

The Activist

The Independent University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College Student Newspaper

<www.ucba-activist.com>

Gallery to Feature Collaborative Works by Faculty

The UCBA Art Gallery will feature a new exhibit that brings together the talents and creativity of faculty from across several different disciplines.

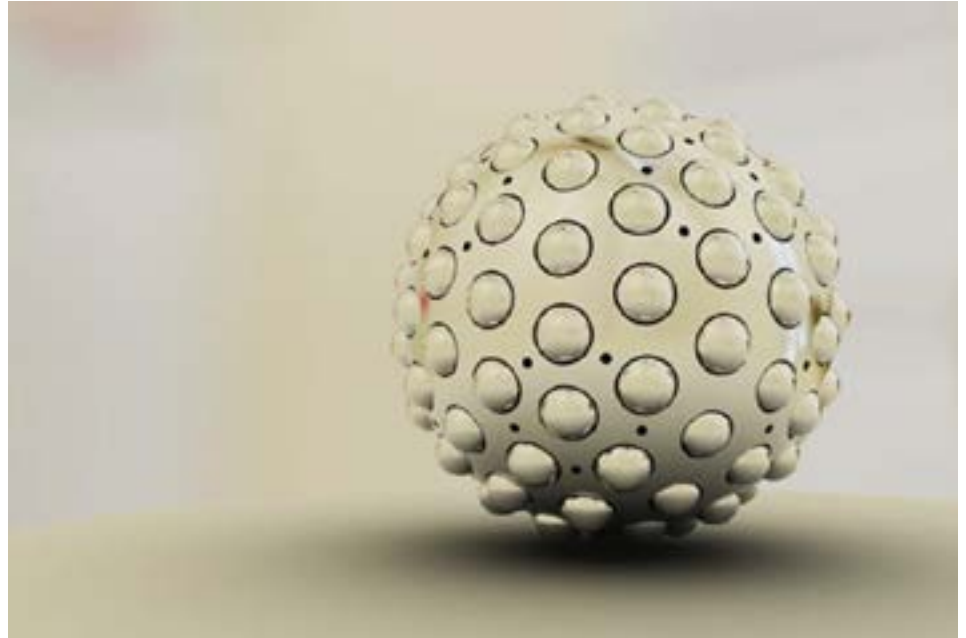
"Gaps and Overlaps: Collaborative Works by UC Blue Ash Faculty" is a collection of creative works produced by faculty from Art, English, Foreign Language, Mathematics, and Music. The exhibit will run from April 3–May 1, at the UCBA Gallery (located at Plainfield and Cooper roads).

The public is invited to the opening reception on Friday, April 3, from 5–7 p.m. Regular Gallery hours during the exhibition are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Working in small groups, faculty members brought to their project various gaps in knowledge about disciplines not their own, as well as the shared purpose of creating something new. The process of creation varied: some projects required careful planning, while others emphasized spontaneous compositions; some generated new texts and images while others applied previously created ones; and some projects applied cutting-edge technology, while others used scissors and glue.

The result is an array of works using a broad range of forms or combinations of forms: sculpture, installation, written and musical compositions, audio, video, performance, photography, and other works on paper. These works invite the viewer, as their construction invited the artists, to experience the synergy of artistic collaboration across creative disciplines.

This exhibition is the product of the UC Blue Ash Creative Arts Faculty Learning Community (CAFLC), a group devoted to collaborative arts generation and its



'Frictionless Object' is 3D art created by UC Blue Ash professors Ted Ferdinand and David Hartz.

potential relationship to teaching.

CAFLC members include Jamie Albert, Jody Ballah, Matt Bennett, Ted Ferdinand, David Freeman, David Hartz, Rita Kumar, Robert Murdock, Kevin Oberlin, Rhonda Pettit, Mike Roos, H. Michael Sanders, Claudia Skutar, and Sue Sipple. Each member has an established record of scholarly and/or creative publications, presentations, performances, productions, or exhibits in their respective areas.

A full-color catalogue of the exhibition is being published in conjunction with the exhibition and will be available through the UC Blue Ash Art Gallery and the department office of Electronic Media Communications (Muntz 217). The UC Office of the Provost and the UC Blue Ash Faculty Development Funds Committee provided support for this publication. Additional information about the exhibition

and the published catalogue is available on the UC Blue Ash Art Gallery website at www.ucblueash.edu/artgallery.

For more information e-mail bagaller@ucmail.uc.edu or phone: 513-936-1712.

Dean Shares Grim Budget Outlook

UCBA Dean Cady Short-Thompson shared some bad budget news with faculty and staff of the college last week. As she explained things, two negative budget impacts will occur immediately in the current fiscal year and in the years ahead.

First, the Ohio Board of Regents and the university's Institutional Research offices provide all colleges and universities with an estimate, based on a new and

(See Budget News, Page 2)

Grim Budget News (Continued)

complicated formula, of how much State Share of Instruction (SSI) UCBA will receive in the coming year. The College uses that estimate to predict its revenues, along with tuition and fees from enrollment projections (the College budgets conservatively for flat enrollments, the Dean said).

This year was the College's first year in the state's new formula, which changed to focus more on graduation rates than course completions. However, 40 percent of the formula focuses on graduation, and UCBA's graduation rates are not as high as other colleges and universities (because the College is open access and also more than half of UCBA students are transition students who often don't earn their degrees but transition to Clifton).

Therefore, UCBA has seen a significant decrease in the actual amount of State subsidy funds for this fiscal year. "To be specific," she said in an email to faculty and staff, "by June 30, 2015, I will have to close a financial gap of \$1,136,472, which is how much less subsidy we will receive from the predicted amount for this fiscal year."

Additionally, because subsidy calculations are on a rolling three-year average, UCBA can now also expect to have this reduced amount of subsidy in the next couple of years.

The second budget impact comes from the University itself, which hired a consultant to study the overhead rates of the auxiliary units of the University (there are about 10 different units, including UCBA).

All of these auxiliary units use some of the main campus units, such as General Counsel, Provost's office, P+D+C, UCIT, and more and each unit pays an overhead rate each year to cover its portion of those costs. Last week UCBA received the new overhead rate (which includes the provost's fee), and the overhead rate is also an increased amount over what we are currently paying.

Effective next fiscal year (2016), UCBA will have to pay an additional \$440,520. The following year (2017), the College will pay \$596,222. And in 2018, it will pay \$927,499. The last amount (\$927,499) is

the amount the consultant determined UCBA should be paying immediately; however, the University arranged for a gradual, three-year increase (which is a good thing, the Dean said).

"This process has been very specific and transparent," she explained, "we can see who is paying what—which we've never seen to date." However, the factors combined, in her words, for a "nasty financial picture for us over the next three years."

It all means that UCBA will have \$1,136,472 less money this year (FY 2015), \$1,576,992 less next year (FY 2016),

\$1,732,694 less the following year (FY 2017), and \$2,063,971 less in FY 2018.

The Dean says that she is certain that the College "can weather all of this but we'll...need to be even more frugal, strategic, and creative....All budget managers will need to examine their budgets closely for any non-essential expenditures as well as more affordable solutions to meet our college's needs. We will also need to work hard in enrollment management, development, grant-writing, and alternate funding sources....We are heading into some lean years."



Vet Tech Offers Valentine's Love to Pets

Even though they had an exam the next day, UCBA Vet Tech students volunteered at My Furry Valentine on Sunday, February 15. Over 500 pets—cats, dogs, and rabbits, among others—were adopted. Shown above are (from left) Michelle Case, Kristi Keirns, Laikyn McClelland, Dr. Jane Goecke, Vanessa Seaman, Amanda Capiello. See <http://myfurryvalentine.com/> for more details. (Photo courtesy of Vet Tech Dept.)

Final Two Software Training Workshops

Two more free software training workshops to students remain for this semester.

Students can get the details about each workshop and register at ucblueash.edu/workshops. This site is available through the UCBA website under Resources>Technology Resources.

All workshops will be held in Muntz Hall, Room M112A.

Students can attend as many work-

shops as they like at no cost. They will receive a certificate of attendance.

Schedule

- Tues., March 24, 5-6 p.m., Microsoft PowerPoint Basics
- Wed., March 25, 12:20-1:20 p.m., Microsoft PowerPoint Basics

Space is limited. For details and to

(See *Software Training*, Page 3)

Buddy LaRosa Rescheduled for April 1

The UCBA Entrepreneur Speaker Series with Buddy LaRosa and sons that was scheduled for March 4 had to be canceled due to inclement weather. The event has been rescheduled for April 1 from 7-8 p.m. in Muntz Auditorium. It is free and open to the public.

The UC Blue Ash College Entrepreneur Speaker Series features successful entrepreneurs from the region each semester on the UC Blue Ash campus. The guests are interviewed by Kent Lutz, UCBA Assistant Professor of Business/Economics, while also taking questions from the audience.

"Being an entrepreneur is a mindset, it's about taking an idea or a vision and building on it," said Professor Lutz. "We want to hear from these very successful entrepreneurs about what drives them

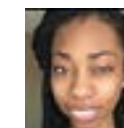
to succeed and how they keep their focus in the face of the challenges and obstacles that are bound to develop."

At the April 1 event, Buddy LaRosa will talk about how he started his first pizzeria on the West Side in 1954—against the advice of his father—and how he was able to grow that one small location into a regional empire with 63 restaurants. Mark LaRosa, president and chief culinary officer, and Michael LaRosa, chief executive officer, will share

UC Basketball

Bearcats Finish Regular Season on a Roll

by Al'eema Dawson
Activist staff
dawsonam@mail.uc.edu



The UC Bearcats men's basketball team has been on a winning streak as of this writing, winning its last five games, and going out with a bang with a 77-65 win over Memphis on Senior Night.

Octavius Ellis had nine points and 11 rebounds, as the Bearcats solidified a No. 3 seed in the American Athletic Conference Tournament.

The Bearcats are 2-0 against No. 1 seed SMU and 1-0 against No. 2 seed Tulsa. More importantly, they've grown into an efficient offensive team in recent weeks, providing them with the fire-



Octavius Ellis hauls in a rebound.

insight on innovations that have supported that growth and that help drive plans for further expansion.

Along with the interactive discussion, the event will be immediately followed by a reception when audience members can meet the featured guests and enjoy free LaRosa's pizza.

To register for this free presentation, or to learn more about the UC Blue Ash College Entrepreneur Speaker Series, go to www.ucblueash.edu/ess.

power to complement their imposing defense.

Although the regular season is over, the game doesn't stop. The Bearcats (22-9) open play Friday night in the AAC quarterfinals against the winner of Thursday's first-round game between No. 6 seed Connecticut (17-13) and No. 11 seed South Florida (9-22). Let's go, Bearcats!

Spring Career Fair Set for April 14

by Brett Cummings
Activist staff
cumminbw@mail.uc.edu

UCBA Career Services is having its Spring 2015 Career Fair on Tuesday, April 14, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 pm. Students are asked to come professionally dressed (business casual at the minimum) with their resumé in hand.

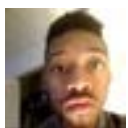
The Fair is an opportunity for students to find a job, brush up on communication skills, and strengthen resumes. The week prior will be a host of activities to prepare students for the Fair, including on the spot resumé critiques.

So, if you are looking for a job for the summer, mark your calendar.

March 20th is the last day to withdraw from class at UC!

Spring Means Bring Out the Colors!

by Brett Cummings
Activist staff
cumminbw@mail.uc.edu



Spring is on its way! Yes, I know, here in the Midwest we haven't really been seeing much hope for warmer temperatures, but March is here so technically Spring should be showing up soon.

Bringing in a new season means new trends, new styles, and best of all fewer clothes. I'm a fan of layering; therefore, I do enjoy the fall/winter season, but it's time for a change.

I'm tired of the snow and all the cold weather, and I'm sure everyone else is as well. Around this time of year we all tend to get excited about the upcoming weather and the opportunity to spruce up that spring wardrobe, so in this issue I'm going to speak on what's hot this season.

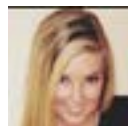
Spring usually involves more sunshine and warmer weather, so typically we think of brighter colors. This season softer colors are being implemented into trends. Think of coral pinks, ash blues, and glacier grays.

All white is another big trend. We often worry about when to wear all white, but now the focus is on how you wear it.

Music

Mötley Crüe Embark on Their Final Tour

by Hannah Downs
Activist staff
downshk@mail.uc.edu



For over 30 years, the heavy metal band Mötley Crüe has killed it in the music industry. After their many worldwide best-selling albums, a star on the Hollywood walk of Fame, and the countless sold-out tours around the world, they are sadly coming to an end.

Now this may not be a popular band to all of us college kids, but to our parents they are kind of a huge deal. Mötley Crüe will be going on their final tour. In other words, our parents' music era is coming to an end.

Mötley Crüe was formed in 1981.



(Chanel.com)

Use different textures such as leather or cotton or even layer using multiple textures.

Olive green is also bleeding into spring as well. Usually we tend to think of it as a fall color, but getting the color in military style jackets or pants is definitely going to be an attention grabber this season.

The combination of black and white was popular on the runway for this year's fashion week. Many designers used it with different prints and designs in their

looks. Another combination that is coming as a shock to most people is white and blue.

Yes, many runway looks this year consisted of both white and blue together, with a crisp clean spring look. Yellow is also suggested this season, and although many people don't think they can pull the color off, people fail to realize that there are many shades of yellow.

The key is to find one that complements your skin complexion.

The band's first release was the single "Stick to Your Guns/Toast of the Town." "Too Fast for Love" was their first album, released in November 1981, selling 20,000 copies. Just after their first album, the band's fame in the music industry began to rise.

This past January 15, the band made the announcement on the FOX and Friends morning show that their career would come to an end after this final tour, which started this February in Japan and will be coming to an end in North America, with 34 shows representing their 34 years together.

Mötley Crüe will be coming to Cincinnati August 19, 2015, at the U.S. Bank Arena. Their last kick off will be where they

first started off. They will have their final performance at the 2015 New Year's Eve concert in Los Angeles.

"It's weird," says drummer Tommy Lee, 51. "A part of you is extremely happy and proud that you're leaving a good thing alone. Another part is extremely sad. But it excites me that nobody will be able to say, 'Look at those old guys playing the county fair. They should have tapped out years ago.'"

Mötley Crüe's plan for their final tour came up around three to four years ago. They all agreed to plan it out, when the time was right. As we are getting older, so is our music. Don't forget to buy your tickets for the final tour at <http://www.motley.com/tour/>.

UCBA

CAREER FAIR 2015

STAND OUT TO EMPLOYERS AND GET HIRED!

CAREER FAIR 2015
Tuesday, *April 14*
11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Walters 100 and Walters Lobby

Start preparing your resumes now!
Dress professionally.

FREE PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS AVAILABLE!



UC Blue Ash College
We make it possible. You make it happen.

UNIVERSITY OF
Cincinnati



2nd Annual UCBA SPEECH CONTEST

Deadlines for applications:
March 26, 2015

Prizes will be awarded:	Present an informative or Persuasive speech (6-8 minutes) on the topic of justice.
First Place	\$125
Second Place	\$75
Third Place	\$50

*Prizes will be awarded in the form of a tuition discount. All students who present will receive a small prize for participation.

UCBA Speech Contest

Speeches will be presented:
April 2, 2015 in Walters 100
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Listen to UCBA students present 6-8 minute speeches on the topic of justice.

For more information or to submit your speech, contact:
Dr. William Jennings
jenninwp@ucmail.uc.edu or 513-936-1550 or

Dr. Amber Peplow
amber.peplow@uc.edu or 513-936-1749



Speech Topic:

JUSTICE

Sports

Remembering Two Former NBA Greats

by Mack Davis
Activist staff
davis4mv@mail.uc.edu



sity but climbed the ranks and starred on the New York Knicks en route to a 13-year playing career.

His gritty play and ferocity fit right in

with the Pat Riley coached Knicks. Both Earl Lloyd and Anthony Mason will be missed by basketball fans around the world.

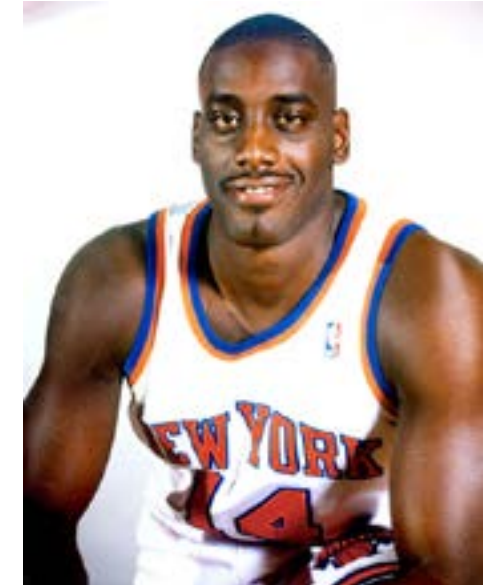
The National Basketball Association lost two former members in the last few weeks with the passing of Earl Lloyd and Anthony Mason. Lloyd was the first African American NBA player, and Mason was an integral part of the great teams the New York Knicks had in the 1990s.

Earl Lloyd broke the color barrier of the NBA on October 31, 1950, for the Washington Capitals. The hatred and bigotry he endured during the Jim Crow era in the United States paved the way for the stars that we cheer for in the NBA today. Lloyd's contribution can't be questioned. His efforts to advance equality in the NBA were recognized in 2003 as he was inducted into the Pro Basketball Hall of Fame.

Anthony Mason was an undrafted free agent out of Tennessee State Univer-



Earl Lloyd (exnba.com)



Anthony Mason (giantbomb.com)

Sports

Air Jordans Get Remastered for 2015

by Mack Davis
Activist staff
davis4mv@mail.uc.edu



The quality of the materials on both pair of 4's is just about the same as Jordan 4's that I've purchased in the past. I must say that the leather on the Bulls Over Broadway 10's is exquisite though.

Jordan Brand has raised the prices of their shoes every year for the last few years. I don't see that trend changing any time soon. I'm in no way saying that you as the consumer shouldn't be pleased with the product you buy, but understand that the nature of business is to always make more money.

The more the product costs to make,

the more the consumer will ultimately be forced to pay for that particular product.

To answer the question, are the re-mastered Air Jordans worth the steep price tag? There is no right answer. To those who routinely purchase sneakers, that answer will be yes. To those who don't, that answer will be no.

I will say this, though: with the steep price for shoes these days, every single shoe that I buy I will really want. It's not like the old days when I could buy a bunch of stuff I only somewhat wanted.

If I did that now, I would be broke.

From hearing of the whole re-mastered concept, I viewed it as an excuse to raise prices.

Fast forward to 2015. Most people who have a love for sneakers, as I do, have had a chance to buy at least one pair of these so-called "re-mastered" Air Jordans. Personally, I have purchased three pair of the "re-mastered" shoes. I purchased the Columbia 4's, the Oreo 4's, and the Bulls Over Broadway 10's.



Photo by Mack Davis

My World Over the Top Film Fanatics

by John Hamilton
Activist staff
hamilj5@mail.uc.edu



Being a film fanatic for many, many years I've seen so many debates about movies and have seen opposing opinion flare into rather emotionally fueled arguments.

They've sprouted from the menial and trivial stuff about continuity in a series, the adaptation of something, or something grand like whether there are racist tones and intention in something.

Personally I have no trouble with seeing an opposing opinion about something, especially if it's film. That just allows for a conversation to get started and a discussion, which is always enjoyable.

So I say to you if you disagree with my opinion about a film, go right ahead and disagree with me.

Over the years I've come to realize that none of us will agree 100 percent of the time. But I'm fine with that because that allows us to engage in a hopefully friendly debate and discussion. But sadly there seems to be a large portion of the online community who seem to think that a differing opinion is a personal offence.

The worst of it seems to come from the fan base of movie director Christopher Nolan. Now there's no doubt that Nolan has been extremely popular over the years with his "Batman" trilogy and "Inception," but, like any film maker, he has flaws and not everybody will like his films.

However, according to a small faction of Nolan's fan base, that is unacceptable. I remember that, when "The Dark Knight Rises" was released, there were news reporters about critics getting death threats because the critic gave a negative review of the movie.

(See My World, This Page)

On the Spot What Are You Doing For Spring Break?

by John Hamilton
Activist staff
hamilj5@mail.uc.edu

This issue we asked UCBA students what they are doing for Spring Break.

Nichelle Woolfolk

"Spring cleaning and spending time with family."



Terry Ruff

"Relax and a little studying."



Megan Mitsch

"I'm going to Chicago!"



Mikey Ivenso

"Definitely clean up the house and hopefully do video skits."



My World (Continued)

As much as I'm a lover of film and all things related to it, and I understand the passions that surround it, I find making threats against a person's life because of an opinion on a movie to be a bit over the top and ridiculous.

Then there are comments like "You didn't get it because you're stupid," or "F*** you! This movie was great/awful," or something like "Well, how many movies have you made?"

These don't add to the conversation

or debate. They just come off as wanting to shut up the opposing side because they didn't like the same movie.

The world of cinema should be open to having a discussion, but it's petty comments like the one I mentioned that just degrade and ruin the experience and the online community.

Activist staff

Brett Cummings
Mack Davis
Al'eema Dawson
Hannah Downs
John Hamilton
Dezmond Houston

Advisor

Professor Mike Roos
Phone: 513-745-5764
Email: ucba.activist@gmail.com
Web: http://www.ucba-activist.com

Join the Activist staff for
Fall Semester!
Register for
Student News Workshop I:
English 1071

Opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of the individual writer(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Activist as a whole or its other staff members. Letters to the editor may be sent c/o The Activist, UCBA, 9555 Plainfield Road, Cincinnati 45236 or e-mail us at <ucba.activist@gmail.com>.

Please include your name and a phone number for verification. (The phone number will not be published).

Opinion

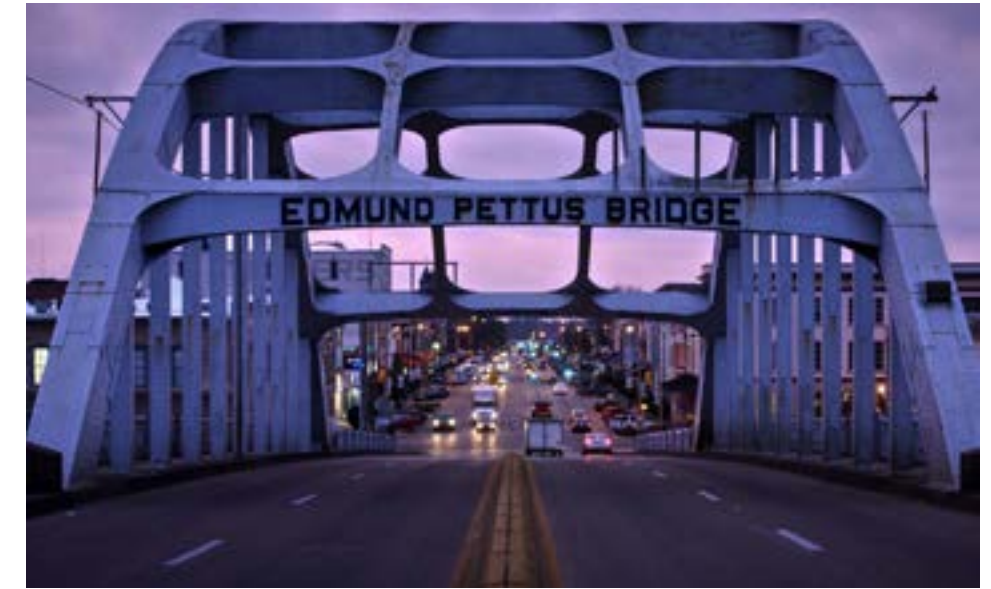
Never Forget What Happened Fifty Years Ago

by Mack Davis
Activist staff
davis4mv@mail.uc.edu



Saturday, March 7, marked the 50-year anniversary of Bloody Sunday. March 7, 1965, was supposed to mark the start of a peaceful march for civil rights but the day ended in violence at the hands of the police and people of the surrounding communities at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma.

The march headed up by Martin Luther King Jr. and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference was also detailed in the film "Selma" recently. The violence those peaceful protesters endured not only led to President Lyndon B. Johnson ordering that the protestors not be harmed by law enforcement for their next attempt to march, but also led to legislation that was pivotal in gaining African Americans their rights in this country.



The Edmund Pettus Bridge, site of the Bloody Sunday violence, March 7, 1965. (Slate.com)

Moments like that should be held in high regard as American history. It should be celebrated not just by African Americans, but by all citizens of America.

March 7, 1965, is important for two

reasons: first, for how far we as a country have come; second, we should view it as what we could be if we don't continue to fight for equality in this country.

#NeverForget

Technology

Flex Fitbit Brings High Tech to Personal Fitness

by Hannah Downs
Activist staff
downshk@mail.uc.edu



For those of you guys who like to focus on your fitness lifestyle, you should really look into getting a Fitbit. The Flex Fitbit looks like a wrist band, but it's way more than just a bracelet you wear around your wrist. This little accessory will help make tracking your healthy lifestyle fun.

The Flex Fitbit is based off your personal profile. You just wear it around your wrist, and it tracks your calories burned, distance you've traveled, amount of steps you take, hours of sleep you get, and even the quality of your sleep.

The Flex Fitbit syncs all your information to your device (iPhone, computer, PCs, Android). It goes straight to your Fitbit dashboard, so you can see your progress at any time.

Your Fitbit is fun and easy. It feels comfy and is small enough to wear at any

time, day and night. If you're showering or wanting to go for a swim, it's also waterproof.

If you do purchase a Flex FitBit, you can also download the app for more things to help you out. It can record your workouts, track your runs through GPS, and provide voice cues and music control.

It also helps you out with eating

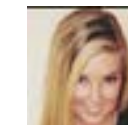
healthy. The app has a barcode scanner where you can scan the food item, and the nutrition facts appear. Log in your meals and use FitBit to track your calories.

The Flex FitBit lets you choose from ten different colors. You can begin your fitness lifestyle now by purchasing your FitBit. They start at \$99.95. Set your goal, and go!

Books

A Great Spring Break Read

by Hannah Downs
Activist staff
downshk@mail.uc.edu



To all the lucky UCBA students who get to go somewhere relaxing and warm on spring break and need a good book for a "beach read," here you go.

Whether your plans are to shop, party, or just relax on the beach, there's always time for a good read.

"The Vacationers," written by Emma

Straub is perfect for a day lying in the sand.

"Delicious... richly riveting... The Vacationers offers all the delights of a fluffy, read-it-with-sunglasses-on-the-beach read, made substantial by the exceptional wit, insight, intelligence and talents of its author."—People (four stars)

I'm sure not everyone is going to want to read on their college spring break, but if you do I would recommend this book.

Have a fun and safe spring break!

Movies**Julianne Moore Deserves Her Oscar for “Still Alice”**by *John Hamilton*

Activist staff

hamilj5@mail.uc.edu



Actress Julianne Moore has finally received an Academy Award after four other nominations. Based on the novel of the same name, by Lisa Genova, “Still Alice” is the story of Alice Howland (Moore), a linguistics professor at Columbia, who discovers that she has early-onset Alzheimer’s disease. As the disease progresses, the audience sees how this disease affects not only Alice but her family as well.

I’m sure there are people out there who think, just based on the trailer and story, that this is an “Oscar-baiting” movie, and I can see why. It features a well-known actor/actress, in this case one who had been nominated several times for an Oscar and hadn’t won, and it deals with a disease that many are familiar with. But this is far from being a just an “Oscar-baiting” film.

Let’s get the obvious out of the way: Julianne Moore is flawless. There is a reason why this actress has maintained a career and is critically acclaimed. She perfectly captures who Alice was before she was diagnosed and went into a slow decline in mental health.

Thankfully, Moore does not try to make this a portrayal of a disease. What I mean by that is that it isn’t romanticized. There are no big inspirational moments, even though this lady has been plagued with a horrible disease. The closest that it comes to that occurs when Alice gives a speech at an Alzheimer’s conference. Even the speech is moving. We see how the disease has taken its toll on her.

Outside of Moore’s performance, the rest of the film is still pretty good. My favorite aspect of the film is that the writers and directors, Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland, decided not to force a conflict.

They could have added in something about how the husband (Alec Baldwin) decides to divorce Alice or some nonsense like that. But, no, the husband is supportive and sticks with Alice through thick and

thin. It’s really nice to see a spouse, especially a husband, portrayed as supportive and loving. The other performances in the film are also fairly good. Yes, I’m even talking about Kristen Stewart.

The only negative aspect of the movie I can think of is that one of the daughters, portrayed by Kate Bosworth, is rather un-

likable. I get where her frustration is coming from in some scenes but some of her spiteful behavior to her other sister (Stewart) just comes off as mean-spirited and unnecessary.

It’s a very good film to check out, not just for Julianne Moore’s performance. Just have some tissues on hand.

Music**D’Angelo’s Flawless “Black Messiah”**by *Mack Davis*

Activist staff

davis4mv@mail.uc.edu



D’Angelo has linked with The Vanguard for his third studio album “Black Messiah.” From start to finish “Black Messiah” captures the true essence of R&B. The album is truly a shot in the heart for a genre of music that was surely on life support.

Black Messiah has everything that you could ever want in an R&B album: social consciousness, love, pain, fun, and every other feeling a human being goes through in life.

With flawless music provided by The Vanguard, D’Angelo has managed to create a project that flows together beautifully without any of the songs sounding alike.

“Black Messiah” puts you in the mind of timeless musicians such as Curtis Mayfield, Marvin Gaye, and Al Green. Far too

many times with today’s music, you can’t tell if the artists is a rapper or a singer. With “Black Messiah” there will be no such confusion.

With so many outstanding songs, it’s impossible to pick a favorite. One thing is for certain, if you listen to “Black Messiah” and your feet aren’t tapping and your fingers aren’t snapping, somebody should check your pulse, because you may be dead.

I don’t sing the praises of things I don’t believe in. In my opinion Lauryn Hill’s “The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill” is the greatest album I have ever heard in my life. D’Angelo’s “Black Messiah” is the second best album I have ever heard in my life.

To put it even more simply: I’m listening to it while I write this review. If you want to hear R&B in its truest form, please pick up the album. It’s not the same R&B/Hip-Hop that you so often get today.

