

DATELINE DOWNTOWN

THE UNIVERSITY BI-WEEKLY STUDENT-RUN SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

1,000 Candles, 1,000 Dead

by Edgar Fuentes
Editor in Chief

The deaths of over 1,000 soldiers in the war in Iraq prompted a gathering for a mass vigil at Mecom Fountain at the intersection of Main and Montrose on September 10.

Four months after President Bush declared his "Mission Accomplished" speech onboard the USS Abraham Lincoln, American soldiers continue to lose their lives fighting in the War in Iraq. All over America funerals for soldiers who have died in Iraq have been held, none of which President Bush has attended. Here in Houston, 1,000 lit candles were lined along the sides of Main Street as a reminder and a way of honoring those lives that were lost. By 8 p.m., the number of people present reportedly exceeded 1,000.

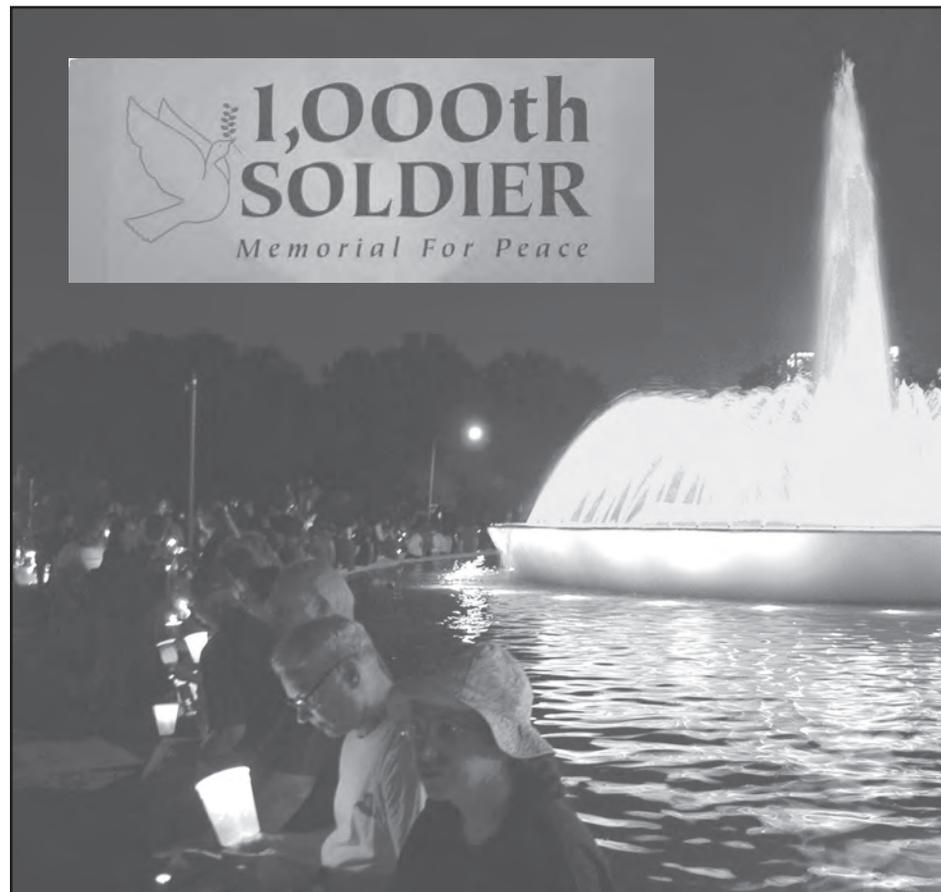
Several UHD students and professors attended the vigil, including English professor Dr. Sara Farris. She explains how she used to go to Mecom Fountain on Fri-

day afternoons during the weeks before the war. She adds that "back then, the goal was to stop what was coming, though I don't guess anyone believes a gathering around a fountain can stop a war. But I knew there'd be like-minded people there, and I needed that." For her, the vigil was more like a mourning for the U.S. and Iraqi dead as well as a continued opposition to war.

While anti-war sentiments were alive at the event, it was well short of being considered a protest. A handful of people did bring signs which expressed their dissatisfaction with the current administration and their views on the war in Iraq. Likewise, there was a woman who handed out small American flag pins which read, "God Bless America."

Another attendee, Professor JoAnn Pavletich, stated she attended the vigil because she wanted to share her "grief and anger over the unnecessary deaths" of 1,000 U.S. soldiers and over 10,000 Iraqi civilians. Dr. Pavletich says she went there

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Monica Zamora

'Buddha' comes to UHD's Commerce Building

by Israel J. Salazar
Assistant Editor

The Buddhacrush, the band that rocked UHD's grand opening ceremony, stole the show with its unique sound at the Commerce Street Building September 8.

I have to admit, I was hardly excited about covering the grand opening of the new Commerce Street building. I was expecting no more than a gathering of students wandering aimlessly through strange hallways and marveling at the fresh paint, in a baseless form of awe. But as I stepped out into the heat of Main Street and made my way down the bridge, I was lured in by the festive music emanating from the new building. When I arrived, students were dancing against the guardrails, up the steps

and all the way around the new building's front deck. Guys were tapping their feet; the women were getting down and everyone, it seemed, had a popsicle of some kind to help battle the heat. People were having a blast and I was certainly impressed. When I looked inside, I saw Michelle Falcon, the assistant events coordinator, smiling. I think it was because she knew what had been accomplished. The organizers had succeeded in putting the grand into this grand opening, complete with free food, drinks and even ice cream.

From the moment I arrived, it was evident that the band was the driving force in the transformation of this school event, into a festival. No exaggeration here, friends; the band rocked the place! Even

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Editorial

Israel J. Salazar
Assistant Editor

We the students of UHD have the rest of our lives invested in the time we spend here. Most of us know what it's like to work harder than expected, only to be paid less than we are worth. This is why many of us are here. However, time is precious and it is fleeting. It bleeds from a student like money. The harsh reality of education is that being in school does not make the student rich. Education is

a wise sacrifice, but a sacrifice all the same. A student's investment usually doesn't pay off until graduation. This is why students should be proud to be here. We are the most vigilant of all citizens. Our incomparable desire to achieve that which is not easy drives this society to excellence.

As students, many of us are sacrificing money for the time we have devoted to our education. And unless you were born into the condition that provided the leisure of your education as a certainty, chances are that on top of being a student, you are also a member of this nation's workforce. That is the more prevalent circumstance of

the UHD student. It is also why I have a great deal of respect for the type of student that pursues a higher education here at UHD. This university's students have the vigilance to have learned what it will take to get what they want and the drive to sacrifice whatever it takes to get it.

Socrates believed that wisdom was excellence and that excellence was achieved by the repetition of wise decisions. The achievement of this wisdom, Socrates said, is the highest virtue an individual can aspire to possess. To apply this philosophy in the practical context of our modern world, individuals must never stop learning and

never cease to apply that knowledge to the everyday application of their will. The world moves much too quickly for static minds to function effectively. This is why I believe it is my privilege, as assistant editor here at Dateline, to provide UHD students with the kind of informative news and information that will help them continue to make wise decisions. I am honored to do so and I am confident that with vigilance and wisdom, we can all achieve the goals we have set for ourselves.

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Dateline,

I just recently moved here from another college. I have attended LSU and another college north of Texas. I don't believe it is OK for some classes to allow some students to use graphic calculators while others do not. My instructor said we don't need them, yet other instructors allow their students to use them. Why should students in classes other than mine have the advantage to use calculators and not us? In the last two schools I attended, my instructors did allow us to use them. You are not cheating by using a calculator; you have to know how to use it first and then you have to show your work, so surely the calculator helps you check your work. I just wanted to know what your point of view in this matter was.

Thank you for taking the time,
Concerned

Dear Concerned,

I always wanted to do this kind of column, so I'm excited you've given me the chance to start dispensing advice to concerned students.

In response to your question, I think the graphing calculator dilemma is easier than you think. Ultimately, the decision the professor makes is based on their teaching style. Some professors like to focus on teaching concepts before releasing the graphing calculators. As you said, you have to first "learn to use" the calculator. This also depends on what Math course you're in. Lower-level courses may not use them as much as advanced upper-level

courses. Although I may be wrong.

If you're talking about using graphing calculators on an exam, then there's also the issue of fairness. To give a simple example of graphing a " $y=mx+b$ " type of problem, would it be fair that it take a person with a standard calculator longer to solve a problem than a person who has the benefit of a calculator that can graph the solution? Graphing calculators, after all, have many more features than a regular calculator, including the ability to store typed information. This could lead to potential abuse of privilege. For example, I had a friend in high school who would type formulas into the calculator so that he would not have to memorize them for tests. Is he in college now? No.

Don't forget that every professor teaches differently. You might find a professor here at UHD who does allow the use of graphing calculators. That also does not necessarily mean the course will be easier.

Since you've already talked to other students about this, my advice to you is that if you feel that strongly about your point you should talk to your professor privately during their office hours and maybe discuss the matter. You might end up being convinced of why the calculators are not used! But if you still feel dissatisfied, consider talking to the head of the Math Department and see what advice they have to offer you.

If you would like to respond to this discussion or if you have your own question or concern, feel free to write to the editor at fuentes2@gator.uhd.edu and your letter to the editor may be featured on our next issue!

STRESSED?

by Lena Dahu
Dateline Staff Writer

Mental Health Awareness Week, which is presented by the Counseling Services, will be held at the Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium on Oct. 4 and 5 to inform students about stress and mental health.

During this two-day event, various classes will be scheduled to come to the auditorium and hear lectures given by representatives from the Houston Police Department, the Houston Women's Center, and psychologists from other schools and private practices.

The program is aimed at teaching students what stress and anxiety are and how they are affected by them. It also aims to teach students through lectures and brochures about how to cope with stress, how to relax, improve self-esteem and how to have better communication skills.

Students are offered counseling services if they cannot deal with their stress alone. At the counseling center located here at UHD, students can talk to counselors about their problems and receive good advice and help if they need it. The students are also taught how to de-stress by engaging in relaxation exercises. The counseling center has a relaxation room for students, where they can go into and enjoy peace and quiet and be able to relax their minds. There are also music CDs and video tapes that help inform students about how to unwind.

Dr. Bernadine Duncan, a psychologist at the counseling center, says that stress can be caused by anything from family problems and abuse to worrying about a class or a grade. She offers some tips that students can include in their everyday life to help release stress and anxiety. These include eating a well-balanced meal, exercising and even getting plenty of sunshine! The most important thing that students need to remember is to replace any negative attitudes that they might have about themselves and

replace it with positive self-talk. Another tip offered for students is that they should try to release any negative feelings by either exercise or talking to someone. Harboring negative feelings can not only affect mental health, but they can also cause physical problems such as strokes and heart attacks.

Mental Health Awareness Week will offer many workshops through the Counseling Center that help students with various daily issues, including dealing with test anxiety and effective strategies to control it.

Mental Health Awareness week is also trying to make a point that both students and faculty can benefit from attending the lectures. Likewise, if you cannot attend the lectures, the Counseling Center is here for all of UHD. The center has a number of highly trained and certified professionals such as psychologists and psychiatrists. But don't stress: everything in the counseling department stays confidential. The counseling center is located in room N390. They are appointment-based and their hours are 8 a.m.-7 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays and 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Wednesdays through Fridays.

For more information, on Mental Health Awareness Week or about the Counseling Center, please contact Dr. Bernadine Duncan at (713) 221-8132.

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Where's the Money? Oui, Earn Credits

by Stacy Martin
Dateline Staff Writer

The Student Accounting Office has continuously told my mother that her refund check for Fall 2004 was mailed on August 21, but the problem is that she never received her refund check and she is not alone. I know for a fact that the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid conducted the release of funds for student accounts on August 13, 2004. I received my refund check one week after the rollover so I want to dispute the claim that was made by Patricia Jacobson, Director of Student Accounting and Collections, when she told my mother that her check may have been lost in the mail. My address has been the same since I moved to Houston, and my mother has lived at the same address for many years with my father. We have never had any problems receiving our mail!

I have spoken and left messages for the people in the Financial Aid Office, Student Accounting and the only person

that called me was the head of the Financial Aid Department. I have also spoken to President Max Castillo who I would like to personally thank for getting a book loan for so that she could purchase her textbooks; thank you so much.

When will the madness end? How many more students must wait weeks after school has started to receive their refunds? For most students who do not have a job, the refund check that they receive from school is the only income that they receive to pay their bills. I am not only fighting this battle for my mother, but for other students as well.

The only solution that I feel would be effective is that an online service for students to fill out an inquiry where students should be able to transfer their money from their student account to their personal account just like we have to do when we accept our loans on the web. We can apply for graduation online and register for classes online, why can't we transfer our accounts online. Until then, we wait.

Dr. K sees the Far East

On her recent travels to the Far East, UHD's Professor Kendall visits Japan, Australia, and New Zealand to experience the musical culture and shares her adventures in a multi-part series.

http://www.bigfoto.com/



by Yvonne Kendall
UHD Professor

Part 2 – "On the way and into Japan"

On the plane I sat beside a native of Japan, and a Taiwanese teenager who was an exchange student at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, alma mater of UHD's current faculty senate president, Dr. Kirk Hagen. The businessman from Japan had just returned from a major country music festival in Nashville, where my sister and her family live (small world). He's apparently a big fan of the Randy Travis crowd, wearing his cowboy hat with pride. Go figure.

They were both great companions, helping me study the Japanese tutor I had bought only a week before. Now, I know that the author of Japanese in Ten Minutes a Day probably intended more than a week's study before going to Japan, but things got busy, yadda, yadda, yadda... I did, at least, learn about telling time on

the plane.

Anyway, despite all expectations warnings, customs was pretty quick. goal – finding an ATM. Japan is a culture, with credit cards and travel-checks in much less frequent use than United States, so finding the ATM necessity. This task was both easy hard since there were several, but as already noticed in my ever-so-useful guide, Lonely Planet – Japan (not depressing as it sounds), not all Japanese ATMs accept cards issued outside of Japan. This means that even if you see the Cirrus or Visa signs on the machine, it might not take your card. You have to locate the "international" ATMs. I found one (it was the only one with a line of foreigners) and got a starter stash of ¥30,000.

That may sound like a lot of money, after all thirty thousand of anything ought to be a lot, shouldn't it? But I had been to Italy before the Euro took over and remembered that 1,400 lira only equaled one dollar! I was accustomed to shelling out big wads of cash for relatively little merchandise. The problem is that Japan is much more expensive so my experience with lira was a bit misleading. The amount I got was equivalent to about \$300, but not much seemed to be available for less than ¥500!

Next, I had to trade my Japan rail pass receipt for the pass itself. This is

by Carrie Vlasek
Dateline Staff Writer

Parle vous français? Well, it doesn't matter if you don't; you're still invited to go to France! If you're interested in experiencing France while earning college credits, sign up for one of the Spring semester classes that will be participating in next year's trip to Paris on May 16-24, 2005.

There will be four classes going to France this year, including the Jazz Heritage course taught by Dr. Robert Wilson. The other classes will be announced at a later date, along with the final cost of the trip. The estimate is somewhere around \$1800

"Paris is the European capital of jazz music. This is going to be a French experience, not just a trip."

and it includes roundtrip airfare, eight nights in a hotel, a Paris Pass which allows quick access to sites throughout the city, a boat tour, a half-day trip to Versailles and a seven-day Metro pass. There will also be additional packages which will have added cost depending on the course.

This will be the fourth year Dr. Wilson has organized a college trip. However, this is the first year he has taken a group to France. "Paris is the European capital of jazz music," said Dr. Wilson. "This is going to be a French experience, not just a trip." Since the first year he was involved, he adds, the size of the group has grown from approximately 30 to close to 100 students. Past trips have been to New Orleans where they have gone on scheduled tours and participated in the local festivities. Last year, the whole group was involved in

a jazz parade through the French Quarter that had everything from a royal court in full costume to boxes and boxes of beads.

"This year I wanted to do something different," said Dr. Wilson. He wants the students to see and do things that will enlighten and educate those who choose to be a part of it. The goal is for everyone to experience something during their time abroad that will be something they will keep with them for the rest of their lives. Touring with a group like the one Dr. Wilson is coordinating is also an excellent way to see the world from several perspectives. Each class has a unique schedule that emphasizes their field of study, includ-

ing architecture, art, literature, music and history. Some events, such as a Saturday night concert performed by the Notre Dame Choir and the Sunday morning concert at the Dancing Fountains of Versailles, will involve the entire group.

Scholarships are available to those who qualify. Interest meetings will start in early October and flyers will be decorating the halls very soon. Contact the faculty sponsor, Dr. Robert Wilson at 713-221-8574 or WilsonR@uhd.edu for more details.

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Sykes' Jewel ELI Offers Students New Options

by Sherron Carouthers
Contributing Writer

Since its introduction to UHD in 1993, Bacchus P.A.S.S. (Preventing the Abuse of Substance and Self) continues to be overseen this semester by Halbert Sykes, who looks forward to working with the organization's new leaders.

"It's the dawn of a new Peer Educator," said Bacchus P.A.S.S. advisor Halbert Sykes with a bright smile. Bacchus P.A.S.S. is his jewel. The Mississippi native and graduate of Mississippi State knew as a child that he wanted to help others for a living. Sykes went on to become a minister at the age of 18.

P.A.S.S. (Preventing the Abuse of Substance and Self) was first established in 1989. Its goal was to reach college students who may be struggling with alcohol or drug abuse. Sykes introduced the program to UHD in the Fall of 1993. His efforts awarded him the title of Outstanding Advisor of the Year (1996-97). Sykes later established the campus Volunteer Center in 1998.

Throughout the existence of the Bacchus P.A.S.S. organization, Sykes has experienced many types of conflict. There were disagreements, member resignations, and certain behaviors that went against the philosophies of not only Sykes, but also those of the organization itself and those of UHD. Sykes is passionate about Bacchus' desire to educate students, faculty, and staff about alcohol, drug, and health awareness. P.A.S.S. trains its members to establish a supportive campus environment through participation in the Certified Peer Education program, which focuses on listening skills, refers students to health and counseling centers, and teaches confrontational tactics and presentation techniques. Sykes, however, emphasizes that the members are not counselors. State law restricts the unlicensed from providing guidance and advice that could prove detrimental to others' well-being.

"I'm very excited about the new leadership, their willingness to work as a team and their commitment to our cause," Sykes said.

The new leadership consists of President Yolanda Lawson, Vice President Chris Ray, Treasurer Courtney Mercer and Secretary Benjamin Okonkloo. These leaders serve Bacchus P.A.S.S. and its 21 other members. Among the many plans for this semester are events such as the National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Day, the Crossroad Celebration and the Student Activities and Events Open House, all of which take place this October.

Anyone interested in joining is encouraged to visit Sykes at the Office of Student Activities on the 2nd floor to learn more about the upcoming Bacchus P.A.S.S. events for the Fall 2004 semester.

by Stacy Martin
Dateline Staff Writer

The English Institute (ELI) has an Intensive English Program for students in the study of English since 1974. The ELI Program, under the direction of Gail Keller Berger, offers undergraduates and graduates at the University of Houston-Downtown and throughout the United States. ELI offers students a seven-level intensive program that consists of a 20-hour in-class instruction plus 20 hours of computer time each week. ELI offers six sessions per year where students have class meetings from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The curriculum for ELI encourages testing, promotion, and graduation. New students are assigned a level, based on their placement score; promotion to a new level is possible each semester.

The Business English curriculum helps students quickly learn English for business communication. Classes are interesting and fast-paced. In general, we train students through task-based instruction. Instructors teach language rules and provide practice through tasks and exercises. All levels focus on business content. Students study grammar, business vocabu-

lary, listening, speaking, pronunciation and cross-cultural communication. Special computers are used to help students gear their utterances to standard American English "newspeak" pronunciation. Students also use computer programs that are designed to develop business English skills.

The Business English program offers the latest in program design, teaching technique, equipment, and materials instructors with Masters degrees or better and with real-world business experience courses which prepare students not only in English language skills but also in the American business culture study which is intensive: 25 hours in-class and 15 hours of lab every week 6 sessions a year - each 6.5 weeks.

Classes meet 5 days a week, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with an hour off for lunch. A laboratory is open from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. for extra study. There are four levels of instruction with rapid advancement (a level per session). Students also can view special videos prepared by Americans for business professionals who must do business across cultures. Students also study business writing. This segment is designed to demonstrate and give prac-

tice in the various forms of written communication typically used in American businesses, as well as to help students write grammatically and correctly. Students work with actual business correspondence. Computer writing is also taught since much business communication occurs on-line.

ELI graduates enter the university without a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score and receive 3 hours of academic credit after completing 12 academic hours, and a Certificate of Completion and a Certificate of Graduation. Tuition for ELI students is paid per session. Students have the option to pay for one semester at a time, but students who pay for two semesters can receive a \$200 discount. International students pay a one-time fee of \$60. Tuition and fees are \$977.50 and the cost of medical insurance is \$108. Resident students pay a fee of \$40.

For more information, please contact Gail Kellersberger by phone at 713-221-8047 by fax at 713-221-8546 or by email at eli@dt.uh.edu. International students can contact Nosa M. Ioyha by phone at 713 221-8677 by fax at 713 221-8157 or by email at iyoha@dt.uh.edu

Candles continued from page 1

to be with other Houstonians who believe they were lied to by the Bush Administration and who were "led into a war that has had and will continue to have devastating consequences for millions of Iraqis as well as for the United States."

The splashing water of the Mecom Fountain made it difficult to clearly hear a speech which was given during the event, but they were not enough to muffle the sound of the bugle as it played the "Taps" military tune honoring the dead soldiers. Later, as the crowd sang "This Little Light of Mine," the fountain sounds were like applause as people held up their candles during the song.

Dr. Chuck Jackson, who was also present at the vigil, shared many of the sentiments as his colleagues and added that the one-thousandth soldier "represents an atrocity in terms of lost lives," not only physically but also psychologically, adding that the war has destroyed families not only in America but also in Iraq.

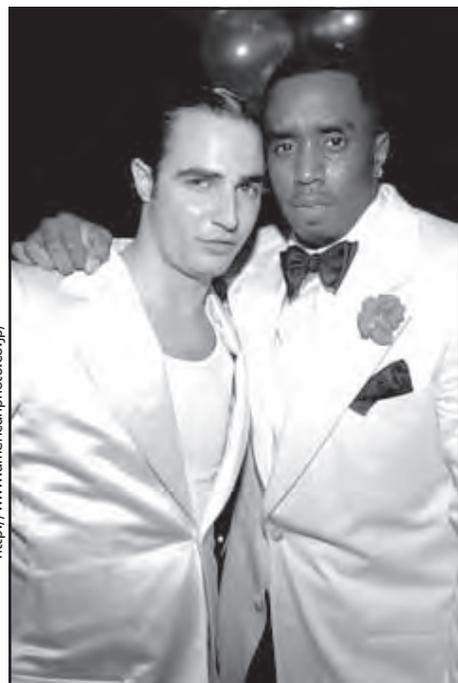
"I lit a candle to show my sadness in a solemn way," he explained in a calm voice. He clarifies the distinction between riot and vigil, adding that there are times for anger and then there are times to show sadness. This was one of those times to express sorrow.

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P. Diddy Pimps the Vote! *Clash* Course in Culture



P. Diddy (right) pictured with Zac Posen

by Shalini Maharaj
Dateline Staff Writer

Multi-million dollar rapper, actor and fashion designer P. Diddy (A.K.A. Sean Combs) has been exploiting our voting process since the launch of his Citizen Change Campaign this past July.

In what seems like a moneymaking endeavor he's using his clever promotional skills to market and sell products related to his new campaign over the Internet. The Citizen Change Campaign is supposed to educate and motivate the 42 million young Americans ages 18-30 to get out and vote on Nov. 2, so its importance is evident.

The 18-30 year old demographic could be a deciding factor in the 2004 Presidential Election, as according to the U.S. Census it represents roughly 25% of the potential voting population.

Combs is aware that he is targeting a group notoriously known for voter apathy. In the 2000 Presidential Election about half of these young Americans were registered to vote and even less than that actually did, so his intentions to do whatever it takes to get people involved can be seen. Though he cheapens the voting process by presenting us with a horde of beautiful women dancing to hip-hop music while sporting designer baby-doll t-shirts and waving signs that read "Vote or Die!"

This was the scene at last month's MTV Music Awards as he once again plugged the hell out of his Citizen Change Campaign. The relationship between P. Diddy's dancing ladies and electing our future president, however, was never established.

According to the Citizen Change website (www.voteordie.com), "Citizen Change has one mission: to make voting hot, sexy and relevant to a generation that has n't reached full participation in the political process."

But what do words like "hot" and "sexy" have to do with the political process? Is he trying to pimp the vote? Candidate views, which are crucial to the voting process, are never directly stated. Clicking on "The Issues" link produces a message that reads "Coming Soon."

The welcome page of the Citizen Change website is filled with an array of "Vote or Die!" t-shirts similar to those worn by the dancing women at the MTV Music Awards. They are available to anyone willing to pay \$30 per shirt. As a result, the average person could be led to believe this is more about marketing P. Diddy and his brand than about lowering the frequency of voter apathy.

by Cathia Donan
Dateline Staff Writer

I first heard of Culture Clash in AmeriCCa by reading about it in a magazine. What caught my attention about the play is that Herbert Sigüenza is a Salvadoran-American actor. This excited me because you don't hear much about well-known people from El Salvador. And with this in mind I went out to experience the play for myself and support a fellow countryman.

Culture Clash consisted of the comic trio Richard Montoya, Ric Salinas and Herbert Sigüenza. I was expecting the performance to be primarily a dramatic tale of cultures in America. Instead, I should have come prepared with tissues for all the tears I shed from laughing so hard! It was an extremely hilarious play depicting everyday people in this country. The play successfully emphasized the idea that people in America regardless of where they've come from still are American.

The play's opening portrayed a Muslim man in prayer, who then began to let out some steam, upset that after 9/11 he and people like him were portrayed as a menace despite the fact that he is an American. The introduction of comic relief quickly began as the man stated that his son is being raised "to praise Allah and Nike®." Throughout the play there were many vignettes with different cultures being depicted: from Muslims to Latin Americans to a lesbian couple and even a transsexual, all who supported the concept of multiculturalism.

One of the more memorable scenes of the play was when one of the characters asked, "What do I need to go back to my country for?" as a reference to the idea that America is a "Land of Opportunity," even if that means that immigrants arrive with intentions to one day go back to their home country. The play also allowed the viewers to understand that Latinos come in wide variety of "flavors." They said that you can tell Latinos apart by the way they dance salsa. Then they hit home with a vignette about a Salvadoran man detailing his arrival to the United States. The man spoke with the same expressions that are used in my house, slang and all.

The play did have its serious mo-

ments, however. Two of the vignettes had a couple of war veterans wondering what it is that they sacrificed their lives for. One of the veterans lived in Tijuana because he said that on that side they don't care about color. Another vignette showed a man telling the story about how he and many others in his town were sexually abused by a Catholic priest. These stories were a patchwork that presented an intimate glimpse into the variety of people, experiences and emotions that make up America.

Unfortunately, Culture Clash in AmeriCCa ran exclusively from September 14-18, 2004 at the Alley Theatre and is no longer playing there. For a listing of other plays at the Alley, visit their website at www.alleytheatre.org.

POETRY GALORE!

by Briana Pedraza
Dateline Staff Writer

The annual Houston Poetry Fest will once again grace the grounds of UHD the first week in October. Events are planned for five days during October 3-10 and will now take place at the new Willow Street Pump Station located at 811 San Jacinto. The traditional festival, which has been held for the last 19 years, will welcome the creativity of several juried poets along with the UHD visiting poet, Roberta Hill. Events for this year's festival have been scheduled on weekends and will take place in different venues across the surrounding Houston area.

Kicking off the first day of this year's festivities on Sunday, October 3, is the "Poetry Out of Bounds" event at the Artery, located in Houston's Museum District. Following this opening event, various other happenings will be a part of the week's festival. UHD will hold several of these events at the Willow Street Pump Station, including a reading and discussion session with visiting poet, Roberta Hill. A member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin

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For a more informative look at the 2004 Presidential Election, you can visit any of the following sites:
www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2004/
www.georgebush.com
www.johnkerry.com

Hair Yesterday, Hair Today



Bruce Bennett for TUTS

by Briana Pedraza
Dateline Staff Writer

They say that history repeats itself and by the look of *Hair*, it seems that history really does. The original Broadway musical, now playing at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts through September 26, is a glimpse into 1960's America and the controversial issues surrounding the time. Needless to say, there was probably more going on in 1968 than tribes of hippies making love, protesting war and smoking marijuana to rebel against conservative America, but this is all you get in *Hair*. Definitely a period piece, *Hair* is the piercing voice of a youth that is openly against the Vietnam War and the conformity of American society. Not

to be taken so seriously, the musical was a night of witty dialogue and innocent fun.

The experience itself was "trippy," as they say, from the beginning. Attentive in your seat and expecting the opening scene, the cast throws you for a loop when they emerge from the doors at the back of the theatre, the same ones from which the audience enters. This was certainly amusing at first, but realizing that these hippies were bearing treats is particularly humorous. (A couple in front of me was anointed with "sensual oil" and my row got sun-flower seeds. Some lucky audience members had to settle for a hug.) The room was laced with the scent from swirling incense sticks and confusing thoughts about what might be next became inevitable. The stage housed a background that became this tribe's hang-out. With a scaffolding structure that would serve as the support for some of the cast's singing and dancing scenes, the stage was transformed into the year 1968 with signs of protest against the war, and painted slogans like, "War is not healthy for flowers." The opening scene would suggest that this was a somber and much more serious show, but once it's known that you're only witnessing a mane cutting ritual, the comedy begins.

Asa Somers, a Yale graduate, plays Berger, the flower pack's unruly and sometimes vulgar leader who didn't mind showing a bit of skin now and then. Interesting conflicts arose when his best friend Claude is drafted into the army and the baffling question of whether or not the two were involved lingered. The internal struggle that troubles Claude, Broadway

actor Tom Stuart, is revealed throughout each scene and serves as a springboard for other social issues that even today, still exist. Erwin G. Urbi's character Woof, is just that, quite a character who never failed to lead the audience into hysterical laughter often with his openly physical obsession with rocker, Mick Jagger. And then there was Jeanie, NYU's Rachel Stern, who never seemed for one moment, to be separated from her all-problem-solving marijuana, in spite of her pregnancy. While some may find the lyrical content of *Hair* offensive, the tribe's unanimous problem of not having any "grass" or white girls singing about the fact that "black boys are delicious/chocolate flavored love", these songs produced moments of fun at exactly the right moment. An invisible character itself, the music from *Hair* fashioned an ending that was both moving and fulfilling, with the hit "Let the Sun Shine In" serving as an appropriate anthem of hope.

America is a country that is supposed to progress, so I thought. This *Hairy* encounter left me with many questions though. I wondered why issues like same-sex marriage or homosexuality in general are still shocking in today's society. I wondered, too, why not plug this assertive energy into other issues like not killing unnecessarily in a preventable war or solving our drug epidemic that kills so many. But then I remembered the task at hand and that cliché about the cyclical cycle of history and I decided that I did like this musical and its method of dealing with these issues in a light-hearted but fitting way, a way that Americans should know and learn from.

Foxx Delivers Memorable Performance in *Ray*

by Stacy Martin
Dateline Staff Writer

Jamie Foxx came to town to promote the screening of his new movie *Ray* on September 15, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday night at the Regal Edwards Marq*e Theater.

The Texas native held a Q & A session for the audience, which included members of the media and moviegoers who watched the screening of the movie.

The film is based on the life of legendary entertainer, Ray Charles Robinson. It examines every aspect of the entertainer's life, including the drowning of his brother George, coping with the loss of his sight, his refusal to play for a segregated crowd in the state of Georgia and the women in Charles' life.

In one particular scene, Ray

Charles meets Country and Western band, The Florida Playboyz, and told them that he was a big fan of country music. With much reluctance, the members of The Florida Playboyz let the blind African American play in their all-white country band. When Charles sat down at the piano, there was no denying that he had a gift for music despite his blindness. The lead singer had to admit that Charles could play, but Charles' facial expressions bothered the band so they gave him sunglasses, which along with his voice, became his trademark.

Several lesser-known aspects about Ray Charles' life were also addressed, including the introduction to heroine by two of his band members while traveling on the road. The men told Charles that heroine was better than having sex, to which Charles replied, "There is nothing better than sex." It was during this period that

Ray Charles composed some of his greatest hits. Later, Foxx portrays Ray Charles checking himself into rehab for his heroine addiction and brilliantly illustrates the pain and hardship that Charles faced through a series of flashbacks about his mother and drowned brother.

Another aspect of Charles' life that was shown was his ability to be quite the ladies' man. He would feel women's arms to see if they were attractive before asking about how they looked. Kerry Washington played Ray Charles' wife, Della Bea, a woman whose devotion and love for her husband was truly captivating. Charles' relationship with Margie Hendricks was also an interesting one. One scene between Ray and Margie (Regina King) was very intense. When Ray found out Margie is pregnant, he tells her to get rid of the baby,

SEE RAY PAGE 7

Celebrando Fiestas Patrias

by Sandra Zamora
Dateline Staff Writer

Prominent figures turn up to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at the Fiestas Patrias International Parade, which was held in Downtown Houston on September 11, 2004.

Familiar faces from the Houston's local television stations took part in the event. Antonio Hernandez, Hector Villareal and Amalia Torres from the Spanish television station Univision were among those in attendance. Also present were other well-known figures such as Fox 26's Mike Barajas and Taslin Alfonso.

Local politicians were also present, including Council Member Adrian Garcia, who walked to greet the crowd, keeping the pace with a vehicle full of supporters. With the 2004 U.S. presidential election almost a month away, it was inevitable to see the Republican and Democratic parties. Each were endorsing their candidates, George W. Bush and John Kerry, respectively. Major names such as McDonalds, Fiesta, Budweiser, and Bacardi were also present. Various local businesses promoted themselves at this event. Some were on vehicles and others on floats.

The Latin American Student Services Organization (LASSO), an organization from UHD, took part in the celebration. The bands from John H. Reagan, Jefferson Davis and other local high schools added festive music to the event as they marched the parade route. The Reserve Officer Training Corps, or R.O.T.C, and cheerleading teams from high schools throughout the city also celebrated the occasion.

There were a number of floats representing various countries of Latin America, including ones from Costa Rica, Honduras and of course, Mexico. All the different Hispanic cultures came together to express their pride that day. Several performed songs and dances while others simply waved at the audience while cheering loudly.

The parade's grand finale was saved for a group of cowboys and cowgirls who were mounted on horses, waving the American and Mexican flags. While this concluded the day's event, there are many more events Houston is hosting throughout Hispanic Heritage Month.

A list of additional city-wide events can be found at www.thehoustonscalendar.com.

Ray continued from page 6

and she slapped him. That night when Margie decided that the relationship between her and Ray would be strictly business, the smash hit "Hit the Road Jack" was created.

After the movie ended, Jamie Foxx answered questions about how he landed the role and his preparation for the movie. The directors, producers, and other people who were involved in the production of the movie as well as the people who were responsible for bringing Charles' 15-year dream to the big screen were also discussed.

"Will Smith actually recommended me for this role after seeing my work in 'Any Given Sunday' and 'Collateral.' [Smith] told the directors and producers that I should be cast as Ray," Foxx told the audience. He explained about the time that he spent with Charles in preparation for his starring role. Foxx remembers Charles teaching him how to play a melody he just could not get right. Charles said, "Why in the hell do you keep doing that; the music is right under your fingers?"

"I lost weight by working with Rashon. We developed a plan that would speed up the metabolism of a 195-pound man into a 157-pound man. Having my eyes taped for 14 hours a day while shooting the movie caused me to hyperventilate the first few days of shooting, but I quickly learned how to rely on my other senses," said Foxx.

This is a movie that has to be seen and not read about. The director did an outstanding job on this movie and should be praised for being the only white director in Hollywood to show interest in telling the story of a man who has unified the world through his music.

Ray hits theaters nationwide October 29, 2004.

Poetry continued from page 5

sin, fiction writer and professor, Dr. Hill will share her talent as a poet Friday evening at 7 p.m. A number of poets who previously submitted entries to a panel of judges have been selected as juried poets to read their original works at each UHD event.

Hopeful writers should note that this particular festival is a great source of opportunity. According to the Houston Poetry Fest website, workshops will be offered on Saturday October 9 to anyone interested in developing that certain poetic flair. The recommended donation for the workshop is a nominal \$10 for adults; however, children may attend a workshop free of charge. Another important UHD event that will take place on October 9 is the Open Reading from 2-5 p.m. This afternoon should offer a great deal of diversity since any UHD student is welcome to read their work. With today's vast sources of creative inspiration, the 2004 Houston Poetry Fest has great promise of providing a memorable celebration of poets and their vision.

For more information visit the Houston Poetry Fest 2004 website: www.houston-poetryfest.org. The following are a list of some of the events taking place during Houston Poetry Fest 2004:

Sunday, October 3
"Poetry Out of Bounds"
at the Artery
5401 Jackson Blvd. @ Prospect
8:00 p.m.

Monday, October 4
"Poetry Out of Bounds"
at Barnes & Noble-Webster
1029 W. Bay Area Blvd.
Phone-(281)554-5669
7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 8
Formal Reading, Visiting Poet Roberta Hill
Willow Street Pump Station
811 San Jacinto, UH-Downtown
7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 9
Workshops 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Open Reading 2-5 p.m.
Willow Street Pump Station
2-5 p.m.

Saturday, October 9
Guest Poet Daniel Rifenburgh
Willow Street Pump Station
7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 10
Afternoon Reading
Guest Poet Randall Watson
Willow Street Pump Station
3:00 pm

Far East continued from page 3

one of the truly great bargains in Japan. Because there are trains all over the islands and Japan Rail is the most extensive of the lines, you don't have to worry about buying train tickets in most areas, just flash your pass and you can hop from city to city.

My friend and host, Pam, had suggested that I get a "Green Car" upgrade. The regular train cars are like those in a subway: long rows of hard benches with straps hanging from the ceiling. On the other hand, the "Green cars" on the train have comfortable reserved - essentially First Class - seats that you can get for a nominal additional fee. In those cars there is more room for luggage and, having traveled the one-hour route from the airport to her home in Hayama many times, she knew that the weary traveler needed comfort on that leg of the arrival. Boy, was she right.

But before the train arrived, I needed to get a drink. I was parched. The vending machine. Oh no...

Next Installment - "Reading Japanese - NOT!"

Buddha continued from page 1

with burgers and hotdogs being handed out inside, half the students there were gathered outside, grooving - yes, grooving - to sounds of The Buddhacrush's six passionate artists:

"Skeets," a locally renowned saxophonist
Drew Ray, the trombonist
Kent "Westside" Bryant, the bassist
Ian Berry, the lead guitarist
Danny Lee a.k.a. "Baldylocks," drummer
and of course, Tim McGlashen, their talented lead vocalist

The sound of their music was unique, richly flavored and soulful, not to mention thoroughly adept in its seduction of virgin ears. The fact is that not many of us had ever heard anything remotely similar to what The Buddhacrush produced that day. Not since The Dave Mathews Band had I heard such a brilliant concoction of styles and musicians. The product of The Buddhacrush's diverse sound was a righteous harmony of pop, jazz and funk.

The band's diversity adds an even more human aspect to their appeal and nothing is lost in the synergy of their presentation. In fact, it may be the seamless integration of a trombone and saxophone that enables the band to achieve the intimacy of their sound, so urgently alive and authentic. Their front man, Tim McGlashen sounds a bit like Rod Stewart, only

McGlashen has more testosterone and raw power in his voice. The product of it all is a divine kind of music that is soulfully reverent and uplifting - a great choice for a party of its kind.

Anyone looking forward to a second helping of The Buddhacrush or anyone who missed their performance and would like to hear them is in luck. The Rhythm Room will be hosting the CD release party for their sophomore CD, "Change Reaction," on Saturday, Oct. 2. Drop Trio will be opening the evening at 9 p.m. Until then, the songs are available to sample at www.buddhacrush.com. "Urban Life" is a song worth listening to.

Some people experience the divine while walking on flaming-hot coals. Others while worshipping in a pit of snakes. My divine moment at the new UHD Commerce Street building? Standing in line for nearly an hour to have my hand dipped into searing-hot wax four or five times. I have to admit, I liked it! The music was great. The view was appealing and from time to time, wandering citizens on lunch break would walk by or pull up to the light in their cars and lean over to hear the music and see what UHD had going on. The rest of downtown Houston seemed to be just as impressed with the grandeur of our celebration as I was. I'm hoping we can find something else to open up - five-dollar coffee anyone?



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