A&M-CC welcomes new Director of Bands

A new chord has been struck at the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Music Department this semester. Dr. Brian Shelton has been named the new director of bands, bringing hopes for the expansion of the band program, and music appreciation as a whole.

The Illinois native was given the new position by a committee of four members from the music department at A&M-Corpus Christi. According to a brief biography available on A&M-Corpus Christi’s website, Shelton graduated from Northern Illinois University with a bachelor’s in music education. “Even in undergrad, I knew that college (level teaching) was what I was aspiring to,” revealed Shelton. Following the completion of his undergraduate studies, Dr. Shelton received his masters in instrumental conducting at George Mason University, and his doctorate in instrumental conducting at the University of Arizona. Shelton and his family migrated to Texas after he received a job as Director of Bands at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

“...I think there is a lot of potential here,” Shelton said. “The music program is still pretty young, and I think there is a lot of potential for growth.” Currently, A&M-Corpus Christi’s music department lists five separate bands available for students to join, three of which are directed by Shelton: the Symphonic Winds, Concert band, and Pep band. The avid musician may be interested in Symphonic Winds, which meets four times a week. For students who may not have as much time to commit but just want to play, concert band meets twice a week in the evening. Pep band also meets twice a week, performing at sporting events to promote school spirit.

Dr. Shelton believes one of the major benefits of the band programs are that you do not have to be a music major to join. “I think there are a lot of really fine musicians on campus who aren’t music majors,” he said.

Nautical living

Many people dream of living on a boat and sailing around the world. Well David Pendleton made this dream his reality. Read about his life while living his sailboat, the Semper Fi on PAGE 6.

On campus last week

Photographer, Josiah Corona captured University students, faculty and staff as they got into the Halloween spirit on the Island. Take a peek at all of the hocus pocus on PAGE 2.
A&M-Corpus Christi hosts relationship workshop
Counseling Center sponsors interactive session for co-eds

by NICOLE SHEA
contributing writer

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Counseling Center sponsored an interactive workshop, “Relationships: The Good; the Bad; and the Ugly” on Oct. 29. Efrain Franco of Women’s & Men’s Health Services of the Coastal Bend led the workshop and focused on recognizing the signs of an unhealthy relationship.

Attendees of the workshop learned that the most important premise to forming a healthy relationship is to love oneself before attempting to love someone else. Mr. Franco explained that qualities such as insecurity are at the front lines of most unhealthy relationships and can lead to abusive relationships.

The workshop exposed covert signs of abusive relationships in the making and explained that most of these relationships initially seem healthy.

“Many people believe physical abuse is what makes relationships abusive or not,” Mr. Franco said. “But abusive relationships can also be formed by verbal and emotional abuse.”

Verbal and emotional abuse in relationships typically leads to physical abuse later on. Frequent indicators of an abusive partner are traits like jealousy, possessiveness, intimidation, humiliation, and hypocritical rules or standards.

Furthermore, attendees learned that anyone can be a victim of an abusive relationship if they don’t recognize early indicators. Verbal and emotional abuse can cause a brain washing like effect on victims and slowly break down their self-confidence, making them more susceptible to stay and endure more abuse.

Mr. Franco explained that the key to avoiding abusive relationships is to know what qualities and habits to look out for, along with simply trusting your gut. If you or someone you know are in an abusive relationship, please contact the A&M-Corpus Christi counseling center at 825-2703 for free and confidential assistance. For more information, visit LoveIsRespect.org.

ON THE ISLAND
AT A GLANCE

Research expedition to Antarctica set to explore the affect of pollution on living organisms

The National Science Foundation has funded a four week expedition to Antarctica made up of scientists from the Harte Research Institute at A&M-Corpus Christi and other scientists from Texas and New Zealand.

The scientists hope to learn about the affects that pollution has on organisms’ survival. The three week excursion will be documented on the IslandtoIce.org educational blog, which will be maintained by the scientists. The group will be at McMurdo Station in Antarctica until Dec. 11.

Parents Weekend hosts over 250 parents and students on Island

A&M-Corpus Christi’s Parent Council hosted a Parents Weekend with a record setting amount of attendees. Islander students and their parents had brunch with University leaders including President Flavius Killebrew and Provost Chris Markwood.

The Parents Council contributed over $80,000 to the Parents Council Fund, according to Markwood in a speech addressed to brunch attendees.

The Council has over 700 parents in their organization who secure their membership by contributing during New Student Orientation.

Retired A&M-Corpus Christi professor receives Lifetime Achievement Award in Literary Education

Dr. Jack Cassidy was awarded the “Jack Cassidy Lifetime Achievement in Literary Education Award,” named in his honor by the Texas Association of Literary Education.

Cassidy is the retired Associate Dean and Professor of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education at A&M-Corpus Christi.

The former professor retired in 2011 after receiving several awards including the A.B. Herr Award from the Association for Literary Education and Research. Cassidy helped start a doctoral program in Curriculum and Instruction at the University and was a founding member of TALE.

CRIME

UPD activity log

- On Oct. 9 at 8:00 a.m. police responded to a Class B criminal theft ranging from $50-$500 at the Harte Research Institute. The case is still active.

- On Oct. 28 at 8:01 p.m. police responded to a Class B criminal mischief ranging from $50-$500 at Camden Lot 8. The case is still active.

- On Oct. 29 at 4:40 p.m. police responded to a Class B criminal mischief ranging from $50-$500 at Miramar Lot 3. The case is still active.

- On Oct. 30 at 10:36 a.m. police responded to a Class A criminal mischief ranging from $500-$1500 at the Bayside Parking Garage. The case is still active.

- On Nov. 1 at 2:36 a.m. police responded to a Class B theft ranging from $50-$500 at Jetty Hall. The case is still active.

- On Nov. 1 at 11:10 p.m. police responded to a Class A criminal mischief ranging from $500-$1500 in Angelfish Lot. The case is still active.

- On Nov. 2 at 10:53 p.m. police responded to a Class A criminal mischief ranging from $500-$1500 in Angelfish Lot. The case is still active.

Warning signs and red flags

- Telling you that you can never do anything right
- Keeping you or discouraging you from seeing friends or family members
- Controlling every penny spent in the household
- Controlling who you see, where you go or what you do
- Telling you that you are a bad parent or threatening to harm or take away your children
- Intimidating you with guns, knives or other weapons

research courtesy of THE NATIONAL ENDORSE ANTI-BULLYING NETWORK

AT A GLANCE

ON THE ISLAND

AT A GLANCE

ON THE ISLAND
The Cyber Defense Team, a student organization at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, traveled to San Antonio on Oct. 5 and 6 to compete in the annual Panoply Network Security Competition, where they won first place with 262 points.

Panoply, according to the competition’s official website, is a timed, collegiate level competition challenging a team’s abilities in cyber security.

The competition begins with a central network that contains resources and services that each team vies for by infiltrating the network, and claiming the goods for their own.

The team was started approximately five or six years ago as a competition team and participates in other activities throughout the Coastal Bend community.

The research that the team conducts regarding cyber security is incorporated into curriculum on campus. Team members also help teach and tutor students on campus.

“It’s an organization where students who are interested in pushing the envelope in terms of (their) knowledge basis... get together to explore concepts and prepare for competitions,” said computer science professor and Cyber Defense director, Steve Alves. Alves also said that the students on the Cyber Security team have benefited greatly from the program.

“It gives them the opportunity to go beyond the classroom,” reported Alves.

Aside from the Panoply competition, the Cyber Defense Team plans to compete at the Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition and the Cyber Challenge in the spring.

The team’s success has also caught the eye of a consulting firm in Illinois that is interested in recruiting three current Cyber Defense team members.

For more information regarding Panoply, visit cyberpanoply.com. For more information regarding the Cyber Defense Team, view their webpage at cyberdefense.tamucc.edu.
Islanders' women's basketball dominates the dustdevils

by ALEXIS DELEON

Sports Editor

As volleyball season is winding down the Islanders appear to be heating up. The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi volleyball team swept McNeese State 3-0 (25-21, 25-22, 25-15) Saturday afternoon at the Dugan Wellness Center. Junior Ashley Phelps lead the Islanders (17-10, 11-5 SLC) with 16 kills on .452 hitting while sophomore Ivy Baresh collected her 15th double-double of the season with 13 kills and 13 digs.

Senior Logan Bourque showed off her hitting performance with 37 assists and eight digs while sophomore Shayla Maldonado tallied four of the Islanders’ season high 10 service aces. Maldonado also clocked seven digs. The Islanders and Cowgirls (14-14, 6-8 SLC) battled at the net with 19 total blocks. Junior Brianna Brink tied a match-high five block assists and senior Sarah Sanchez chipped in five total, including four solid block assists.

The Islanders started things quickly with an early 8-3 lead before the Cowgirls evened the set at 8-8 on a 5-0 run. Phelps followed with a kill moments before Baresh hit back-to-back kills and sophomore Hailey King added an ace to push the Islanders ahead to 14-9. An early 2-0 run by McNeese State knotted the set at 13-13. Phelps countered with a kill while Brink and Sanchez followed with a block assist. A&M-Corpus Christi then dominated the glass, out rebounding the Cowgirls 16-12, while the Islanders defense allowed just six field goals in the set.

Going into the second half it the Islanders started things quickly with an early 8-3 lead before the Cowgirls evened the set at 8-8 on a 5-0 run. Phelps followed with a kill moments before Baresh hit back-to-back kills and sophomore Hailey King added an ace to push the Islanders ahead to 14-9. An early 2-0 run by McNeese State knotted the set at 13-13. Phelps countered with a kill while Brink and Sanchez followed with a block assist. A&M-Corpus Christi then dominated the glass, out rebounding the Cowgirls 16-12, while the Islanders defense allowed just six field goals in the set.

The Cowgirls answered the Islanders' run with a 3-0 run of their own, but the Islanders came back with a 9-1 run to extend the lead to 23-14. King added an ace to push the Islanders to the 25-15 win, as it beat A&M-International 76-50 in an exhibition matchup in the Dugan Wellness Center Sunday afternoon.

The Islanders put in incredible effort on both sides of the court. A&M-Corpus Christi also dominated the glass, out rebounding the Dustdevils 54-39. The Islanders defense allowed just six field goals in the second set.

In the first half some poor shooting from the Islanders did not help matters as McNeese State raced out to an early 2-0 lead. The Islanders knocked out two straight aces by Gregory to give A&M-Corpus Christi its first lead of the game after scoring eight of the next 11 points to extend the lead to 8-2. The Dustdevils dominated the second half, putting up 15 straight points after a Cowgirls’ error and led for the remainder of the game.

The Dustdevils finally got a shot at their biggest run of the game, as the Islanders went cold during nearly a three minute stretch, while the Dustdevils scored nine straight, cutting the lead to two.

The Isalnders’ defense kept the Dustdevils scoreless for nearly a three minute stretch, while McNeese State scored nine straight, cutting the lead to two.

The Islanders got a chance to grab back the lead when Ashley Phelps knocked down a three to become the 11th Islander to make her way into the scoring column. The Islanders scored with 3:53 left ending the streak, but the game was far from over, as the Islanders had a 31-12 lead at that point.

Any hope for a comeback by the Dustdevils was crushed, as the Islanders kept their baseline scoring momentum. The Islanders women’s basketball team swept McNeese State 76-50 in an exhibition matchup in the Dugan Wellness Center Sunday afternoon.

The Islanders scored 38 points from the field, as well as from behind the arc and went 17 of 23 from the free throw line. A&M-Corpus Christi also dominated the glass, out rebounding the Dustdevils 54-39.

In the first half some poor shooting from outside the arc was one of the factors in A&M-International’s abysmal scoring, missing all 10 of its three point attempts. Furthermore, the Islanders defense allowed just six field goals in the first 20 minutes of play. The Islanders on the other hand shot 50 percent from downtown, while knocking down 13 field goals.

The real game started immediately after senior Jasmine Shaw missed a layup for the Islanders shortly after the tip. Jessica Woiu knocked down a jumper to give the Dustdevils an early 2-0 lead. The Islanders knocked out two straight aces, with the second coming off of a steal by Gregory to give A&M-Corpus Christi its first lead of the game after scoring eight of the first 11 points to extend the lead to five.

The Dustdevils dominated back to back field goals to cut the lead to just one with 12:08 left in the first half, forcing second-year head coach Royce Chadwick to call a timeout. Chadwick’s pep talk, infused the Islanders substantially, as A&M-Corpus Christi went on a 20-0 run over the next eight minutes and 15 seconds. During that time six different Islanders were on the court and Baresh completed her second double-double of the season.

The Dustdevils scored eight field goals over that stretch. A jumper for A&M-International scored with 3:35 left ending the streak, but the game was far from over, as the Islanders had a 31-12 lead at that point.

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Islanders soccer finishes season with loss against Northwestern State

by ALEXIS DELEON
sports editor

Soccer season ends in difficult loss for Islanders

The soccer season has been a difficult road for the newly added Islanders women's soccer team. The final game of the season for the Islanders' first-year program, ended in another loss as a 3-0 victory was earned on Sunday by Northwestern State.

Just before the game, the Islanders honored their lone senior, Audrey Baldwin, in her final contest of her college soccer career. Baldwin made an impressive 128 saves in her only season for A&M-Corpus Christi, a total that led the Southland Conference this season.

“It was a great atmosphere today to honor our lone senior, Audrey Baldwin,” head coach Shanna Caldwell said. “She has been a leader on and off the field and will be greatly missed. She has helped establish the foundation of this program and we, as a staff, can’t thank her enough for that.

Baldwin made five saves in the losing effort for the Islanders on Sunday. “I thought we played great soccer today,” Caldwell said. “We played as a strong unit and really looked to put them under pressure. We had a couple mistakes and they led to goals for Northwestern State.”

Northwestern State came to kill, netting a goal in the fourth minute to take a 1-0 lead. After the Lady Demons earned a corner, Taylor Mulnix sent the set piece toward the near post, but it was deflected by an Islanders defender. However the Lady Demons jumped on it, putting the ball in from inside the 6-yard box at the 3:55 mark.

The two teams battled at midfield for the next 15 minutes, but NSU was able to sneak loose and double its lead in the 20th. Lady Demons' Nikki Saunders sent a ball up the right side to a streaking Brooke Eastburg. The freshman came in alone on Baldwin, and ricocheted a ball into the back of the net off the left post for a 2-0 advantage at 19:46.

In the second half, the Islanders controlled play for much of the period, but couldn’t seem to score. Danku came up huge in the stanza, making a diving stop on a header by freshman Brodie Erdmann and second sweet play as freshman Hailey Sutton was streaking toward the net. Northwestern State added its final tally in the 74th. Alexandrea Jackson made a nice run down the right side after forcing a turnover. She then sent a ball toward the box for Cassandra Briscoe, Briscoe shook loose near the top of the 18 and lofted a shot to the upper left corner, making it 3-0 for the final score.

The Islanders averaged 570 fans for their nine home games this season, a total that led the Southland Conference.

"We'd like to thank everyone for all their continued support and belief in Islanders Soccer,” Caldwell said. The Islanders wrap up their debut season with an overall record of 2-16-0 and a conference mark of 1-11-0.

“I'm very proud of this whole team. They have stepped up and grown as people and soccer players throughout the course of this fall. They accepted a challenge to build a program and their work and effort will never go unnoticed. The future is bright and the work begins again next week.”
ROLLING IN MY...

Islanders talk about their pet names for their vehicles

by KATHLEEN RAMIREZ features editor

Nucells isn't just the name of the red echidna character from the Sonic the Hedgehog video games, it's also the name of theater major Victoria Rutledge's red Chevy Sonic.

"My 10-year-old little sister is the biggest Sonic fan, and so I named my car for her," Rutledge said. "I named my car to remind myself that it is my responsibility, and if I have a name for it, I can better relate to the cause."

For Rutledge, the idea of naming her car something new, Rutledge's car naming first started with her first car, Milo.

"I always name my cars, and I think it's great if people name theirs," Rutledge said. "My first car ever was named Milo because if my car were a person, it would be a streamsyler in my name Milo. And it would take me away to Paris, and we would live happily ever after."

Naming her cars is something Rutledge says is really fun, and something she looks forward to doing.

"My entire family, everyone, knows my car's name, and they ask for it by name," Rutledge said. "My friends make fun of me for it, but it's something I've always enjoyed doing, and it will continue to name my cars in the future. Like Rutledge, several other Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi students have also adopted nicknames for their cars with nicknames. Listed below are just a few names.

Kinesiology major Rochelle Ryhan has two nicknames for her car, White Betty and Daisy. "Well, it's a white car so that's where the first name came from, and the second name is because I like daisies and they're white too," Ryhan said. "I think it's funny when people name their cars, and it's probably more common than people think. I just don't think that very many people talk about what they name their cars.

Taylor Haskin, marine biology major also has a nickname for her 2009 gold Honda Accord. "It's Greta," Haskin said. "My friend from school said I had to name my car, and initially, I wanted to call it Rose, but that friend insisted it had to be an American name so I chose Greta."

James Almaraz, biological science major, came up with the nickname for his Mazda 3 based on how fast it is. "I call my car My Zoom-Zoom due to the fact that it's like a little speed devil," Almaraz said. "I think people give names to their vehicles and it kind of creates a stronger bond to the vehicle in a weird way and not treating it like garbage. I try to take care of my vehicle almost always."

by KATHLEEN RAMIREZ features editor

While most students who travel to Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi may never encounter a lot of attention, two former students share their reasons as to why they left and what they miss most about the school.

Former A&M-Corpus Christi student Dantette Salinas attended the Island University during the fall 2011 and spring 2012 before transferring to University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio to major in 3-D animation.

"TAMUC didn't have the major I wanted, and I found out UIW did so I decided to transfer," Salinas said. "TAMUC didn't have it or anything close to it, so being able to do what I love here at UIW and knowing that I'll get a degree in it is really cool."

Salinas mentioned the various differences between TAMU-CC and UIW, the biggest one being the size difference.

"UIW classes are maybe 30 to 40 students max so no big lecture classes, which is a lot better in my opinion, since the teachers have more opportuni ties to have a one-on-one relationship with a student," Salinas said. "The teachers at the school are all some of the best, which is why they are teaching, which is awesome since we get to learn from them."

While Salinas says she enjoys going to school at UIW, there are some things she misses about A&M-Corpus Christi.

"There's not really anything I dislike about UIW, it's a great private school. Although, I do miss the friends I made and the University Center at TAMUC, and just getting to relax between classes in there with everyone," Salinas said. "I do miss some of the teachers there, though I know they are no longer professors there. I also liked that the beach was so close."

Elise Olivas, another former Island University student, attended A&M- Corpus Christi from fall 2010 to fall 2011 before transferring to Del-Mar College. Like Salinas, Olivas also transferred due to her major's being canceled at TAMUCC, but then I realized that I didn't want to do that anymore. After a lot of researching, I realized that I wanted to become a surgical technician, and I found out Del-Mar had a program, so towards the end of the fall 2011 semester, I took the steps to transfer.

As the only surrounding school that offers the surgical technician program, Olivas based her selection on that.

"There's definitely no comparison between Del-Mar and TAMUCC. I think Del-Mar is a great community college, but TAMUCC definitely has more options that make you want to get involved with your school," Olivas said. "And of course, getting involved with anything at your school just looks better on your resume."

For Olivas, the biggest difference between Del-Mar and A&M-Corpus Christi is the size. While Olivas says she enjoys being able to study what she wants to do at Del-Mar, if given the chance, she says she would like to come back.

"I really miss the environment. TAMUCC was a bigger school, but not too big. Classes are smaller, which means your professor knows who you are, and is able to better communicate with you one-on-one," Olivas said.

Salinas and Olivas encourage any students who are thinking of transferring from A&M- Corpus Christi to not be afraid to leave, but to make sure it's something they want to do.

"If you feel it is best for you and your future to transfer schools, then you should go for it. Also, if you decide to transfer, you should definitely research each school and every step you need to take to transfer before you actually do it," Olivas said. "That way you get to know what to expect and get everything done in time before any major deadlines."

by TINA LENTZ features reporter

Dr. Melissa Jarrell, an associate professor of criminal justice and graduate program coordinator, has been teaching for over thirteen years and she’s still as excited to teach today as when she started.

Dr. Jarrell currently teaches a wide range of criminal justice courses including Criminology, Introduction to Criminal Justice, Research Methods and White Collar Crime. Even though she teaches many different courses, she said her approach to teaching is often student-centered and interactive.

Several ways that Dr. Jarrell communicates interest in class is by doing a lot of different in-class activities. These activities, she said, range from group activities, video, guest speakers, peer teaching, mock trials and debates. "I also believe in a service learning approach, which encourages students to get involved in volunteerism and activism in the local community," Dr. Jarrell said. "The combination of applied, practical and academic knowledge is something that will enable students to really make a difference in the world."

Dr. Jarrell also said that she wants to help students to examine their personal experiences and the experiences of others in different ways that they have in the past.

"I'm always looking for agencies, organizations and experiences that will help students expand their professional skill sets, networking opportunities and career paths in the broad field of criminal justice and criminal justice," Dr. Jarrell said.

A former student on ratemyprofessor.com writes, "Dr. Jarrell is awesome. She is so knowledgeable that it’s unbelievable. You can tell she works hard for her students. Go to class and you’ll do well."

Dr. Jarrell said that she realizes that students often feel like the things they are learning while in college have nothing to do with the real world. Because of this, Dr. Jarrell said that she makes an effort to relate course topics and assignments to the real world.

"I like to create assignments and projects that challenge students and interest them simultaneously," Dr. Jarrell said. Another former student on ratemyprofessor.com said, "Dr. Jarrell is a very intelligent professor. She enjoys her job and tries to make it interesting for her students. Although her test are challenging, you will learn a lot from her classes."

Even though criminal justice is a largely undergraduate major, which means many mid-sized and mid-sized schools, Dr. Jarrell said that she stills a point to give students the attention they need and to give students as much individual attention as possible, whether she is teaching a class of twenty-five or a class of fifty-five.

"I'm always looking for agencies, organizations and experiences that will help students expand their professional skill sets, networking opportunities and career paths in the broad field of criminal justice and criminal justice," Dr. Jarrell said. --Melissa Jarrell

Associate Professor of Criminal Justice

The National Association for College Admissions Counseling recently reported that, “one in three students who enroll in either a four-year or two-year college will probably transfer at some point.”
Alternative living arrangements have its benefits

During the past decade, mechanical engineering major David Pendleton has swam with whale sharks, sailed over 17,000 miles and has been to 25 different countries, all while living aboard his Irwin Citation sailboat.

"I was in construction, and one day I figured out that after I paid my one-time truck payment, my insurance, my mortgage, my dues, federal income tax, state income tax, sales sales sales, I was taking home 17 cents an hour," Pendleton said. "So I sold my house, took the equity and bought the sailboat. We’ve lived on it for about ten years now.

"There’s no space on board, and I don’t have any closets. There is no space is very hard to get used to," he said. "I have no neighbors on either side of me, and I don’t have any neighbors under a bridge really, it’s a horrible thing. But I understand a woman look at that space, and you know, their shoes wouldn’t even fit in there." At 34 feet long, Pendleton’s sailboat includes all the basic amenities, including a V Berth (bed), galley, bath-room, shower and even a little kitchen table. Despite its length, Pendleton says there’s not much room for anything else.

"It’s like a really small camper, but the space is very hard to get used to," he said. "There’s no space on board, and I don’t have a closet. When you’re on a sailboat, it’s a no-problem because you have very few clothes, you live in Commons." Currently, Pendleton lives at the Corpus Christi Marina, where he pays $450 a month, including electricity, to dock his boat and park his car two cars.

"It’s a relatively inexpensive considering the view I have," Pendleton said. "It’s the ultimate urban cottage, really. It’s like you go down, the cityscape lights come on, as well as the lights; circus bridge and then gondola. You almost can’t beat the view, it’s a million dollar view. It’s a great place to live in my opinion. And, I think I’m a great gardener, actually.

Another thing Pendleton says he enjoys about living on a sailboat, is how quiet it is, and the lack of neighborhood to have. "I have no neighbors, on either side of me," Pendleton said. "I don’t have any neighbors. In fact, it’s a great view to see in the morning, and to see my neighbors. My neighbors are yacht owners, and I don’t even know if they have neighbors.

In spite of all the perks Pendleton says comes with living on a boat, there is one downside to not living on land. "The wind would pick up 45 or 50 kts and if you’ve ever been to sea, nobody sleeps on a boat over that speed," he said. "The wind blows through the rigging, so even if you wanted to sleep, when the rigging start to blow, you automatically wake up to make sure everything is okay on your boat. It’s just the wind; it’s a bummer, you feel it, you pull up, you toss up and toss up, you toss up, you toss up, you toss up.

Overall, Pendleton says it’s all worth it, and that he wouldn’t trade his life on a boat for anything. "I have two younger brothers who both thought, I was absolutely crazy when I bought the boat, but after having sailed around the world, and sending them pictures from Cornelia, I don’t think that there’s not everything in life is tied up inside that there lets garage," he said.

Anonymous storyteller number three was working at "Dollar General" when she had her experience with the not so pleasant side work.

"One night, this kid, who was about 13 years old, came back into my work. I had recognized him from the previous day, and he came back in to purchase the same thing he purchased the day before," said Anon three. "I thought this was a little weird, and it continued for about a week until one day something different happened. This time the kid said ‘I love you’ and I just stood there shocked. The kid, after seeing my expression, ran out crying saying that I am a dirty who’ve. I never saw that kid again.’"
If you’re in the mood for something that’s funny and a little less science fiction-orientated, like “Ender’s Game,” then “Last Vegas” may just be the movie for you.

It’s currently out in theatres with the big hitter, “Ender’s Game,” but unlike Ender’s Game, which deals with youth, “Last Vegas” has to do with the other side of the spectrum: old age. You might be surprised to find a fresh take on this old and tired idea, pun intended.

In “Last Vegas” there are four old friends who have grown up together and now find themselves in their twilight years. The traditional stereotypes make an appearance. You have the widowed and grumpy old man (Robert De Niro), a man who is treated like a child by his family because of his past ailments (Morgan Freeman), a fellow who has lost his spark and feels trapped in his suburban life (Kevin Kline) and the sixty-something who is dating a woman half his age (Michael Douglas).

The group originally plans to stay at a nice, slow-paced casino, but fate throws them a curve-ball and they find themselves transported to Aria, one of the most happening resorts on the strip. As they sort through their own issues and the pitfalls of aging, they have to negotiate their place in a scene that is predominantly for the young. The cast plays up their age in spectacular fashion, never hiding from it, but embracing all the jokes that come with it.

The premise of the movie sounds familiar, a group of really good mates coming together to throw a legendary bachelor party, but it is more than just a movie about one big party. This film has heart at the center of it. The character’s themselves are what matters.

I was surprised by this film. Although it opens with a gratuitous and disturbing scene where the elderly are shaking their butts in a water aerobics class, I found this film funnier and classier than expected. Each player in the game finds some reconciliation to their own troubles associated with aging. This film cleverly points out what is inevitable to us all, growing old, yet shows us that the good times don’t have to stop just because we can’t move those hips like we used to.

by ANDREW LIGUEZ
entertainment reporter

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photos courtesy of HOLLYWOOD.COM
After watching the newly released "Carrie," I cannot decide whether I like the original 1976 Sissy Spacek version better, or the newly reimaged version starring Chloe Moretz. In a perfect world, I would take bits and pieces from both to create an ultimate version, because they are both great in their own rights.

At first it was really difficult for me to get Spacek's embodiment of Carrie out of my mind. Carrie is a young woman who is overly shy due to the fact that her super religious mother has kept her extremely sheltered. The 2013 version played on, almost to the same second, as the 1976 version.

The most extreme change that I noticed was the portrayal of the mother character. Julianne Moore did a phenomenal job at playing Carrie's mother in the reimaging version. There was a complete transformation, for the better, I believe. In the first Carrie, the mom is all about Jesus, knocking on peoples doors with a smile on her face wanting to save the poor sinners of her town. While in the Moore version, Carrie's mom is portrayed as an introverted, stand offish, religious, psychopath. Digging sharp objects into her skin to void the pain of having to actually talk to people was a genius idea, so kudos to Kimberly Pierce, director of the reimaging of Carrie.

I would take Moore as the mom for Carrie and Sissy Spacek as Carrie pre-prom. Then I would take Chloe Moretz as Carrie post-prom disaster when she goes on a telekinetic rampage and kills a bunch of people.

There you have it, the perfect remake of Carrie. If I had to choose, and this is rare to say, overall, I would choose the reimaging over the original. Leave all those corny sound effects in the past.

by MARINA CANTU
entertainment reporter

Alex Rubio is an acclaimed artist currently being featured at the Islander Art Gallery. Rubio is from the housing projects of west San Antonio where he lived for about 18 years with his mother. At the age of sixteen he decided to express his interest in art using a can of black spray paint. According to the San Antonio artist’ website, Rubio explores the past and present through the iconography of his personal and cultural identity. Rubio's work articulates the bonds that connect and promote an inter-generational dialogue within and beyond his community.

Doing this attracted the attention of his mentor, an art director of the community who was in charge of the murals in the area. At 17, Rubio was promoted to designer, and became a mural instructor at 18. These early experiences in the non-profit art world helped open future doors for Rubio. His resume includes working with inmates and children.

Rubio is currently working with Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum, where he selects a group of high school students to work on murals in the community. The artists' latest works are currently being put on display at the Islander Art Gallery where the exhibit will run until Nov. 27. The gallery is open weekends from noon to six and is located at 4024 Weber Road in the Hamlin Shopping Center and is free to the public.

by ANDREW LIGUEZ
reporter
On racism and the Internet

The quickest guide to maintain your image as a non-racist without having to name your two brown friends

The Internet provides all of us with a variety of uses. I don’t know when the last time it was that I actually spent a day without it (I probably do and have managed to suppress it because it was probably terrible). The web provides me with everything from giving me somewhere to do my homework to basic information on what noise my air conditioning is making to letting me do my job to keeping in touch with my family. The Internet! It’s the bees knees, and as much as I hate to admit it sometimes, it keeps me functioning.

That being said, I understand that sometimes other people are on the Internet and sometimes they like to say really stupid, really racist things. I get it. You’re looking at a screen by yourself in that t-shirt you were wearing last night and your hair is still wet and the only living thing that can currently judge you is your cat. You’re comfortable and sometimes when we get comfortable, we get stupid.

Stop. Stop it right now. Before you comment on your friends status with your superb knowledge of that subject you read on Gawker, just take a minute and actually ask yourself if you know anything that you’re actually about to type.

This past weekend, a local city organizer and activist named Jenny Espino posted a status on the great website some people like to use called Facebook asking white people to please take a second to learn about the holiday known as Dia De Los Muertos before they take part in painting their faces and getting insensitive in public. Not only has Espino spent over a decade in anti-racist work and given presentations in state-wide conferences on civil rights and racial issues, she is also an actual member of the Mexican-American group that Dia De Los Muertos is also a part of. To say that she knows something about the subject is a bit of an understatement.

Queue the nonsense. A deluge of comments from people crying reverse-racism to white people naming their brown credentials to unrealistic detached fools claiming that we’re living in a post racist society so can’t we just all get along filled her Facebook wall.

Besides the fact that I also shared the same opinion of the Facebook status and that Espino is a fellow organizer and friend, what struck me as the most off-putting thing about the thread is the number of people who managed to get upset that they were being asked to take a minute and research something about the culture they were trying to participate in. This is part of what is so annoying about the entire issue.

The only thing I ever ask from people is to put in the effort, especially if the action you’re partaking in is hurtful and people have already told you that it’s hurtful. I thought that when most people would realize that their actions are causing someone harm they would immediately want to stop and figure out why instead of crying about the fact that they couldn’t participate in said action anymore.

Maybe that’s me being a softie, or actually expecting folks to be able to display logical sequence of actions. Who knows, really?

What I do want people to understand is that it is not a person of color’s responsibility to educate you on why your behaviors or viewpoints are offensive. If you can’t understand basic concepts like a history filled with colonization and imperialism that cannot be washed away no matter how much you claim that that is not your fault, then we literally have nothing to talk about. Do not expect people to hold your racist hand and walk you through why you’re failing as a decent human being. Do not expect an impromptu race relations 101 course or get upset when you’ve been blocked for being an unreasonable troll.

So before you go to hit “comment” on a subject on the next thread you find, open up a new tab. Then, go to your favorite search engine, even if it is Ask Jeeves, and educate yourself. Do it quick before we all realize how dumb and culturally insensitive you are.

On racism and the Internet

A mock movie poster was shared on the Internet after Walt Disney announced that they planned to trademark the Mexican-American holiday Dia De Los Muertos. After a burst of protest, the company withdrew the request.
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