

ETERA

Dallas College Eastfield Campus

Robert F.
Kennedy Jr.
visits North
Lake Campus
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Wednesday, October 25, 2023

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A large photograph of a luchador (wrestler) wearing a red mask with white and green feather-like designs. He is wearing a black tank top and has a tattoo on his left arm. He is flexing his right arm. In the background, another person's arm and shoulder are visible, wearing a purple and green mask. A television screen is visible in the background.

Ready to Rumble

Luchadores fight for Hispanic Heritage Month

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'I need an army'

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. visits North Lake Campus

By CARMEN GUZMAN

Editor in Chief
@TheEtCetera

Presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. visited North Lake on Oct. 10, much to the enthusiasm of his supporters.

Kennedy's visit to Texas marks the first stop on his "Independence Tour" following his announcement for presidential candidacy.

His speech comes the day after he renounced his Democratic Party membership and chose to run as an independent, campaigning under the phrase, "Declare Your Independence."

"I will give you your country back," he said, and the crowd responded with a wave of excitement.

In his campaign speech, Kennedy covered inflation, the cost of living and corporate consolidation.

He also called out Republican candidates who focused on "culture war nonsense," drawing attention to the Republican debate in September.

"Locked in their habitual debates, the two parties are often blind to common-sense solutions," Kennedy said in his Oct. 9 announcement speech. "This formula has left them barely able to govern."

Kennedy denounced America's involvement in international affairs such as the Ukraine war, claiming that it's affecting the cost of living. His speech focused on every American's bottom line: their paycheck.

"The price of everything is going up: food, childcare, living," Kennedy said. "We're paying \$8 trillion for wars and COVID, money we don't have."

According to Kennedy's campaign, his promise of economic prosperity starts with restoring ownership and property value, as well as reinvesting the military budget.

"My kids all have good jobs, but none of them are considering getting a home," Kennedy said. "Housing prices are completely out of their reach."

Housing was an especially popular topic with Kennedy's supporters as the crowd flared up when he raised the topic.

Several families were in attendance as well.

For attendees Angie Catalan and Manuel Sanchez, both 32, their three kids are their priority.



PHOTOS BY RORY MOORE/THE ET CETERA

Kennedy tells his audience about the impact of the United States' involvement in foreign wars. Kennedy poses with a supporter for a photo after his rally. Kennedy addresses the crowd at his rally about why the two-party system has failed and how it inspired his decision to run as an independent.



"Investing in a house is really important to a family," Catalan said.

In relation to corporate consolidation, Kennedy pointed to the housing market as a primary example of supposed corporate control in America. He proposes bolstering the middle class to safeguard America from investing companies such as BlackRock.

"What they're gonna do is turn



a population of homeowners into a population of renters," Kennedy said.

According to a 2022 Stateline article, corporate investors purchased a quarter of single-family homes in 2022. In Texas, the figure increases to a third.

To a mother such as Catalan, this means gathering money for a home as quickly as possible before it's economically impossible.

"We're trying to buy a house, but with the price of housing rising, it's really hard," Catalan said.

As for their kids, Catalan said the road ahead is dark. The politics behind Kennedy don't matter since they chose the candidate as the best investment in their kids' future.

"There's more that unites us than what divides us," Sanchez said.

Sometimes the crowd would jeer

contrary to Kennedy's statements, such as his dislike for former President Donald Trump. Nevertheless, those individuals would jump up from their chairs and cheer for the candidate.

"We disagree with stuff in there for sure but I'd take him," Sanchez said.

Although the campaign trail was announced on short notice, Kennedy's team celebrated the crowd of around 150.

Numerous times, Kennedy handed the microphone back to his audience to gauge their reactions on the economy and tax rate.

"We have so many Republicans and independents and Democrats that are just fed up," Kennedy said.

Unity was the name of Kennedy's game, and he called upon those from all sides of the political spectrum to support his cause.

"My wife and I are actually Republicans, but we are open minded," Stephen Martin, 50, said. "He's a good option for sure."

Kennedy urged his audience to spread the word about his campaign, pledging that his campaign would cover issues the "mainstream media" hasn't.

"If I only read about myself from The New York Times ... I'd have a very low opinion of myself," Kennedy said.

Near the end of his presentation, Kennedy listed websites and podcasts, and even implored his supporters to start their own.

"I need an army and I need all of you to make the effort," Kennedy said.

Regardless of differing viewpoints, Kennedy recalled sitting down at the kitchen tables of people from all walks of life.

"There's not one thing he said today that I disagree with," Martin said. "That was really inspiring."

According to Kennedy, that starts with growing the middle class and bringing economic success in a manner similar to his uncle, John F. Kennedy, which his audience celebrated.

"When I was a boy, [America] owned 60% of the wealth on earth, and that was because of a middle class that didn't exist anywhere," Kennedy said.

During his closing remarks, Kennedy promised to make America the "peaceful nation" his family wanted.

Partial eclipse excites campus community

By CARMEN GUZMAN
Editor in Chief
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Eastfield employees and the community gathered Oct. 14 in front of the Performance Hall to observe the annular solar eclipse, which featured up to 86% coverage at its peak. Spectators froze in awe as the moon cast over the sun.

"I like the way that an [eclipse] unifies times and cultures," English instructor Andrew Tolle said.

A viewing party was presented by Eastfield's Science Club, which started setting up at 9 a.m., almost three hours from the 11:52 p.m. peak. The event itself proved a magnet for community members — with more strangers than students.

For many, the event was the perfect time for a picnic as well. The weather and welcoming atmosphere attracted several families.

"We have drinks and weather and people chatting with each other and just sharing the experience," biology instructor Rik Post said.

All eyes weren't on the sky, though. Spectators walked around to see the shadows distort from the annularity. At one point, a small crowd gathered to cast their shadows over a sidewalk, excitedly noting how the eclipse formed crescent-shaped shadows. Post took the pleasure of gathering spectators for a brief science lesson on how shadows respond to eclipses.

"We have the chance to do something that is informative, educational



PHOTOS BY RORY MOORE/THE ET CETERA

An outdoor viewing event for an 86% partial solar eclipse was hosted by Eastfield's Science Club Oct. 14 between the F and G buildings. Students, employees and staff were invited to attend the viewing and given lenses to look at the eclipse. The Science Club allowed spectators to look through a telescope.

and fun at the same time," Post said.

Post estimates seeing over 10 eclipses in his lifetime, including five total eclipses. He chalked up his innumerable experiences to being at the right place at the right time — his affinity for international travel helped his odds of seeing an eclipse in countries such as Egypt and South Africa.

"I was in India many years ago

when I saw a total solar eclipse ... About 400,000 people marched into the sea to do ritual purification," he said.

One warning is always issued prior to an eclipse: Don't look at the sun. The Science Club even provided viewing glasses for the occasion, but associate of science major Edwin Iracheta couldn't contain his excitement.

"It was painful — it just gives you a headache," Iracheta said.

The ensuing headache helped him learn his lesson, but it didn't sour the experience. Even though Post is a seasoned eclipse viewer, he's gone against the grain due to the novelty; he was in Iracheta's shoes during a trip to Calcutta many moons ago.

"I was a young guy at the time. ... I had this overexposed X-Ray film;

we held it against a pinhole to get the image on the ground because it was safer," he said. "But you know, if you briefly held it up you could see everything, so I took a chance."

Science Club members including Edwin and his peers made sure to hand glasses to spectators, all the while raising funds for future community events. For students such as associate of science major Alejandra Torres and even her mother, Elizabeth Torres, it's the sense of community that makes these events more spectacular than the show itself.

"I love seeing her in her element, making friends and having a good time," Elizabeth said.

The last time an eclipse passed over Eastfield was in Aug. 21, 2017, which Tolle recalled distinguishing the crescent shadows with then-Eastfield president Jean Conway, an experience he carried over to the current eclipse.

"If a comet comes through, it may be the last chance of your lifetime to see it," Tolle said.

When the moon shifted away from its annularity, the spectators shuffled over to their cars, but several expressed interest in the upcoming total solar eclipse on April 28, 2024.

After the once-in-a-lifetime total eclipse, another isn't expected to pass over Texas until 2617.

"Definitely a good wait," Post chuckled. "This is something you don't really think about, and it's important that you get the most out of this experience."

Students tangled in name change system

By CARMEN GUZMAN
Editor in Chief
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Science Club member Alejandra Torres is recognized by her middle name at Dallas College class rosters, but not by choice.

Time and time again, class material lists her as Erin instead of Alejandra. She filed a name change form with Dallas College, but it only corrected her name on eConnect.

"To have a teacher call it out on the first day of class because the roster is still printing the wrong name defeats the whole purpose of a name change form," Torres said.

Students such as Torres find that Dallas College's name change form creates more problems than it solves.

The switch to Brightspace brought consis-

tency, but names still aren't updated on Microsoft 365 or adjacent student software.

"When people are looking to email me and they type in Torres, they're not gonna find my name," Torres said. "That's just counterintuitive."

The form itself even states that names won't be changed across all platforms, raising eyebrows.

"I had many teachers last semester who I introduced myself as Alejandra, but they go into the textbook and they're like, 'Who's Erin?'" Torres said.

For a while, Torres didn't push to see a proper name change realized, but the issues piled on.

"It's taken me three weeks to deal with this," Torres said. "I'm like, 'Screw it.'"

Torres continued with a lengthy back-and-

forth with IT, but a miscommunication nearly reverted all the progress she made. Although quickly clarified, it was another misstep in the process.

It's frequent that English instructor Andrew Tolle has to redirect students to the name change form since every roll call raises hands commenting on their preferred name.

However, he found that some students have given up on navigating the name change environment.

"It gives this very scary warning that if you submit this form, you may have financial aid problems because your money may not get to you since it doesn't match your name," Tolle said.

Tolle has heard complaints as far back as 2017, and they've ramped up in his classes starting in 2022.

"Here we have these two new systems we've paid a lot of money for, and neither one is demonstrating the ability to go in and do a simple name change," Tolle said.

Although Tolle's advocacy for an improved system hasn't let up, word from administration has been sparse.

"Sometimes it's as simple as changing a Joshua to a Josh, but for some, sometimes it has to do with their trans identity," Tolle said.

No matter the reason for a name change, the struggles are constant.

"If my chosen name is Torres, that should show up everywhere," Torres said. "Otherwise, there's no point."

Now, Torres can look forward to not having the incorrect name read aloud during role calls, but that was due to being persistent in a process that initially sounded as simple as turning in

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Sticky business: Students grow enterprises

By CARMEN GUZMAN

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Deep in the dusty and cluttered sunroom of his home, graphic design major David Perez Toledano fits a roll of paper into a printer several sizes larger than him.

His fingers dance on a screen, then put the machine through the motions of printing bottle labels for a local juice company. Mechanical needles make cross sections over the labels and cut them into stickers - for this order, the customer requested hundreds.

Perez waits patiently as the printer spits out stickers, taking in his handiwork. This is the phase where he plays the waiting game - sometimes that involves checking into his online classes at Eastfield.

"A lot of times I'll do school during the day, then I'll work back here at nighttime," Perez said. "I've worked until 4 in the morning trying to get [stickers] out."

By day, he's an Eastfield student taking in-person and online classes; by night, he's printing commissions for his winding list of customers. He's in a handful of students who manage a business on top of grades.

Perez credits the business idea and initial operation to his friend, who went into a print shop to learn the tools of the trade.

"We were using other companies to make stickers, and my friend said, 'Man, we could do this,'" Perez said.

While his friend went to work, Perez joined the Navy to secure



The food truck for Both Worlds Mexican & American Cuisine sits outside for customers. David Perez loads a roll of stickers into a cutting machine.

funds. He was on an aircraft carrier stationed in the 5th Fleet, which took him to Dubai and Bahrain.

Just like the sticker business, it consisted of long hours and working with hundreds of people. Contrary to military regiments, Perez' work doesn't follow a consistent schedule since orders come at any time.

"It's tricky because of the ebb and flow of work," Perez said. "I can wake up one morning with nothing to do, then before you know it, I have 2,000 stickers due tomorrow."

After the military, Perez used his Bill benefits to take out loans to pay off his business. He was fortunate to get a deal on a used sticker printer - it serves his business to this day.

"We didn't put money in our pockets for the first two years of operation," Perez said. "It was all reinvesting and paying off loans."

Perez's service also helped him pay off tuition, and he signed up for classes to learn the accounting end of business.

A class on QuickBooks proved to be helpful in crunching numbers. Additionally, graphic design and computer classes taught him how to work in the technical side of printing.

"I'm going to school to receive my benefits," Perez said. "I even get a basic housing allowance as long as I maintain my grades."

Several miles away, in a trucking depot off Military Parkway, graphic design major Isasac Escoto takes orders from truckers lining up at his family's food truck, Both Worlds Cuisine. The kiosk gives him some relief from the stuffy kitchen, its steam and hypnotizing aromas belowing from the cashier window.

"This pays the bills," Escoto said.



CARMEN GUZMAN/THE ET CETERA

"From time to time, we get stressed out, but knowing this truck is going to help us is the most important thing to know."

Escoto is one of the pillars to his family food truck business, employed since it hit the road six years ago.

When Escoto isn't battling kitchen heat, he's speeding through homework so he has more time to work.

"I have gotten overworked a few times, but my parents help me out with that issue," Escoto said.

The truck has been Escoto's way of getting to know Dallas, serving food at golf courses, parks and celebrations. With a Mexican mom and American father, their truck serves a blend of cuisine from both countries.

"We go anywhere, like this truck lounge space where truckers don't have time to get food," Escoto said.

The truck also pays off his tuition,

and Escoto is interested in entering graphic design.

Escoto acknowledged a time will come for him to leave the nest, but he's keeping the family business in mind for a backup option - regardless, Escoto's parents have insisted on him to follow his studies.

"They've been trying to find people to help out on the truck, especially when I'm not around," Escoto said.

Additionally, Perez isn't limiting himself to a fledgling print shop.

"I want to make an app - a sticker app for people to submit their files to us for printing," Perez said.

Perez's business has served several large businesses such as Garland Camera Repair, but his big customers are pop-up events and local music gigs. He prints disposable stickers in the thousands. Those same events also serve as his business' lifeline, for it relies on word of mouth.

"We don't pay for any advertising," Perez said. "I've never done any."

With a reputation to boot in his local scene, Perez' business has endured through major events such as the pandemic. Meanwhile, he maintains his studies at Eastfield to strengthen his ability to be a voice for other businesses.

"Things have gotten better for us," Perez said. "When a lot of people lost their jobs, they started trying their own businesses, and our business is helping other people's businesses."

"Things have gotten better for us," Perez said. "When a lot of people lost their jobs, they started trying their own businesses, and our business is helping other peoples' businesses."

Fountains, refill stations yield tainted water

By CARMEN GUZMAN

Editor in Chief
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"Disgusting. Pitiful. Disappointing."

Associate of science major Timothy Warren wretched at the sight of yellow water pouring from one of Eastfield's water fountains. For a student who drinks water on campus daily, this was a wake-up call.

"I don't think I can even drink from the vending machine," he said.

Most students lower their face in the fountain and sip without a second thought. The bottle refill stations display usage counts as high in the tens of thousands.

Since mid-September, however, a fountain next to Student Life has been dispensing yel-

low water.

The Et Cetera ran the water through a testing kit and measured high hardness and alkalinity, which is generally caused by high traces of dissolved minerals, according to United States Geological Survey.

Regardless of water content, one look of the cloudy, yellow substance makes students such as associate of science major Maria Zapata consider emptying their bottle.

"That's pretty disgusting - I could be drinking that," she said. Zapata refills her bottle daily. On some days, the taste feels off but she initially never thought more about it. High alkalinity tends to affect the taste of water, according to the KnowYourH2O Water Research Center.

After seeing the discoloration for herself, she called the college to "get those pipes checked."

Facilities manager Adam Qualkenbush confirmed this wasn't the first time a fountain has produced dirty water, but said a fix is simple.

"Oftentimes, it's a faucet or something - we'll just flush the line," Qualkenbush said. "We'll check it two or three days later to see if it's not repeating."

However, the water has gotten progressively darker over the past two weeks. Qualkenbush reassured that other fountains aren't contaminated since they're on separate systems, making it easier to pin down the problem's cause.

"There's so many reasons that can potentially happen," Qualkenbush said.

The cause is currently unknown, but Qualkenbush said there's nothing to be concerned about.

Although he later said facilities are respon-

sible for anything maintenance-related in Dallas College, sometimes the cause isn't from the college: he said the city of Dallas is currently changing out its water meters.

The city of Dallas has not returned a request for comments.

Facilities conducts daily walks around campus to check its systems. How this fountain slipped through the cracks, Qualkenbush doesn't know, but he said it's just another job for facilities.

"Anytime we hear about anything like this, we're going to investigate," Qualkenbush said.

At the moment, there is no system for students to report campus issues such as discolored drinking water.

Life and Arts Editor Sean Stroud contributed to this report.

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PHOTOS BY SEAN STROUD/THE ET CETERA
Featured foods are deep fried cheesy scrap tater bites, bourbon banana caramel sopapillas and deep fried sushi bombs.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL VINES/THE ET CETERA

Staple rides at the fair include the crazy mouse (top), zero-gravity (bottom) and the slingshot



A STROLL THROUGH THE TEXAS STATE FAIR

By SEAN STROUD
Life & Arts editor
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From the Midway games to the main stage, there are countless ways to spend the day at the State Fair of Texas.

For me, the stroll through Fair Park only brings two words to mind, and they aren't Big Tex, but instead – funnel cake!

That's right, I'm only in it for the food, and so are most of Eastfield's students, according to surveys.

Out of the 116 students that I asked, 86 of them had plans to or had already made a trip to the fair this year.

Only 26 out of those going were looking forward to the fair's rides, leaving the other

70% to chase down greasy goodness.

Many fair-goers have a yearly tradition, such as my own fried Oreo indulgence, but this time around it's about redemption for Angel Gonzalez.

"I bought a turkey leg last year," Gonzalez said. "I had only taken one bite out of it before someone bumped into me and made me drop it."

Losing your food at the fair is soul-crushing because those prices are no joke.

One student told me I "had to try" the butcher's block, a heaping pile of brisket, fried chicken, sausage and jalapeños slathered in sauce, but I had to pass upon seeing its 26-ticket price point (tickets are a dollar each.)

My advice is to take a friend or two and

split the cost.

I did this on my trip and got to try a handful of different fried foods including my two favorites: deep fried sushi bombs and cheesy tater crab bites.

With new boundary-pushing creations coming out annually, such as this year's Big Tex Awards winner for "Most Creative," the bourbon banana caramel sopapillas, it's no wonder most Texans show up with empty bellies and fat wallets.

While most students are flocking to the fried foods, Jerry Quintanilla is on the hunt for an adrenaline rush.

"I wanna ride the Slingshot," Quintanilla said. "It's the scariest ride out there. I want to be one of the ones that passes out and buys the video after."

Amongst those looking for thrills are some brave souls aiming to take on the Zero Gravity ride, a machine that caused me to spew on my sneakers when I was younger.

"I've been wanting to ride that one since I was a kid," Lawson Collins said. "I also want to see if I'm smart enough to not run into a mirror [in the mirror maze]."

I didn't hop on any rides this time, but I did stroll through the car show, albeit accidentally, while searching for a restroom.

Most of the students I asked said they preferred the air-conditioned showroom to the clamor at the BMX show.

While the fair is a limited-time engagement, lasting less than a month, the memories made this year will hold me over until the next "Howdy, Folks!" from Big Tex.

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Latin horror is often underappreciated or unknown by American audiences despite being far superior by my metric. I mainly attribute this to Latin horror's tendency to focus on tension and artistry more than American mainstream horror. To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I've prepared a list of my personal favorite Spanish horror flicks from across the Latin world to check out this Halloween.

The Bar (2017)

A man drops dead in a bar and the occupants are subsequently caught in an elaborate conspiracy as they become quarantined therein. Directed by Alejandro "Álex" de la Iglesia, "The Bar" is a fast-paced comedic horror film with so many twists and turns it's sure to have your head spinning by the end. Iglesia masterfully balances comedy and suspense, such as when the characters attempt to escape the bar by squeezing through a small opening in the cellar after lubing themselves up with olive oil. This film is highly entertaining with a well-rounded cast of memorable characters and a story that doesn't fail to bring the laughs and thrills.

The Devil's Backbone (2001)

After the death of his father during the Spanish Civil War, a young boy is sent off to an orphanage and begins to unravel its many dark secrets. This 2001 drama-thriller horror flick was directed by legendary Mexican director Guillermo Del Toro. It's one of his earlier films and worth watching for its engrossing mystery and interesting balance of gritty wartime drama, murder mystery and supernatural horror. Del Toro's direction here also does wonders to bolster its setting, presenting an interesting world with an engaging story driven by well-written and well-acted characters. This film is both eerie and touching, doing a good job of showing us the impact of war on children and dealing with loss and betrayal.

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The Hidden Face (2011)

After his lover vanishes, an orchestra instructor struggles to move on as his new girlfriend finds herself beset by a series of strange events, making her question if his old flame ever truly left. This film has been remade numerous times in various countries, but the original 2011 Spanish-Columbian version is the strongest in my opinion. “The Hidden Face” starts off as a cheesy romantic drama, but eventually the film shows its teeth as an intense psychological thriller as we learn the unfortunate truth about what happened to the protagonist’s missing girlfriend. Its tension is thick, and the payoffs are quite satisfying and shocking.

Terrified (2017)

After a series of strange deaths in an Argentinian neighborhood, a group of paranormal investigators band together to unravel the mystery.

Similar to “The Morgue,” “Terrified” starts off as somewhat of a slow-burn thriller, but as events unfold the film comes together as a horrifying thrill-ride oozing with tension. Demián Rugna doesn’t hold the viewer’s hand and explain what’s going on. That’s the true magic of this film: It builds on the fear of the unknown to disorient, disturb and shock audiences as we come to realize we may not be dealing with the typical ghosts we thought we were.

The Morgue (2019)

A security guard working the night shift at a morgue comes to realize he’s not alone as strange occurrences plague his otherwise mundane job. This Paraguayan horror thriller takes advantage of its limited production budget by focusing more on atmosphere rather than resorting to cheap scares. The film takes place in a static location with one lead, so it’s bereft of dialogue with a lot of slow buildup. The ever-shifting tension and increasingly dangerous setting of the morgue lead to some truly frightening moments. The makeup for the creatures in the film is also top notch and adds to the creep factor when you see these things out of place in the background. The impeccable suspense this film delivers is sure to keep audiences on edge.

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Multi-man brawl breaks out in Eastfield

By CARMEN GUZMAN

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A Lucha Libre wrestling match took place in The Hive on Oct. 10, presented by Multicultural Affairs in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. The event summoned fighters from Soar Championship Wrestling to duke it out before an energetic crowd of students and instructors.

For round one, the matchmakers introduced Mowabi, who crawled into The Hive like a spider and leapt between the ropes. His opponent, Prince Ameri, showed himself off with a strut.

"The Lord pays attention to the people and the land," Ameri said. "My prayers will be granted."

The match kicked off with Prince Ameri dropkicking Mowabi onto his back, then pummeling him with blows while he was down. The crowd gasped as the onslaught on Mowabi continued.

"[The match] didn't go well for me," Mowabi said.

Later, Mowabi got the upper hand and kicked Ameri right out of the ring, but the fighter jumped back in.

Near the end, the referee got caught between Mowabi and Ameri, which resulted in the former bickering with the official. Much to Mowabi's surprise, the referee responded with a backhand.

"Apparently, when it comes to lucha, the referee lays their hands on you," Mowabi said.

That sent Mowabi swinging, and now there were three fighters in the ring – two against Mowabi.

"That cost me the match," he said, shaking his head.

At first, Ameri kept his distance, but as the feud went on, he chose to get the jump on his opponent instead.

The match devolved into a beat-down dealt by the referee and Ameri, complete with kicking, thrashing, punching and even hair-pulling.

"That was the first time ... you don't touch my hair, man!" Mowabi said.

Mowabi stood no chance against the weight of two men, the referee counting down right in front of his face. When the bell rang, Mowabi fell out of the ropes and proceeded to stumble away.

"He got his ass whooped – that's what happened," Ameri said.

Lucha Libre, which translates to 'freestyle wrestling,' has its roots



PHOTOS BY JULIAN VALENZUELA/THE ET CETERA

A wrestler taunts Michael, the referee after knocking them down. Gabe XL flexes while making his entrance. Dontae Smiley holds up his championship belts after defending his title.



Jevonte Williams lifts up Americano Dynamo before slamming him down.

during the French Intervention in Mexico in 1863, becoming a regional phenomenon by the 20th century. It eventually evolved into one of the most prominent wrestling styles in the U.S., especially Texas with its high Mexican population.

In Eastfield, there were more students than seats and some watched from the overlook. Students flocked from other campuses to see the match, most prominently Brookhaven.

From the way students leapt from their seats and cheered in celebration of the first match, some might say the journey was worth it.

However, the crowd quickly calmed down when it was time to move onto round two.

"We all want to win right now,"

said Dynamo Americano, introducing himself with a western jingle named Big Iron.

His opponents, Branch and Jevonte, had less flashy introductions, and their opening moves consisted of a slapfest between the three.

Eventually, Branch and Jevonte decided enough was enough and opted to tag team Dynamo, their combined strength putting him at a quick loss.

Unfortunately for Dynamo, tag teaming is a major component to lucha libre.

"There's always next time," Dynamo said, pledging to train more until then.

One of lucha's characteristics are more aerial maneuvers compared to Western wrestling, and the match

had several moments where fighters such as Dynamo were thrown around.

The final round was between Gabe XL and award-winning pro wrestler Dontae Smiley.

As the proclaimed "King of Trap City," herecorded his own intro song, giving Eastfield a taste of his side gig as a musician.

When the bell rang, Gabe XL and Smiley circled each other like lions, feinting the first move until Smiley finally committed and got the jump on Gabe XL.

However, Smiley failed to lift Gabe XL off their feet – XL leveraged their weight to pin Smiley to the ropes, then beat him without resistance.

The match consisted of Gabe XL throwing his opponent around like a

ragdoll.

The audience kept awing at the one-sided fight. At first Smiley couldn't get back up, but he eventually rebounded with a blow to his opponent.

"It was tough, but the work got done," Smiley said.

The audience counted down alongside the referee, then exploded into cheers when the clock struck zero. That wasn't enough for Smiley, who continued to hold down Gabe XL until his intro song returned.

"He did what he was supposed to, but what he did was not enough," Smiley said.

Even after the ring cleared, students hung around for selfies with the wrestlers, energized by the celebration of Hispanic heritage.

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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

REVIEW

The rise of El Rey: Tito Puente

By SEAN STROUD
Life & Arts Editor
@TheEtCetera

Looking back through the history of Latin music, it's hard to find someone more instrumental in the development and progression of mambo than "El Rey," Tito Puente.

Throughout his career, the timbalero-turned bandleader released around 120 albums and won seven Grammy awards, as well as a plethora of lifetime achievement awards, some of which were posthumously awarded. Along the way, he popularized and expanded upon the music he played with his love of jazz and percussion.

Ernest Anthony Puente Jr. was born on April 20, 1923, to Puerto Rican parents who had only recently arrived in New York. Ernestito – which eventually became just "Tito" – was known at an early age throughout his Spanish Harlem neighborhood for banging on pots and pans and making a racket. His mother put him in piano lessons to channel the energy into something more creative, and by 10 he had turned to percussion.

At 13, Puente was already a professional musician who played in bands such as the Happy Boys, then dropped out of school at 16 to pursue music full-time. At 19, he apprenticed in the Machito Orchestra after



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

their drummer had been drafted into World War II. In 1942 Puente was drafted into the Navy, where he showcased his multiple talents throughout his various duties, such

as playing alto sax or manning the ship's machine gun.

Upon being discharged, Puente used his GI Bill to study music at The Juilliard School, a private performing

arts conservatory in New York City, and formed the Tito Puente Orchestra in 1948 shortly after completing his education.

The band was immensely popular and soon became a staple in New York's Palladium concert hall where Puente brought Latin music, and more specifically Cuban rhythms like mambo and cha-cha-chá, to the forefront along with his jazzy twist and trademark showmanship.

Puente's most popular album was 1958's "Dance Mania." Upon giving it a listen, it's easy to tell why: From front to back, the album is chock-full of infectious rhythms and dripping with the players' passion.

"El Cayuco" draws the listener in with an entrancing cha-cha rhythm carried by the horns and guiro. "Three D Mambo" is a perfect example of Puente's penchant for running a jazz arrangement through a Latin percussion filter, resulting in a whole greater than the sum of its already exquisite parts. For "Hong Kong Mambo," the spotlight is on the marimba, with screeching trumpet interjections and a very light percussive background.

Vocals aren't usually the focus of a song, but when they are featured in songs such as "Cuando Te Vea (Guaguanco)" and "Estoy Siempre Junto a Ti," they're a beautiful addition to the soundscape and blend right into

STAFF PICKS

A list of songs to check out courtesy of the ETC staff!

Carmen Guzman
"Another World" by Bebom Beton
"This synthpop gem encourages me to dance out the melancholy present in its electric lyrics and beat."

Keondre Lane
"All The Parties (feat. Chief Keef)" by Drake
"One of the latest and greatest songs from Drake about the party life of college students."

Julian Valenzuela
"Roxanne" by The Police
"This song floods my head with old memories of road trips with my dad and his huge music cd case."

the mix.

Puente made great strides in popularizing Latin music with his addicting compositions and charismatic charm, but didn't stop there; Puente made a difference by giving back to the community. In 1979, he created the Tito Puente Scholarship Fund for Latin percussionists attending Juilliard.

"The scholarship was a dream of mine for a long time," Puente said. "In the Latin community, we have a lot of gifted youngsters who don't get an opportunity to develop their talent because of a lack of money. Long after I'm gone, the fund will be helping kids."

Tito Puente was one of those people who just seemed ready-made for their career and took great pride and passion in it. Watching his Sesame Street appearance, it's very apparent that the warm and energetic man who won over Oscar the Grouch was no different off-screen: a kind soul and a killer timbalero.

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

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The Et Cetera



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 Letters must be typed, signed and include a phone number. Letters will be edited for profanity and vulgarity, Associated Press style, grammar, libel and space when needed. The content will remain that of the author. Letters should be no longer than 250 words.



ABOUT THE COVER

During the Lucha Libre event at Eastfield, fighter Dontae Smiley struggles to recover after going toe to toe with Gabe XL.

Photo by Julian Valenzuela

OUR VIEW

Dallas College's website needs work

For an information directory expected to keep thousands of students and employees up to date, dallascollege.edu is full of outdated information left to confuse anyone seeking clarity.

The site's staff directory is hardly any help. Most of the faculty's positions are outdated, such as Deidre Bell Jones still being presented as the communications chair despite her promotion to dean of communications, and Lori Dann, our former adviser, still being listed as faculty

despite her departure.

Most of the profiles are also without pictures, leaving students unable to put a face to a name and effectively making Microsoft Teams a better directory.

The club/organization page advertises more than 10 clubs that are no longer active, complete with old contact information. Even the clubs that are active have the incorrect adviser listed, defeating the purpose of having contact info there at all.

And when it comes to events,

the site does very little for visibility. One of our reporters showed up to a suicide prevention training that was planned for Oct. 11, but the presenter had flaked due to low turnout. If organizers want a good showing, they have to spread the word on their own.

Although thanks to our governor, DEI offices are slated to be shut down state-wide by January, there is still a section dedicated to providing information about its services.

Other than serving as a reminder

of a more sensible past, keeping this page up does little more than get students' hopes up for a forlorn program.

For an institution with a large chunk of its students receiving their education online, it's imperative that information is available, accurate and up to date.

While there have been talks of a redesign, it's a bit pathetic that sometimes a classmate is a better source of information than Dallas College itself.

Adblock impairs internet accessibility for all

MATTHEAU FAUGHT
 @TheEtCetera



There is no principled reason for today's internet users to use an adblocker. While it's nice to not have to sit through 30 seconds of advertisements to get to the content we want to see, that convenience comes at a cost.

Everything has a tradeoff. I'm someone who enjoys free stuff, and getting to see movies on sites such as Tubi and PlutoTV for free is quite convenient, but the one tradeoff to enjoying this service is having to sit through ad breaks during my movies. AdBlock provides a way to essentially circumvent that tradeoff of enjoying free content.

Companies pay hefty server costs to host content, most of which is sourced through ads. Advertisements have remained a major income stream for companies that host content since the introduction of radio and television. Google, for example, generates almost 80% of its revenue from advertising, according to FourweekMBA. By using adblock I am robbing the service of their ad revenue just to avoid a small inconvenience on my end.

Most advertising money is made off impressions, i.e. simply viewing the ad, as a low percentage of users click-through ads. According to Backlinko, an SEO training business, today 42.7% of internet users worldwide report using an adblocker. It's a grim thought to know that almost half the internet's population is blocking income to content creators.

This is particularly problematic when looking at the information side of things.

Today, The New York Times, The Boston Globe and Chicago Tribune use paid digital content models to improve revenue and counteract losses AdBlock certainly causes. With information centers offering content through subscriptions, the idea of free access to information is becoming a thing of the past. Not everyone can afford these and those costs tend to stack up over time.

Hypothetically, given that most websites are

overwhelmingly supported by advertisements, AdBlock also makes it harder for new online businesses to grow without some sort of brand recognition or alternative income streams. The fact that it's becoming harder for new websites to succeed in the face of monopolistic competition that already has solid advertisement backing makes it feel like the days of autonomy on the internet have been moving further and further away, and I firmly believe AdBlock is a contributor to that.

It's a shame because once upon a time there was a justification for using AdBlock, but the internet has changed a lot since I started using it in 2009. It was bigger, more diverse and creator driven – the possibilities were endless. It also had terribly intrusive and sometimes malware-laced advertisements aplenty. AdBlock arose to counter annoying pop-ups and obnoxious banners that seemed rather commonplace for netizens of the time.

Yet, as the years have gone by, the internet has effectively shrunken. Advertisements have changed too, becoming less intrusive and generally safe and legitimate, unless you're viewing skeevy or illegal content.

Today is a different day than when I was a young boy and there's little practical reason for me to use an adblocker, hence why I no longer do it.

I've observed most arguments from the modern AdBlock user are that they find ads annoying and deride 'evil corporations' for wanting to make a profit through generally annoying advertisements. The thing is that these 'evil corporations'



At least I don't have to worry about those pesky ads anymore
 MATTHEAU FAUGHT/THE ET CETERA

employ or host very real people who need to make ends meet, and ad revenue is a big part of that. For example, using AdBlock on YouTube robs content creators of their ad revenue and drives them away from making the videos their fans want to see.

I wish the AdBlock acolytes of today would have the decency to admit they put more stock in their convenience than the well-being of creators that work hard to offer free content for a minimal tradeoff. Let's face it, if you're someone who spends hours consuming content/information online, you can deal with a few ads.

Convenience is not a sufficient moral or ethical argument against ads. End users who utilize ad-blocking software do so for purely self centered reasons, despite the fact that they're taking money right out of people's pockets. Adblock has created a more malignant tradeoff of making content harder to produce, maintain and access in the long run.

Most creators on the web rely on ad revenue to keep the lights on, and AdBlock makes it much harder for them to support themselves while making the content both they and their audience want to see. It is a lose-lose situation, but one entirely perpetuated by the AdBlock user. After all, if you're not willing to sit through an ad to get to the content you enjoy, you shouldn't expect its creator to continue creating when they aren't being properly compensated for it.

SPORTS



Oct. 24
Oct. 26-27

Soccer vs. North Lake
Volleyball District Tournament
at Eastfield

6:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m.

The Et Cetera

eastfieldnews.com

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Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Eastfield's dynamic duo play in flawless season

By SEAN STROUD

Life & Arts Editor
@TheEtCetera

After dropping a mere four sets the whole season, Eastfield celebrated its 29th consecutive win Tuesday, Oct. 24 to finish with an undefeated record. They defeated the Thunderducks in three sets with scores 25-13, 25-8 and 25-10.

The Harvester Bees were led this season in part by Ava Cole and Azoria Davis.

Boasting four Dallas Athletic Conference defensive player of the week awards, Cole is the team's iron wall on defense and leads with 354 digs.

Davis is at the helm offensively, netting 248 kills and 403 receptions and is second to Cole with 275 digs. She's won the DAC offensive player award three times this season.

"They're kind of those quiet leader-type people. They don't say a lot, but they do all the speaking with their game," head coach Phil Nickel said. "They've been a crucial part of our success, and we're super happy that they're here."

Both players developed an interest in volleyball early on. After try-

ing a handful of activities, such as taekwondo, and not finding one that stuck, Cole started volleyball in the third grade and quickly became invested. Davis' love of the game developed before she even started school.

"My dad was a trainer, so he trained a lot of volleyball players, and we would go to a bunch of his clients' games," Davis said. "So I would say I just kind of grew up around volleyball."

While having a father in the industry can be helpful, sometimes he's her biggest critic.

"People don't understand what it's like having a dad as a coach and a trainer," Davis said. "It's a good thing, but it's also a lot of pressure because I get criticisms from him and my coach and from everybody else."

While Cole enjoys the competitive aspect of volleyball, both players seemed to be on the same page as to what they enjoy most about the sport.

"I think my favorite part is the competition," Cole said. "Also just growing relationships with people because it's really helped me. I'm very shy and very closed off, so when I play volleyball I have to open up on the court. I have to talk to people. It helped me grow my relationships



RORY MOORE/THE ET CETERA

Azoria Davis and Ava Cole hang out after beating Richland.

with people and be more outspoken."

Davis agreed, noting her bond with her teammates and coach.

"I met the best people in my life because of volleyball, and I'm grateful for that," Davis said.

On the court, Cole believes that her positive outlook is what puts her a level above everyone else.

"I know a lot of people get in their heads a lot," Cole said. "I just try to keep the mindset [that] your sport doesn't define you. You can have a bad game, you can have bad plays, but at the end of the day you're doing this for fun. You're doing it be-

cause you want to. A bad play or a bad game isn't gonna be the end of the world."

Meanwhile, Davis relies on her consistency for results.

"I have the same energy 24/7," Davis said. "I hate being negative."

Cole recognizes and appreciates this trait in her teammate.

"I enjoy playing with Azoria because on the court she's very positive, and that's what I do best with," she said. "If I make a bad play, she's like, 'You got the next one.'"

To Davis, the feeling is mutual.

"If I mess up I know she's there to

pick me up, and if she messes up, I know that I'm going to be there to pick her up," Davis said. "I love Ava. She's a great libero."

As for finding their way to Eastfield, Cole played in high school with one of the coaches' daughters and her father used to play baseball for the Harvester Bees. Davis was led here by her studies.

"It had my degree, fashion marketing, which is very hard to find around here," Davis said. "And also I love the area. It's not far from Dallas, and I'm a city girl."

Both players plan on returning next year.

"Just because we're good," Davis said. "I don't want to transfer to another [college]. I know we're set."

After securing the No. 1 seed in NJCAA Division III volleyball, the team is preparing for its next big challenge.

"I've never been to nationals," Davis said. "This is honestly a dream. That's everyone's dream as a volleyball player."

Eastfield will host the NJCAA Division III South District Tournament next week from Wednesday through Saturday. The Harvester Bees play in the semifinals at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 27.



Photo Gallery: Field Day



PHOTOS BY RORY MOORE AND JULIAN VALENZUELA/THE ET CETERA
Clockwise from left: A student jumps in the sack race during Field Day; Team Nando pulls on a rope during Tug of War; Yareth Camancho takes a lap around a cone during Egg Relay; Debra Jenson crawls through a bounce house. Eastfield's 2nd annual Field Day took place on Oct. 21, complete with games such as tug-of-war, sack racing and wipe out.



OUR VIEW

Luck is just an illusion

Luck can feel rewarding to those who receive its golden fruit. It's a mystical idea that brings people joy or great sorrow.

A new job falls onto your lap. You happen to get a sudden raise for all the work you've done. It could even be unlucky, like a friend bailing on you at the last minute. You take a left turn, get into a bad accident and your insurance skyrockets.

Luck is a good thing that grants those of good heart grand fortune and vice versa, but to believe that fundamentally misinterprets what luck is.

Luck does not act as a random force. In fact, all seemingly random events, even those seemingly out of your control, do not happen on a sudden stroke of luck or misfortune. It occurs as an outcome of whether or not you are prepared and take opportunities.

Luck is a social construct: A myth that keeps people from thinking too hard about the choices they make. In doing so, it limits the scope in which someone views the world. With luck as a concept, people do not critically think about their actions. Thus the concept that follows someone simply being lucky should be put to rest.

Luck is the apparently random events that affect someone in positive or negative ways. They can occur at any point to any person at any time.

It's easy to believe luck plays favorites. There are those who appear to be constantly down on their luck, like someone who cannot find a good partner. Inversely, good luck could be a millionaire who constantly gets new investments to brag about, or finding out you did well on a test you thought you would fail.

Those events do not happen out of thin air, but rather occur when someone is prepared to take an opportunity that is presented.

It is also believed that luck can be influenced by arbitrary effects such as spilling salt, giving to a church or wishing upon a star, but none of these things inherently cause any effect on someone's life. Tales of doom and gloom from bad luck serve more as a guide to tell people not to engage in undesirable behaviors.

If someone was told to wish upon a star for good luck, subconsciously they start acting in such a way to achieve it with good grades, better mental health and speaking more to people. In contrast, if they were told that a black cat crossing their path brought bad luck, then they would turn tail and run at the first sign of a dark feline.

Luck isn't something that turns the world into a game of surprises to help or break you, it is merely the willingness and preparation to take on an opportunity that presents itself to you, be it by circumstance or a result of your own actions.

If you walk under a ladder and get hurt, that isn't bad luck; that is you choosing to

Ethan G.
Aderhold
[@TheEtCetera](#)



VERONICA TREJO/THE ET CETERA

walk a dangerous path and crying you got hurt. Similarly, if you work hard and make good connections, that is not good luck, that is you doing well for your career.

Luck conceptually serves to blind people and not feel responsible for any action that may have influenced the outcome.

When people stop taking accountability for their own actions, humanity builds individuals capable of horrendous things just to further their own goals. That is how you get people who only care about themselves; they have an outlet to excuse any and all bad events that happen to them.

People who constantly dwell on the circumstances of their life are prime examples. These kind of people will nag and whine about how their life is terrible, that no one appreciates them and they are scared of the people they live with, but will act in such a way to continue these behaviors since they deem such events as bad luck.

Furthermore, people have a tendency to remember more negative events that occur as an effect known as the negativity bias. That bias suggests that for every two good events that happen, people will weigh it the same for one negative event.

Thus, I implore you to stop utilizing the concept of luck. Instead, be thankful and to take the opportunities given. You already show mindfulness by merely considering options outside of lucky circumstances and display growth in you and a willingness to change.

You will naturally grow more mindful of the world you live in and can learn to live with change easier.



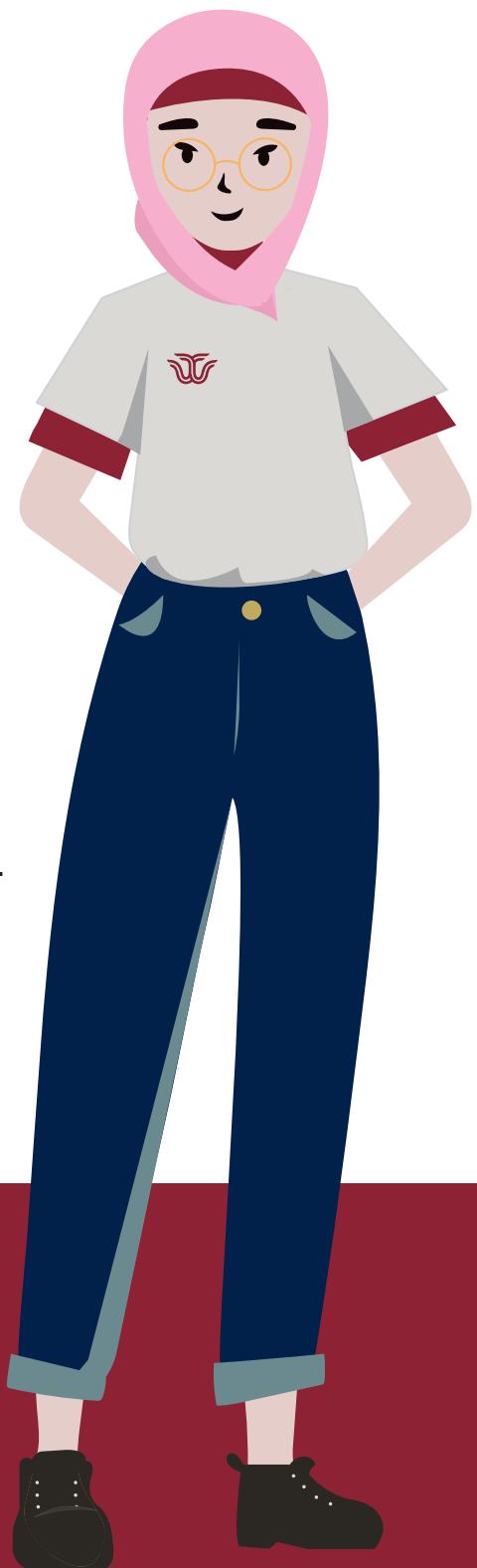
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