

Welcome New and Continuing Students

2
Tips for students on settling in on campus

3
Think you're graduating? Read Page 3 first...



5
Book Review: No-Nonsense Guide to Terrorism



6
Student Government Wants You!

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FORT WORTH

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S T U D E N T - R U N S I N C E S E M E O N E

But Seriously, Folks

Heard the One About Kinky Friedman Running for Texas Governor?

By Peter Carlson
Washington Post
Part 1 of 3

FORT WORTH—Smoking an illegal substance, Kinky Friedman heads for the Flying Saucer.

Kinky -- nobody calls him Friedman -- is a comic country singer, mystery novelist and Texas humorist. The illegal substance is a fat, stinky Cuban cigar. The Flying Saucer is the Fort Worth bar where Kinky is about to deliver a speech in his campaign for governor.

But first he removes the cigar from his mouth and reveals the wisdom that his old friend, country icon Willie Nelson, imparted when Kinky began his campaign: "No pedophile jokes till after the election."

So far, Kinky has followed that advice, and it has served him well. The polls and the pundits said he was a clown who could never collect the 45,540 signatures necessary to get on the November ballot as an independent candidate. But Kinky showed them: He got 137,154 certified signatures.

He ambles down the sunny street, wearing his trademark outfit: black cowboy

hat, black shirt, black leather vest, blue jeans and black cowboy boots. Those duds, along with the Frank Zappa facial hair and the Groucho Marx cigar, make Kinky look like the bad guy in a bad western. They also make him instantly recognizable all over Texas.

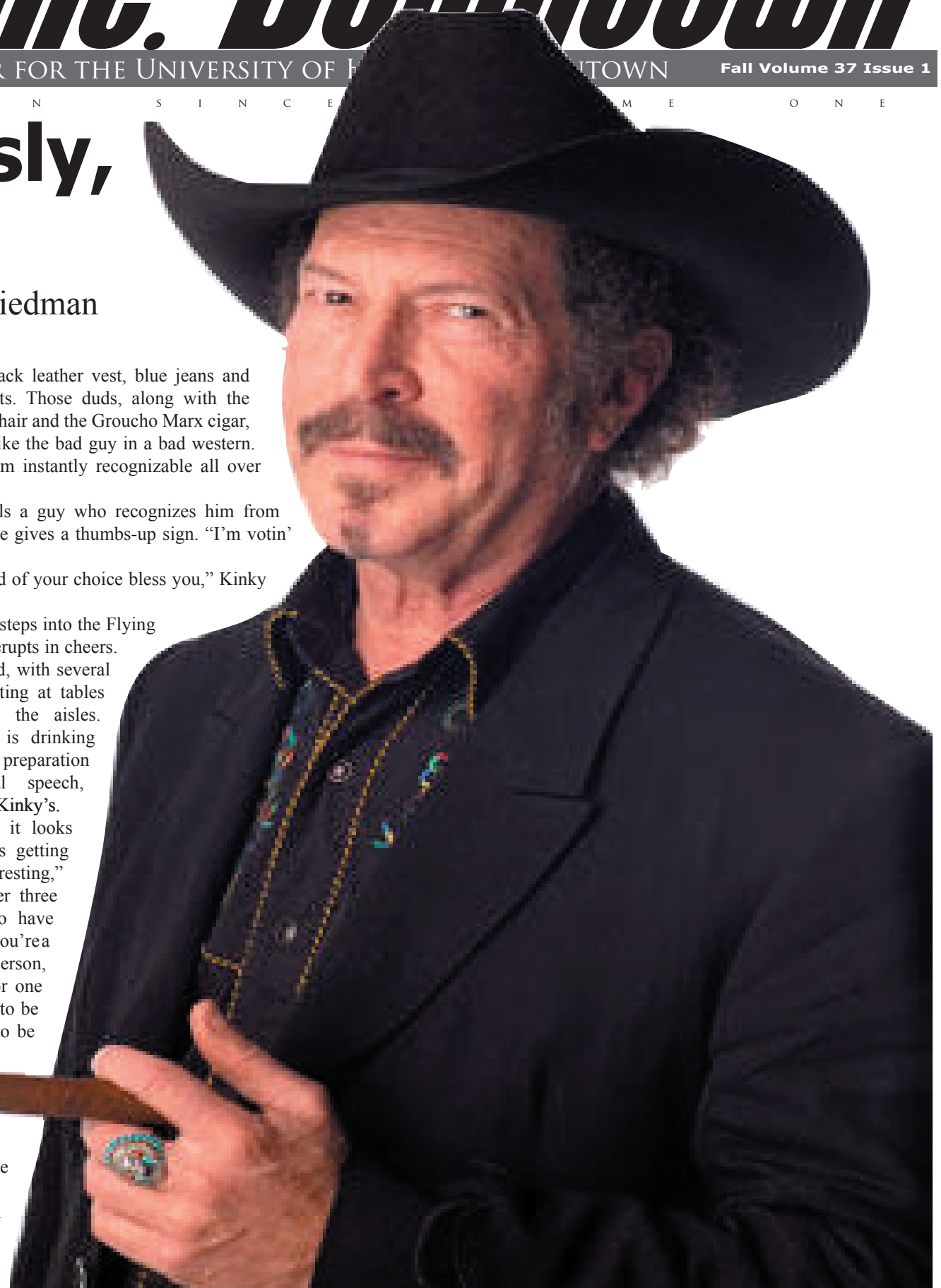
"Kinky!" yells a guy who recognizes him from across the street. He gives a thumbs-up sign. "I'm votin' for you!"

"May the God of your choice bless you," Kinky replies.

When Kinky steps into the Flying Saucer, the crowd erupts in cheers. The place is packed, with several hundred people sitting at tables and others filling the aisles. Nearly everybody is drinking beer, which is good preparation for any political speech, particularly one of Kinky's.

"Well, folks, it looks like the election is getting more and more interesting," he says. "The other three candidates seem to have humorbypasses. If you're a politically correct person, you should vote for one of them. You have to be politically correct to be a politician, and the three of them are. Me, I'm a compassionate redneck."

The crowd cheers, and the man President Bush



See KINKY on page 6

S T U D E N T - R U N S I N C E V O L U M E O N E

10 Tips for Jump-Starting your Academic Career

By Kristopher Overholt

1) Use the library

The library is a vast resource of knowledge and wisdom, and should not be underutilized. You can acquire books, magazines, newspapers, online books, DVDs, database information, and much more at no cost.

Also, did you know that you can place an interlibrary loan request any book, old or new, big or small, and your helpful librarians will search for that book nationwide and get it to you - for little or not cost? No kidding. Fill out an ILL request online or in the library today.

Why pass up such an idea? Expand your mind, grow your hobby, pursue your passion, and find new interests in the UHD library.

2) Use wireless access or one of many computer labs-

Stuck looking for a vacant computer to use? Did you know that UHD has close to 100% campus coverage for wireless Internet access? Use it anywhere and check your e-mail, breeze through your calendar, read your e-Book, or keep up with news from the lunchroom, library, writing lab, or just about anywhere: <http://uhdwireless.uhd.edu/>

If you're looking for a spot to use a desktop computer, try the

eighth floor lab, or the sixth floor lab for sciences and technology. If you still can't find one, ask your department if they have computers available for students in your particular area. And, as always, there are numerous computers on the third floor for using eServices to get a schedule, pay a bill, print a record, and much more any time of the day.

3) Find a good place to study

The importance of this tip must not be overlooked. UHD is a big place, and you can find numerous places to study, brainstorm, and develop throughout the campus. Whether you pick a spot in the shade on the South Deck, or a chilly corner in the back of the library, your place to study should be soothing and make you feel good about taking on some new challenges.

Choose a spot with minimal distractions, noise, and traffic to help you focus on your work. Also, at home, pick a spot away from the TV, turn your phone off, shut down any Internet browsers or messengers, and really concentrate on learning concepts and your thought process. You may be surprised at how efficient an hour of true, focused studying will serve you better than four hours of stressful studying as you compete with distractions.

4) Declare your major

Don't wait in line every semester to be advised or approved for classes. If you have more than 30 hours, a 2.0 GPA or higher, and no holds on your account, you can declare your major through the Advising Center on the third floor or through UHD eServices. This has many benefits and should be done by any student who is well on their way to getting things done.

5) Diversify your classes

Are you hard set on a certain topic or field of study because that's what your parents did, because

that is what you think you want to do, or because you heard that a certain degree will make you ridiculous amounts of money? Not so fast. College is there for you to experience knowledge and to expand your mental horizon. Pick up a few completely unrelated classes during your first few semesters. You would never want to pass up discovering your passion just because you thought you didn't like a certain class or subject. You may never get to experience that subject again, and you may miss out on your true motivating purpose.

Remember, life-learners often delve into unrelated fields of interest in order to further develop their minds, because utilizing different subjects in your studies can serve as a creative tool to better understand your particular area or field.

6) Know your professors

This cannot be emphasized enough. Don't be another typical college student who darts in and out of class without meeting anyone, including your own professors. Take a few seconds to introduce yourself to your professor the first week and let them know how much you are interested in the course.

This will prove invaluable later in the course or in your academic career, as professors will gladly assist or guide you in a time of need; they love helping you out! A relationship with numerous professors is a deeply useful and fulfilling resource, so get to talking.

7) Use online / computer tools

Sometimes students ignore great

tools online because they simply do not know that these tools exist. Here are a few services that you should check out that may leave you wondering how you did without them before:

Google Calendar can help you get your life in order. Schedule appointments, meetings, tests, and assignments, even add the UHD calendar to see important dates, all in one place. <http://calendar.google.com>

The Campus Information Board will keep you up to date with UHD news, announcements, and links to every important UHD page and section. <http://www.uhd.edu/student/cib/eServices> can get things done for you without even

See SUCCESS on page 7

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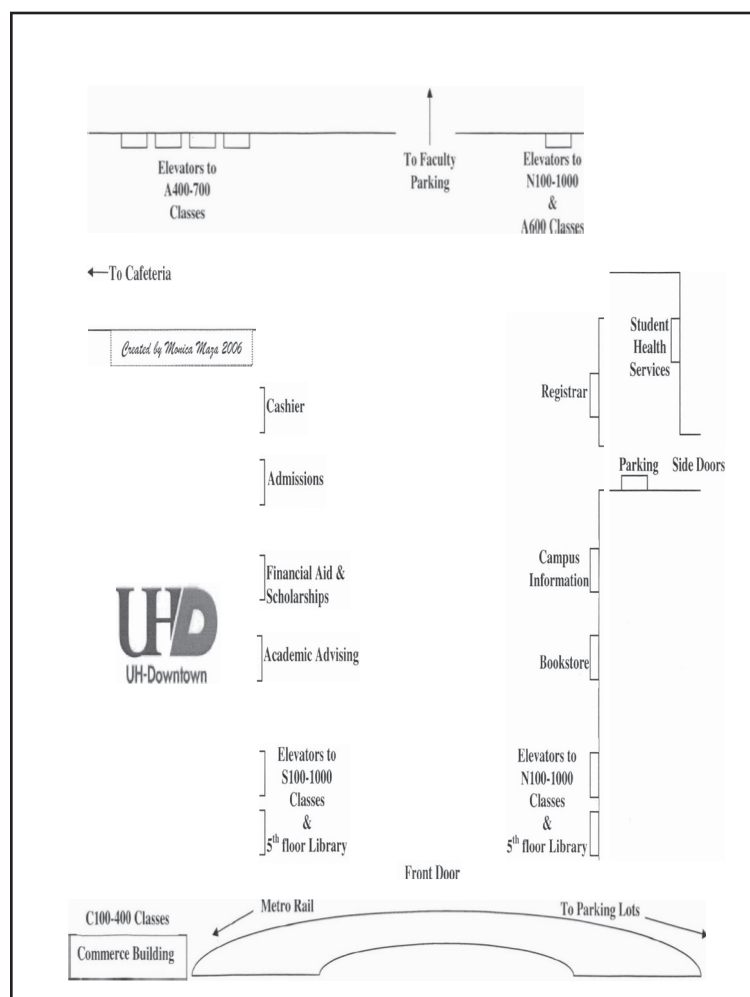
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Graduating? Sign Up Now

By **Monica Maza**
Assistant Editor

The light at the end of the tunnel is graduation. All the research papers, essay tests, and class presentations have accumulated to this moment. We all hope to get there someday and for some of us that time is quickly approaching. As a senior at UHD, I was surprised when an academic advisor told me that I could graduate in December. I couldn't believe that I had made it to this point. What a relief to know that all my hard work would soon pay off. I asked my advisor what needed to be done in order to graduate and that was when she began describing a list of things I had to do.

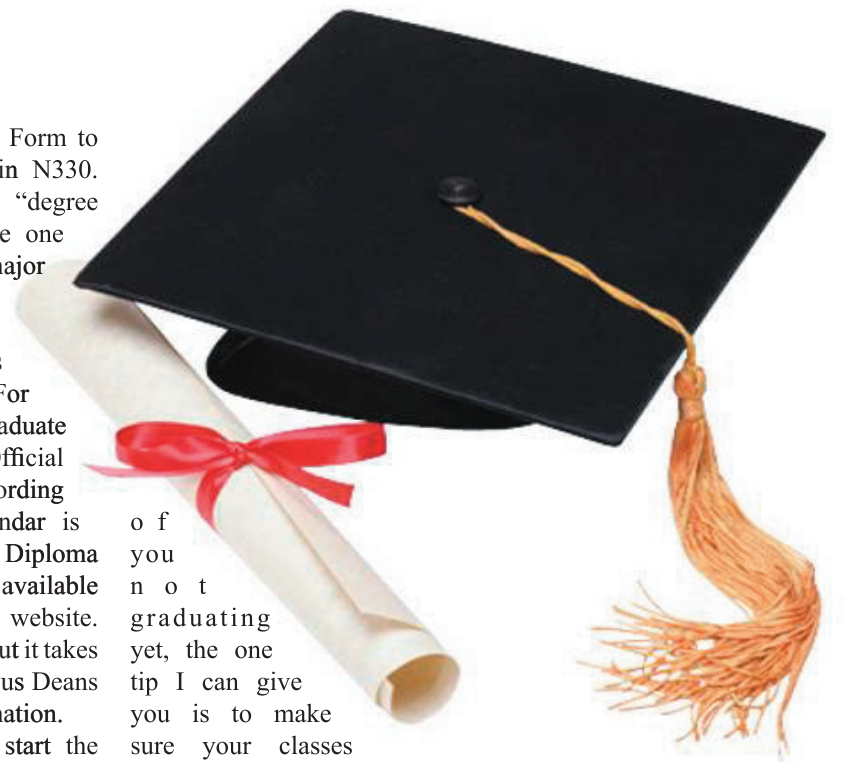
Did you know there is a process to graduate? I thought it was just get all 120 hours done (according to my major), pass the WPE, and it's over, but no. I plan to finish in December,

so I registered for the Writing Portfolio "class" online, which all English/Professional Writing majors have to do. That's a start, but it gets better. You have to see an academic advisor to fill out an application for graduation. Yes, we have to apply to graduate and as with most applications there is a fee of \$50. Then I was told that I would get a letter in the mail that I need to know for graduation. I filled out an application for graduation with an academic advisor on July 14th and was told I should get that letter sometime mid-September.

According to the Student Handbook, applying for graduation is a three-step process. First, file an application with your degree granting college by the Official Day of Record of the semester you plan to graduate. Second, complete a Diploma Order Form and pay the fee at the Cashier's Office in S310. Third, submit your fee receipt

and the Diploma Order Form to the Registrar's Office in N330. Remember that your "degree granting college" is the one you have declared your major with, such as the College of Business or the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. For everyone planning to graduate in December, the Official Day of Record according to the Academic Calendar is September 5th. As for the Diploma Order Form, that is available online through UHD's website. The process is not hard but it takes a long time for the various Deans to look over your information.

The moral is to start the graduation process early. As soon as you register for classes for your last semester, go to an academic advisor and get the ball rolling. If you don't have your own academic advisor, that's okay, just go to your college and talk to one. I hope this helps my fellow seniors and all future UHD graduates. For those



of you not graduating yet, the one tip I can give you is to make sure your classes fit your degree plan. Academic advisors are available to help, so don't forget about them. If you have questions about a class or are not sure if the one you want to take will fill a requirement, then ask them. This will save you time and money because when the time comes for you to graduate

the last thing you want to hear is, "You need one more class and it's not offered this semester."

For information on the graduation process, check the Student Handbook and Catalog online at <http://www.uhd.edu/student/cib/>. ■

UHD's Community Involvement Center

By **Cody Roberts**
Managing Editor

UHD has always been committed to providing outlets for students who wish to give back to the Houston area. The university has also proudly maintained an ideology of instilling in the campus community a distinct sense of civic responsibility. The amount of veterans who populate the student body and the overwhelming number of eager criminal justice students are a testament to that philosophy. The countless organizations and student groups at UHD are perpetually providing services and fundraisers for a worthy cause, and the university has been more than amicable in providing resources for groups that wish to spread their message.

According to the website, the Community Involvement Center, or CIC, "serves as a clearinghouse for community involvement opportunities through

outreach to students, faculty/staff and community agencies...The CIC strives to establish and maintain partnerships with community service agencies by providing volunteer support by students, faculty and staff and by providing service learning opportunities to students through community involvement."

Other services the CIC website mentions it provides, in addition to volunteer opportunities on and off campus, are event planning and programming, leadership development, the ability to track service hours (both group and individual), and annual volunteer recognition.

The Community Involvement Center hosted The Children's Assessment Center this past Spring in their efforts to recruit volunteers for their various programs. The CIC also passed out information on campus regarding child abuse prevention, and directed people to PreventChildAbuseTexas.org for further inquiries into how one

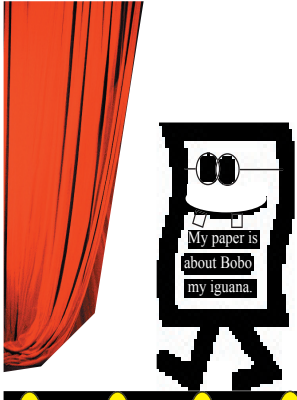

can help get involved. The CIC highlights groups and agencies in need of volunteers, and there is current information on two such groups in need, the Lupus Foundation of America and the Wesley Community Ce available on the site.

On the CIC's vibrant website, the calendar section highlights the numerous upcoming efforts. The Center is currently encouraging students to participate in Community Involvement Day, taking place on Wednesday September 20th. In addition, the CIC reminds everyone not to forget to participate in the UHD Plastic Recycling Program, as well as the UHD Book Drive, which provides gently used textbooks from the year 2000 or later to students in Africa. Used books can be donated in room S204.

UHD's commitment to excellence in all regards is showcased once again with this new unique campus entity. The Center is located in room S204 and is open on Mondays from 8am-5pm. The website can be accessed at uhd.edu/campus/activities/involvementCenter/ and the office number is (713) 221-8592. ■

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STUDENT LIFE

U of H Football

Nose tackle on leading solid defense, inspiring others



By Chris Elliot
The Daily Cougar
(CSTV U-Wire)

HOUSTON- The struggle between opposing offensive and defensive lines in football is often referred to as the "trenches," and with good reason. This is where football starts and ends. Poor showings from either side can lead to the demise of a team. Playing against a sub-par defensive line, a mediocre half back is given the miraculous ability to bust plays into the secondary at will because linebackers do not have the freedom to roam.

This is a problem Houston's defense should have no problem with, especially with senior Marquay Love leading the troops at nose tackle.

"It feels good to be the man in the middle because you've got a lot of things that you have to do in order to control the offensive linemen," Love said. "When you start getting double-teamed and things like that, that's when you know you're doing your job."

"I like to carry a lot of things on my back, because if I get my job done it makes things go a whole lot better for the defense. It opens up holes for the linebacker to run through. It's a big job to be that person in the middle because you've got a lot of big jobs to take care of."

Love has had opportunities to play on both sides of the ball. When it came down to it in the end, however, recruiters felt like he would be the most effective on the defensive side of the ball.

"I played offensive line in high school, but I got recruited as a d-lineman. Most people looked at my height. Most schools put people at 6-4, 6-5 on the offensive line," Love said. "My height was 6-0, so they just put me on the d-line."

"A lot of people cut me back short for that. They see a difference now. The University of Houston gave me a chance to come and show what I have."

After spending his entire collegiate career at defensive tackle, Love has assumed the role of the battle-tested veteran of the defense. Having the opportunity to take every snap facing an opposing athlete usually of equal size and strength separated by an imaginary line makes Love a factor in literally every single play.

"That's where men play, right there in the trenches. That's basically it. You get down and dirty, that's what I love about," Love said.

As a defensive tackle, Love admires some of the top men of the position for their

dominance on the field in the NFL.

"Warren Sapp and Casey Hampton. I watched them a couple of times last year and I like how they play," Love said. "They're just two dominant forces in the middle. They're both like 6-1, 6-2, not very tall, but they're explosive D-linemen and can cause double teams and triple teams."

Sapp could be considered as the prototypical defensive tackle. He has the ideal body type, he is explosive from the snap and has the awareness to be in every play. However, it has not been Sapp's play on the field alone that has helped him make a name for himself. Love feels it's this mental factor is the common denominator in their games.

"My attitude is just like his. I'm more of the motivator on the football team, the live person, the one who's always getting people hyped," Love said. "If I'm not saying something the team knows that there's something wrong with me. They're always looking for me to do something to get them fired up or get the momentum going."

As one of the motivators for the team, Love has been known to use certain tactics to get his teammates ready to go out on the field and bust some heads. There are the standard, yet still effective strategies of yelling, pushing and hitting. And then there is Love's trademark of providing the defense with a chant.

"I come up with a saying every year. I try to do something to get them fired up,"

Love said. "Last year it was 'We gon' see'," Love said.

Love used this chant last season to get the team "crunk" on the field and helped lead the team to a second consecutive bowl appearance. Off the field, Love is known around the locker room for his dominance in EA's NCAA Football 2007, a game most of the team enjoys.

"I got the controls for NCAA 07. Anybody that wants to play can come play me. I love playing that game and Madden. Whoever wants to try to contend with me, they can come on," Love said. "Against the whole

team I think I've only lost about seven or eight games. Yeah, like 30-7. I've lost to Kenny Fontenot, Will Gulley and L.C. Kirkpatrick. Since (the Cougars are) rated good on the game a lot of people play with UH."

In this year's installment of NCAA 07 the Cougars have one of the best-rated defenses in the game with an overall score of A-. Love qualifies as one of the top players in the game at his position with an overall rating of 91, which sits well with him.

"It feels good to know that you've done something in your life that you've always wanted to do. To see yourself on a game, you've always dreamed of doing something like that," Love said. "To be able to play with yourself on a game and be able to have people look at your ratings and see how good you are, it's a good thing. The next step will be Madden, but I got to get it done this year."

Love has an entire season to prove to NFL scouts that he has what it takes to make it in the pros. Until then, he and other NFL hopefuls can only dream of playing as themselves on Madden.

At least while dreaming of their future Madden days and preparing for the grind of the 2006 season, Love's teammates will not have to worry about going anywhere without a fresh fade.

"I cut some of my teammates' hair. I just know how to cut hair. I usually just do fades, taper fades ... Little fresh cuts. Steve Harvey line, you know a little something like that," Love said.

Romance and cooking also happen to be some of the areas "Doctor Love" takes pride in knowing that he excels in.

"I'm a romantic type of dude. People usually wouldn't think that because of my attitude on the field, but I'm a romantic type of dude when it comes down to the ladies. A little wine and dine. Some candles and things like that," Love said. "I'll cook things like smothered chicken and green beans, a well-cooked meal. If you want to get romantic with it, you get a little baked chicken, some salad; a little something like that." ■

Writing Proficiency Workshop Schedule

Early this fall semester, the writing center will sponsor several workshops to assist students in their efforts to pass the Writing Proficiency Exam. Workshops will be held as follows:

Thursday, August 31st, 5-7pm, N1099 (maximum registration: 70)

Friday, September 8th, 8-10am A706 (maximum registration: 40)

Monday, September 18th, 4-6pm (maximum registration: 70)

Because of limited seating, students must sign up in person at the front desk of the Academic Support Center, N925, beginning Monday, August 21st.

Highlights:

- Learn exam criteria
- Develop success strategies
- Read and discuss passing and failing exams.
- Brainstorm former WPE topics
- Practice proofreading techniques

For more information about ONLY the WPE workshops, call Professor Trish Fadely at (713) 221-8663, or visit the writing center, N925.

Get Fit , Stay Fit at UHD

By Monica Maza
Assistant Editor

Our school's gym (yes, we do have one) is that building we pass by everyday as we walk from the parking lots. The building is called the Student Life Center and it offers plenty of classes to help us unwind from academic life. To give you an idea of what's offered, there are aerobic, Latin dance, and Tae Kwon Do classes that meet at various times and days of the week. I personally took the Latin dance class taught by Erika Peña and I absolutely loved it. I looked forward to going to school every Saturday (how often do we say that?) because I had so much fun learning the turns and combination moves of salsa and merengue. The atmosphere of the class was very light-hearted and the music was great so don't be afraid of looking dumb because everyone is there to learn to dance.

The Sports & Fitness department within the Student Life Center has free classes as well as those that require registration and a fee. Programs are available to all students, faculty, and staff. The free classes are available Monday – Saturday and include step aerobics, body sculpting, and cardio-kickboxing. All you have to do is show up at the start of the class and be ready to

work out. The classes that require students to register and pay an extra fee (\$10) are Latin dance, Karate, Pilates, Hip-Hop dance, Tae Kwon Do, Tai Chi, and Yoga. Learning Karate for \$10 is a steal. Where else can you get that price in Houston?

Richard Sebastiani, the Director of UHD's Sports & Fitness department, assured me that "these classes are beginning level so that students can get a taste of the discipline." So don't think 'I can't join because that's too hard' and even if you do feel that way Mr. Sebastiani said that students could sit in on the 1st class and watch for free. The added bonus to this is that all classes are taught by certified instructors so you get your money's worth.

I had to ask Mr. Sebastiani about some of these classes because I wasn't exactly sure what these disciplines are. Tai Chi is a non-contact form of marital arts that is close to Yoga and you learn breathing techniques; whereas Pilates has lots of stretching and is like a combination of Yoga and aerobics but with a mat (some mats are provided by the staff). Tae Kwon Do and Karate are contact forms of marital arts and there is belt advancement available in these classes. Being a fan of *So You Think You Can Dance* and *Dancing with the Stars*, I had to ask if a ballroom dancing class

could be offered to students. Apparently, if there are enough interested students then they would add a class. I'm up for starting a petition and if you are interested in being on the list then e-mail me at mazam0012002@yahoo.com.

The registration period for these classes starts now, so don't wait and let the date pass you by. August 21st – September 5th is the window of opportunity for you to sign up for Latin dance, Karate, Pilates, Hip-Hop dance, Tae Kwon Do, Tai Chi, or Yoga. These classes fill up fast so visit the Student Life Center before you get bogged down by schoolwork. Also, lockers are available but they go even faster than the classes. Locker rental is \$15 for the semester and they usually get filled by the end of the first week of school. This semester the Sports & Fitness department is trying to accommodate more students who miss out because the classes get filled so fast. There will be a second registration period beginning October 2nd for all students wanting to get into these classes.

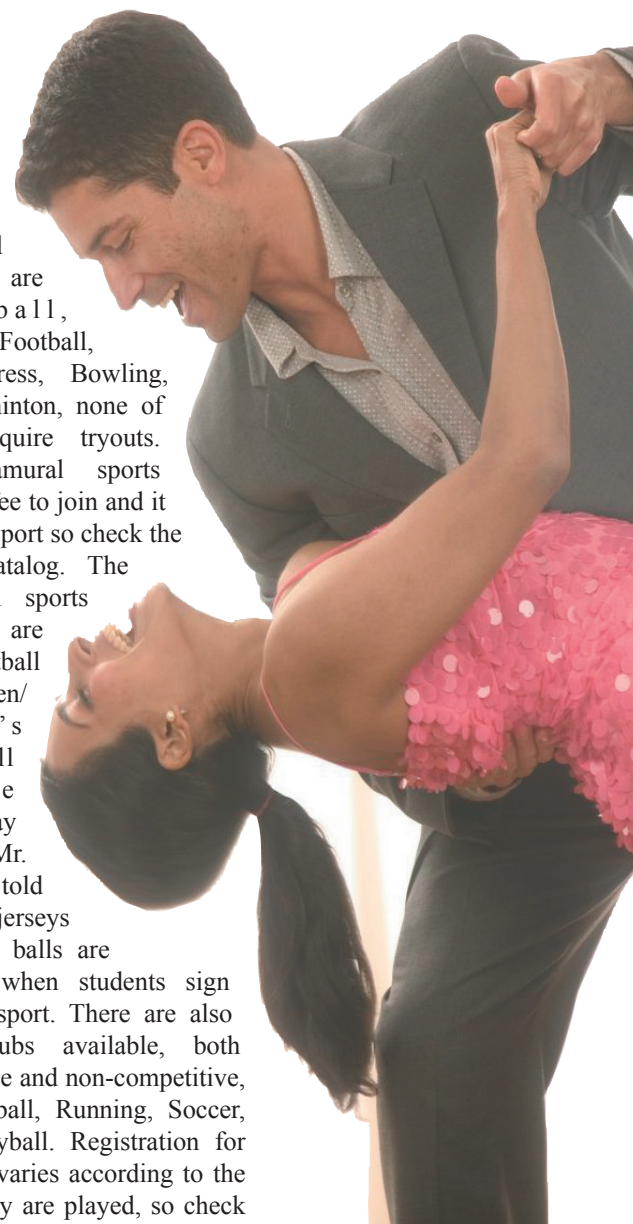
In addition to the classes offered, there are two categories of sports that students can participate in called intramural and extramural. The difference in the two is that intramural sports has teams of students who play against other teams within UHD and extramural sport teams play against other

school teams.

Intramural sports are Volleyball, Flag Football, Bench Press, Bowling, and Badminton, none of which require tryouts. All intramural sports require a fee to join and it varies by sport so check the Sports Catalog. The extramural sports available are Flag Football and Men/Women's Basketball where tryouts may be held. Mr. Sebastiani told me that jerseys and game balls are provided when students sign up for a sport. There are also Sport Clubs available, both competitive and non-competitive, in Basketball, Running, Soccer, and Volleyball. Registration for all sports varies according to the season they are played, so check the Sports Catalog.

For a more detailed explanation of what is available to the UHD community, including class descriptions, meeting times, and fees, pick up the *Fall 2006 Fitness Programs Catalog* and

Sports Catalog inside the 3rd floor of the Student Life Center. Questions? Email the Student Life Center at sports&fitness@uhd.edu or visit the website at www.uhd.edu/sports&fitness. ■



Book Review: The No-Nonsense Guide to Terrorism

By Tayvis Dunnaheo
Staff Writer

How many conversations have you overheard or participated in that revolved around the topic of terrorism? In the post-9/11 world, this subject has become virtually inescapable. Whether it be the news, a political speech, or a conversation with friends

and acquaintances, the concept of terrorism, its causes, and its consequences have breeched the boundary between isolated events and everyday concerns.

At the onset of the attacks in New York, which killed over 3,000 American civilians, the debate over what terrorism is and how it should be confronted filled the American airwaves and other media outlets. The need to speak about terrorism intelligently and rationally has become an important aspect in today's culture. In response to this need, Verso Books in conjunction with the New Internationalist magazine has published the *No-Nonsense Guide to Terrorism* (April 2003). While the book originated only two years

after the 9/11 attacks at New York, it maintains its relevance today.

The book is intended as a quick study with only 144 pages and is designed as a pocket guide. Written by Jonathan Barker, who is an author and researcher who has taught political science for over 30 years, this book will most likely not provide any new information for the readers who are well versed in political science or military history within the 20th century. However, it does offer a nice refresher on events that have contributed to the current stasis of world politics. While the book is not an attempt to expose grand conspiracies concerning government involvement, it clearly delineates terrorism by its main courses such as group terrorism

and state terrorism.

Because the idea of terrorism creates an emotional response for those concerned, many books on this topic are fraught with political slant and punditry. The *No-Nonsense Guide* offers a clear and concise view of terrorism. According to Verso's Website, "This *No-Nonsense Guide to Terrorism* looks at debates about September 11th and the responses to it, but also analyses the causes and contexts of terrorism the world over." Essentially this is a text, which is non-biased, and will inevitably increase and improve an individual's ability to openly debate or discuss the subject of terrorism as a whole. The book's short length and small size also make it a

prime candidate for those who are currently in school or have other responsibilities that prevent them from taking on outside reading.

The *No-Nonsense Guides* are a series of books created by Verso to "cut through the confusion to present the facts and arguments concerning contemporary global issues as accessibly as possible." Each volume is designed to be a pocket book, which makes for easy reading and quick access to information about topics ranging from global poverty to the arms trade. For a full list of *No-Nonsense Guides* visit the website at www.versobooks.com. The books can be ordered directly from Verso, and usually are sold for only about \$10. ■

Who, What, and Why: Student Government Association

By Steve Steiner
Vice President SGA

What is SGA? We are the Student Government Association at The University of Houston-Downtown. We are a nonpartisan group that does not affiliate with any one particular political party. We are students just like you who want to see changes in the University that better student life as a whole. In order to achieve that goal, SGA explores ways that the University can serve its students better. In short, SGA is the voice of the student body and we interact directly with the administration of the school to improve student life on and off campus.

Your newly elected SGA Executive Council for the 2006/2007 term is as follows: Christopher Sharpe – SGA President, Steven Steiner – SGA Vice President, Daniel Almanza – SGA Treasurer, and London Flores – SGA Executive Secretary.

Annually we meet with the administration of the University to give them our agenda for the upcoming year and this year is no different. We have designed our agenda with the students' best interests at heart. Some items on the agenda were based on the SGA annual survey that was conducted in the Spring 2006 semester. Thank you to all that participated; with your input on the survey, SGA knows the direction that the student body would like to see this upcoming year. Additionally, suggestions from students (in person and through e-mail) were considered for the agenda. Those deemed appropriate to better student life also made the agenda.

SGA is currently working with the City of Houston to improve the

corridor of North Main Street for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. This ad-hoc committee was formed last year and will remain intact until the changes are completed. Additional information about this or any agenda item can be obtained by seeing an SGA representative at our office located at S244 in the One Main Building.

SGA is currently accepting applications for open positions. Those positions include: Senators, Associate Justices, Chief Justice, and Speaker of the Senate. Let your voice be heard and join SGA today. Applications are now available at the SGA office (S244). There is a GPA requirement to join and applicants should be available for SGA meetings on Fridays as well as being able and willing to keep office hours and volunteer at SGA events. Do you have the motivation and drive to change things for the better? Then join today! In addition, SGA will also be attending Welcome Back Week events and will have plenty of applications on hand for interested parties.

Do you have a suggestion for SGA? Don't hesitate to contact SGA at sga@uhd.edu or by telephone at (713) 221-8511. SGA regular Senate Meetings begin on August 25th and run through the entire Fall semester on Fridays at 2 pm in room S290. Faculty, students, staff, and administration are always welcome to attend and voice their questions, comments, and concerns at the meetings. To learn more about SGA, please feel free to visit our website at www.uhd.edu/sga. SGA is looking forward to working closely with the student body this semester and hope everyone interested will get involved. ■

KINKY

continued from page 1

once called "a Texas legend" launches into his stump speech, a zippy combination of Borscht Belt humor and populist politics.

"As you know, I'm 61 years old, which is too young for Medicare and too old for women to care," he says. "But I care about Texas and I want to fix what's wrong with it. We are probably the richest state in the country, but we got potholes in the roads, we can't pay our teachers, we can't provide health insurance for our kids and they're trying to sell off the state parks!"

Kinky promises big changes. He'll legalize casino gambling and use the proceeds to fund public schools -- "slots for tots." He's the only candidate in the race -- or maybe anywhere -- who supports both school prayer and gay marriage. ("They have a right to be as miserable as the rest of us," he explains.) He'll clamp down on illegal immigration. And he'll run the state's school buses on the biodiesel fuel that Willie Nelson uses to propel his tour bus.

"We can make Texas number one in renewable fuels -- which is a helluva lot better than being number one in executions, toll roads, property taxes and dropouts!"

The crowd cheers and Kinky tells them that he can win this race. In the 2002 gubernatorial election, he says, only 29 percent of the voters even bothered to show up.

"Last time, they spent \$100 million just to drive 71 percent of us away from the polls," he says. "This time, that 71 percent is coming roarin' back -- with *pitchforks!* -- to throw the money-changers out of the temple!"

After the speech, Kinky's supporters swarm the merchandise table to contribute to his campaign by purchasing posters, T-shirts and a \$29.95 Kinky doll that utters a couple of dozen of his one-liners when you push a button on its back. "How hard can it be?" the doll says. And: "I can't screw things up any worse than they already have."

An hour later, Kinky is still autographing these items for a long line of fans. It's hot, and he's

sweating in a shirt he's already worn for two days. He turns to Jeff Shelby, his childhood friend and campaign chauffeur, and whispers, "Man, I just smelled my shirt -- *whew!*"

Shelby laughs -- he had told Kinky to bring more shirts -- then Kinky sticks his cigar back into his mouth, lays his wilted black sleeves across the shoulders of two middle-age women and smiles for a cellphone picture.

A Four-Way Race

Kinky Friedman is just a part -- one-quarter, to be exact -- of what Texas Monthly recently called "The Weirdest Governor's Race of All Time."

The Republican candidate is the incumbent, Rick Perry, whose amazing anchorman coiffure inspired the nickname "Governor Good Hair." In 2002, Perry won election with 58 percent of the vote. Since then his popularity has plummeted, the victim of an unpopular school finance plan and a new business tax. Recently, 15 longtime Republican contributors expressed their displeasure over the business tax by writing him checks -- for a penny or two.

One anti-Perry Republican, state Comptroller Carole Keeton McClellan Rylander Strayhorn, is running for governor as an independent. She's a formidable candidate: In 2002, campaigning for comptroller on the slogan "One Tough Grandma," Strayhorn -- the mother of former Bush press secretary Scott McClellan -- won 246,000 more votes than Perry. But her name was Rylander then and her new name doesn't have the same recognition, so she asked to appear on this year's ballot as Carole Keeton "Grandma" Strayhorn. The elections folks declined that request, ruling that "Grandma" isn't a nickname, it's a slogan.

The Democrats, who haven't won a statewide race in Texas since 1994, nominated Chris Bell, an obscure former one-term congressman from Houston. Bell doesn't have a nickname, but he's frequently referred to as "What's-his-name, the Democrat."

And then there's Kinky, the author of 23 books and dozens of country songs as leader of the 1970s band Kinky Friedman and the Texas Jewboys.

Kinky's repertoire included the classic anti-bigot anthem "They Ain't Makin' Jews Like Jesus Anymore," which not only contains nearly every ethnic slur imaginable, but also manages to rhyme "Aristotle Onassis" with "ethnocentric racist." (His sidekick, Shelby, played piano in the Jewboys under the nickname "Jewford," and he became semi-famous in Texas himself.)

The campaign is a bizarre, four-way slugfest that has, the Dallas Morning News recently noted, "transformed what probably would have been an easy run for incumbent Rick Perry into a wide-open race."

Some polls show Kinky running second to Perry. Does that mean the Kinkster might actually *win*?

"I don't think there's any chance of that," says Jason Stanford, who is Bell's campaign manager.

"He'll come up woefully short," says Mike Baselice, Perry's pollster.

"He won't win," says Evan Smith, editor of the Texas Monthly, "but he'll affect who wins."

Kinky's campaign manager, Dean Barkley, the architect of Jesse Ventura's successful 1998 race for governor of Minnesota, is more optimistic. "If 40 percent of registered voters turn out," Barkley says, "Kinky will win."

Barkley figures Kinky's image as a straight-talking outsider will appeal to angry, alienated folks who seldom vote. Kinky's campaign has raised more than \$3.4 million -- more than Bell but far less than Perry or Strayhorn -- while enlisting an army of volunteers who gathered the signatures that put him on the ballot. Now all Kinky has to do is get one more vote than anybody else: The election is winner-take-all, with no runoff.

"Kinky's gonna win," says John McCall, a hair-care products mogul who has donated \$1 million to his old friend Kinky's campaign. "I have a business that deals with hairdressers. People talk to their hairdressers. And what I'm hearing is: Kinky's gonna win in a landslide." **(To be continued in the next *Dateline*)** ■

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

From the Editors of *E/The Environmental Magazine*

Dear EarthTalk: Why does air quality get so bad during heat waves?

- Chad Muller, Wellesley, Mass.

Air quality decreases during times of hot temperatures because the heat and sunlight essentially cook the air along with all the chemical compounds lingering within it. This chemical soup combines with the naturally occurring nitrogen oxide in the air, creating "smog" of ground-level ozone gas. This makes breathing difficult for those who already

have respiratory ailments or heart problems and can also make healthy people more susceptible to respiratory infections.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), urban areas are the most susceptible because of all the pollution being emitted from cars, trucks and buses. The burning of fossil fuels at power plants also emits a considerable amount of smog-making pollution. Geography is also a factor. Broad industrialized valleys penned in by mountain ranges, such as the Los Angeles basin, tend to trap smog, making life miserable for those people working or playing

outside on hot summer days.

The non-profit watchdog group Clean Air Watch reported that July's intense heat wave caused a blanket of smog stretching from coast to coast. Some 38 U.S. states reported more unhealthy air days in July 2006 than during the same month the previous year. And in some particularly at-risk locales, airborne smog levels exceeded the acceptable healthy standard by as much as 1,000-fold.

In light of recent heat waves, the EPA urges urban dwellers and suburbanites to help reduce smog by: using public transit and carpooling to reduce vehicle trips; refueling cars at night to prevent escaping gas vapors from getting cooked into smog by sunlight; avoiding gas-powered lawn equipment; and setting air conditioning thermostats a few degrees higher to help reduce the fossil fuel burning needed to power them.

For its part, the EPA is quick to point out that the regulations on power plants and car fuels that have been instituted over the last 25 years have significantly reduced smog in American

cities. EPA spokesman John Millett says that ozone pollution concentrations have declined about 20 percent since 1980. Millett adds that the agency is in the process of implementing new programs to control emissions from diesel trucks and farming equipment, and is requiring cleaner diesel fuel to help further reduce smog levels. New rules to regulate marine vessels and locomotives should also help minimize future smog alerts.

Long-term we have made improvements but this heat wave and the accompanying smog is a very graphic reminder that we still have a significant problem, says Frank O'Donnell, Clean Air Watch's president. Unless we start getting serious about global warming, predicted increases in global temperatures could mean continued smog problems in the future. And that will mean more asthma attacks, disease and death.

People should avoid strenuous outdoor activity during heat waves in areas plagued by smog. For more information, check out the government's "Ozone and Your Health" report on the website airnow.gov.

CONTACTS: Clean Air Watch, www.cleanairwatch.org; AirNow's "Ozone and Your HealthReport," airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=static.brochure.

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Senditto: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php. ■

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continued from page 2

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www.uhd.edu/library/databases/

8) Stay healthy

Sure, there are plenty of tips on academics and studying, but these are useless unless you are in an energetic, mindful state while you are attending college. Take a few minutes each day to review what you've been eating. Borrow a book on fitness and nutrition and read a few pages a day or visit some nutritional websites to see how you can easily gain energy, focus, and motivation every single day without buying useless gizmos from infomercials or spending big bucks on dieting programs.

Start simple and eat simple; avoid trans fats and high fructose corn syrup. Your grandmother likely never had those in her kitchen pantry and you'll be amazed at how you look and feel even after a few days after becoming conscious of what you are eating.

9) Find your passion

Take some time out of your busy life to quiet down and put in writing what you feel is your passion. This exercise is something that will benefit you throughout your life. Rewrite your passion in a different way below what you just wrote. Continue this again and again; grab another sheet of paper if you have to and write down what you feel is your purpose. What do you want to do with 80% of your time? 90%? 98%? This is what you are trying to find out. What one thing burns inside of you uncontrollably and keeps you motivated? Of course, it may take an hour or two, but the benefits will be worth your time.

While you are writing and thinking, you may write only three words, and follow that with a paragraph of words with a totally different purpose. That's okay; keep going and when you get to the words that hit you, you will know. This is your purpose and your passion. Remember this, and always work towards it. These

words are the reason that you are working hard and dreaming big.

College students are at a time in their lives where academic creativity, social inspiration, and spiritual development are at their peak for an individual. Take time to step back and realize just how much potential exists within you.

10) Take a creative, active academic approach to learning

Study smart, not hard. Don't be a typical college student and spend hours and hours cramming for tests and practicing problems, crunching numbers, or jotting out a rough draft for twenty hours. Step back for a second, and really, consciously think about what it is that you are trying to accomplish. Talk to yourself or a friend about some new ideas and truly conceptualize what you are trying to learn.

If you find that you have a hard time taking on a new subject, try this method of learning: 1) Bombard

yourself with information. 2) Give it time to sink in. 3) Build a framework from that information. 4) Bombard yourself again, from different sources. 5) Live out your new concepts and teach them to someone.

It is not very often that college students experience a true social understanding, gain authentic concepts, or feel the satisfaction of genuine developmental growth, because they are too caught up in the myths and shortcomings of what they think is a typical college encounter.


At college, you stand as a person surrounded by knowledge, thought, energy, creativity, and open-mindedness. Stay motivated by picking a plan and sticking to it. Remember that you can succeed at anything for which you have unlimited enthusiasm.

Finally, let your mind grow and develop to be a wise and efficient life-learner, and have a great experience! ■

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