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Middle of the
Semester
Edition!

Viola Davis & Diversity

DAMIAN GRAY
Staff Writer
October 2015

"The only thing that separates women of color from anyone else is opportunity," says a passionate Viola Davis, star of *How To Get Away With Murder*, after being the first black actress to win an Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series. The first time it has happened since the award show began in 1949. "To the Taraji P. Hensons and Kerry Washingtons, the Halley Berrys, the Nicole Beharies, the Meagan Goods, to Gabrielle Union. Thank you for taking us over that line." The line that Davis is referring to parallels the same line Harriet Tubman spoke about, who Davis quoted in the beginning of the speech, between her and "beautiful white women and lovely flowers".

Davis has made her mark as a great actress in such movies as *Law Abiding Citizen* and *The Help*, where she played a maid during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. The film depicted the point of view from maids working for white families.

Viola Davis winning the Emmy would have many to assume that we live in a "post-racial society" but the evidence proves otherwise.

According to UCLA's 2015 Hollywood Diversity report, people of color accounted for 16.7 percent of lead roles in the films examined, while being 37.4 percent of the US population. Their white counterparts dominated 83.3 percent of the roles. And even though women represent half of the population, they only account for 25.3 percent of the lead roles. These figures start to dwindle even more when black actresses are regarded, who are part of both underrepresented groups.

It is not just in front of the camera where diversity is lacking, it is behind the camera as well.

In HBO's *Project Greenlight*, a reality show that gives an up-and-coming filmmaker the chance to head a \$3 million film, Matt Damon, who also produces the show, interrupted a black filmmaker to explain what diversity in film was. During a gathering of the filmmakers, Effie Brown

(continued on p.3)

Selfies - Deadlier Than Sharks

KRISHNENDU MUKHERJEE
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October 2015

On September 18, 2015, a 66-year-old Japanese tourist died after he fell down the steps at the Taj Mahal, in India, thus putting the death toll due to taking selfies to 12 this year worldwide. In contrast, the number of deaths due to shark attacks so far is only 8 worldwide. Unfortunately, this is not a joke. The deaths are like a tragic reminder to travellers that focusing on their phone screens instead of their surroundings is not safe.

After tallying up the number of deaths related to selfies, Mashable, on September 21, reported that most deaths (four actually) were caused by falling. The second place goes to trains. In January, three Indian students aged between 20 to 22 died trying to take a "daredevil selfie" close to an oncoming train, most probably being inspired by a Bollywood action movie starring a well known superstar.

Other causes of death include being mauled in Spain while taking a selfie during a bull run. Two Russian men lost their lives while trying to take a picture after they pulled the pin out of a live grenade. And there are reports of people shooting themselves accidentally while taking a selfie. On May 31, a pilot lost control of his small plane because of taking selfies in Colorado. The crash killed him and his passenger.

There have been incidents where parks had to close because people tried to take selfies with bears. Not even cyclists competing in the annual Tour de France are safe from the

menace. Fans sometimes walked way too close to the cyclists, and sometimes even walked up to the middle of the road in order to get a selfie with the cyclists behind them.

Not trusting human imaginations, many landmarks have started banning the selfie – or at least selfie sticks (or as some people like to call it, 'Narcissistick'). The selfie stick is the lightning rod of narcissism, says Howard Jacobson who is a Man Booker Prize-winning British author and journalist. Coincidentally, on July 6, as per *The Telegraph*, a man was killed by a bolt of lightning during a thunderstorm on the Brecon Beacons, a mountain range in South Wales in United Kingdom, because he was carrying a metal selfie stick that attracted the electrical charge.

Not only have a few places banned the selfie stick, like in Disneyland where people tried to take selfies on moving roller coasters, but many governments are advising their citizens to be more careful. In July, the Russian Interior Ministry released a brochure, warning about cool selfies that "could cost you your life." In the brochure, selfie-takers are urged to be cautious with weapons, ledges, dangerous animals, trains and live wires.

"Before taking a selfie, everyone should think about the fact that racing after a high number of 'likes' could lead him on a journey to death and his last extreme photo could turn out to be post-humous," Yelena Alexeyeva, an aide to Russia's interior minister, told Al Jazeera.

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SGA and SPB Introduce Online Voting to the Student Body

VIRGINIA ORMAN; REBECCA REIG;
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October 2015

A new system for online voting has been implemented at the campus of the University of Bridgeport during this year's student elections of the Student Government Association and the Student Programming Board members on Monday, September 21st.

President of the Student Government Association Simon Arias, worked alongside Edina Oestreicher, the Dean of Students, on bringing a new online voting system to campus that allows all undergraduate students from UB to have access to the online portal. Previously voting had taken place in person during meal times in the hUB, which caused a variety of problems. With the previous paper voting system it was difficult for students to find time during the day to vote, while online voting gives each student the chance to vote at any time and place, thus increasing percentage of votes from previous years.

The Student Government Association conducted the elections via an online balloting database known as the OrgSync system, the premier system used by college campuses nationally. The idea for this project was first conceptualized by former SGA president, Virginia Orman. She discovered the system and heard reviews from all over the country while attending the American Student Government Association Conference (ASGAC) in the Washington, D.C. last October.

Simon Arias explained that it was through his current administration that he was able to get the website functional and ready for operation. Implementing the system here at UB, he worked directly with the Dean of Students' Office, alongside the Office of the Registrar and the Information Technology Department, along with an OrgSync representative. They configured the data of all students into the system, creating the online database and generating the online form students used to vote.

"Comparing the elections from the previous three years in which I was involved in SGA, the e-balloting system has been the most effective, most accurate, and most productive overall," he said. "As far back as my freshman year, I remember submitting my first ballot in via paper and having someone mark down my information to make sure I was eligible before casting my vote. With this system, all of the students information is on OrgSync courtesy of Registrar and IT, and then the OrgSync system compiles the votes."

With the new e-balloting system comes a host of positive and negative reviews. Students have remarked on how user friendly the student the system is for every-



The members of the Student Government Association, circa 2014. Image sourced from their official website at bridgeportsga.com

one here at UB. Additionally, the system does all the labor, so according to SGA, it is the most productive method to date in regards to effective balloting.

Another positive for the association is that it negates any personal bias or incorrect counting of votes by allowing students to vote only once in categories that are applicable to them. For example, a student within the class of 2017 will only be shown options to vote for those who would represent his or her class. Therefore the system completely eliminates any concerns of unequal voting activity.

Boglarka Jordan, the Public Relations Officer, said "holding votes in the hUB on paper doesn't allow commuters to vote because they really don't spend time around that side of campus; therefore having online voting in which students who wouldn't normally spend meal times on campus."

"Although voter participation has increased, only around 250 students voted out of the 2600 qualifying student voters, meaning that outreach and promotion for the elections could be improved upon," Simon Arias said. Notifying students was primarily done via word of mouth, social media, & a direct email, he explained.

Additionally, there were some concerns regarding the sophomore and freshman classes. Some students who are in their second year at UB are classified under the freshman class. From their knowledge they consider themselves sophomore students while the Registrar continues to count them as freshmen based on the current credits that have accumulated. Some students are not aware that in order to classify as a sophomore, students need to have 30 credits or more. In some cases students believe it's based upon years, which is not true. Additionally, some students take 12 semester credits in one semester and then

15 semester credits in another, which together these do not permit the student to be a sophomore. But this matter is being looked into through a fine lens because not all students have this misconception.

Overall, SGA is very pleased with this function and possibility for future activities and endeavors. Simon Arias said, "I am eager to continue working with prospective officers to improve and make the system better. Who knows, there may be more uses for OrgSync that we may not be aware of."

However, Boglarka Jordan explained a downside of the emailing system. She said "even with online voting, certain populations of students still cannot be reached." According to her, voting electronically may not work for the students who don't regularly check their email.

For the first time this year, the Student Programming Board joined SGA elections. SPB, in previous years, organized their voting among club members only. In order to run for an Executive Board Position, you had to be a member for at least one semester. Current Vice President of SPD, Jasmine Reid, shared her opinions, saying that it "is a very different process. One good thing I can say is that the new system does the voting count for us. One bad thing I can say is that people will vote off of friendship and popularity, which plays a big factor in the success of our Executive Board.

Both Simon Arias and Jasmine Reid, leaders of the two biggest student organizations on campus find both positives and negatives with the new online voting platform. The organizations will continue to use OrgSync and experiment with ways to engage the student body in an effort to represent all perspectives on campus.

Pope Francis Makes First Visit to U.S.

KATTYA MARC
Staff Writer
October 2015

Pope Francis made his first visit to the United States in September. Though only here for a short period of time, Pope Francis visited a couple of popular sights. First, he made appearances in Washington, D.C., New York, and Philadelphia.

Although he was only here for five days, he made a huge impact on the people that he met along his trip, and announced his visit back in March of 2015.

On September 23, 2015, Pope Francis visited Washington D.C., where he attended many events that day. One of the events that Pope Francis partook was a State Arrival Ceremony that was held at the White House. Though he was the third Pope to visit the White House, Pope Francis is the first to meet with President Obama.

When Pope Francis visited New York on September 24, 2015, there was a Mass held that night at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in the city. The next day on September 25, 2015, he made a visit to the United Nations where he addressed the United Nations General Assembly. A couple of hours later, the Pope

goes to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. This would be the first time any Pope has gone to the World Trade Center. In the speech that the Pope gave, he said "In this place of sorrow and remembrance I am filled with hope, as I have the opportunity to join with leaders representing the many religious traditions which enrich the life of this great city".

What the Pope is saying is that even though this is a place of sadness, he has hope that people of different religious backgrounds will make it as good as the city is today. In his speech, the Pope asks of us to open our hearts and to find peace everywhere we go.

As the day progressed the Pope made a visit to a school in East Harlem called Our Lady Queen of Angels School. Shortly after that the Pope traveled in the motorcade through Central Park. During this time he met and greeted the many people that came out to see him. Later that day, the Pope held a mass at Madison Square Garden. This mass held a max capacity of 19,000 people.

To finish his trip the Pope went to visit Philadelphia the next day on September 26, 2015.

During his time there he held a mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter's and Paul's. Later that afternoon the Pope visited the Independence Mall. To finish off the day he went to visit Festival of Families at Benjamin Franklin Parkway and then have a Payer Virgil with the World Meeting of Families.

On Sunday September 27, 2015, he attended the Papal meeting with the Bishops at St. Martin's Chapel, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. The next thing he had planned on his schedule was to visit the CurranFromhold Correctional Facility. To finish off his trip the Pope went to a mass for the World Meeting of Families then visited the organizers, volunteers, and benefactors of the World Meeting of Families at Atlantic Aviation.

Overall one can say that Pope Francis had a successful and wonderful trip to America.

Viola Davis & Diversity in Hollywood

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Staff Writer
October 2015

communicated her contentions about the only black character in the script being a prostitute named Harmony who marries the white male protagonist. "When we're talking about diversity, you do it in the casting of the film, not in the casting of the show," Damon responded. Brown, who seemed shocked by this said, "wow, okay."

Among the writers and directors of theatrical films, 11.8 percent were represented by POC writers and 17 percent of directors.

The Hollywood Diversity report also found that among the Hollywood film studios in 2013, 94 percent of CEOs/chairs were white and 92 of senior management were white. At the television networks, 96 percent of CEO/chairs and 93 percent of senior management were also white.

This lack of diversity isn't just plaguing the US, it is also apparent across the pond in Britain. David Oyelowo, who played Henry VI for the Royal Shakespeare Company and more notably in the US, Martin Luther King Jr in Selma, describes his frustration. "Who is curating the culture? Predominantly it is white, middle-class men... what we predominantly have, in movies especially, are younger, better-looking versions of the

people curating culture." Oyelowo explaining leaving the UK for Los Angeles because he felt the "glass ceiling" and that he wasn't going to be James McAvoy and Benedict Cumberbatch, who have both gained roles in blockbuster roles such as McAvoy in X-Men: Days Of Future Past and Cumberbatch in Star Trek.

Ironically, while seeking success in America, Oyelowo got a taste of what America had to offer for people of color.

The film Selma, Oyelowo's breakout role as MLK, received many critical acclaims when released, including a 99 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, a movie and television reviewer site that compiles online reviews from critics who also have to be certified members of various writing guilds.

When it finally got to Oscar Season, there was a tinge of certainty for Selma winning Best Picture. The film received the nominations but ultimately lost to Michael Keaton's Birdman.

There was speculation of why the film lost the Oscar. An anonymous voter of the Academy's 378-member public relations branch told Hollywood Reporter, "If the movie had been directed by a 60-year-old white male, I don't think that people would have been carrying on about it to the level

that they were." The film's director, a black woman, Ava DuVernay declined to comment. Members of the cast wore "I Can't Breathe" t-shirts to the December screening, in reference to the killing of Eric Garner by a white police officer's illegal chokehold and the lack of grand jury indictment. "I've got to tell you, having the cast show up in T-shirts saying, 'I can't breathe' — I thought that stuff was offensive," said the voter, depicting a supposed underlying reason for the film's loss.

Last year, Marvel Studios and DC Entertainment announced 19 superhero films to be released in between 2016 and 2018. These movies include Black Panther, whose character is an African man, and Wonder Woman and Captain Marvel, both white women. These announcements have given comic book fans a reason to be excited, not just for these characters to be revived but also a sign of diversity after almost 10 years since Halle Berry's Catwoman.

Viola Davis will also star in the anti-hero film Suicide Squad as Amanda Waller, which releases in 2016.

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Letter From The Editor



Readers,

Hope you all made it through midterms week in one piece. Sure, it was difficult, exhausting, and you may be re-evaluating your decision to study your major. Don't worry about it, though, as it is all temporary and you will feel like this again during finals week.

That aside, we have some fun stuff for you guys to read in your downtime, be it about some important updates on campus, or about stuff happening around the world.

Dedicated contributing writers have brought you two fun articles to read, and both are about the UB community. First, see what changes are planned for UB as George Estrada talks about the development of the campus. Then, head over to see the latest upgrades to the election process for UB's two biggest organizations: the Student Government Association, and the Student Programming Board.

As our staff writer Krishnendu inform us in his article, death by selfie-related stunts are slowly increasing, so play it safe and take a selfie next to a betta fish rather than an alligator.

As far as fish talk goes, our staff writer I-Jung has provided a concise list of pets allowed on campus, and which are best for beginning pet owners.

For those international students on campus, PHD Comics has a relatable strip about the process of getting a visa and going to college internationally.

As always, we look forward to hear what you guys have to say, so make sure to be vocal and tell us what you like or don't like about our content, what you want to see more of, and any general comments you have.

Kevin Matos
Editor-In-Chief

George Estrada Leads New Master Plan For UB's Future

VIRGINIA ORMAN; REBECCA REIG;
CHRISTIAN CUATZO;
CATHERINE ROSARIO;
Contributing Writers
October 2015

George Estrada, Vice President for Facilities at the University of Bridgeport plays a pivotal part in the vision of the future at UB by collaborating with the Premier Master Plan company, Sasaki, to develop a long term evolving outline of new developments.

Since arriving in 2007, VP Estrada has spearheaded major renovations at UB, incorporating future development plans within the city of Bridgeport. Most recently, he has committed his time with Sasaki to create a long term plan that will outline the future involvement of the University for the next five to ten years looking at the campus the surrounding neighborhoods and downtown Bridgeport.

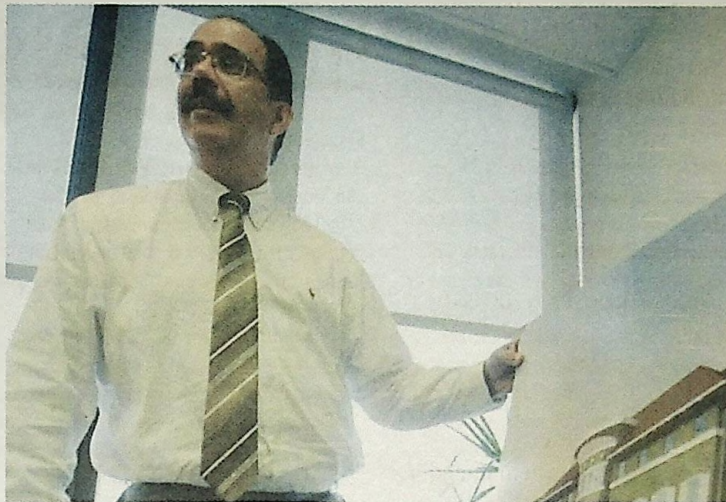
This project began this September 2015 and will consume the time of VP Estrada and his colleagues for the next 10 months. Before the deadline, proposals will be made to Sasaki, and then brought to administrators, staff, and the Board of Trustees to make approvals.

"In this process the entire campus will be involved and all stakeholders will have an opportunity to include their visions. Students and faculty, groups, and communities on campus will be brought together and asked for a say," VP Estrada said about the next few months, wanting to incorporate all perspectives on campus. He explained that his team will be looking at ways they can support our campus, the academics, housing, etc.

He went on to share, "What's really important and exciting is that it goes with our efforts of creating a beautiful and fun place to be. Their proposals for help us discover how we can create new things and take advantage of the spaces we have already." He stressed that the decisions made will be formed in a thoughtful, data-driven process.

"It is all about making the university an exciting and safe environment for our students," he said. His efforts have been put forth in areas of construction, in the security department, special events at the university, and the Sodexo food services. "My position has focused on improving the quality of life for students. That is our main motivation, the reason we are here is for the students," he said.

Since VP Estrada arrived in 2007 he has been working with companies and private developers in efforts to expand residential life. The grounds of the old factory behind the UB student center, or what he likes to call the "broken windows building" is in the initial phase of development of commercial and



George Estrada, Vice President for Facilities.
Photo: Brian A. Pounds / Hearst Connecticut Media.

residential real estate. This will be a 7 story building, with commercial space on the first floor and apartments above which can serve graduate students or students who want to live off campus.

In addition, across University Avenue and past Broad and Main Street, the state of Connecticut has given a \$2 million grant to clean the Remington factory. On this property, 200 waterfront apartments will be built along with a first floor commercial space. With over 2000 graduate students, VP Estrada and UB believe the these buildings will be filled immediately.

"We want to be the engine for change," he stated. VP Estrada explained that creating a neighborhood and off-campus destinations is the goal. He hopes with University growth, outside investments will follow. "We can concentrate our efforts on academic needs, and the private sectors can invest their financial efforts towards supporting our growth and creating a neighborhood."

As a resident of Bridgeport, VP Estrada is proud of the gems of the city and the historical setting the university is placed upon, especially downtown Bridgeport. He recognizes the city's efforts to improve the city back to what it once was. "It actually is a beautiful, urban place to be. They need to continue making it a better safer place to bring more students downtown, supporting the businesses."

VP Estrada said that he and his wife continue trying to support the businesses downtown. "We all need to support the businesses there now if we want them to continue to bring more." He explained that he wants the students to keep supporting the city. "Traffic and cash flow is everything. It is a cool and trendy place to be and it will become the urban destination that students are attracted to."

His pride of the city came from working for 18 years with a company called Bodine Corporation, of Alfred Bodine. It was an

industrial company that's relied on a culture of community involvement. In management at Bodine, he developed close relations with Mayor Fabrizi.

"Mayor Fabrizi came to me and offered me a position to work for him saying if you work for me you can be in a position to actually make the change." He explained that the word change inspired him, thus making the decision to work for the city. He explained that in this position he oversaw sanitation, construction, snow plowing, and anything regarding the quality of life for people.

In 2005, VP Estrada worked with UB in developing the sports field. He managed the city's side of the project involving closing to city streets Lafayette Boulevard and Hazel Road. He said, "in facilitating the building of the new field, that was when I came in close relation with the university and President Salonen."

The sports field is FAFSA regulated and is the largest International-Level sized playing field in Connecticut.

In 2007, he took his position at UB. "I came to the University because I could see that it was on the cusp of something really great and I wanted to be a part of that." He also honored President Salonen saying, "Since 2000, he has strategically handled the university as a business, calculated a conservative pace of growth, and has made the school a place to be proud of again."

Today, as the Vice President for Facilities, he oversees all construction; security department, special events at the university, and Sodexo food services. He has inherited areas that affect the students's daily lives. "The reason I wake up in the morning is the students. You guys have your entire lives ahead of you, so we need to give you everything you need to make your dreams come true."

Uberpop Halted By French Government Amid Protests

MICHAEL WALLER; TRE BETHEL;
JUSTIN NOEL
Contributing Writers
October 2015

The French government has halted Uber's "Uberpop" service with new laws following the recent taxi protests in France. After igniting angry protests from local taxi drivers and other concerned civilians earlier in June, Uber's "Uberpop" taxi service has now been called to consideration by the French government. The American transportation service saw a recent surge in popularity after founders Travis Kalanick and Garrett Camp founded the company in 2009. About six years later, the company is now thriving and expanding its services to the international scene.

"Uberpop," the center of the controversy, was a new service to have been provided by Uber that was initially accepted when first introduced to the French. Local French taxi companies have since grown agitated and are now expressing their outrage with this new service. Many claim that "Uberpop" services were executed by means that were unjust and borderline illegal.

The company initially denied claims of illegal action within their operations in France and even went as far as to file a complaint with the European Union soon after receiving the ban, according to Yahoo News. According to Business Insider, the French government passed a law last year that permits Uber drivers to wait 15 minutes upon receiving a reservation to pick up the customer.

French Media Outlet, Liberation, gave Business Insider a brief explanation for the reasoning behind this law. "[The law] is meant to better distinguish the activity of these vehicles from that of taxis." The French government aims to keep the integrity of the role of taxi services as a form of public transportation that hold the privilege of scouting for customers as opposed to booking reservations. Business Insider further added that the law is "designed to protect the legal monopoly of taxis by making services like Uber a lot slower and a lot less convenient."

The New York Times reported that, as expected, Uber appealed to the law, claiming that it was making ride sharing illegal and hurting a cost effective form of travel in the French community. The French Council then issued a response regarding the government's decision, reassuring the American company that "ride-sharing was unaffected and that the law and the ban conformed to the Constitution."

Thomas Meister, an Uber spokesman, attempted to persuade the French government with history to back the company's claims. According to Yahoo News, Meister claimed

that the laws governing transportation services in Western Europe could be traced back to the 1960s and the rules were less flexible there than in places such as the United States and Mexico, who have updated their loss. "It is inevitable that ride-sharing and carpooling services will become more common in Europe, but it is just going to take longer than elsewhere," he added.

With the company worth over \$40 billion, Uber has placed an emphasis on excelling in their services that stretch beyond the United States. The company believes that expansion in continents like Asia, Europe, and Latin America is the key to building a solid international reputation. However, with recent protests, the ban, as well as the prosecution of French Uber Executives Thibaud Simphal and Pierre-Dimitri Gore-Coty, the company is now forced to reassess its priorities.

Two top Uber French executives were arrested in Paris. According to The Wall Street Journal, they were arrested primarily on charges of enabling illegal taxi services. Their was set for September. An Uber Spokesman was quoted calling the charges "Totally unheard of and a piece of pure calumny." Even with these charges Uber has refused to shut down their "Uberpop" service, stating that they will not shut down unless a court has ordered them to do so. The Uber company has stated "We are keen to continue talking to the French government about the regulatory framework for services like Uber. There is a way forward - with regulation that is focused on the needs and safety of the public, while also allowing for more people to take advantage of these new economic possibilities."

Internationally, Uber has had some setbacks in some areas and progress in others. According to the Wall Street Journal, in South

Korea, the government indicted CEO Travis Kalanick on violating transportation law. In the Netherlands, prosecutors raided Uber's offices in March and began a criminal investigation. In May, a Milan judge ruled that the "Uberpop" service for non-professional drivers is illegal. The Philippines became the first country to make ride-hailing legal nationwide in May. In Portland, Uber got cleared for a 4 month operating period that started in April. The state assembly in Nevada passed a bill in May legalizing the car service.

The new French law says that operating a system like "Uberpop" that puts passengers and touch with drivers who do not have professional licenses is punishable by up to \$332,832 as well as two years in prison for violation of the law. The French government has continued to create laws that some say are aimed at Uber. The Wall Street Journal says that last fall, legislators passed the new French Transport Law which had several of its parts aimed towards Uber. One of those parts made it illegal for companies other than taxi firms to show the live locations of available cars on a map.

The live car location is a very popular feature Uber provides that people seem to enjoy. There is another provision that can also force the drivers for any of these car services to return to a garage in between their fares.

Uber has really come under fire during the last couple of months. The protests being held by taxi drivers in New York as well as drivers in France do not bode well with the company. The arrests, fines, and new laws being passed are making it even more difficult for Uber to do anything without it being deemed an illegal service. The trial in September and what occurs after should greatly influence the company's next move.



A leaflet which reads 'Uber go home' is seen on a taxi as striking French taxi drivers block the traffic on the Paris ring road during a national protest against car-sharing service Uber, in Paris, France, June 25, 2015. Reuters/Charles Platiau

HOW TO WRITE AN E-MAIL TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR OR T.A.

From: Student
To: Instructor/T.A.

hey

lol, when is your office hours?

btw, where is your office?

AAAAHHH!! HOW DID YOU GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL?!

IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS!!!

BEFORE ASKING YOUR QUESTION, ALWAYS CONSULT:
A) THE SYLLABUS
B) COMMON SENSE
C) THE SYLLABUS

IT ONLY TAKES A SECOND TO SPELL CHECK! SERIOUSLY, YOUR TIME IS NOT THAT IMPORTANT.

MY NAME IS NOT "HEY," "YO," "SUP" OR "DUDE." USE A PROPER GREETING!

OMG, WHAT ARE YOU, I4? WRITE FULL SENTENCES! THE INTERNET HAS ENOUGH BANDWIDTH.

SIGN YOUR NAME! THIS ISN'T CHAT AND WE ARE NOT FRIENDS.

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

JORGE CHAM © 2015

About *Piled Higher and Deeper*

The strip:

"Piled Higher and Deeper" (PhD) is the comic strip about life (or the lack thereof) in academia.

The author:

Jorge Cham got his PhD in Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University, and was a full-time Instructor and researcher at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) from 2003-2005.

Immigration comics present

THE F-1 STUDENT VISA PROCESS EXPLAINED

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM JORGE CHAM © 2008

STEP →

- DREAM OF STUDYING IN AMERICA, LAND OF OPPORTUNITY!**
Technically, America is the continent.
- FIND OUT HOW MUCH OPPORTUNITY COSTS**
Tuition is HOW much??
- FUTILELY WRITE TO PROFESSORS**
new mail from another foreign student!
delete
- TAKE STANDARDIZED ENGLISH TEST (years of listening to American Pop culture finally pay off!)**
"a cow is a farm animal."
- TRUST YOUR FUTURE IN HANDS OF QUESTIONABLE LOCAL MAIL SYSTEM**
- GET ACCEPTED!**
i love my country! but i can't wait to get out!
- WAKE UP AT 4am, FORM LINE AT U.S. CONSULATE**
- GET IN, WAIT IN ANOTHER LINE**
- GET INTERVIEWED**
so, what's your PhD about? uh...
- WAIT SOME MORE**
- VISA GRANTED!**
i am a worthy human being!
- SAY GOODBYE TO RELATIVES (THE ONES YOU LIKE)**
will you come back to visit? if i can afford it.
- GET EYE SCANNED, FINGERPRINTED, SUBTLY INTERROGATED**
so, what's your PhD about? uh...
are you a terrorist??
- FIND OUT UNIVERSITY IS ACTUALLY IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE**
howdy, y'all! welcome to America!
- JUST USED TO CULTURE, PAY TAXES, ESTABLISH FRIENDSHIPS**
- FACE FACT YOU ARE NOW OVER-QUALIFIED FOR MOST JOBS IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY**
what is it you do again?!
- GRAPPLE WITH IDENTITY ISSUES**
who am i?
what is "home"?
- REALIZE THE PLACE YOU NOW CALL HOME DOESN'T FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT YOU**
what do you mean i can't get back in the country!?

Entertainment

Best Pets for a College Student Living On Campus

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Excited to move into your college dorm? Imagining you and your lovely pet chilling in the dorm room? Before you get too excited about your pet, let's talk about whether you will have one.

Unfortunately, for those who live on campus, you cannot keep any pet in the dorm room except for fishes, or plants that are smaller than 3 feet. Although you might have heard of people who kept cats, puppies, ferrets, guinea pigs, bunnies, or hamsters in their dorm room, you will find that those are against the rules. You might get into serious trouble, like getting kicked out from the dorm or even getting expelled, which is why it's better to play it safe and get a fish tank.

For those who want to keep plants, please do not bring anything larger than 3 ft into your dorm room. Some of you might want to own a small garden, but doing so while living on a college campus isn't the best time to do so.

For those who live off campus, YES!! You may have as many pets as you want, but only if your landlord allows you to have one.

Since majority of you live on campus, let's see what type of fish is good for you to keep in the dorm room. Before you make any moves, you will need to ask yourself couple questions:

1. How big do you want your tank to be? You cannot have any tank that is bigger than a quarter of your desk.

2. What kind of tank would you like to keep in your room? Cold water tank or heated water tank?

3. Will you be able to take care of them while you are away for vacations?

Once you think you are ready, let's get into details!!



Blood-fin Tetras and White Cloud fish are just like gold fish, and they are all cold-water type. All you'll need is a filter, change water every week, and remembered to feed them daily.



Bettas are also a good choice for a mini tank since you can only place one betta per tank. They are normally pretty and colorful, and you can choose whichever color you like to place in your tank.

For off campus students, if you want to try to have a small tiny roommate in your room, here are the easiest 9 types of pets: Fish, guinea pig, hamster, lizard, turtle, hermit crab, chinchilla, sugar gliders, and hedgehogs.

Most of them you can find it in any pet store easily, but think before you act: there are a lot of abandoned animals that you can choose to adopt as a pet. Adoption is always better than buying a new pet, because it is not only cheaper but also you are giving the animal you are adopting a new life.



For beginners, a goldfish is always the best choice. They don't have too many requirements aside from needing food, and they normally have longer lives than other type of fishes.

