

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE UNIVERSITY

THE LAKE FRONT

NEWS FOR THE STUDENTS. BY THE STUDENTS.

APRIL

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ANGELA CLARK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**DESTINY
CAMACHO**
CO-EDITOR

JC WOLLSLAGER
GRAPHIC
DESIGNER

**WILLIAM
MORIARTY**
HEAD REPORTER

RICKY SALADANA
STEPHANIE GARZA
ALEXA SAAVEDRA
MARANIA SALAZAR

REPORTERS

JUAN OLAZABA
MARKETING
MANAGER

CHLOE M. BROWN
SOCIAL MEDIA
MANAGER

**EILENE
WOLLSLAGER**
FACULTY ADVISOR

**SOUTH TEXAS
PRESS
PRINTER**

**THE LAKE
FRONT
STUDENT
NEWS**
Our Lady of the
Lake University
411 S.W. 24th
St.
San Antonio, TX
78207
(210)-528-6739
lakefrontollu.com

Cover Art by:
JC Wollslager

To Arm, Or Not To Arm: That Is The Question?



By Stephanie Garza

The school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 people dead ignited a debate over whether teachers should be armed in the classroom. The idea to arm teachers really took off after President Trump expressed his support over Twitter and during a discussion on school safety at the White House Feb. 22. President Trump said in a tweet:

“Armed educators (and trusted people who work within a school) love our students and will protect them. Very smart people. Must be firearms adept & have annual training. Should get yearly bonus. Shootings will not happen again - a big & very inexpensive deterrent. Up to States.”

The position to arm and train teachers is also one Trump shares with the National Rifle Association.

People on both sides of this debate have spoken out on social media to support their stance. It matters how people feel about arming teachers, but the bigger question is whether it will be effective. Associate Professor and Program Head of Political Science at Our Lady of the Lake University, Leda Barnett said, “It absolutely would not be effective. There have been numerous instances (some within the past few weeks) where very well-trained law enforcement has mistakenly fired their weapon. More guns do not equate with more safety.” While some believe President Trump’s proposal is unrealistic, some schools, including a few in Texas, already arm teachers and they say it can be done right.

If anyone thought that the proposal from President Trump would be forgotten after

a few days, they might want to think again. Days after the shooting, Florida Gov. Rick Scott signed into state law new gun restrictions that included a provision which allows teachers to arm themselves. The “Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act” raises the age to buy all firearms to 21 and imposes a three-day waiting period for most gun purchases. The measure also allows trained school workers to carry handguns. When asked if she believes OLLU would opt out of any legislation that allows teachers to carry on campus like they did with the “Campus Carry” bill, Barnett said, “Yes, I do. I’m grateful to teach at OLLU, where safety and the values of the CDPs are carried out. Arming teachers is not consistent with the values of the CDPs.” If she was required to carry a gun on campus, Barnett said she would retire or find another job. “Even if it were voluntary, I would feel threatened and fearful if I knew my colleagues were armed,” said Barnett.

As someone who was raised in a hunting family in the South, Barnett said she respects the Second Amendment and thinks that people do have the right to bear arms. “My dad and brother hunted deer because we were poor, and it provided a lot of meat for our family. But that is different, because it’s a personal choice, and it is at home (or in the woods),” said Barnett. She also sees the potential for more harm than good. “A classroom should be a safe space, one where students feel relaxed and comfortable to express themselves freely. That is the root of academic freedom that forms the basis of what academia stands for,” said Barnett.

Talk of arming teachers has taken over social

media and multiple people have pointed out their concerns about armed teachers posing a threat to students of color. Barnett agrees that the proposal could potentially impact minorities. Barnett explained, “As we have seen with what the Black Lives Matter movement has highlighted, those with the ability to use force legally often abuse their power, especially where minorities are involved. Students should be able to trust their teachers, not fear them.”

Like any proposal, there are always questions that need to be answered. Determining where the money will come from, who will carry out training and who will pay for the guns and background checks are some of the questions Barnett wants answered. “Already, school funding for the arts, special education, ESL and other programs has been cut. Why not spend the money for arming teachers on these programs instead?” said Barnett.

With the proposal to arm teachers gaining legislative support in some states, Barnett said this wasn’t a topic she imagined she would be having when she was studying to become a teacher.

“The only things I thought about were the typical things a professor should think about - how to be an effective and empowering educator, how to inspire my students, what research I want to work on, and how I can contribute to my university. If I had wanted to bear arms, I would have gone into law enforcement. I frankly am sickened that this is even a topic of discussion.”

OLLU Receives More Than 20 Awards At TIPA

By Lake Front Staff

A group of Our Lady of the Lake University mass communication students recently had the opportunity to compete and gain experience at the 2018 Texas Intercollegiate Press Association conference in Dallas.

Six students had the opportunity to represent OLLU by competing in various competitions and to attend various media workshops. Attendees at the conference included over 30 colleges and universities from the state of Texas. The competitions included areas of press release writing, print advertisement, Spanish news anchoring, feature writing and many more. OLLU student, Br. Montie Chavez placed third in the on-site yearbook design competition.

Professor of journalism and mass communication, Eilene Wollslager accompanied OLLU students and commended the convention saying, "The Texas Intercollegiate Press Association is the oldest journalistic organization at the collegiate level in the United States. It's 109 years old and offers students the opportunity to network, to learn and to compete against each other in a variety of journalistic expressions. It's a great experience for students and it was very fortunate that OLLU students were able to participate in this year."

The convention concluded with an awards breakfast where different students were recognized for their work, and scholarships were awarded to participants. At the end of the breakfast was the recognition of awards of pre-submitted work, overall OLLU took home more than 20 awards in different categories. (Awards are listed at the end of the article.)

OLLU junior Denise Coronel shared her highlights of attending saying, "My favorite part of TIPA was the people that I went with. Not only are they my friends but we encouraged each other, and we kept each others heads up, no matter what. Even when we thought that we had failed, it turns out we did amazing."

Next year the 2019 TIPA conference will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas. For more information about TIPA visit texasipa.org.

Awards List

First Place General News -
Denise Coronel "Immigrants"

Honorable Mention General News -
Maria Elena Cruz "Sisters Protest"

Honorable Mention Photo Illustration -
J.C. Wollslager "Pilgrimage"

Second Place Photo Illustration -
J.C. Wollslager "Deported"

First Place Photo Illustration -
J.C. Wollslager "Graduation"

Second Place Illustration -
J.C. Wollslager "Divided States"

First Place Illustration -
J.C. Wollslager "Tragedy"

First Place Multimedia Feature -
Maria Elena Cruz "Student Internship"

Third Place Sports Feature Story -
Brianna Henson "Stacy Stephens"

Third Place Critical Review -
Br. Montie Chavez "Tex Mex"

First Place Program Production Video -
J.C. Wollslager, Chloe Brown,
Destiny Camacho, Alexis Navarro
"Entertainment"

Third Place Cover Design Newspaper -
J.C. Wollslager "March"

Second Place Cover Design Newspaper -
J.C. Wollslager "May"

Third Place Overall Excellence -
Newspaper

First Place Newscast Video -
Dec. 1

First Place Newscast Spanish -
Dec 1

First Place Overall Excellence Website -
lakefrontollu

First Place Overall Design -
Website

First Place Overall Design Newspaper -
December

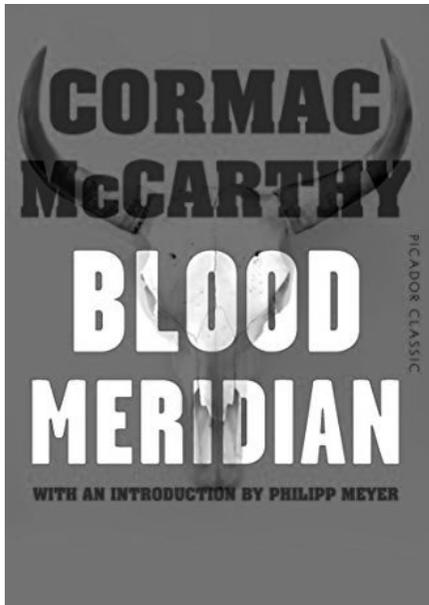
**First Place Overall Excellence Television
Program -** Lake Front



Pictured in order as follows: J.C. Wollslager, Dr. Eilene Wollslager, Destiny Camacho, Denise Coronel, Chloe Brown, Stephanie Garza, Br. Montie Chavez

Book Reviews By Ricky Saladana

BLOOD MERIDIAN OR THE EVENING REDNESS IN THE WEST Author Cormac McCarthy



Courtesy Photo

In Cormac McCarthy's Southwestern classic, *Blood Meridian or the Evening Redness in the West*, an unnamed kid with violent tendencies runs away to start exploring his cynical ideologies of himself and of the world around him.

After viewing various violent occurrences that are orchestrated by other powerful characters, the kid is recruited into a pseudo-army to attack Mexican land and claim it for the United States.

As soon as the captain equips the kid with a horse and rifle, the filibuster is immediately attacked by Comanche warriors and most of the army is killed, save for the kid and a few others. Having escaped, the kid is arrested but is then quickly released from jail because his cellmate assured the jailer that they were a part of Glanton's scalp hunting gang.

The majority of the book removes the focus from the kid and instead shifts the focus on different members of the gang while having little snippets concerning Judge Holden, who is not a judge. The gang meanders through the desert killing and scalping anyone and everyone, and more or less continues to meander through various barren landscapes for the remainder of the narrative. After a plethora of sedate murder scenes of both Yuma and Americans, the kid again wanders the

west for decades, eventually becoming "the man" as called by the narrator. The man made his way to Fort Griffin where he meets Judge Holden at a saloon and after a short argument; the man hires a prostitute and leaves. Later on, the man opens a stall in the jakes and finds the judge completely nude and waiting for him; he beckoned him to slide into his arms and to shut the door behind him, leaving the reader with disturbing yet erotic hauntings.

The narrative of the overall novel seems to be very one note, as violence drips and permeates every aspect of the narrative's plot points to the extent that it slows the plot progression to a grinding halt. The first few times a brutal massacre appears in the narrative, the scenes are not motivated and seemingly come out of nowhere, which sets a tone for violent nihilism; however, by the tenth time a group of minorities is slaughtered, the violence loses all traces of poignancy and becomes slog to read through. The hanging entrails and body mutilation do not even faze the reader as the initial shock of the first few instances have already worn off.

Perhaps in 1985 the gore could have been horrifying or, at the very least, shocking; however now the violence is not even palatable. It becomes a chore to slog through yet another five paragraph murder scene. At some points in the text, the reader can infer that the author wrote a superfluous amount of violence for the shock factor alone.

A large portion of the narrative is spent watching the filibuster and Glanton's gang wander through the desert, which in and of itself becomes a chore. Watching a group of underdeveloped characters meander through deserts and describe their various neuroses through no other means but spitting and pissing is not only sedate and boring but also arduous. The only instance when the protagonist actively interacts with the environment is when he hides from Judge Holden and uses the environmental influences as protection. The only other instance where any characters interact with the environment is when the judge makes handmade gunpowder.

Every other time is just the gang riding through; being described as "they rode on" which becomes incredibly boring.

The narrative proper switches focus from the kid to Captain White then to Glanton then to Judge Holden then it hops back and forth between these characters creating a tonal dissonance which can not only confuse the reader but also anger them as the character arcs of the protagonist and the main characters are weakened and flooded by unnecessary focus shifts. These confusing tonal problems, in addition to the fact that the author neglects to include quotation marks or a clear line dictating who is speaking and who is describing, create a narrative DMZ. Only after slowly meandering in plot cul-de-sacs with various characters, the kid becomes a man, and largely does not change.

One can get the impression that the kid was meant to be a canvas for the reader to project themselves onto, however as a character with motivations and arcs, the kid falls flat and ultimately learns nothing. His want for savage murder and a warrior lifestyle is met yet his need is neither established nor confirmed. The kid is ultimately a flat screen and nothing more. Though the judge is a fascinating character, the narrative does away with the judge's character by keeping aspects of his personality a secret by having none of the main characters ask any questions for the sake of mystery.

Overall, the text is bloated and the plot is meandering and pandering. The dramatic death scenes fall flat and the character arcs are almost nonexistent creating a narrative with no purpose other than to shock and disturb. The historical factors, namely government officials paying for the murder of Native Americans, are worth discussion but not within the framing *Blood Meridian*. That is ultimately the problem with *Blood Meridian*, the framing of the story is all over the place and cannot seem to rest on any sort of production value aside from shock and gore.

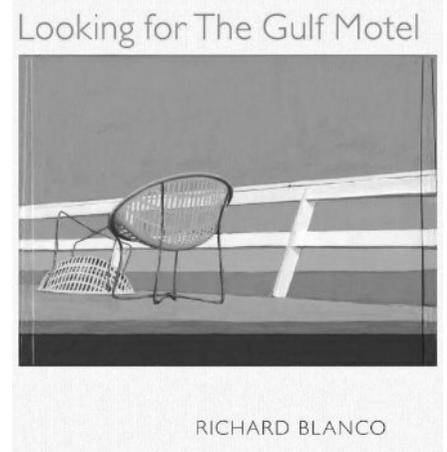
LOOKING FOR THE GULF MOTEL
Author Richard Blanco

Richard Blanco's reminiscent and nostalgic collection of poems *Looking for the Gulf Motel*, extrapolates impactful relationships and defining character traits within an adult queer man, looking back into his childhood living in Miami. This recollection gives way to formulating specific instances in his early life that not only contributed to his queer identity, but his Cuban-American identity as well. The assumption that all of the poems are interconnected becomes easy to formulate because so many of the poems share a plethora of common themes and a multitude of shared metaphors, namely of family members, the ocean and time.

Though the hesitant nature of the narrator throughout the collection is not without standing, *Looking for the Gulf Motel*, speaks to the nostalgic and temporal fixation on the formulation of identity, especially throughout our formative years, through cultural osmosis and consumerism.

Beginning with the titular poem, *Looking for the Gulf Motel*, the narrator describes immediate nostalgia and reminiscence for his childhood vacation spot whenever his parents would take him to the small but quaint gulf motel in Miami, bringing with them food and cooking equipment to last them the week.

The narrator recalls everything with the phrase "There should be nothing here I don't remember" that gives way to the repeated romanticizing of memories, especially childhood memories. One specific



Courtesy Photo

Book Reviews By Ricky Saladana Continued

instance of his nostalgia is the image of his parents dancing on the balcony to the waves, only focusing on the temporal and ephemeral euphoria of a simple sway.

The narrator repeats “There should be nothing here I don’t remember” as he recalls more romanticized memories of his past. However, the lovely imagery of years past is now affronted with horrific imagery of capitalist gentrification and bourgeois ideology of consumption and decadence, positing the desire for a recapture of the simpler, more accessible luxury of a simple motel by the gulf.

Most of the collection recalls lovely and endearing cultural snapshots of the narrator’s childhood, critical people in his life, and how those experiences, ultimately culminated into the persona he has created. Additionally, the narrator has a very central but very subtle aggression toward the upper classes and how they continually destroy the ideal image of Miami and his culture by way of gentrification and cultural appropriation, as if the consumption of the physical space where he learned to form his identity, coupled with the cultural consumption, leads him down a wandering path of pseudo-self-loathing. He feels violated and powerless to stop the perversion of his cultural space and his treasured childhood.

However, throughout the narratives of the collection, though it may seem romantic to go back into a simpler time, the notion in and of itself is completely reactionary and leads to more cultural ignorance concerning intersectionality of identity, the queer and Cuban identity in the case of the narrator, as the past has caused him some strain on his most cherished relationships, like with his father and his aunt.

Whether it was family members calling him out to act more masculine or have more machismo, or even to treat women the way men do, according to his male family members, the narrator is bombarded by a cacophony of authoritative voices telling him that his identity is invalid and should be changed.

The narrator’s queer identity is primarily explored in two fashions: by his romantic relationships in his adulthood and the passive homophobia from his family in childhood and adolescence. Though these metrics of developing

character arcs and identity formation purely from a sexual context and confrontations from family members can be limiting, in the sense that the character will only be reactive in lieu of proactive, the narrator’s character arc throughout the collection culminates with the narrator, now a beleaguered and world-weary man of poetry, remembering the critical moments of his life, both beneficial and provocative, after his grandfather died.

In the second to last poem of the collection, *Some Days the Sea*, the narrator visits his childhood shore and emulates his own experiences at different points in his life: with wonder in his childhood, adventure in his adolescence, and contemplation in his adulthood. Each memory builds on his existential-time crisis on whether the reactionary response to go back into a simpler, arguably more ignorant, time is feasible or valid. The ending poem, aptly titled *Since Unfinished*, is more than likely the most ubiquitous out of all the poems. Confronted with a horrendous yet appeasing introspection of his life and childhood that is crippled by the fact that one of the most important masculine figures in his life is now dead gives way for the narrator to not only begin to process his childhood memories as simply that, memories, but to also learn to move about in a world that is not created by his nostalgia.

Looking for the Gulf Motel is a singular narrative told through metaphor, the narrator is a broken and unhappy man who copes with his disillusionment through introspection and nostalgia of his childhood. This, however, becomes detrimental to his persona as he is only what he can recall in his memories which are mirrored by the emptiness of the ocean in earlier poems. The narrator then begins his own healing process when confronted by the idea of his childhood dying and him coming to terms with that, thrusting him into the present and the ephemeral. This flow of metaphor creates a cautionary tale for the audience that nostalgia should not override the participation within the present as cultural traditions and the memories of loved ones will continually keep that fondness for the past alive.

Prepare For Finals

By Mariana Salazar

With less than a month left in the semester students are busy preparing for their last tests. The formula to getting the highest possible outcome is different for every individual, yet certain tips seem to be useful for everyone.

Without a doubt, preparation is the key to success. It’s noticeable when a student has used all their resources and walks in to take a test feeling confident. Planning is essential, and to perform at your highest potential, you must avoid procrastination at all costs. The first step to planning, is setting your priorities. Know the dates to all your tests and have a clear understanding of what each test will be asking. Then give each class the amount of studying needed, including revising what you already understand, researching what you don’t and having questions to ask your professor to explain before the test date.

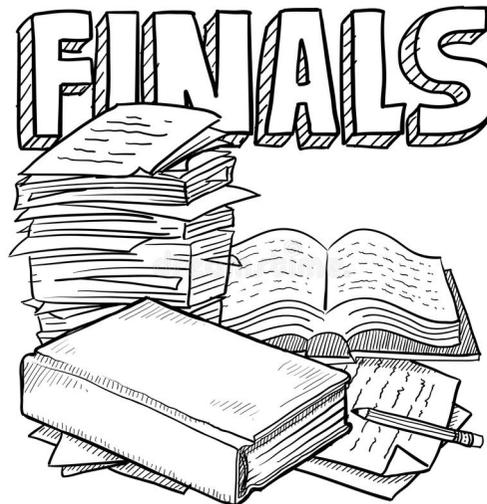
Aside from managing your time, a very important step of preparation, is learning how to use all of your resources. Every professor has office hours, and that is the perfect time for one-on-one learning. No part of any lesson, should be left unclear; ask as many questions as needed! However, many times study problems are not due to not understanding the subject, but rather from an outside factor. The Student Success Center aids in time management, studying habits, and tips on how to stay on task. Tutoring is also available, with advising to ensure every student gets the help they need. Student Success Dean, George Williams encourages students to take advantage of these resources being offered.

“We know it’s time-consuming and takes extra effort for a student to find time to come by and take advantage of everything the Student Success Center offers, but it’s worth it. You definitely see a result, students leave prepared, and their grades definitely reflect it.” Williams says.

A major component in learning how to study, is knowing what environment meets your studying needs. Every person requires different components to stay focused, so experimenting doing homework in different places can help find your best studying location. The two key components in any location are noise level and lighting. Some people work best in bright areas with a lot of noise, others in deem and quiet places, and some in the many in between combinations. Libraries are great for people who like to study in silence with artificial light. Living rooms provide a calm and casual vibe, while coffee shops are for people who enjoy background noise. Study lounges are great because they tend to provide additional resources such as computers and printers.

Music and company must also be taken into consideration. Music does not work for everybody and must be excluded if it’s making concentration harder. If music, helps you then the second step is knowing what genre helps you retain the most information. Company can also turn out to be more of a distraction if not planned correctly. Study groups can be good because someone may know the answer to one of your questions and vice versa. Some people like to be around other people studying because it motivates them, however do not interact with them.

Finals reflect what you learned throughout the semester, so there should be no cramming the night before, simply revisiting what you learned. Using all resources available in advance will earn you a higher grade.



Running Into Fiesta

By Alex Escobar

During April, San Antonio becomes more alive. This is due to the city-wide celebration known as Fiesta. Fiesta celebrates the rich and diverse culture of San Antonio and Our Lady of the Lake is helping kick off Fiesta this year with their 2nd annual 5K Confetti Run and Walk.

Elizabeth Longoria is the University Events manager and is one of the people who helped create this event. Longoria likes to participate in marathons around the city and in December 2016, she got the idea of having a run at OLLU to help bring attention to the west side of San Antonio.

Longoria brought the idea to Dr. Diane Melby, the President of Our Lady of the Lake University.

"Elmendorf park, which is located near OLLU, was just recently renovated so I brought the idea to Dr. Melby who thought that it was a good idea." With the green light from the president, Longoria and her team got to work planning the first Confetti run.

With the help of Adrienne Rodriguez, the Associate Athletic and Campus Recreation Director, the Marketing team and the Development team, Longoria and her team had the first run ready to go for April 1, 2017. Longoria was thankful for the help she had received from her colleagues. "It takes a team to make this happen. I couldn't have done it without them."

The run took place Saturday, April 14th and the proceeds made from the

run benefit OLLU student scholarships. "Every penny made from the run goes to scholarships... we are really thankful for our sponsors," said Longoria.

To register for the Confetti run, Longoria said the fee was \$45 on the day of the race and \$40 from March 31 – April 13. The registration fee was \$35 dollars up until March 30. Longoria also adds that children under the age of 12 were able to run free with their parent's registration. A promo code was also available for OLLU student, faculty and staff if you emailed Elizabeth Longoria at elongoia@ollusa.edu.

All participants registered received a packet which included a t-shirt, a medal designed by Kathy Maule who is the assistant director of graphic design at OLLU, a drawstring bag, and a runner's bib.

The first run saw a turnout of 611 people which broke the original goal of 150 people. The 2nd annual 5K Confetti run and walk was looking to reach a goal of 800 people. "Right now, we have 570 registrations but I'm confident that we will reach our goal," said Longoria. An award ceremony was held for the runners who came in first for both male and female age groups with also the overall top two male and female runners overall.

The race began at 9 a.m. and had vendors with food, drinks for all ages, bands and performers set up for the duration of the event. Around 900 people came out to celebrate and kick off fiesta with a colorful bang!

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE UNIVERSITY
5K Confetti
RUN & WALK
Saturday, April 14, 2018

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REGISTER ONLINE AT
www.ollusa.edu/5K

Join the 5K Confetti run and walk
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Registration Fees

\$35 until March 30

\$40 March 31 - April 13

\$45 Race Day

\$20 OLLU faculty, staff and students with promo code

\$10 discount promo code available to:

- OLLU alumni
- Corporate teams of 10 or more

Email elongoria@ollusa.edu for code

Free Kids Fun Run

- Open to children 12 and under
- You must register to participate
- Includes medal
- Option to purchase T-shirt when registering

Race Day Schedule

7:30 a.m. Registration and Packet pickup

8:45 a.m. Kids Fun Run

9 a.m. Race begins

10:30 a.m. Awards

Packet Pickup

Friday, April 13 • Noon - 6 p.m.

Our Lady of the Lake University

University Wellness Activities Center • Room 104

411 SW 24th Street, San Antonio, Texas 78207

Packet includes - T-shirt, customized bib, finisher medal and drawstring bag.

Awards

First overall Female/Male

Top 3 Female/Male in the following age groups:

1-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+

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Binge Watch

By Chloe Brown

The phenomena of watching a whole series in one sitting is not lost on college students. In fact, binge watching has become a perfected talent amongst students, and here is an article on the top five shows that you should binge this month if you haven't already.

5. Marvel Runaways

Where to watch: Hulu Seasons: 1



The Marvel Universe is starting to get out of hand, but those of you who are Marvel movie junkies then this series is an absolute must. Who doesn't like stories about a girl with a dinosaur, boys with fist-agents, magical staffs, and of course a girl whose power is turning sparkly pink? This story is a bit more about relationships rather than just super powers, but it still has a good story line that any drama lover can enjoy.

4. The Tick

Where to watch: Amazon Prime Seasons: 2



Like shows that honestly make you say, "What?" If that's the case then you should head over to Amazon and watch the Tick. The nonsensical nature of the story does not hinder the action or the story line. You can't help but laugh while watching. This is definitely a show for those who like adventure, action and tons of silly comedy. I have yet to watch the old series, but the new series is a sure winner.

3. Travelers on Netflix

Where to watch: Netflix Seasons: 2



For all of you who are on the edge of whether or not science fiction is for you, this show is a great introduction to the genre. This show takes place in our world, but with the twist of travelers from the future who are underneath the guise of being people who were supposed to die. There are currently two seasons out of the show and every episode will have you wondering what will happen next.

2. The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel

Where to watch: Amazon Prime Seasons: 1



This is a not a story for those who can't handle a little bit of swearing, but it is a story for those who are in love with comedy. Miriam Maisel is your classic house wife who is living the perfect nuclear family until she finds out that her husband cheats on her. Her life begins to spiral out of control and in a funny turn of life she turns to stand-up comedy. It's the kind of show you watch if you like historical pieces, but you're not a history buff.

1. One Day at a Time

Where to watch: Netflix Seasons: 2



There is no proper amount of praise that this show can receive. This comedy is about a Cuban family just moving through life. Although that doesn't seem like the most exciting, the humor in the show is sure to make anyone laugh. The story deals with real problems like what's it like to be woman of color, having PTSD, growing up in white America, and so many more issues. However, this show doesn't take itself seriously.

I Got It At The Really Really Free Market

By Ricky Saladana

Operating for over two years and feeding hot vegan food to the homeless, Food Not Bombs San Antonio held a free market to celebrate its two year anniversary.

Food Not Bombs, a loosely knit group of independent collectives, which serves hot and homemade vegan and vegetarian food with grocery and bakery surplus that would otherwise go to waste. Starting in 1980 in New Hampshire, independent franchises of Food Not Bombs have sprung up all around the country. The ideology behind the organization is anti-capitalist, Food Not Bombs attempts to show that communal and collective volunteerism is much more compatible with human needs, specifically hunger. With the intent to spark a revolutionary force within the impoverished and homeless, Food Not Bombs feeds anyone who asks for it with a smile. However, food does not satisfy every need for a person and as such, the members of Food Not Bombs SA also provide toiletries and hygiene products for everyone who comes to the servings. After two years of working with the community near Healy-Murphy park, Food Not Bombs held a Really Really Free Market to celebrate its anniversary. People were welcomed to bring whatever clothing, electronics, books, etc. and to take whatever they wanted. Every single item and service was completely free of charge. There were members offering electronic

repair, deep tissue massages, and live musical performances to anyone who needed them.

Primarily consisting of Anarchists and Communists, literature over leftist theory was taught along with small discussions with the people. There were many members who discussed that, under capitalism, food is not a necessity, but rather a commodity; instead of giving the food to the needy, it is more cost effective to destroy it. That is capitalism's deepest crux.

The Really Really Free Market rang with a massive success, as families came in droves to collect food, clothing, and small luxuries, nearly sweeping off the entirety of the inventory at the market. After the market began to wind down and the food had all been eaten, members collected the rest of the left over clothing and donated it to independent thrift stores. One member mentioned how they never donate to Good Will, as the corporation has been known to price gouge their clients with obscene price tags on their clothing.

Though Food Not Bombs serves food without a permit to subvert civil authority, it continues to fill a need in a particularly vulnerable section of the city. The organization invites anyone with an open mind and heart to feed the homeless.

Food Not Bombs SA serves hot fresh vegan and vegetarian food every Sunday at 3 p.m. at Healy-Murphy Park.



REALLY REALLY FREE MARKET & DONATION DRIVE

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Bring what you can, take what you need! If bringing items, please stay with them the entirety of the market. Please, no broken toys or dirty clothes. Visit our Facebook @ FoodNotBombsSA for more information.

Most needed donations: non-perishables, pasta, beans, rice, spices, packs of socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, wet wipes

Artwork by Bizhan of Mended Arrow www.MendedArrow.com

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OLLU Alumni Putting ‘Community’ Back In The Alamo Community Colleges

By Ricky Saladana

Alumnus James Hernandez is running for the Board of Trustees District 5 position for the Alamo Community Colleges.

Born, raised, and educated in the Las Palmas area of San Antonio, James Hernandez works as a case manager for Roy Maas Youth Alternatives. He is fighting for more resources for non-traditional students, more opportunities for professors to earn tenure, and for more in-person classes. He is running against Roberto Zárate, the representative for District 5 and retired principal of Mary Hull Elementary School and Ramiro Nava, Somerset ISD’s executive director of support services. I recently had the opportunity to meet with Hernandez to discuss his plans and platforms for the upcoming election on May 5th.

Ricky Saldana: What is your platform/ interest in changing the Alamo Colleges?

James Hernandez: Our Community Colleges play a major role in the success of our youth and the impact these youth have on the future of our city and beyond. My goals for when I am elected to the Board of Trustees of Alamo Community College District keep the community at the center of decisions that I will push to be made. San Antonio is the city I was born, raised, and educated. I have served the people in this city and my community through my various employment, community service, and participation in educational events. Because of these experiences I very much so consider San Antonio my city and the people of San Antonio my people. My years of working and going to school has taught me that education is the best form of understanding ourselves and others through the sharing of knowledge, stories, experiences, and opinions. For this reason I am committed to growing Alamo Community College District from a good institution to a great system grown by and for our communities.

I want to create the best community colleges that we can by providing easier ways for students to register for classes. I want to enable both traditional and non-traditional students to seamlessly apply to our colleges in their community, taking one more boundary out of the equation of attending a higher education institution.

I will keep our Community Colleges affordable. Keeping our Community Colleges affordable is important because our colleges serve as a bridge to higher institutions for youth in low income neighborhoods and first generation students in higher education. Our Community College District has a duty to ensure that our higher education system stays within financial

reach of students that want a 4-year degree from a higher education institution, but cannot afford one yet. I see our 2 year colleges as a stepping stone to higher degrees and a catalyst for life-long learning.

Our Community Colleges must consist of intergenerational classrooms. The experience one gets from a classroom of the same generation is very different from a classroom with multiple generations. Along with different age groups comes different points of view, different experiences, and alternative ways to approach a problem. I want to provide a broader spectrum of community events specifically with our senior citizen community. Programs that broaden their scope to include the older generation will, in turn, benefit our up and coming generation with the gift of wisdom that only years of experience can produce.

I’m focusing too on the quality of education that the Alamo Community Colleges is offering. It’s great to have completions, but let’s make sure that the quality of instruction remains high. I want to provide adequate support to the faculty while offering relevant, discipline-specific professional development. I will make sure that adjunct faculty are afforded a path to full time teaching and access to health benefits because almost 50% of the teaching faculty are part time instructors. And lastly, I am in favor of providing committed, community-focused professors tenure at our community colleges.

Most importantly, we need to listen to the students, faculty, and community in a more inclusive way. The Board of Trustees need to make themselves more accessible for these groups. I want to explore ways that we can do this beyond just monthly meetings downtown.

RS: What advantages do you have over your opponents?

JH: My roots are in San Antonio, San Antonio is my city. I was born raised and educated in San Antonio with my family dating back all the way back to Mission San Jose. I care for the people who live in this city, I feel like they are my people and I want us to do well as a whole. Education is the best way for my community to live a longer, healthier, and more enjoyable life in this city.

I graduated from college not too long ago. I know what it’s like to be a recent job-seeker, how competitive it can be, and how important technology has become to have an edge in the job market. I can bring relevance and perspective to the Board of Trustees.

RS: Do you have an online presence?



Courtesy: Votejameshernandez

JH: Yes, my website is votejameshernandez.com and my Facebook page is [votejameshernandez](https://www.facebook.com/votejameshernandez). We always welcome volunteers and donations to the campaign for the cost of fliers and signage. This is a community-run campaign I have no big money supporting me so helping me in any way would be greatly appreciated.

RS: What is your ultimate goal with the Board of Trustees?

JH: To bring the Board of Trustees out of the shadows. Our leadership needs to be accessible, relatable, and walk in the same steps our community members do. We must work together to get things done so students and our community can have better opportunities and improve their quality of life.

RS: What’s your slogan?

JH: “Bringing Community Back Into Our Community Colleges” This slogan came in response to the current goal of the current Board of Trustees and the former Chancellor of ACCD to rebrand the District as “Alamo College District”, literally taking the word “community” out of “community college.” My campaign and tenure, when elected, will be to keep our community involved in the name of our district, but also involved in the decisions made for our Community Colleges. Community is at the heart of why we do this work in the field of higher education.

A March For Women

By Ricky Saldana

The 28th annual International Women's Day march stomped down through downtown to throw down against patriarchy, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia.

On the cloudy Saturday morning, a variety of organizations, activists, and individuals marched alongside each other in the face of opposition, fierce flak from outside forces, and a largely uncaring political system. Over 300 people gathered in Columbus park and began their march towards Milam Park and were immediately greeted by a small group of fundamentalist counter-protesters. While the march held signs for equality and social progress, the counter-protesters jeered for women to remain in their domestic spheres and to give up any notions of equality. Several individuals could not resist the urge to provoke the counter-protesters, purely out of fun, some women would cheer over them or share a kiss. As the march continued, the route took a small detour towards the front of the Alamo, as dozens of tourists looked on in confusion and frustration, they persisted nevertheless. More reactionaries crawled out of the wood works to show exactly how patriarchy is still very much in ac-

tion, the sight of strong women invoking a deep anxiety of a woman's place in the world. This only shows how many more actions are needed to combat these counter-progressive notions.

Within the lines of the marchers, there was one that stood out in particular for their radical nature. Though they wanted to remain anonymous, they were still able to share some pointed thoughts about the prime objects of any social movement. Wearing all black with a red bandanna covering their face and a Soviet flag in their hand, they identified as agender with gender neutral pronouns with revolutionary notions of social change.

"Protests and marches should remain focused on a particular method of achieving that change. If they are government sanctioned or approved by the state, the revolutionary power of these marches is lost; they become parades."

When asked about why they came out to the women's march, the protester said, "I believe it's important to show solidarity with other organizations with a diversity of tactics. Some work better than others, but they are all nonetheless valid. It's also important to keep the mo-



Courtesy: Mujeres Marcharan

mentum going, protests don't end when everyone goes home. They continue until liberation and equality are achieved."

The protester then walked away to listen to the variety of speakers and poets discussing their intersections between

being women, being LGBT, being Chicana, which is ultimately how the march started and ended. How can this march spark and continue the momentum for women's equality and how will this act out in the future.

OLLU Students Participate In Active Shooter Training



By Alexa Saavedra

Courtesy Photo

As of March 27, 2018 there has been a total of 18 gun related shooting in schools across the United States. Some of these shooting occurred in states such as Texas, California, Michigan, and Florida. Still, fight against gun violence continues to stir up buzz in the media. Most of the attention the last few weeks was on the March of our Lives movement, which occurred on March 24th. The reactions to

the shootings have also brought the attention of Our Lady of the Lake University. On Thursday, March 22th, Sergeant Elliot and the OLLU Police Department facilitated active shooter training. The purpose of this training was to "make sure our students are going to be safe because we don't know when events like this can happen, we never know when it can happen on campus or near us," current resident assistant

and program coordinator for the active shooting training Michael Garcia stated.

OLLU PD is on duty 24 hours a day for 365 days out of the year. Is this protection enough to ensure events such as a school shooting do not occur on our campus? Criminal Justice student Lazaro Hernandez says "OLLU police patrolling on a constant note which brings more safety, I understand that we are located in the infamous "west side" but I personally feel that the perimeter around the campus is shielded by the Lord which is why there haven't been any of these monstrosities happening. Wings up, right?"

Movements like the March of our Lives has created awareness about the suffering and tiredness of the ones affected by the recent shootings. More schools are holding active shooter training and are encouraging students to report any suspicious activity.

"I hope they will continue to allow us to hold these types of training practices and also continue sending emergency emails, texts, and calls to ensure the university's emergency procedures are corresponding," Garcia continues.

For more information on OLLU PD or to report any suspicious activity and or emergency call 210-433-0911 (emergency only) or 210-431-4022 (non-emergency)

How To Become The Perfect Writer

By Ricky Saldana

There is really only one step: Don't show your writing to anyone. Lock it away, rip it to pieces, burn it if you have to, but never show anyone your writing.

This may appear to be counter-intuitive at first glance, but one must first think about the nature of perfection. Perfection, as defined by the Oxford English Dictionary, is "the most complete or perfect stage of growth or development of a person or thing." There is no more room or need for growth once something has reached perfection, it would only drive the value of the thing downward. To achieve perfection is to achieve stagnation; a cold inactivity waits for anyone who chooses to achieve perfection.

Writing is a living concept, it changes, it grows, and more importantly, it has the habit of revising and changing itself. When a writer reads their own prose, what may sound like genius today might sound amateurish tomorrow. Good writers are able to notice exactly what parts of prose need to be reworked, and great writers are able to boil down their writings to the pure essentials and expand it again. It's no surprise then that it was Ernest Hemingway who said, "The only kind of writing is rewriting," the very nature of writing lies on the foundation of revision and editing. In first drafts, the writing can be vague, unorganized, and confusing,

and though the writer may have had excellent ideas, they were not conveyed properly and when ideas aren't conveyed, the whole piece of writing is obsolete. Authorial intent may matter during the writing process, but at the end of the day, only audience remains. The author has the role to set up the medium of writing efficiently for the audience who will eventually read and interpret; writing is thus a conversation.



How does the nature of writing relate back to the statement of "perfect writing?" As previously discussed, perfection can be thought of as stagnation, and since writing thrives off of revisions, the only way writing can be perfected is if the author is the only audience. Perpetuating a cycle of incestuous creation, the prose won't have the opportunity to recreate itself, to keep its "genes" strong with fresh material. Without a second person to read and negotiate meaning

with the prose, it does not change effectively; it has achieved a perfect inactivity, a stagnation that will only be relieved if it is drafted and shown to others. However, once that occurs, the possibility for change emerges and the perfection concept becomes nullified. Perfection, thus, is only possible when the author and the audience is the same, without change or distinction.

The San Antonio River Rebirth

By William Moriarty

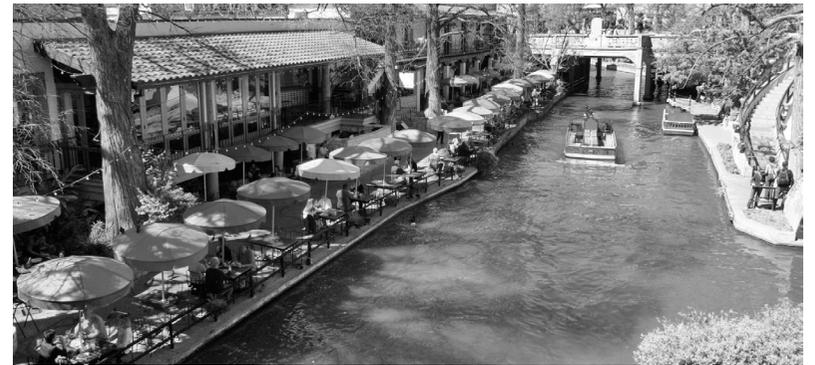
The central feature of the Riverwalk may be safe enough to swim in by 2020. The San Antonio River Authority is the official steward of the San Antonio River, and have made efforts since 2010 to meet their own standard, named the river health index, a complex system regarding the safety of the San Antonio River and its tributaries, the buildings and homes at risk of flooding within their area of influence and the general impact and awareness of the River Authority as a whole.

Steve Graham, River Authority assistant general manager, said the index started as a way of trying to "measure the unmeasurable." He acknowledged that the process is somewhat arbitrary since there's no right way to measure a river authority.

The staff of the River Authority is responsible for maintaining parks, sewer

lines, dams, and several wastewater treatment plants, but does not hold the same level of direct control on pollution that most environmental agencies can boast. Despite the limited power that the River Authority holds, they have made a considerable amount of progress to their self-set goals of having all segments of the San Antonio River safe to swim in by 2020, and the reduction of structures in danger of being in the floodplains regions, with two thirds of their premier goal achieved and the later goal completed to one third at the time of writing.

In 2017 the River Authority's hard work was recognized when the San Antonio River was awarded the Thiess International Riverprize beating out rivals of in the United Kingdom, Alaska and the Philippines.



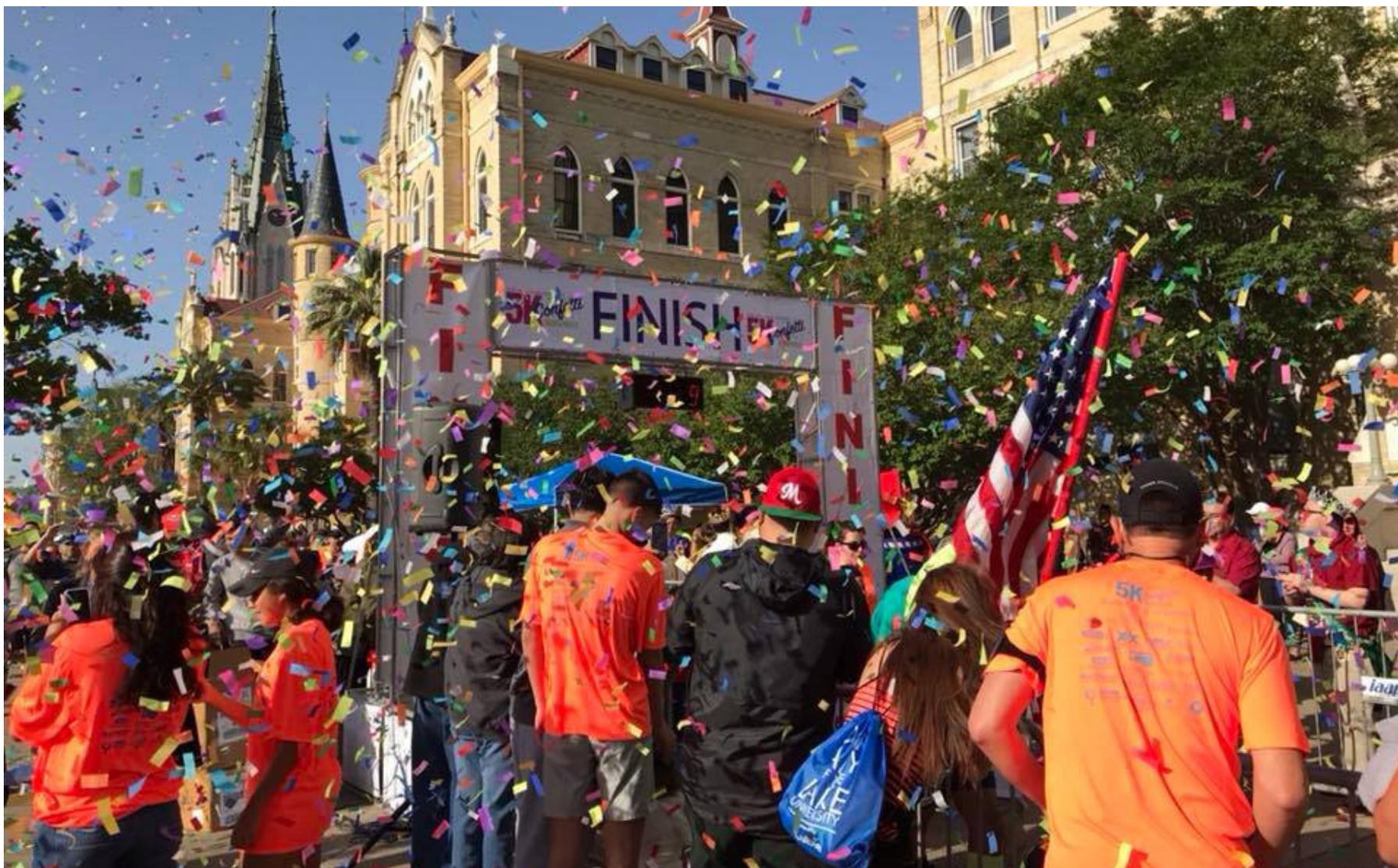
Courtesy Photo

Athlete Of The Month

Jazmine Garcia

Senior Jazmine Garcia is participating in her fourth and final year as part of the Saints Track and Field Team. So far this season, Jazmine has excelled at the Trinity Tiger Invite March 31, where she ran the 800m in 2:26.78 for ninth place and the 1500m in 5:03.10 for third place. At the UIW Spring Break Invite, Jazmine ran the 3000m in 10:46.60 for third place. Jazmine was also part of a record breaking group that ran the Distance Medley in 12:56.73 in the Third Annual Gorilla Indoor Classic in February. Jazmine is set to graduate this spring with a degree in Criminal Justice. She is a native of Zapata, Texas.





Courtesy: OLLU Marketing Communications



Courtesy: fiesta-sa.org

OLLU's second annual Confetti 5K Run & Walk April 14 raised more than \$10,000 in student scholarships and attracted more than 900 participants.



OLLU's 2018 Feista Medal.
For sale in the OLLU Bookstore for \$10