, and her frustration was shared by her students, who were using every resource they knew of in order to get anything done.

One of May’s two students who first brought the issue to the instructor’s attention was also active in the effort. The student, whose identity is being kept anonymous, in reference to his experiences with the original form, said: “In the actual form, it said [the chosen name] will show

on rosters and eCampus, and I came specifically before school had even started to do it.”

When the student met with May before Day 1 of his English 1301 course, he requested for his instructor to look him up on the class roster, only to find his deadname still listed. “And then we spent an entire semester running in circles trying to get it fixed,” May’s student said.

During this time, May also began to worry about another aspect of the issue. May said, “I was extremely concerned for all the trans students who didn’t feel comfortable advocating for themselves or speaking out; and let’s be clear, they shouldn’t have to.”

After a semester of continuously running into red tape, May and her student finally found some success when May emailed multiple administrators, listing her and the student’s experiences trying to make the change happen.

Ahava Silkey-Jones, vice provost of school of creative arts,

entertainment and design, was one of the administrators whom the email was sent to.

“I was connected to an extraordinarily helpful Dallas College colleague in our IT department who resolved the issue the next day,” Silkey-Jones said. “.I believe increased awareness regarding the processing of preferred names will benefit many students.”

May recalled feeling the same day change felt both “miraculous and ridiculous,” with a seemingly impossible issue, one which she had dedicated a semester’s worth of effort to addressing, vanishing overnight.

While grateful to Silkey-Jones for her help, May was also annoyed. May said, “If the fix was that simple, why on earth had we had to spend so much time and energy trying to make it happen?”

Schlarb said for trans Dallas College students, the new name change policy will significantly decrease the possibility of hearing their deadname in class or seeing it online, which will hugely benefit them.

Schlarb also said this change will benefit international students who want to go by a different name as well.

Schlarb also expressed frustration

with how long it took Dallas College to implement this new policy. “This change should have been implemented in the 2000s when other colleges and universities made it happen,” Schlarb said.

May expressed similar dissatisfaction. “No student should have to make a case for being addressed correctly and respectfully,” she said.

May pointed to the Dallas College official website, where on the LGBTQIA+ page, a heading reads, “Dallas College Supports Transgender Community.”

May commended the spirit behind the message, but had concerns over whether the college is actually functioning by this statement. May said, “It is absolutely essential that we live our values as a college. Affirmation is quick and easy, but follow-through is sometimes another matter.”

May’s student said: “It’s not that hard to show basic human respect. It doesn’t cost anyone, especially someone you just met, to use a different name.”

If a student wishes to fill out the new name change form, they can find a PDF of the document to print out on Dallas College’s website under the LGBTQ+ Resources page.



Photo by Trennt Rhea

BHC Bears pitcher Tommy Giese hurls a pitch while MVC Lions second baseman Archie Beasley tries to steal second base at BHC on March 8.

Lions take bite out of the Bears

By **Trennt Rhea**
Photo Editor

The Brookhaven Campus baseball team fought to the end, but the Mountain View Lions broke free from the Bears’ trap, winning 10-9 at the Bears diamond on March 8.

The Bears’ Pitcher Tommy Giese took the mound at the top of the first inning. The Mountain View Lions were getting what they needed this inning with an early 3-0 lead over the Bears. Outside fielder Jacob Vela plated two runs and attempted to tie it before the end of the inning, but came up short with the Lions leading the Bears 3-2.

After relief pitcher Jacob Leskovsky came in, the Bears started to turn it around in the second inning. Catcher/inside fielder Ray Jaramillo came in hot, plating a run, and after a pair of runs by infielder Deven

Kirtley and 1st baseman Peyton Starr, the score was now 3-5 with the Bears leading at the top of the third inning. This success was short-lived.

The Bears would go scoreless for six innings while the Lions attacked. The Lions pounced on the Bears, with seven scores between the third and eighth innings, while playing tremendous defense on the Bears, giving them 13 strikeouts. This gave the Lions a 10-5 lead before the ninth inning.

The Bears received some life at the top of the ninth inning. Third baseman Gabriel Garza came in swinging with a run and shortstop Alex Rangel added his own. Inside fielders, Jacob Scott and Bo Din-score, plated the last two runs of the game in the bottom of the ninth.

At the very end, the Bears had the bases loaded after Vela got a double and put them in position to

win the game. But the Bears could not complete the grand slam and fell to the Lions 10-9.

After the game, head coach Shaquille Thomas said, “We went into a deadzone. It was a good job of not giving in, being down five runs, but overall, not competing between the third and eighth inning is what killed us.” Thomas also gave his thoughts on why the team has been struggling. He said the team was putting themselves under pressure, which affected their performance during the game.

Some players also voiced their frustrations with how the game went and the team’s struggles this season. “We definitely under-achieved today. We had too many errors that we shouldn’t have and too many missed swings. Not good at all,” Vela said.

Vela, also one of the team’s captains, talked about what the team

needs to do to get their minds right for the rest of the season. He said, “I think right now, we’re going through a bit of a rough patch, but I believe in my team and my coaches and I think we’ll figure it out and start winning.”

Jaramillo also gave his thoughts. “We fell a little short by one run. We need to play better, a little more clean with no errors. We just didn’t play good baseball today,” Jaramillo said. “The biggest problem facing this team is adversity. No one likes to lose and with our record, it’s not looking so good and everyone is stressing about what our record is gonna be. We just need to play clean baseball.”

The Bears won one game in their three-game series against the Lions with a 7-4 win on March 10 at Mountain View. The Lions won at Brookhaven 10-9 on March 8 and at Mountain View 11-7 on March 11.

Pave the right path to tax season

By **Alondra Hernandez**
Contributing Writer

Tax season has arrived. Many students may be early birds, filing their taxes as soon as possible, while others may not know where to start.

Filing taxes on time is very important as late filing can result in consequences such as a late-payment penalty on any tax not paid by the deadline. According to the IRS.gov website, this year, the due date for filing federal individual income tax is April 18.

Many students struggle with taxes as a result of being inexperienced. Melanie Rivera, a Brookhaven Campus student, said, “Beware of who you are trusting with on helping you do your taxes, because there are people who will take advantage of the uneducated.”

Roberta Ansiaux, a business and career program faculty member, said, “There are all these radio announcements, TV, or everywhere about getting a file, getting your money, doing all this kind of stuff. And I think that just hypes it up or amps it up to where people just get scared. I would say fear is the number one problem here.”

Not only do students have no clue on what to do, they may not know where to go for help. One resource is the IRS.gov website.

There is an abundance of material about tax forms and the IRS has not only a website but also a YouTube channel. VITA Program is a free service that offers basic tax return preparation, mainly for people who make \$60,000 or less. Turbo Tax is a software program with planned prices and offers to prepare and e-filing your tax return with internet access and many more programs that help file tax returns.

Dallas College has a partnership

with the Dallas Community Tax Center that helps individuals or families who make under \$58,000 per year with free income tax preparation and more. There are seven locations in Dallas with bilingual speakers and no appointments required.

Jonathan Hale, a volunteer coordinator for the Dallas Community Tax Center, said, “Our main goal is to find/allow taxpayers to have real financial stability and to help those in the community.” The program is coordinated by volunteers who are taught and trained to help the community.

A form that is important to certain students is the 1098-T form, found in eConnect under personal information, it provides the amount of tuition that was paid, including any scholarships, grants or refunds that were paid or received by the student in that year. The form is sent to certain students, and it helps collect education tax credits.

As many students start filing their taxes this year, there are also things to keep in mind. “[The] IRS gives this warning that they will never call you and they won’t email you unless you already have an established relationship with them,” Ansiaux said. On the IRS.gov website, it’s shown that employers will call taxpayers to set up appointments or discuss audits but first, they will attempt by notifying taxpayers by mail.

Hale said, “The best thing for a college student or first-time person to do a tax return is to get a second set of eyes. Get a professional who has done this before [who] will check all your work.”

Rivera said, “Do not be afraid to ask questions, it’s very important to ask someone who knows about it before being tricked or scammed.”

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NEWS

Fentanyl

Continued from page 1

said. “Two milligrams is a fatal dose. That is why it’s so dangerous.”

In laboratory analysis done by the DEA of seized fentanyl pills, Chávez said six out of 10 pills have an average of 2.34 grams of fentanyl – enough to cause an overdose.

He said other substances commonly consumed by teenagers can be laced with fentanyl. For example, vitamin pills or gummy bears could have a small amount of contamination from the illicit drug.

According to a U.S. Attorney’s Office, Northern District of Texas

press release, published on March 3, fentanyl was distributed in the Carrollton area on social media by Donovan Jude Andrews. Also linked to the 10 overdose cases are Luis Eduardo Navarrete, Jason Xavier Villanueva and Magaly Mejia Cano, who were charged with federal drug crime for distributing pills to high school students in the district.

Nabil Khawla, a high school biology professor at Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Early College High School on Brookhaven Campus, said he is concerned for his students. Khawla said he is worried about whether he would identify a student’s fatigue as regular exhaustion or symptoms of fentanyl consumption. According to the DEA,

a fentanyl overdose escalates from dizziness, nausea and vomiting to having a presence of symptoms including coma, pinpoint pupils and respiratory depression.

Ivett Bocanegra, parent and community engagement assistant at Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Early College High School, said the school district is doing everything in their power to inform parents about the dangers of fentanyl and to protect students. She said teachers and staff are trained to respond to an overdose episode.

“We have received training from the district to detect if a student is under any influence,” Bocanegra said. “If [students] are in a situation like that we have to administer Narcan.”

Narcan is an opioid overdose treatment that blocks the effects of the opioid, and is administered immediately during an emergency, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website.

On March 3, Narcan was administered to an R.L. Turner High School student after she was found unconscious in a restroom, from a potential overdose, according to NBC5.

Chávez urged parents to have a conversation about fentanyl with their children. With an alarming number of cases surging in North Texas, he said it’s important to be aware of the community and report any threats to local authorities through anonymous tip lines.



Photo by Andrea Olan

Eduardo A. Chavez tells parents to alert local authorities on unusual activities in their communities through anonymous tip lines on March 4.



Illustration by Maria Elena Franco

District to change eCampus host

By Emmy Hardy
Copy Desk Chief

Dallas College is officially dropping Blackboard, the current Learning Management System (LMS), and host to the eCampus site. Blackboard has been used by Dallas College for two decades.

The new host to eCampus will be Brightspace. Brightspace is an LMS site powered by D2L, an online learning platform company based in Canada that has partnered with Dallas College for the transition.

The change will be a gradual one. Faculty began mandatory training last year in order to familiarize themselves with the new system. The transition will fully come into effect by the fall semester of 2023.

“The primary reason behind the change was ensuring that our learners, our students, had a more robust and intuitive system,” Pamela Luckett, chief engagement officer at Brookhaven Campus, said. “With the advent of the pandemic, and everybody really being forced to utilize [Blackboard], we really began to see some deficiencies.”

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, with more Dallas College students than ever taking online courses, various issues with Blackboard have been reported, such as lag time, hard to navigate systems and a non-mobile friendly user interface. According

to Luckett, the college seeks to address these issues with the transition to Brightspace. “We really wanted something that was much more student centric. So we put together a team,” Luckett said.

The team consists of a joint group of staff and faculty representing Academic Affairs, Operations, Student Services and Workforce Development. “I wanted to make sure we had a holistic team,” Luckett said. “This has been a joint effort.”

The transition is also being led by Terry Di Paolo, vice provost of e-Learning, a part of the Academic Affairs division. Di Paolo oversees online learning and works to deliver a better learning system for students and faculty. Operations and Academic Affairs have been the main force behind the effort, with subdivisions of both focusing on more specific aspects of the transition.

Di Paolo said the process involves people and organizations from across the Dallas College system, including Faculty Council leaders, the Online Learning User Group, which is made up of faculty and administrators, the Center for

Excellence in Teaching and Learning – a part of Academic Services – and the LMS Admin Team, which covers the technological aspect of the transition. Additionally, a core team of 15 faculty members and administrators have been handling academic implementation.

“Historically, eCampus has been a tool managed by technology in cooperation with academics,” Di Paolo said. “That all changed with the pandemic.”

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, more employees were forced to use eCampus in order to provide their services virtually. Major deficiencies in Blackboard were identified at this time.

Brightspace will include new methods of submitting assignments, including audio and video recording. In addition, Brightspace will introduce a slew of improved accessibility features, such as closed captioning and all video content and specific language settings. “We have to look at tools to make sure that it is going to be a suitable system for all of our students,” Luckett said.

Luckett said the team behind the transition is also dedicated to easing students into the new system.

Students will be able to access a training module for Brightspace in April, planned to be available as soon as a student logs on to the program for the first time. According to Luckett, this preemptive measure will hopefully prevent too much confusion before the semester begins.

Instructors will also be affected by the change, with many new organization options for their courses, including more dashboards and analytics, and an automatic message sending system for students who have not turned in assignments. The goal, Luckett said, is ultimately a more streamlined system in which students may easily locate all the resources they need. “The general response from staff has been very positive,” Luckett said.

The transition to Brightspace is the next step in a wider streamlining effort by Dallas College, with overhauls to the Learning Commons, Student Services and employee accounts also taking place. “It’s a step in the right direction,” Luckett said. “The tool is intuitive. The tool is user friendly. And I think it charts a pathway for the students.”

Di Paolo held similar sentiments about the switch. “The transition to Brightspace signals a new way of thinking about our eCampus system,” Di Paolo said. “It’s not just about classes; it’s about the online experience we provide our students and community.”

“It’s not just about classes; it’s about the online experience we provide our students and community.”

– Terry Di Paolo,
Vice Provost of e-Learning

Evictions

Continued from page 1

had they been able to continue their education.

“When you add that up for all of the students it affects, its millions and millions of dollars over the course of people’s careers because of one eviction filing they received while they were a student. So it has a really serious impact on students in the long term, and in the short term,” Gilchrist said.

According to the CPAL study, Dallas College students who were evicted and did not return to school lost about \$63 million in career earnings,

while the sum of rent owed by these students was just \$490,000. Only 4% of students who were evicted were able to complete their education.

“We definitely have a lot of students who are either at risk of facing or have been through an eviction,” Stephanie Harris, associate dean of basic needs and community connections at Dallas College, said.

Dallas College provides assistance for students facing eviction. Dwayne

Jones, senior care coordinator at Dallas College, is students’ go-to point of contact. His office is in Room A224.

Dallas College students are encouraged to seek assistance and be proactive. “Ideally, prevention is the easiest response,” Harris said. “If we know that a student isn’t going to be able to pay their rent, then they can reach out to our department for some assistance.”

Assistance for students comes in

many forms – from financial literacy to connecting with the Career Services Department, emergency aid and cutting back food expenses each month by using the food pantries at Dallas College campuses, Harris said.

Dallas College students can also fill out a student care form with the Basic Needs and Community Connections department on the Dallas College website, and a coordinator with the department will reach out.

Ashley Flores, senior director at CPAL, said, “Having stable housing is really a prerequisite for being able to be successful and complete your credentials. So having any support that can get to students to keep them housed is really important.”

“Having stable housing is really a prerequisite for being able to be successful and complete your credentials.”

– Ashley Flores,
CPAL Senior Director

ECHS

Continued from page 1

students currently in the P and U buildings on campus as well as high school students from Dallas Independent School District.

Original plans set the center to be completed by April 2023 and ready to occupy by August 2023.

Timothy Isaly, Early College High School principal, said, “We heard in October and November there was a delay in the supply chain of raw materials that were being shipped to start the building or to work on the building. And then we were told that [ECC] would probably be delayed until January of 2024.”

These delayed plans have affected ECHS enrollment. “I have had to back off from telling people we will be in there in August,” Isaly said. “And I had to limit the number of freshmen we were gonna take because I cannot put too many freshmen in a tiny P Building.”

The Early College Center will have a capacity of at least 400 students with 26 classrooms including labs and office space, Isaly said.

Glenn Partners, the architects and management team of the new ECC building, said on their website, “The ECC [is designed] to act as a pathway to college by integrating and strengthening existing pedestrian pathways with the new ECC building. The ECC also serves as a haven for students visiting campus from multiple home districts.”

P Building, where ECHS students are currently located, will be demolished once students have moved into the ECC.

A new entrance from Alpha Road on the northeast side of the campus is expected to be ready when the ECC building is completed. With the construction of the ECC, tennis courts on campus were demolished. Isaly said, after briefly reviewing the

construction blueprints, he found no plans to replace the tennis courts on campus.

The Early College Center is a huge milestone and an excellent opportunity to offer more high school students the chance to graduate with college credits and possibly their associate’s degree. Current ECHS students have varying opinions on how the new mini-campus will affect the sense of community within the ECHS program. Dayanara Torres, a first-year ECHS student, said, “I think these [new] buildings are a good opportunity for creating bonds with Dallas ISD and being more connected as a community.”

Susana Perez, a current senior ECHS student who will not get to experience the new building as a student, said: “A con is that I feel like as the school is expanding, there are going to be more students, and I like how the school is right now. It is more of a close bond with everyone in other grade [levels] compared to other high schools. I feel like we are friends with people from different grades, and it is because it is such a small school.”

However, students are excited for new additions that are not present in P and U buildings. Perez said, “The pro, I would say, is that we are finally going to have a cafeteria.”

Torres said, “I believe that the new buildings could provide upgrades in safety and efficiency within our school that our current [P and U] buildings may not offer.”

The Early College Center has been nearly a decade in the making. Perez said, “They have been trying to do this for 10 years, and it has been much work for Isaly to get the green lights.”

Isaly said, “We will try and have some kind of special grand opening event whenever we get in there [and] invite all the alums and anybody who ever was an Early College High School student. They need to see the building.”



Illustration by Maria Elena Franco

Enrollment

Continued from page 1

with any questions or concerns they might have.

Dallas College Designated School Officials guide students from the initial application to graduation and work authorizations. They work closely with F-1 students to comply with their visa requirements to maintain their status.

Reyes said she navigates through the culture shock and adapts to the American culture and college experience with ease. She said the Multicultural Affairs department has provided resources to promote different

cultures and nationalities on campus. “Their events make me feel seen, appreciated and respected,” Reyes said.

Sean Guinyard, a multicultural affairs coordinator at Brookhaven Campus, said international students play a big role in culture at Dallas College, and the Multicultural Affairs office is open for students looking for resources. Multicultural Affairs also hosts events to celebrate diversity, culture and bring awareness to domestic students about international students.

“We [recently] had International Education Week,” Guinyard said. “It was an opportunity for us to host events geared toward international students, like International Tea and Coffee.”

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CAMPUS

Brookhaven employee spotlight

By Maria Elena Franco
Art Director

Donna Armbruester
Student Success Coach

How long have you been at Brookhaven Campus?

I have been at Brookhaven campus since June of 2018, so I'm going on five years.

What do you enjoy about your job at Brookhaven?

There are so many things I enjoy about working here. The thing I love about my job is seeing students be successful. They let me know when they found a new job or when they graduated from college.

Dallas College provides so many services to assist with student success. I also enjoy interacting with everyone – students, staff, faculty. This past Halloween we invited the Headstart kids to come through our office and get good-ies. We dressed up, one of us was a dinosaur, which the students loved. It was a lot of fun to see their happy faces. After that, one of my students came in with a costume, and it was great to have her continue energizing the office.

Dallas College is a community and I love the interaction I experience every day. You know, when you feel appreciated – it feels really good, and knowing what you've done for that student has impacted them so much. That is a really good feeling.



Briana Dunson
Case Manager, Rising Star

How long have you been at Brookhaven Campus?

I've been here at Brookhaven since September of 2021. So going on two years.

What do you enjoy about your job at Brookhaven?

I love working with the faculty. The customer service part of it. I love working with students and the staff. I get to see and meet new people every day and that's what I enjoy most. We had the chancellor come the other day, so that was a good thing and he thanked us for all that we did. He said he knew that Brookhaven's Information Central is very hard working. That was [a] positive [experience] and it stuck with me because it's good to know that we're doing a good job.



Dameyan Sargent
Informational Desk Representative

How long have you been at Brookhaven Campus?

I transitioned here three years ago from El Centro. Eleven years in the system, three years at Brookhaven Campus.

What do you enjoy about your job at Brookhaven?

No two days are ever the same here. Never a dull moment in Dallas College. There's something always going on. Fridays are usually our slowest day where nothing's going on but Monday through Thursday, we always have something going on.

Whether it's internal events or external, we have a lot of external clients – companies, Fortune 500 companies that reserve our main conference room.

We're making things happen. We have to make sure we accommodate everyone for the events that are held here. But I enjoy the networking and the fact that I have an impact on things to help better Dallas College as a whole.



Laura Ahumada
Senior Student Success Coach

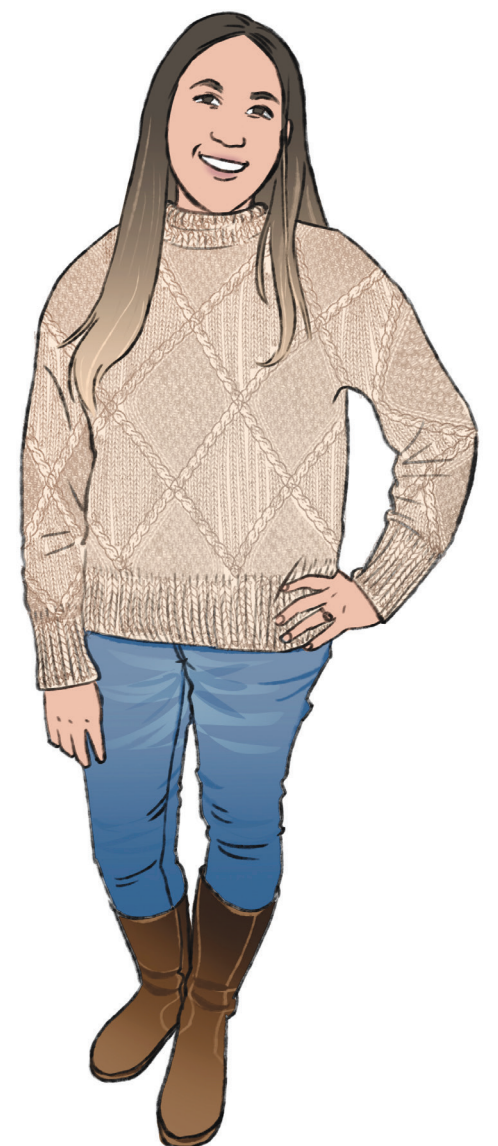
How long have you been at Brookhaven Campus?

I've been working at Brookhaven Campus for seven and a half years.

What do you enjoy about your job at Brookhaven Campus?

It's two things that are paired that are back-to-back. One of them, of course, is assisting our students here with this job. You help them from the moment they're coming in out of high school. They don't know what to do or anything and you see their transition all the way until they're ready to transfer to a university and that's amazing. I've had students who have sent me emails or messages, pictures of their graduations at the university. And it's always a great feeling.

The other thing is working with my team, we have a great connection here, all of us. It's like another family. So that is one thing that I really enjoy, even through stressful times. It's a great feeling knowing we have such a great team here.

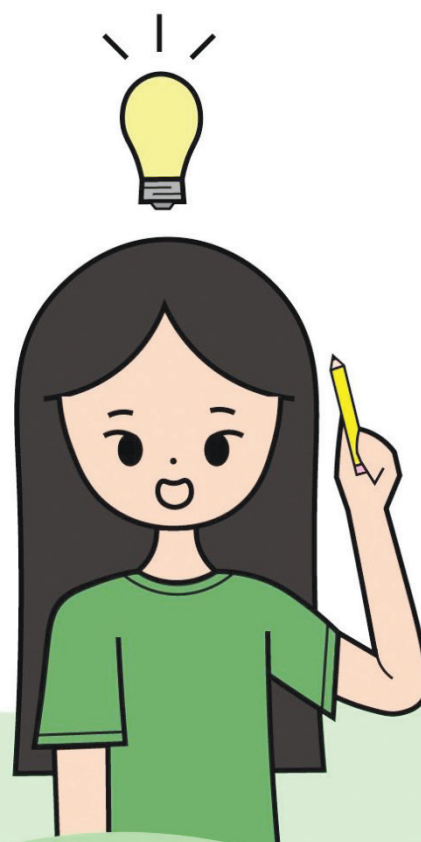


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Black LGBTQIA+ panel to be held at Cedar Valley Campus

By Emmy Hardy
Copy Desk Chief

Dallas College is set to host Black Queer Street: The Road Less Traveled, an LGBTQIA+ panel focused on the experience of being a Black individual within the Queer community.

The panel will take place from 12:30-3 p.m. on April 6 at Cedar Valley Campus in the Performance Hall.

According to Dallas College's website page for the event, the panel members will share their own stories and experiences, covering topics ranging from language to religion to culture. Check-in for the panel will begin at noon. Light refreshments will be provided to attendees.

"[Inclusive Excellence] started to feel like we weren't doing a lot of programs at Cedar Valley," Brandon Harris, a program lead for inclusive excellence at Brookhaven Campus

said. "So we thought it would be ideal to have a bigger event at that particular campus."

The event will be free and open to all. In addition to the panel, multiple Black LGBTQIA+ vendors will set up at the event, allowing students to interact with them.

"The panel will really be going over the unique situation of being Black in the LGBTQ [community] and the challenges, wins and everything that goes into it," Harris said. "We're trying to break those stereotypes and stigmas surrounding the community."

Harris said the Black population contains a more stigmatized view of being LGBTQIA+ than usual, and the panel members seek to address and dispel some of that stigma. "We want everyone to come whether you're part of the community or not, just to see the reality of what it's like," Harris said.