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The Mayor Visits SGA

By Bubba Nelson, '25

On Nov. 20, 2024, Galveston Mayor Craig Brown visited the Student Government Association to discuss the most important issues facing Galveston.

The mayor began by highlighting some of the strengths and weaknesses of the city's infrastructure and how it can be improved. He noted that while Galveston is a model for how other cities can handle large events, it still needs improvements to plumbing, flooding, storm response, and more.

1,200 acres of land on Pelican Island are owned by the Port of Houston, and the mayor said much of this land is desired by the City of Galveston to support the city's infrastructure, including water treatment, a fire station, and, most importantly, a new Pelican Island bridge because "this one is a mess," Mayor Brown said.

The new bridge would cost \$250 million, with partial ownership by Texas A&M, but the majority would belong to the City of Galveston. It would be funded using federal money and other sources, including contributions from Texas A&M. Additionally, the street in front of the campus would also be owned by Texas A&M. This is the current plan, but all of these proposals are subject to significant changes.

Mayor Brown also mentioned that Galveston students, including those from Texas A&M University Galveston, "per capita to the population, is No. 2 in the state of Texas," after Bryan-College Station. Brown acknowledged the housing crisis on Galveston Island and believes there is a solution.

"I thought something was exploding" - Student ducks in fear after barge hits school bridge

By Sean Holmes, '28

On Jan. 16, a barge hit the bridge connecting Pelican Island to Galveston Island, resulting in a power outage at many buildings and facilities at Texas A&M University Galveston.

Kayden Cornett, Class of 2028, a witness to the incident, describes what happened. "I was walking under the bridge, enjoying the evening as one does, and I heard a loud 'POP.' I thought it was fireworks, but then I heard it again, louder, like thunder, and I saw a flash. Something hit the bridge, and I ducked down because I thought something was exploding."

What Cornett and many others saw was the barge colliding with the electrical lines that provided power to the campus. The popping and thundering sounds were the wires striking the bridge supports. "I asked people what had happened. Cops had already pulled in by the time I was out from under the bridge. I was like, 'Huh, that electrical line is missing a wire,'" Cornett said.

Brown's solution is to relocate housing to nearby areas like Texas City, Santa Fe, and Hitchcock, and "treat those as our suburbs." He added that improving public transportation is a key part of that plan.

Finally, Mayor Brown shared insights into Galveston's economy, listing tourism as the top economic driver, including food, hotels, and related industries. The Port of Galveston is the second-largest economic engine, with a new cruise ship terminal and a large cruise line waiting list. Brown said, "We are becoming one of the largest cruise ports in the United States," adding that "every major cruise line will be represented here," further boosting the terminal's influence on the economy.

The third economic engine Brown identified is the universities, including the University of Texas Medical Branch, Texas A&M University, and Galveston College.

Overall, Mayor Brown visited the Texas A&M University Galveston Student Government Association to discuss key issues facing Galveston today. His six-year term ends in May. The Student Government Association meetings are open to all and take place Wednesdays at 8 p.m. in Main 117.



Photo by Briana Maltez, '28

There were a fortunate few whose daily activities were not disrupted by the outage. The buildings unaffected on campus were Albatross, Polaris, and TAMMAH. Residents of Atlantic and Pacific halls were not so lucky, and most other buildings, such as Captains Landing and Main, were also without power.

There is little Texas A&M can do about the bridge's apparent "magnetic" attraction to barges, and it is unclear if the university has any plans to address this issue.

This marks the second time in a year that something has collided with the bridge. In May 2024, a barge caused a complete shutdown of the bridge, along with oil spills into the water. The incident stranded residents of Pelican Island for periods of time and made statewide news. While this most recent incident was less destructive, two collisions in one year are concerning.

Marbie Barbies Vs. Engineers

By Cooper Lee, '28, and Audrey Theiss, '28

One of the first questions exchanged when college students are meeting each other for the first time is, "What's your major?"

Here at Texas A&M University Galveston (TAMUG), you will not receive an answer more frequently than Marine Biology (MARB) or Engineering (with all of the subcategories, of course).

Although these two groups comprise the majority of the campus, they rarely interact with each other.

So we asked some students from these majors what they really think about the other. We worked together to gather responses from people belonging to each major and posted a Google form in addition to in-person interviews. Here are some of the responses and opinions we collected.

The questions were asked and answered as follows: "What do you think of the other major?" "Do you have anything to say to the opposing major?" and "Who do you think is better?"

Caden Guillot, engineering Class of 2027, said, "They're more fun than engineers and nicer," referring to the Marine Biology majors. Guillot said, "The Marbie Barbies (Marine Biology Majors) are better!"

While we had a pretty wide range of replies, this one stuck out to us because Guillot said the opposing major was better. As Marbie Barbies ourselves, we love to see it!

An anonymous response from an engineering student said, "yall weird," and the only words they had to say to the Marine Biology majors were "fake STEM.". Cooper and I love the honesty; thank you, anonymous responder.

Another anonymous response from a marine biology major reads, "Good major! Half I respect and half I don't. WOMEN IN STEM FS!". This anonymous student also wished engineers "Good luck with etam!".

M.C., marine biology Class of 2028, said they "think it's cool that people want to pursue that career, but a lot of the ones that I've come across tend to think and/or act like they're better than people in other majors." M.C. also stated, "Just be chill. It's genuinely not a competition with other majors; we're just all trying to get through life." We believe this is excellent advice that everyone should keep in mind!

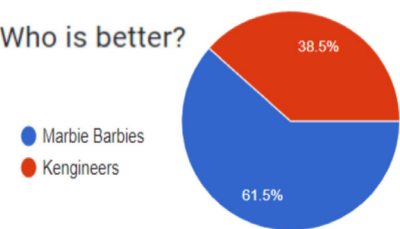
After looking at some responses from around campus, it's apparent that the two are not quite as diametrically opposed as we hypothesized. Sure, there are some negative words being thrown and some sly remarks; however, a good number of the respondents looked past their primal instincts and appreciated their fellow Aggie for their choice and hard work.

That being said, the results of the final poll about which of the two is the better major was won by the MARBs with a 61.5% to 38.5% margin.

Interestingly, after reviewing and discussing the data, we noticed a betrayal. We interviewed the same number of people from each major, so it seems some of the engineers are biased towards the MARB students rather than being loyal to their own major. On behalf of the MARB majors, Cooper and I would like to thank you! Of course, thank you to all who participated, regardless of allegiance.

The ultimate lesson of this short survey is that each of us are not as different as we might think and share quite a bit in common. There is also the potential that this proves that MARB majors are objectively superior, but that may require some follow-up studies.

Who is better?



"Then who was flickering the lights?"

A Nosferatu (2024) Review ★★★★★☆

By Kennedy Bush-Hopkins '27, and Sean Holmes, '28

The 2024 film 'Nosferatu' is a great movie; however, if you want to fully enjoy this movie, do not go in expecting a typical horror movie. Expect an adaptation of Bram Stoker's Dracula and a great example of what modern gothic films can achieve.

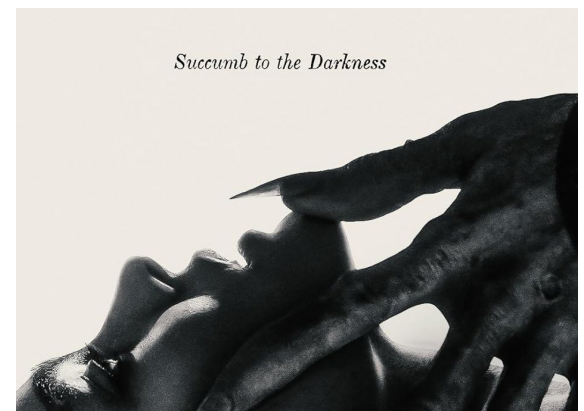
Stoker's wife filed a lawsuit for copyright violations, which led to the destruction of most of the movie's copies. Unfortunately for her, the copies that made it to the Americas were able to survive.

This raises the question: why did the creators of Nosferatu create a plagiarized Dracula parody during Germany's economic crisis and post-World War One recovery?

Apparently they did not, and now thanks to their efforts we have one of the greatest Spongebob jokes ever.

The environments are terrifying, and the power Nosferatu has over the other characters is immense. This movie's most notable feature would be its choice in grim cinematography that pays homage to gothic films from a bygone era.

Bill Skarsgård as Count Orlok (the titular Nosferatu whom the movie is named after) had what I thought to be the most standout performance in the film. Skarsgård has a talent for being able to transform himself into any grotesque movie monster he's cast to be, and Nosferatu was no different.



It seems that when directors cast him in horror movies, it is as if they cast the villain of the movie itself! For such a normal-looking man, it is surprising he is also a plague-ridden Nosferatu and demonic Pennywise.

The actress playing Ellen Hutter, Lily-Rose Depp, also did an amazing job bringing her character to life.

She played the 'succumbing to the darkness' role very well, and I felt bad for her character in the movie. If crashing out was a character, it would be Depp's role as Ellen.

As a heads-up, there is a depiction of sexual assault in this movie. Many people found the film's usage of sexual imagery to be strange and uncomfortable. Sexual assault as a plot device in horror is a controversial topic, and whether or not you think its usage was successful in this movie is up to your own interpretation.

A complaint I have with this film is its slower pacing in the first half. A part of the film that should have been aiming to build suspense left me feeling more disinterested in the growing conflicts between the main characters and Count Orlok.

Opinions on this film seem to differ greatly, but the common trend I have noticed is that people with a pre-established interest in topics like horror, vampires, and gothic art tend to hail this movie as a love letter to its own genre.

Overall, I personally may not have enjoyed *Nosferatu* as much as others in the gothic scene may have. I do not think it is by any means a bad film. However, I see it as a film that caters to an acquired taste.

Albatross and Polaris Halls' Maintenance Issues

By Anna McCollom, '28

Since the beginning of the semester, residents of the Albatross and Polaris dorms have been experiencing various maintenance issues in their rooms.

The problems have ranged from faulty internet connections to severed sewage lines, but one issue remains the most severe: faulty air conditioning.

After the freeze in early January, the dorm rooms have been blasting hot air instead of cool air.

This overheating has led to discomfort for many residents, including Evan Fraize, Class of 2028. "If the fan is not on high for eight hours a day, it's miserably hot," Fraize said. "I struggle to fall asleep because it's so hot."

Not only is the heat making residents uncomfortable, but it is also causing additional problems. "My dorm is really hot, but it's not just being overheated that's the problem," Dani Esquivelle, Class of 2028, another Albatross resident, said. "The heat collects a bunch of condensation around the windows, and water will literally pour down the walls."

Community leaders in the dorms have been quick to communicate about the issue. According to announcements from the leaders, Albatross and Polaris residents can expect normal room temperatures soon, once work orders are submitted and the housing and custodial department is notified of which dorms need repairs.

Some students are questioning whether the campus will put more effort into maintaining Albatross and Polaris following the completion of the Ocean's/Hullabaloo Hall makeover or if the problems will persist for years to come.

Research Lab Highlight: Carle Dugan quantifying NSAIDs in fish

By Bubba Nelson, '25

Texas A&M University's College of Marine Science and Maritime Studies is home to a wide variety of research labs. In this recurring series, we will be giving some personal overviews of the different labs from across the campus.

To begin this edition of our research lab highlight series, we introduce PhD student Carle Dugan, Florida State University class of 2019, who is working on the quantification of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in fish.

Carle actually got her undergraduate degree at Florida State University and majored in chemistry, a stark difference from her PhD in marine biology.

Despite having a degree in chemistry, Carle has been interested in marine biology for a long time and worked in a marine biology lab before, only increasing her interest in the field. She even worked at the Fort Pierce branch of the Smithsonian!

When asked about what inspired her to start this PhD journey with NSAIDs, she said that it went back to her undergraduate school, where she learned, "NSAIDs are one of the most common drugs that people take ... [so she] was interested in starting a project."

The Blue Economy is concerned not only with financial gains but also with the roles of government and public health. Thus, Texas A&M's creation of the Oceans and One Health major.

NSAID's may possibly have "impacts on reproduction of fish" and the same NSAIDs in the fish "could be eaten by humans" too, Carle went on to say.

Governments and companies worldwide must ensure that fish and other marine animals, which are critical to coastal economies and communities, remain healthy. This includes not only their role as food sources but also their contribution to the fisheries that support local communities and economies.

Carle's research focuses on using high-performance liquid chromatography and mass spectroscopy to quantify the NSAID's and their metabolites in fish. A preliminary study showed that certain RNA sequences are important for a healthy reproductive system and may be affected by NSAID's.

The PhD and research process for each school and field of study is different, Carle said. She had been talking to Dr. Hala for 2 years prior to becoming a PhD student at Texas A&M University and officially starting the project, something that you may have to do if you are thinking about graduate school; the earlier prospective students start, the better.

When asked about how to get more involved with research and labs Carle advised contacting lab teaching assistants for classes you are already taking or professors researching topics you may be interested in and simply reaching out. Gaining lab experience is one of the best ways to learn as much as possible about a topic, and I can't help but encourage you to get involved in a lab!

To learn more about research being done on campus and to find something that piques your interest, make sure to read our next edition which features another research highlight.



Photo by Briana Maltez, '28



Dear Aggie, How can I make sure I commit to my New Year's resolutions this year? I always find myself losing motivation or slipping up and was wondering how to keep it up when things get tough. - Sue D. Nym

Well Sue, it looks like you've already taken a couple of steps towards your goal of... keeping with your goals (funny, ain't it?).

Two great ways to keep up with the resolutions that you've already made are to identify your past struggles and to seek assistance or accountability.

Let's get on with the advice you actually need, though. Since you didn't mention your resolutions, I'll have to make some assumptions.

Losing motivation is common when your resolutions are either too long-term or vague. Breaking your goal into smaller, more manageable goals can remedy this. Since these goals are often more specific, there is more noticeable progress to motivate you.

The easiest way to stay motivated is to see progress; well, technically it's to "stay positive" but that's too vague to actually help. Seeing progress through your short-term goals is how you stay positive.

The most important thing to remember is that slipping up isn't the end of your resolution; we're human, and we mess up sometimes. If your goal truly matters to you, and I'm assuming it does if you cared enough to submit a question, then slipping up shouldn't mean giving up entirely.

Keep at it; big changes take time to see through, and there are bound to be a few hurdles to overcome in all that time. Try not to focus on your shortcomings and try to focus on the little victories. Every short-term goal is one step closer to achieving whatever your resolutions may be.

For those of you my words reached and are thinking, "Hey, I want to make a resolution now!" you're a little late; it's February now... But it's never too late to make a lifestyle change in my book! Why wait for next year? If you have the drive, go for it!

As a special little treat to y'all, here are a few popular resolutions for college students you may want to pick up.

Make some effort to spend more time with your loved ones, be they friends or family; take up a new hobby or learn a new skill you've been wanting to; and my personal favorite, save money.

That last one may seem a little vague, and it is, so I'd recommend starting small. Cut back on your splurging and save with a specific goal in mind. I'm not talking about a retirement fund here, even if that would be phenomenal to start saving for.

Start by saving a small amount that you desire and gradually increase it; this will help cultivate the habit before it becomes natural.

Best of luck keeping up with your resolutions, Aggies. Remember, Rev and I are rooting for you!

The Dear Aggie column will answer questions on all matters of interest to students at TAMUG. Submit a query by emailing tamugnautilus@gmail.com. Names will be kept confidential.

Ethel Cain's *Perverts* album review

By Analisa Jennings, '28 ★★★★★☆

Ethel Cain's second studio album, *Perverts*, released January 8th, 2025, tells a story about the exploration of queerness and sexual liberation while fighting an internalized religion-based shame.

Perverts is a stark contrast to the folksy, pleasant sound of her first album, *Preacher's Daughter*.

It relies heavily on Paulstretch for much of the ambience and droning, which makes up a good portion of the tracks. The introduction alone is a ten-minute track consisting of droning and the occasional spoken word.

The majority of the album hardly constitutes being called music, and Cain spoke on her Tumblr blog that *Perverts* was more so intended to be an erotic art piece than consumable music. The shortest track on the entire album is six minutes and forty seconds, the longest being "Pulldrone," which is fifteen minutes and fourteen seconds.

When asked about Pulldrone, Cain said she "hit record, closed [her] eyes, and then played [her] hurdy-gurdy until [she] felt the need to stop."

She took much creative freedom and liberty in this album, and many say it's her most experimental work to date. *Perverts* is made up of droning, dark ambient types of sound, extremely different from any of her previous works.

Cain made her mark as a folk artist, and now that she's branching out, many fans are displeased with the new sound. However, she has received high praise from popular magazines such as Clash, NME, and Slant.

Overall, while very distinct from her usual sound, the album is a one of a kind experience.



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