

# DATELINE DOWNTOWN

THE UNIVERSITY BI-WEEKLY STUDENT-RUN SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

## BUSH WINS!

by Jacob Mustafa  
**Dateline Staff Writer**

After hours upon hours of election hype on November 2, President George W. Bush won an extremely close, drawn out presidential race against Senator John F. Kerry. Early Wednesday morning, Kerry called Bush to concede the crucial and much-sought swing state of Ohio, and in turn, the presidency. While it was heavily predicted that Bush would be the winner of a close race, the process was certainly more intriguing.

As early as 10:00 a.m. central time, there was early news of voting problems in both Ohio and Pennsylvania, mostly dealing with tampered electronic voting machines. However, nothing else affecting the election happened until 6:00 p.m.

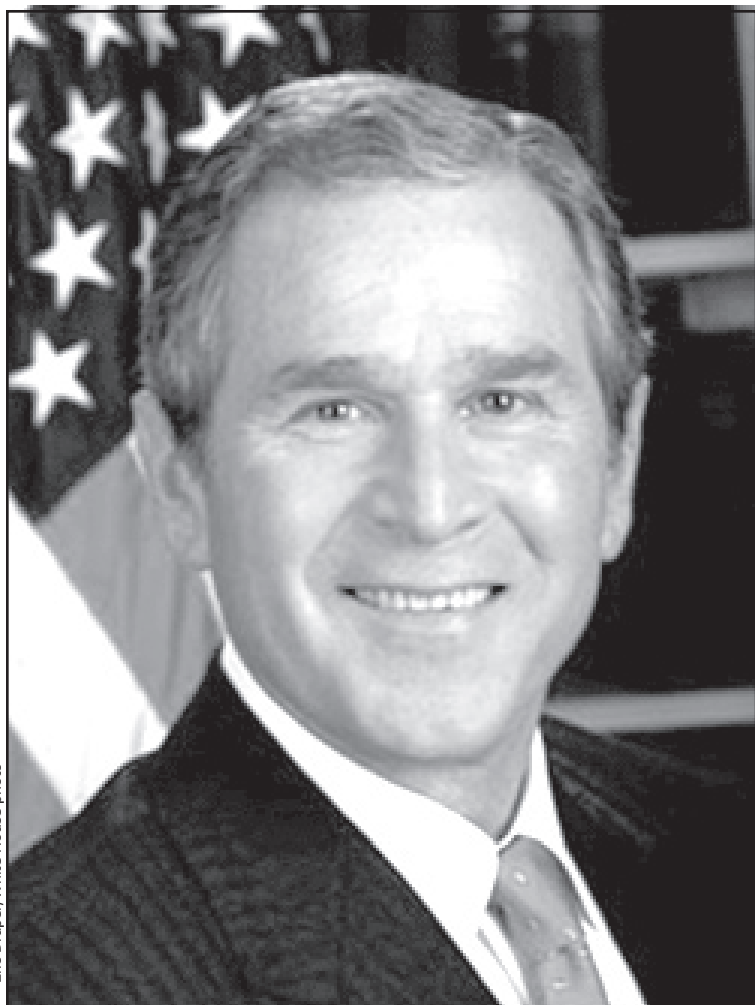
Predictably, President Bush mostly carried the first few states, as the early electoral vote projected count was 35 to 3. At 6:30 p.m., three states' polls closed, one being the all-important swing state of Ohio, which would later be a word on the tip of everyone's tongue in the media. Of course, Ohio's race was not nearly close to being predicted so early, so only one state, West Virginia, was actually given a projected winner: President Bush. No major activity happened until 7:00 p.m., when tides changed as almost twenty states' polls closed, with most of the wins going to Senator Kerry. Kerry quite suddenly sat on an 11-point lead at this point.

Around this time, almost every news network had the same electoral vote counts, but

that would change soon enough. At 7:35 p.m., numerous states including Mississippi and Virginia were projected to have been won by President Bush, yet the actual amount of states where he had won depended on which channel you were watching. Some generous channels gave President Bush a 41-vote lead, while others had it as miniscule as eleven.

At 9:00 p.m., another twenty polls were closed, and the gap between President Bush and Senator Kerry's votes was widened. President Bush took his home state of Texas' 34 electoral votes along with many other states, as his electoral votes were as high as 199 by some stations' estimates. An interesting fact constantly repeated by news analysts and anchors was that by this

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Eric Draper/White House photo

## The UHD Library: What Students Need To Know

by Keitha West  
**Dateline Staff Writer**

Changes are being implemented to maximize UHD's W.I. Dykes Library service to students beginning November 8. These changes come after much concern over the library's current policies, including the one that allows public users full access to our services.

Pat Ensor, UHD's Director of Library Services stated in an email that the library will be restricting the number of workstations the general public could use, as well limiting their time of usage. These moves, Ensor adds, "will still allow public

access to library research material, while putting our students first in the competition for resources."

UHD students are required to pay library fees each semester. These fees are calculated into the student's semester tuition. For every three credit hours, students pay \$3, with a maximum fee of \$40 per semester. Student Library Fees cover just about everything the Library has to offer, including printing and access to all University of Houston libraries. UHD's Library is just one of the many resources available on campus

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## Tibetan Art Showcased at Museum of Natural Science

by Lena Dahu  
**Dateline Staff Writer**

The Houston Museum of Natural Science is hosting an exhibit to showcase Tibetan art and sculpture from October 15 through January 9. The exhibit will feature art that was placed in the castles of Dalai Lamas and it will also cover centuries of sculpture and statues that were made for Tibet's nobility and highest leaders.

The exhibit is divided into five sections. The first section is a chronology the history and culture of Tibet. It will showcase a sculpture of Songsten Gambo, the king who united

the empire of Tibet in the 7th century. The exhibit will also portray the Gambo's marriages to two Buddhist princesses as well as his establishment of Buddhism as the dominant religion in Tibet. Finally, this exhibit will showcase the seal of the Fifth Dalai Lama, which documents the Dalai Lama's importance as a spiritual leader in the Far East.

The second exhibit will showcase ritual objects. One of the most famous ritual objects in Tibet is the prayer wheel. These prayer wheels are made with pure gold and other costly gems and materials. In-

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# Editorial

Isreal J. Salazar  
Assistant Editor

There is a specter haunting the 2004 presidential election. The voices of the discontent and the disenfranchised are roaring back to life like a waking giant. The once dormant and apathetic body of youth in this country are threatening to become the hidden presence that pollsters call the swing vote. Though American youth are not what pollsters consider "likely voters," MTV's coverage of their activity has revealed that young people, from Detroit to St. Louis and certainly to Houston, are serious about changing the condition of their lives.

According to a poll conducted by MTV, 6 out of 10 young people registered to vote this year said that they are dedicated to taking the next step by walking into the voting booth and making certain

their voices are heard. What is truly impressive is that the number of young people who have registered to vote this year has doubled since the 2000 elections. This is a factor P. Diddy called real power on MTV's special coverage of his Vote or Die campaign. The show followed P. Diddy back to the impoverished neighborhoods from which so many of Hip-Hop's now affluent stars ascended. He spoke to young people in high schools and at the malls about their right to vote and the urgent need for their voices to be heard.

With input from fellow rappers Eminem, Jadakiss and Xhibit, P. Diddy commenced "airing out America's dirty laundry," by interviewing young people from the hoods of places like St. Louis and Detroit. He followed them to their schools and shot footage of the homes they live in. "The schools we go to are just as bad as the houses we live in," said one young man Xhibit interviewed. "Politicians come here and go to our churches and say they gonna help us, but once they're elected, we never see them again." To the claim that neither

politician truly cared about the living conditions of the poor, P. Diddy responded by saying, "we have to make them care, with our votes." P. Diddy then added, "You think I have power with all my cars, clothes and jewelry? All that don't mean \$#!+ - Real power is the power to change lives. It's the power to change the world - the power to vote."

According to MTV figures, hip-hop has a following of 40 million, which is composed of young people from all races. This untargeted population could dwarf the potential influence of special interest groups like the NRA. Though I do not particularly agree with the extremism of his Vote or Die slogan, P. Diddy's MTV special was the most deserving show I have ever seen on a cable channel. It was passionate and informative in expressing a dire concern for an honorable cause with national implications. I truly believe that there could be no higher calling for the forum of television than the education of a democracy. Not since 60's have so many young people been politically

active and nothing could be a more promising sign for the future of America. The revival of this youth movement is like an anthem of will of the next generation. This is not only a promising element of this election, it is also promising for the dream that we collectively envision for our country: that one day America will not only be the greatest country in terms of might, but also the greatest country in the world to live in.

We are living in monumental times, when artists and movie stars have finally been provoked to the point of political activity. This conjures visions of the passionate spirits of the past like John Lennon and Joan Baez speaking out against the war. From Jimmy Hendrix playing the Star Spangled Banner on his electric guitar, to the Black Eyed Peas and Eminem rapping about corrupt politics, there is an anthem we have invoked and it sounds like rock and it sounds like rap. And for ages the ardent and the young have heard it - the sound of revolution.

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## Ladies of Essence Strive To Change Students' Thinking about UHD

by Stacy Martin  
Dateline Staff Writer

The Ladies of Essence, an organization that was started this summer, caters to all women at UHD. One of the things which the Ladies of Essences hope to change is the students' way of thinking about UHD. The University has a reputation as being known as a commuter college, but in reality it is one of the most competitive schools in the Southwest region, with an enrollment of over 11,000 students with faculty and staff members who strive to educate students while at the same time helping them to achieve their goals. Student organizations at UHD also aim to make a difference for everyone at UHD.

Although there is no national organization, the Ladies of Essence hope to expand their organization around the Greater Houston Area and to other campuses. Ladies of Essence President Tedra Alexander explains that women at UHD should join

their student organization so that they may "help themselves and others with anything that they need; they should join to make friends, and be apart of something big and be recognized for their accomplishments."

The criterion for being a Lady of Essence is to have a 2.0 GPA, but if it were up to the members of the Ladies of Essence, there would be no criterion; anyone who wanted to volunteer would have an equal opportunity to do so. Meetings are held monthly and are scheduled according to the work and school schedules of each member of the Ladies of Essence group.

The Ladies' next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 13 at 12 p.m. at Birraporetti's, located at 500 Louisiana Street in Downtown Houston.

For more information regarding this meeting or the student organization, students can email the Ladies of Essence at ladiesofessence04@yahoo.com. ■

## BUSH

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time every state, compared to 2000, had voted for the same party.

At 9:00 p.m., four other states' polls closed, but for the second time, only President Bush walked away with an immediate projection, this time of Utah. At 9:51 p.m., John Kerry grabbed the 21 electoral votes of the crucial swing state of Pennsylvania. It was initially predicted that it would be a close race, but at the time of the projection, Kerry led by 14%.

Hours went by without a new projection by any network, until at 11:30 p.m., the notoriously-important state of Florida was universally projected to give its 27 electoral votes to President Bush. With Kerry far behind at this point, it seemed inevitable that he would have to win Ohio to win the election. Yet, after many states were called for each candidate, Ohio was still up for grabs. NBC and Fox News, almost simultaneously, gave the President Ohio's twenty electoral votes, making him one electoral vote shy of the 270 votes needed to win the election. No other networks gave Bush the election; CNN, in fact, later called the state "too close to call," an unprecedented projection.

So, as only three key states' electoral votes were being counted, President Bush and Senator Kerry waited for each other's camps to blink first. It seemed so familiar after 2000's debacle of an Election Day, and as President Bush stood as the favorite to win, maybe it was natural that we were all just having déjà vu. ■

### ADVERTISING:

Please contact our business manager, Mechelle Garrett at (713) 221-8192 or email her at GarrettMe@uhd.edu.

## New Exhibit at O'Kane Gallery

by Tayvis Dunnahoe  
Dateline Staff Writer

A new art exhibit entitled "Works on Nature," converged within the O'Kane Gallery on November 3. The group of 14 landscape paintings were created by the featured artist, Hsien-Ya Wang.

Mark Cervenka, director of the O'Kane Gallery, explains that under normal circumstances, this show would have been very difficult to arrange from Hsein-Ya Wang's native Taiwan; however we are fortunate that his son, Hsiao-

Ming Wang is an assistant chair within our Criminal Justice Department.

Cervenka also states that the artist "focuses on the traditional aspects of Chinese landscape painting." All fourteen of the selected pieces on display will demonstrate a combination of landscapes with calligraphy, both of which are representative of the historical aspects of Chinese Art.

Hsien-Ya Wang has not only published several books pertaining to his artwork but he has also taught his tech-

nique to many students. He is a retired Colonel from the Chinese Air Force, and his experience as a pilot is believed to have given him an enhanced perspective on expressing the landscapes within his drawings.

These works will be on display through December 16 at the O'Kane Gallery on UHD's third floor. There will also be a contest with conjunction to this exhibit. For more information on the exhibit, contact the O'Kane Gallery at (713) 221-8042. ■

## LIBRARY

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to aid students in their research and college studies. But are UHD Students receiving their money's worth? Some concerned students say no.

The library has been experiencing increasing concern from students and faculty who are expressing their discontent over the difficulty of getting access to library computers due to high usage. Contributing to the high usage is the fact that at any given time of the day, 10% of the computers are occupied by members of the general public; that is, visitors who are completely unaffiliated with UHD or neighboring universities in any way, Ensor points out.

At Rice University, undergraduates from other universities and the public are not allowed to use their services, and graduates from other universities must have a Houston Area Research Library Consortium (HARLiC) Card before using any of Rice University's library resources. Likewise, the University of Houston central permits all U of H students to use their library resources and scarcely consents to public usage of their services. The University of Houston-Downtown library's public usage policy is not as strict.

The U of H Downtown library resources are available to all people, including UHD students, alumni, students from other universities and the general public. All alumni are required to purchase a card once all dues are

paid to the University. Alumni printing is monitored and four computers are designated for alumni to use. Students from other Universities must have a Tex Card that may be purchased from their university, but the public has access to UHD Library services free of charge, with access to unlimited printing.

Some students and student workers have several complaints: First, public users are known to use library computers for at least two hours while students are waiting. When students complain to the library workers, they are told to leave and go to the computer lab. Second, public users have been known to use the computers to view pornography. One student in particular, who had her child with her, witnessed a public user at a pornographic site, which her child could also see. When she complained to a library worker, she was told that it is unconstitutional to stop someone from viewing pornography. Third, some workers complain that there are no filters on the computers like in other universities. One worker mentions at some major universities if students type in just the word "sex" it sends an alarm. If a student needs information on sex for a class project, they are guided to the textbooks and/or information they need. Still, the issue of how much censorship can a university impose arises. Lastly, some library workers are not pleased with unlimited printing in the library because students and public users waste paper. Often, extra wasted pages are left behind for librarians to throw away. One librarian disagreed with the allegation of unmonitored printing, adding that "all printing is monitored and students are given one ream of paper per semester."

The University of Houston-Downtown Student Handbook insists that "your success as a student at UHD is largely your responsibility; so, if you don't find what you need here, ask us!"

While some changes are being made to improve the library, some students still feel that there is much more to work on. Therefore, if students are unhappy with the service they are receiving, their time to speak out is now. ■

## Murder in O' Kane Theatre

by Israel J. Salazar  
Assistant Editor

Stunned audiences have consistently been filed out of the O' Kane Theatre with puzzled grins still lingering of their faces. It's from the odd satisfaction of having witnessed a murder at the hands of a cunning culprit, one that takes life and hangs around to see if he/she has been crafty enough to stump a theatre full of witnesses. No need for the H.P.D., however, this drama of murder and deception is the masterful work of the brilliant playwright Agatha Christie. For three dollars and two hours of your time, you too can witness Christie's who-done-it masterpiece, "Black Coffee," now showing through November 6 at the O' Kane Theatre.

In the production, Sir Claud Amory (Richard Christopher Vara) has produced a priceless formula for the creation of a bomb powerful enough to kill hundreds of thousands of people. When it is stolen, Sir Claud gathers his family and associates

and announces that he will give the guilty person the opportunity to come clean by turning off the lights, thereby, allowing the culprit to return the formula anonymously. However, when the lights come back on, Sir Claud is found dead and we eventually learn that he has been poisoned by way of black coffee. Agatha Christies's famous sleuth, M. Hercule Poirot (Andrew Madocks) comes to the rescue with the aid of his distinguished sidekick Captain Hastings (Lucas Fedell). What transpires from there is an astonishing affair of deception and brilliance.

If you have not yet seen the play, UHD's drama department has truly got a thrilling experience in store for you. This university is unusually blessed by the endowment of a golden cast, composed of thoroughly gifted actors. But, since it is your suspicion that will ultimately prove to be your own greatest source of satisfaction, go see it for yourself. ■

## Registration for Declared Majors Begins Saturday, November 6.

# This is my Writing Arm.

Let's See Yours!



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www.gandulazul.com

## "The shō and the Big Buddha"

by Yvonne Kendall  
UHD Professor

Now, the idea of hearing a shō may not be exciting to you, but I've been teaching about this rather unusual instrument for years. I have pictures and recordings of it, but have never heard it played live.

The shō is a wind instrument most closely related to the harmonica - at least in concept. There are several bamboo pipes of differing lengths that stand straight up. Finger holes line the bottom of the pipes and they are all connected to a mouthpiece through which the musician blows. It is used almost exclusively in gagaku music, a traditional instrumental music used in royal courts centuries ago; the closest Japan comes to orchestral music. Once you've heard the shō sound - a cross between an organ, harmonica and bagpipe - you can never mistake it for anything else. (To hear it go to <<http://www.asza.com/isho.shtml>>)

Like a homing beacon it drew me to a monastery building that housed a gift shop, among other rooms. With many bows, my guides asked the teenager staffing the desk if I could meet the musician. He grinned nervously, at which point my Americanness wanted to come out. I could tell he would not succeed. Too wimpy.

Couldn't have been more right. I didn't want to embarrass my guides by being the pushy American, even though it was pretty clear that would have worked, so, time to let it go. The ever-present Japanese politeness resulted in my being so very close to a goal, but not able to reach it.

This setback made me a bit grumpy at our next stop, the temple that surrounded Daibutsu. This massive statue of the seated Buddha was so large that the thumbnail was wider than both my hands placed side by side! The grandeur was enough to impress the most jaded tourist. We often think of Japan as a land of miniaturization, but this marvelous statue shows that they can think big as well.

Second largest Buddha statue in Japan (the largest is in Nara, near Kyoto, but I didn't get there), the Daibutsu was originally built in the thirteenth century. After a tsunami blew away its enclosing temple in the fifteenth century, it remained ever after open to the elements. Japanese engineers have since strengthened its foundations so that it is as safe as possible from the effects of storms and earthquakes. The fact that it's still there is a testament to their efficiency. ■

Next Installment - Kabuki! Hai!



by Briana Pedraza  
Dateline Staff Writer

New signs have been posted in elevators campus-wide in order to alert students about UHD's wireless internet network. Though many students may not have known about this campus perk, the Information Technology (IT) Help Desk states that we have had access to this privilege for about a year and a half. There is even a Help Desk Line designed to assist students who might encounter problems with accessing the system and any other IT-related issues.

UHD, it seems, is quickly becoming the trendy hotspot, with a Starbucks on board, it only seems natural to offer such a hip luxury on campus. Students should also take comfort in the fact that the network is certainly user-friendly and backed by a support system ready for questions. It actually is very simple. Laptop users can access the wireless system from anywhere on campus. The Help Desk also states that sometimes the wireless internet even works outside the building, as the signal may roam.

In order to use the wireless internet, students must have a wireless internet compatible laptop. Students will be directed to a sign-on page where their UHD Student ID and PIN is required to gain access to the network.

The informative Help Desk Line at (713) 221-8031 is always available to answer any questions students may have. Their physical location is A700. ■

## BSA STRIVES TO BRING UNITY TO UHD

by Stacy Martin  
Dateline Staff Writer

The Black Student Alliance (BSA) is a non-profit organization that attempts to raise community awareness among all students and other service organizations. The BSA organization is one of the new kids on the block this semester, replacing the Sankofa organization that disappeared in 2000. BSA has already been involved in several activities which include Student Activities Day and Project GRAD's Walk for Success. Project GRAD, (which stands for Graduation Really Achieves Dreams) is a non-profit organization that has an excellent track record of enhancing a student's academic performance and increasing graduation rates.

Project GRAD has been implemented and is proving effective in five urban school districts across the country apart from the one here in Houston, including Newark, Los Angeles, Columbus, Atlanta and Nashville. Its mission is to increase the graduation and college attendance rates of inner-city students in urban areas nationwide.

UHD's BSA President, Charnica C. Philson, invites students to join BSA. She explains that "students should join BSA because it gives them another alternative to campus life besides Greek life; it also gives them the opportunity to meet new people."

The criteria which students have to meet in order to join BSA include having a 2.0 GPA for membership, and 2.5 to hold an office position. Meetings are held every other Sunday at 7 pm in S-290. The types of issues that the members of BSA discuss at their meetings include business community projects and the planning of community-based projects as well as campus commitments. Students who are interested in joining the Black Student Alliance should email [BSAUhd@yahoo.com](mailto:BSAUhd@yahoo.com). ■

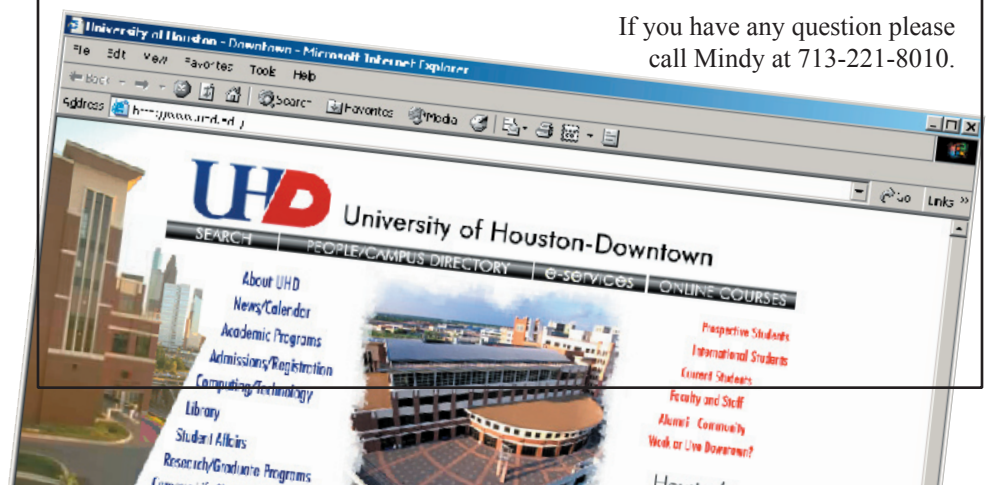
### What do you think about UHD's website?

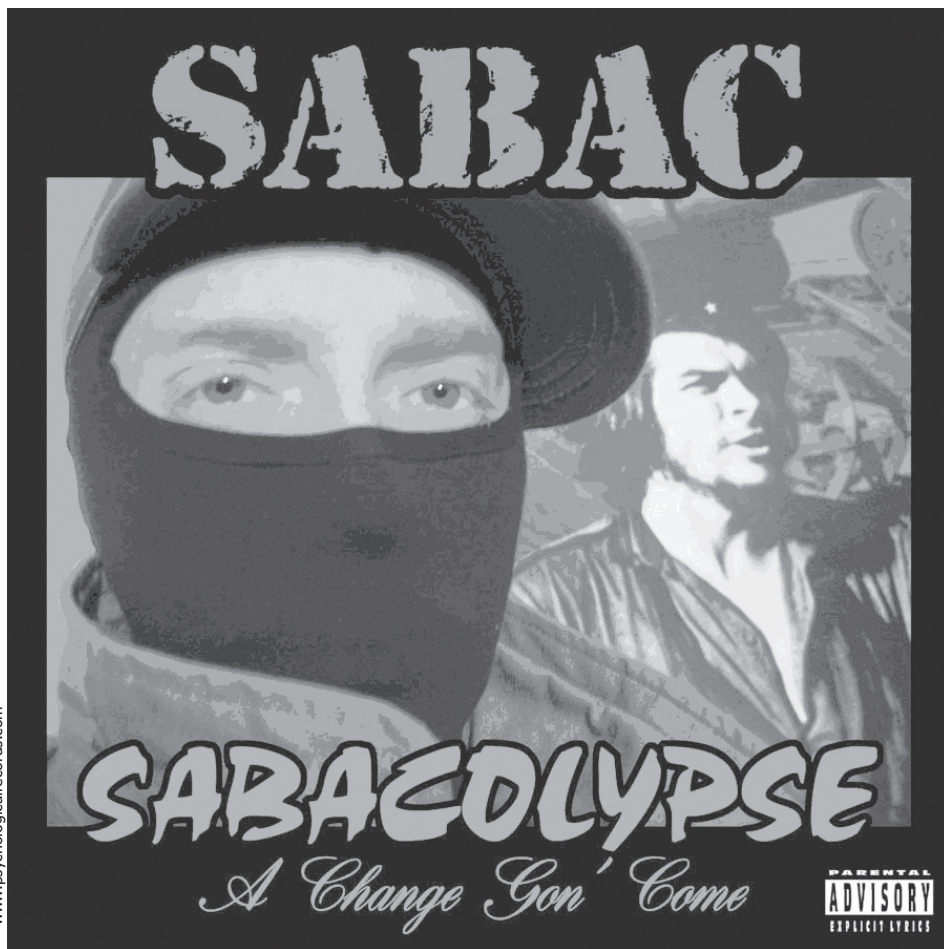
Plans are being made to update [www.uhd.edu](http://www.uhd.edu). Share your thoughts during two input sessions that are open to students of the university:

Monday, November 15  
12:30-1:30 PM in 1099-N

Wednesday, November 17  
5:30-6:30 PM in 1099-N

If you have any question please call Mindy at 713-221-8010.





**The front cover itself screams “¡revolución compadre!” with Sabac himself disguised as a Zapatista and a picture of “Ché” Ernesto Guevara in the background.**

## Sabacolypse is Upon Us!

by Jesús Arturo Ávila-Escamilla  
Dateline Staff Writer

What ever happened to all the Chuck D's, Conscious Daughters, Poor Righteous Teachers, and all the Ice T's? Actually, today, many of these voices are very much still alive in the hip-hop community. They just do not receive as much attention as all the flashy, glam-rap artists. Nevertheless, they are still present and still carrying on the tradition of protest music and gradually making their presence known to the world. One of the freshest artists to surface in today's hip hop generation in this tradition is Sabac, member of the group Non-Phixion. Sabac unleashed his solo debut album, Sabacolypse: A Change Gon' Come in June 2004. Even though this release has a couple of downsides, overall it is still a phenomenal album.

For the most part, Sabacolypse has the potential to become a hip-hop classic. The front cover itself screams “¡revolución compadre!” with Sabac himself disguised as a Zapatista and a picture of “Ché” Ernesto Guevara in the background. Sabac's lyrics in this album are very powerful, addressing issues dealing with class mobility, education, urban street life mentality, politics, corporate conspiracies and also health and ecological problems that America faces today.

The first couple of tracks get off

to a very strong start. The second track, “Organize” is actually one of the highlights of this album. The lyrics to this song call for a union and coalition amongst various groups of the underclass. This song seems as if should be Sabac's anthem rather than the track that he actually entitled “Bac's Anthem.” This is where one of the downsides of the album comes into play. The strong beginning is not long-lived. The next few tracks seem to stylistically break away from Sabac's intuitiveness. That is, “Protest Music” and “Bac's Anthem” do not reflect Sabac's style of delivery. It could be that he is treading new ground with these tracks. What ever the case may be, it seems as if they should have put more thought into the track format.

However, it doesn't take long before Sabac gets back to spitting lyrics, like a hip-hop revolutionary, with the exception of a few spots where Sabac does some spoken word. This style once again doesn't seem to come natural to him. This doesn't mean in any way that Sabac should stop trying to spit other styles. It just means that he needs to go back to the lab where those few instances are concerned. Even so, as mentioned, the album is phenomenal for the most part. Sabac keeps his fist to the sky and continues to preserve the tradition of protest music in the underground hip-hop scene. ■

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# The War Against Influenza

by Carrie Vlasek  
Dateline Staff Writer

The global community is coming together to fight a different kind of terrorist: influenza. On November 11, representatives from sixteen different drug companies and other health officials from the United States and other large countries will meet at a summit in Geneva, Switzerland to discuss future plans to keep the world safe from this highly mutable and deadly disease. Their efforts will be an attempt to prevent a repeat of the Influenza Pandemic of 1918 on a global level, a threat that isn't so far-fetched.

In Asia, millions of chickens have died because of the influenza virus and many, though not all, of the infected humans had been exposed to the contaminated birds. This is alarming, as it shows that the strain of influenza spreading among the population can adapt not only to different environments, but to different species and more importantly, to different vaccines. As the flu adapts, it grows stronger and becomes more difficult to fight.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has its sights set primarily on a strain known as H5N1, named and numbered for the two proteins on the surface of the virus, as it has appeared in both humans and birds. It first appeared in Hong Kong in 1997 and has since claimed almost 40 human lives. Efforts were made to stop it, but since H5N1, there have been two more

strains found in both Hong Kong and the Netherlands.

Smaller countries like Vietnam and Malaysia have recently reported deaths as a result of the flu, but no human-to-human infection has been found. This means that H5N1 has not yet developed to a point that it can be spread among the population without the aid of a host bird of some sort, but scientists feel like it is only a matter of time before it mutates to an equally contagious human virus and begins to spread among the population. If this were to happen, civilization would be put in a very threatening position.

Vaccinations exist, but the supply is grossly disproportionate to the potential need. As of right now, the United States is stockpiling millions of doses, but the flu isn't here yet. The flu season is starting in the northern hemisphere, including Thailand where backyard poultry is common and those are the people currently at the highest risk. There have been vaccine donations, but the 100,000 doses currently in Thailand are nowhere near the number that is needed to vaccinate even the people with regular exposure to chickens. The vaccines being produced are going to the rich countries first. Consequently, places like Vietnam have no access to vaccines.

Hopefully, the Geneva summit will produce some viable options for maintaining relative control over the spread and development of the influenza virus. ■



www.umt.edu

# National Smoke-Out

by Mary Edwards  
Dateline Staff Writer

Some people may only lose 13 to 14 years of their lives, but over 440,000 Americans will lose their entire lives thanks to the number one preventable cause of death and disease - smoking. How can this be prevented? Quit smoking.

These statistics are taken from the January 11, 2004 Surgeon General's report. Smoking, once thought acceptable up until the 1960's, became a concern with the 1964 Surgeon General's first report on smoking. Since that time, smoking rates have been cut in half from 1965 to 2004, and approximately 46.2 million Americans

smoke.

There is good news, though. Seventy percent of American smokers want to quit and with aids such as nicotine patches, gums, medication and support groups, it can be made easier. The University of Houston-Downtown Student Medical Services has its own expert on quitting smoking, Dr. Terry Rustin. He has written a book on this issue, called "Quit & Stay Quit," which provides a plan and workbook to help people successfully quit smoking.

The American Cancer Society also sponsors the Great American Smoke-out which happens each November on the third Thursday. This year, it falls on November 18. The aim of the Smokeout is to help smokers through emotional support to quit cold turkey and never pick up again.

For more information, you can check out the American Cancer Society's webpage at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org). ■

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# TIBET

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side the prayer wheel, worshippers would find a prayer that was wrapped up. The wheel is then turned while a person recites a mantra, or a religious prayer. Also on view will be a Kapala, which is lavishly decorated skull cup. This skull cup is made out of an actual human skull, probably that of a respected religious leader or a Dalai Lama. This section will have written scripts on how the Buddhists used this skull cup in religious practices as a symbol of respect for the deceased. This exhibit will also show other examples of instruments that the Buddhist leaders used in their religious practices.

One of the things that Tibet is famous for is its thangkas. These, along with other paintings and sculptures, will be displayed in the third exhibit. Thangkas are devotional paintings that are usually painted on stiff canvas and then surrounded by a border made of Chinese embroidery. Some thangkas are meticulously embroidered and woven onto the deities and important leaders in Tibet's history. The creation of a thangka is considered a religious process by the artist; there will be text panels under each thangka that details the process of its creation. This exhibit will also describe how art in Tibet endures a consecration ceremony in which it is "blessed" and it becomes an animated tool used for devotion.

Daily life of Tibetan nobility is featured in exhibit four. In this exhibit, exotic jewels are displayed as costumes and ceremonial vessels. The exhibit includes a gold teapot, covered with over 200 pieces of turquoise, which was used to serve tea to visiting noble guests. Turquoise was a favorite stone of the nobility in Tibet. Some jewelry has small deities which were believed to protect the person wearing it.

The last exhibit is geared mainly towards children. It is an exploration exhibit in which children can go and use their five senses to experience Tibetan culture.

Tickets are on sale now for this exhibit. For more information, call 713-639-4629 or visit the Houston Museum of Natural Science website at [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org). ■



## Tori Amos' Swarm of New Songs

by Edgar Fuentes  
Editor in Chief

Singer-songwriter Tori Amos is making final adjustments to her upcoming release, *The Beekeeper*, which is scheduled for release in February. The album's release will coincide with the release of her first book, *Tori Amos: Piece by Piece*, which the artist co-wrote with journalist Ann Powers.

Amos is currently recording and self-producing in her U.K. studio Martian Engineering. For this album, the sound will be unique because she is incorporating vintage organs, Afro-Cuban drums and Gospel choirs, although she will continue working once again with longtime partners, drummer Matt Chamberlain and bassist Jon Evans, who toured in 2003 with the artist to promote her last studio album, *Scarlet's Walk*.

On her official website, Amos reveals that "*The Beekeeper* is musically inspired by the fact that the piano has realized that she has an organ - with my right hand on her organ and my left hand on her

piano keys, I have been changed by the relationship between these two beautiful creatures, the Bösendorfer piano and the B3 Hammond organ."

The book *Tori Amos: Piece by Piece* gives an intimate look into the life of the musician - both as a private individual and as a very public performing artist. The book, published by Broadway Books (a division of Random House), will be released on February 8. *The Beekeeper* is scheduled for release February 22. On February 24, there will be an event called an "Evening with Tori Amos" at the 92nd Street Y (Kaufmann Concert Hall) in New York City.

Amos plans to tour to promote the new album in 2005. In a June 11 interview for MSNBC.com, she reveals that it will be in two parts: "one in the early, early spring or late winter... then we'll break and we'll do one in the summer. I think I'll go out with just the piano and the Hammonds to start, and then the guys, Matt and Jon, hopefully, if they're available, will come out with me." ■

# JUST DRINK IT!

by Carrie Vlasek  
Dateline Staff Writer

A recently circulated e-mail is claiming that freezing water in plastic bottles and heating food in plastic containers releases dioxin, which are thought to be the most toxic pollutants known to man, into our water and food. But don't believe everything in your Inbox.

Dioxins are found everywhere from lakes and volcanic rock to animal products. They are the result of chemical reactions that take place both in nature and in the laboratory. Although exposure to them can have adverse effects on one's health, it is found in small amounts in most people, especially those who eat foods high in natural fat.

Heat does release dioxin, as Dr. Rolf Halden of Johns Hopkins University points out, through processes such as trash incineration. But before you go protest the local incinerator, check out your neighbor's burning can of trash first. Backyard trash burning releases more dioxin into the air than a fully-operational incinerator as they don't have the filtering systems in place to prevent pollutants from being released into the atmosphere. These dioxin eventually fall back to earth and are soaked up by the flora and fauna around us and ultimately end up back in the food and water we consume.

Likewise, when it comes to the safety of bottled water, there are more restrictions put on municipal water that flows freely from your kitchen tap than there are on bottled water companies. Free water is better water.

Dr. Halden does admit that heat can trigger the chemical reaction that releases dioxin, however, and points out that some plastics, such as certain kinds of plastic straws, are not meant for cooking with. If you have concerns when it comes to the tray bearing the tasty frozen dinner you plan on having for lunch, put it in a glass container that is microwave safe. Most of these types of plastics are okay to cook with, but we all have our own comfort levels when it comes to food.

For a more in-depth look at this topic and to enlighten yourself on the relative dangers of dioxin, please visit the Johns Hopkins University website at <http://www.jhu.edu/>. ■



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# Presidential Word Search

2004 Presidential Election Word Search

By: Sandra Zamora

A C D E G O V E R N M E N T L U E C N L  
W I N A U G U R A T I O N B K L R I T M  
Y S G J O H N E D W A R D S H R A R B E  
M Z C N M V J K E C K I O L E W A R E  
O E G E L L O C L A R O T C E L E Q K N  
N E N J R G C J K Y E K R V M T K E W Q  
O A C B M R T A C E D C R K R R Z A G K  
C G A J K E P R E S I D E N T A J K H I  
E S H G W H K L J R C B L E E H S A C Y  
P A W E A E V Z M C K S I D R E T D H T  
O Z E O L A C F N E C C G Z E E A E E I  
T X K R K E A E G H H A I A S C R S W R  
W C E G J A E A R T E X O E A E C U U U  
L V B E H H R M O B N F N F H C O O A C  
J B E W G F J L P X E E K N E A M H V E  
E N W B F E G F G B Y R X C I A E E C S  
T L A U R A B U S H N J A V N F D T D D  
R E S S D H S D X A T A F C Z G E I J N  
E M L H E W J J U E X V Y D H H G H L A  
J A M E F T N G R A J A T S U T H W K L  
N R V A C E A C A M O N E M L A L I R E  
O K N R K T C T F R H E C X M D J A W M  
I D Z T H H I A S K N A A O B E L U E O  
T F X Y A J L O X D K J R B N W N A A H  
A A C U W R B R N J E X K F X G P E H L  
C S A I E Y U E X H R T H D K J R K W O  
U C E H L K P J H G R S I D A F A E J P  
D Q U T K J E W E K Y H A N J A H A S Q  
E V I C E P R E S I D E N T U T E H D S

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