



THE NAUTILUS

OCT 14, 2024

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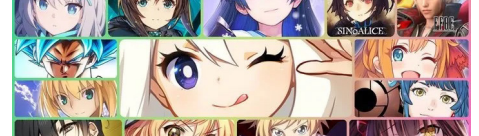
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Photo by Clayton Syfert, '28

Where will Hullabaloo and Ocean's Hall residents live?

By Anna McCollom, '28, and Clayton Syfert, '28

Throughout the fall, all seven of the school's residence halls have been bustling with life. From studying in the common areas to sprinting and screaming down the staircases during the Midnight Yell round-up, the dorms here at TAMUG have felt lived-in.

However, beginning in the spring semester, the doors to Hullabaloo and Oceans Hall will be closed for renovations.

Suitemates Logan Mooty '27 and Riccardo Orlandi '28 are two of many that are preparing themselves for the close at the semester. The two Oceans residents have tried their best to stay up to date on all information about their relocation, but finding information on their plan has proven difficult.

"University housing hasn't told us where we're going yet, so coming up with a plan is hard," Orlandi said.

"They're asking for preferences on where we'd want to go," continued Orlandi, "but they don't really have that figured out. There's an abundance of people, because these are pretty big halls. But right now, they haven't told us where we're going, we don't have a clue where

they're planning on putting us, there's just no information."

Despite the uncertainty, Mooty and Orlandi have spent the first semester of the year coming up with a plan for where to relocate during renovations.

"We're thinking about trying to find somewhere to live off of the island," Mooty said. "We haven't picked a location yet, but our goal is to either find one or wait a semester and then move in the fall."

In the search for a new place to live, the suitemates have come to terms with the uncertainty of the move. "We're kind of just going with the flow on all of this, that's all we can do in this situation really," Mooty said. "It's a comfortable life here, and it's by no means the nicest, right? And you accept that when you move in— that you are living in a slightly less bougie dorm. So, we're really trying to be indifferent to this move."

Campus Living and Learning has yet to send out any additional information regarding the displacement and closing, but students expect more updates to be available soon.

Students react to meal plan price increases

By Logan Trujillo, '27 and William Ferraz, '27

Returning students may have missed an email about meal plan changes over the Summer. Students are now limited to three options, previously, we had to budget our meal swipes per semester. This came with the benefit of having more control over the amount of meal swipes and dining dollars in your account, so are these three new options beneficial to students?

Two aggie dining managerial staff members were interviewed and requested to stay anonymous. They stated, Galveston campus merged contracts with the dining at College Station over the Summer. This means that all dining options, prices, and services now match the main campus. This includes the removal of to-go meals from the dining hall and an increase in prices for meals paid directly.

First, the most expensive plan is now over "\$400 cheaper" than previous years, another is that the plans can now be used seamlessly at the dining halls in College Station. This is great for all Access 7 students who visit the main campus frequently. The most notable benefit is that dining dollars don't expire after the spring semester and roll over between semesters and campuses! They will stay on your account as long as you are a student at TAMU. Also, some may not know that dining dollars can be added through the Dine On Campus website. As a result of this new meal plan, dining management stated that they have been able to "double on-campus events" this year, as well as starting the "First Year Eats" program at TAMUG to help new students battle hunger and food insecurity.

What do returning students think about these changes? When asked about the available

MEAL PLANS ON PG. 3

Student Aid Index (SAI) Replaces Family Income for FAFSA Eligibility

By Quentin Young-Rittenhouse, '25

The 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has changed and many students will notice changes in their application and financial aid that they may receive.

Multiple students have reported that they were not able to receive financial aid due to new requirements for Dependency status and most importantly the replacement of the Estimated Family Contribution statistic (EFC).

According to the official FAFSA website, Dependency and EFC used to be the main determinants of financial aid, however, EFC has been changed to the Student Aid Index (SAI). Which is no longer a system that is based upon a dollar amount, but rather, a variety of factors included in a student's application and can range anywhere from -1500 to 999999. Again, not in dollars but it is more of a need-rating system.

Nicola Fish, a Financial Advisor II for our scholarships and financial aid office from our campus financial aid office. A large issue many students are having is with documentation being properly submitted and filled out.

Ms. Fish stated that the biggest issue with this year's FAFSA is the delays especially those in the communications with the government and the financial aid office as well as getting any signatures needed to complete those communications. If students need to correct something it could take months for the financial aid office to receive the transaction.

The number of students reporting issues is comparable to previous semesters according to Ms. Fish, so it is unclear if the change of dates and new features or changes has actually caused more problems. It is unclear if these changes are going to stick or if FAFSA will change back again with the former being the most likely. According to Ms. Fish, the new FAFSA is a much faster process, and will be better overall once some of the kinks are worked out.

Student Government Association has productive September

By Melton "Bubba" Nelson, '25

Recently, the AVP of Academic Affairs stepped down and the process of appointment of the new AVP, Caitlyn Borey is being put into motion. The new senators from the most recent election have been sworn in and have attended their first and second meeting.

Galveston has been making waves with helping secure Texas A&M the TRIO Grant and a Grant Writing Committee that was spearheaded by President Bothwell '25 and Vice President McKenna '25.

Vice President McKenna was also elected as the President of Chancellor's Student Advisory Council (CSAC), which is the first time a Galveston student has served as CSAC President. CSAC is a council of students from each A&M System school where all the council members attend a conference to give feedback to the Chancellor/administration and to speak with each other about the current states of all of their campuses.

Food and Dining Updates

The meal plans have not been well received by our campus and is something the food and dining committee will bring up with Chartwells.

Additionally, smaller complaints about the availability of bread at Mess Deck and a proposal for Mugdown to close 2 hours earlier to alleviate worker stress and increase funding elsewhere lost in the senate and will not be implemented.

Professor Complaints

A particular professor for a particular class is being discussed within the senate based on the first exam scores with discussions of possible actions and future plans for the course being

brought up with administration.

Another professor who was put on hold last semester for inappropriate behavior is also receiving complaints this semester, Academic Affairs is discussing the topic of what this means for students and faculty going forward.

Student Business Services
Student business services have been the busiest they have ever been at this point in the year. Which is great news, because students using the resources that A&M is able to provide free of charge means A&M is creating more leaders in the industry.



Traditions

Starting Monday October 14th is Traditions Week where campus will celebrate its traditions and the plan for each day is as follows:

- Monday: Ring Pop
- Tuesday: Bonfire Remembrance
- Wednesday: Silver Taps
- Thursday: Elephant Walk (Ewalk)
- Friday: 12th Man

Stay in the loop

The Student Government Association meets every Wednesday at 8 PM in Main 117 and is open for any student to attend and listen to what SGA might be discussing, however, normal attendees are not allowed to vote but can state their opinions and concerns to the senate if they so please.

This year's Senate is almost entirely full, which means they are able to represent all students on campus. If you would like to tell SGA what you are thinking about it can be anything on or off campus, from food or furniture to professors or degrees. They help bridge the gap between the student body and administration.

LESS THAN 1 MONTH UNTIL BREAKBULK AMERICAS

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Photo by Stephanie Jimenez, '27

Campus community celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By Stephanie Jimenez, '27

Each year, Americans celebrate the culture, history, and achievements of American citizens whose ancestors came from Mexico and Central and South America. This commemoration takes place from September 15 to October 15.

This year, TAMUG Dining Services was early to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by serving students with an elote bar. They served yellow corn with different traditional Mexican sauces.

One student of Mexican heritage expressed surprise at the Elote Bar, saying: "I was not expecting them to have an elote bar, when I saw it, I was very excited but ... it is my first year here and so far this is the only thing I have seen that has mentioned anything related to Hispanic Heritage Month. It feels good that they at least acknowledge it."

In March 2022, the Department of Education designated Texas A&M University as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), meaning 25 percent of the full-time undergraduate student population is Hispanic.

As a predominantly white institution,

TAMUG's small-campus feel helps students connect with their community.

"I have luckily found other hispanic students at TAMUG and I enjoy the community here at TAMUG," said Ian Rosales, '28, a Mexican-Salvadorian student. "I don't have any qualms with [Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at TAMUG] ... but I believe that Hispanics have done a lot for this country and it would be really sweet to commemorate

them."

"It is important to see our culture celebrated," said Annaie Mijares '27, a Mexican-American student, who also serves as Public Relations Officer for the Student Association of Latino Leaders (SALL), "so that we don't feel alienated in our own campus and for students to know that they are seen as any other student on campus."

MEAL PLANS (CONT.)

options, the overall opinion was mixed. One student, Anonymous '27, stated, "The new all-access 7 is too expensive, and the 5-day access is too limiting". Anonymous '26 complained about their dining dollar situation, saying, "I've already almost run out of dining dollars, and there has only been a month of school." Some other complaints have been that many students never used all their meal swipes. Now, they have lost the option to purchase a smaller meal plan.

Losing to-go meals from Captains Landing, fewer meal plan and dining dollar options, and no longer having a set number of meal swipes makes for a very noticeable difference compared to last year. An on-campus student, Anonymous '27, said, "This new 7-day all-access option just makes more sense." However, the same student said, "Taking away to-go meals just seems unnecessary." Overall, the changes to the new dining plan seem to be controversial among students.



Photo by Alex Crouse, '10

No dock, no problem!

The rowing team faces the costly effects of Hurricane Beryl

By Ethan Brown, '27

The start of a new school year means the resurgence of all the activities that come with it, and that includes our ever-popular club sports. From soccer to rugby, this campus has something for everyone. One sport on campus that many may not know much about, however, is rowing. That's why I met with the president of the rowing club known as Aggie Crew, Shelbie Gray, and talked to her about the beginning of the season and what lies in store for the team this semester. I started by asking her how the start of the season has been so far?

She said that "Overall the start of the season has been great! We got some new members who seem very enthusiastic and have taken to rowing well." Then stating that she starts them off with the machines before going to on-the-water rowing. But I also happen to

know that Hurricane Beryl destroyed their dock, so I asked about that.

To which she stated that "Without the dock we can't deploy our boats and get out on the water and so we are grounded. While we are working on getting it fixed, it looks like it may be a while." When asked what her plans to work around the broken dock she said

"We currently have a few ideas in mind [like] working with the Bay Area Rowing Club so we can have access to their dock. We are also planning a joint practice with the College Station rowing team in late October, with the possibility of more in the future. In the meantime however, we will continue our training on dry land using the rowing machines and lots of cardio"

But with a broken dock, I asked if

they would actually compete in a rowing competition, also known as a Regatta and she said "Yes we are! Last year we competed in the Head of the Brazos Regatta hosted by the Baylor rowing club and we plan to do so again this year!" To which she also mentioned competing in indoor rowing machine competitions in lieu of not having consistent access to water here in Galveston. She finished up by saying that they "Are hosting a t-shirt sale during Fall Fest! So make sure to come out and buy one so you can support the rowing team"

Overall the rowing club has had a strong start to the season despite the unexpected challenges they've faced. With the destruction of their dock, the club is looking for creative solutions to keep the team active. Their determination to stay active and still compete in regattas and indoor competitions is a testament to their resilience. With other plans for the semester, including fundraisers and social events, the rowing team is ready to make their mark this semester.

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Fall 2024 Career Fair

Oct 24th | 10am-2pm | ASEC Ballroom

REGISTRATION & EMPLOYER LIST



Register by Oct. 18th to avoid lines at the door!

Review: Galveston Beaches

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

Galveston Island is one of the most visited places in the state of Texas, due in no small part to its numerous beaches and culture that surrounds them. Naturally the beaches will appeal to anyone in town, but with so many to choose from, how can you make the most of your weekends or days off? We have visited several of the most popular beaches along Galveston island's south coast to make sure you know which ones to skip, and which are must visits.

Jamaica Beach ★★☆☆☆

The furthest of the beaches we visited, around a 30-minute drive, Jamaica has always been a personal favorite of mine. Due to its distance, it is generally quieter than most other beaches. This doesn't mean there aren't things to do in the area though, as just before the beaches themselves is the entrance to Galveston Island State Park, which offers birding, camping, and hiking. As for the beaches themselves, there are over a dozen access points with varying quality. Some allow you to drive on the beach with ample room to enjoy the sun and waves, while others are surrounded by private property and covered in greenery, decreasing sand space and bringing bugs. Generally, the



Photo by Audrey Theiss, '28

access points closest to the water tower are the most enjoyable. Overall, Jamaica beach when done right will bring everything to be expected from a great beach, while avoiding many of the big crowds.

West Beach ★★☆☆☆

East of Jamaica beach, you will find west beach. Due to its proximity to Jamaica, the surrounding businesses serve as an advantage to this one as well. It is plenty accessible, however there is no driving on west beach. This adds to an issue of parking, as it is somewhat limited, due to the fact that in comparison to most others this beach is relatively small. So, if it does happen to be crowded that day, you would likely be better off hoofing it a few more miles down to Jamaica. West is a solid beach, however its small size could make it problematic during common beaching hours and may be best to avoid.

Seawall Beach ★★☆☆☆

Likely the first beach you will come across, Seawall is by far the most popular beach on the island, and for good reason. Its proximity to Pleasure Pier, Murdoch's, and other island staples makes it a great staging ground for a day on the island. This appeal attracts an incredible amount of guests though, which is the source for it being incredibly crowded

during the weekends and peak season. Even when this is not the case, parking must either be done by parallel parking on the sea wall or by parking in another establishment and crossing the street.

These both are far from convenient and may require you to pay for a spot, and can be downright dangerous depending on Seawall Blvd. traffic. Seawall is a great beach under certain conditions, but those conditions can be hard to come by.

Porretto ★★☆☆☆

Lastly, Porretto and Stewart Beach are parked right next to each other further east down Seawall Blvd., with Porretto coming up first. You are best to keep on driving though as Porretto has effectively no parking that offers easy access to the beach.

Stewart Beach ★★☆☆☆

Stewart on the other hand has a very spacious parking lot that, while not letting you drive on the beach, provides a very easy footpath. It is a relatively unremarkable beach, save for the fact that it bans tents or tarps of any kind, which may be a drawback for some. It is also situated somewhat close to Pleasure Pier giving it some of the appeal of Seawall Beach. Stewart is an inoffensive beach, and works as a great safety option.

**Race Day: 10/20
at 7:30 AM**



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Opinion: Gacha games pose threat for younger players

By Arnold Rabago, '27

From their introduction back in 1958, video games have become a large staple in modern society capturing the attention of many people worldwide.

From different types of games like shooters, RPGs, Strategy, and casual, the market has continued to grow in population, and revenue is estimated to continue growing into the future with its trends. Especially with the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, the gaming industry boomed and many people found new ways to entertain themselves in their homes.

With an approximate number of over 3 billion active gamers worldwide, a large portion of this group are quite young with 58% of that population being 34 or younger. However, with such a large young audience consuming video game media, who's to say they won't fall under one of the easiest traps for these companies to make money, Gambling?

Gambling within our modern society is a large industry, gaining the attention of many people trying to earn money by chance. However, similarly to gaming, the younger generation is more likely to gamble than older people, with 69% of Generation Z from 18-26 having participated in gambling.

Why does this statistic matter though? With the rise of new games coming out every year, a new form of play called "Gacha" games

has seemingly spread over the world with its popularity, with its biggest game being "Genshin Impact" which changed the industry forever.

These games implement a system similar to gambling, giving small chances of obtaining outstanding items/characters by "rolling" for them, either by saving up the in-game currency for long periods or by exchanging real-world currency into the game's premium in-game currency.

The underlying problem this creates is that many young adults are exposed to this system, and can fall victim to gambling habits that result from the gacha/loot box system.

The primary issue, just like gambling, is users can get carried away with how much they spend on these games. Likewise, with excessive spending, these same users can fall into debt by spending way more than they expected.

Unlike casinos, which age restrictions are regulated under the law, gacha games are not as anyone under the age of 18 or 21 is capable of spending money within these games.

Not only can these actions lead to early financial ruin, but they can also harm the person's relationships within the real world, spending more time on games they spent money on and becoming addicted to gacha games.

Especially with how predatory the gaming company's methods are in drawing in old and new players into these games and spending money, the problem can only continue to rise as more people essentially become gambling addicts, trapped within a casino.

A large part of combating these "Gacha" games lies within the individual user's financial responsibility and restraints.

These are legitimate business strategies that these companies use, but it's up to the individual whether or not they are willing to engage in these games and their mechanics.

Good ways to enjoy these games without falling victim to gambling addiction can include: setting boundaries/budgets on how much you spend, limiting the amount of playtime you spend per day/week, and recognizing when you are losing and accepting it.

In the case of preventing younger players from spending, there could easily be limits to how much money a user can spend per day and an age restriction preventing anyone under the age of 16 from excessive spending. With how large the young gaming population is, it's important to know how much of an influence this can have on our spending habits, and be aware of the dangers of participating in these games before falling victim to these gacha systems.

Arnold Rabago is a sophomore engineering major.



I came to TAMUG from El Paso, and I barely know anything about Galveston. What are some important places I should go to if I need food or something? -El Pasoan

Dear El Pasoan,

Life on Pelican Island can be jarring for freshmen, not only from TAMUG's relative isolation to Galveston, but that many new students know nothing about the city at all.

The idea of living in a place with so much going on, yet being unaware of its happenings is bewildering at first, but this place doesn't have to remain alien to you.

Of course, the biggest obstacle for

students is the lack of transport; many of us don't have our own cars, and typically have to ride with our roommates or friends to go places. In that case, when you are able to get out at some point, here's some nearby places that are essential for student life here.

The closest commercial retail spaces aside from the corner store next to campus are off Broadway Avenue and Downtown, which you can get to by exiting Pelican Island then driving a couple blocks straight or taking a left down Harborside.

Admittedly, Galveston can be a bit scary and even dangerous at night, so if you find yourself going out at night or are scared to go out. It's best to go with a friend.

The most important place on Broadway is the Target you'll find on the right side of the street. It's by far the biggest and most stocked store closest to TAMUG, and while they don't offer students discounts, you'll likely find all of the school and living supplies you need there.

Aside from those places, there's a lot of cool local restaurants and fast food joints like Maceo's, Henry's, Koops BBQ, or even Marmo Cafe. Be wary of the fact that a couple places like Bison Burritos, Maceo's, and Koops BBQ have weird business hours, so make sure to check them before you go, and Koops BBQ

typically sells out by 1:30 PM so get there early!

Now, if you take east Broadway and go pretty far, you'll eventually merge onto the Seawall, which is where the majority of the tourist activity happens in Galveston.

Like I said, it is a little far, but if you can make it there, I highly suggest going. There's so many restaurants, fancy shopping areas, and of course the beach for your leisure.

Not to mention, several places like Salsa's Mexican Restaurant and Marble Slab give students a 10 to 20% discount on purchases, and there's even a Walmart and Kroger if Target isn't your style, they're just farther than Target.

Overall, there are four main areas you will spend your time in Galveston: Campus, Seawall, Downtown, and somewhere off Broadway or in between all the others. So get out there and enjoy this bustling coastal town and be on the lookout for cool things to do downtown, there is almost always something unique going on there.

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.

Review: The Death of Slim Shady ★★★★★☆

By Zachary Holland, '28

On July 12 one of the, in my opinion, best rappers to “ever do it” released his first album that wasn’t a complete surprise in seven years, The Death of Slim Shady. His last two albums were good, with really high high’s but also really low low’s. 2018’s Kamikaze was particularly guilty of this.

This latest album came with great expectations of a return to form for Eminem, and he delivered. Songs like Bad One, Fuel, Lucifer and Brand New Dance are solid songs with catchy hooks, great production, and really smooth verses from Eminem. Additionally, JID’s feature on Fuel is an excellent cherry on top.

One thing that Eminem has always done really well is his emotional songs, particularly when they’re about his daughters. He doesn’t give us just one of these emotional masterpieces, he double doses us with greatness. The first of these is Temporary featuring Skylar Grey, who provides a wispy, tearful hook while Eminem talks about his failures as a dad, and raps from the perspective of if he had died of his overdose in 2007. The second one features Jelly Roll, as Eminem samples his song Somebody Save Me to give us another fantastic song about telling his daughters all of his regrets, and how he wishes that he could have been a better dad.



Overall, considering the expectations of this album getting a proper rollout, with pre-release singles and actually giving a chance for hype to build, which it did en masse, I think

the album mostly lived up to the hype. It does have some failures, with songs like Trouble, Habits, and Road Rage being a bit subpar. It gets a 4 out of 5 from me.

**COMMON READER
MOVIE NIGHT**




**THE CABIN
IN THE WOODS**

OCT 29	7 PM	MAIN 114	FREE SNACKS!	
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The mission of the *Nautilus* student newspaper is to accurately and fairly report on news and issues relating to the student body at Texas A&M University at Galveston. The *Nautilus* strives to be inclusive of all sectors of campus life, issues, and events. The *Nautilus* is a forum of discussion among the student body, faculty, staff, and peers, a place to voice opinions, concerns, and relay accurate information to the best of the reporter's and editorials staff's knowledge.



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Contact tamugnautilus@gmail.com if you are interested.

Meetings are Thursdays at 6:30 in the library, room 108B, located in the hallway behind the front desk. New staff are welcome throughout the year.