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

Recycling Receptacles Need Your Plastics



Photo by Juan Ortiz

UHD Recycling Program Needs Your Help

By Cody Roberts
Managing Editor

Most college students recognize that the environment is in dire need of help. At the recent MTV Video Music Awards, musician turned award-winning actress Queen Latifah presented a brief soliloquy on the state of nature before introducing former Vice President Al Gore to the throngs of screaming fans. It was a quiet respite from the rest of the evening's riotous performances and celebrity appearances, and an important moment to reflect on just how rapidly the earth, the earth's atmosphere, and rapid population growth have affected

our world. Gore went on to show several images of glaciers in South America and Africa that had melted at an alarmingly unnatural rate and the gasps and hushed silences of the audience following his words were telling. The former Vice President then went on to reveal the results of a poll MTV had taken.

The specific poll was taken by MTV over the course of the Rock the Vote festivities of the 2004 election. The question posed was what issue young people of the MTV generation-our generation- felt would most affect our future. The answer was surprising, as it did not pertain to the election of trustworthy leadership, civil liberties, the war in Iraq, nor homeland security.

It was not the Social Security or Medicare issues, and it was not the immigration debate. The answer was the environment. Young people feel that this is the biggest issue, the issue that would most affect our future, and the issue that they feel is being paid the least attention.

Granted, with the current state of global affairs, one can easily overlook such paltry issues as the reduction of greenhouse gases, legislation on emissions and pollutants, global warming, vanishing species of plants and animals...until it all comes crashing down in the form of tsunamis, hurricanes, and the rapid depletion in the health of what should really be the first priority

See RECYCLE pg 7

Textbook Mayhem

Legislative Help
for Rising Textbook
Costs

By Sean Augabright
Staff Writer

By now, you may have recovered from the sticker shock of your textbook-buying experience. Perhaps you are already eyeing apprehensively at next semester's hardbound, new-edition bloodletting. If so, you are not the only one concerned about the rising cost of college textbooks.

Texas State Representative Scott Hochberg, along with some of his Democratic colleagues, announced a legislative proposal late last month that intends to reduce the cost of student textbooks. Hochberg, from Southwest Houston's District 137, outlined six specific steps to his plan:

- 1) Require books to be used for at least three years whenever possible.
- 2) Make it easier to shop around for better prices.
- 3) Don't require students to buy books, CDs, workbooks, etc. that the professor does not expect the class to use.
- 4) Use state purchasing power to lower prices.
- 5) Create a pilot program for rental textbooks.
- 6) Prohibit gifts or payments from publishers that could influence book selection.

In his press release, Hochberg states, "College textbook costs are rising much faster than inflation," Hochberg said, "and students

have no choice but to pay those prices. Students have told me that they often end up sharing books, copying necessary pages, using older editions, and doing whatever they can to save money."

A study conducted in 2005 by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) supports his claim. It concluded that over the past 20 years, textbook costs have outpaced the rate of inflation by two hundred percent. The GAO estimated that the yearly cost of books and supplies for a full-time student was \$898 at a typical four-year public institution.

The reasons for the rising costs are caused, in part, by the business strategies of the publishers. Hochberg remarked, "... [P]ublishers are changing editions every year and forcing students to buy extra materials like CDs and workbooks that they don't need. Those practices must stop." While it may make sound business sense to publish a new edition every time the leaves change, it seems like the only thing 'new' about the new edition is the price. Some courses, by their very subject matter, should need little, if any, updating. How much has College Algebra changed since Robert Recorde invented the '=' sign in the 16th century? US History to 1877 is another good example. It's *history*. Are we even supposed to update it? The addition of the twenty-seven 8"x10" color, glossy pictures with captions and cross-references and a paragraph on the back of each one, explaining what each one was; is a nice touch, but hardly worth an extra 26 percent price hike.

'Bundling' is another tactic

See MAYHEM pg 7

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

Scandal: MBA Program

By Timika Simmons
Staff Writer

On September 9th a Ms. Penny Maranville of Houston wrote a letter to the editor of The Houston Chronicle stating that the faculty of UHD was told that the MBA (Masters in Business) program for the downtown campus would no longer be pursued because the U of H System Board of Regents chose not to support it.

Her letter was intended to be a response to an August issue of the Chronicle that discussed issues surrounding the addition of the MBA program. Some of the

controversy surrounding the addition of a possible MBA program at UHD was that Prairie View A&M and Sam Houston State University were not pleased with the proposal, and those institutions complained that it would hurt them financially with the loss of current and future student enrollments.

George Wright, the president of Prairie View A&M, brought to the attention of the coordinating board that U of H's proposal could go against civil rights agreements over the last 25 years that

pressures Texas to strengthen and enhance campuses and academic programs at

...UH's proposal could go against civil rights agreement over the last 25 years that presures Texas to strengthen and enhance compuses and academic programs at historically black institutions.

-George Wrght, President of Prairie View A&M-

historically black institutions.

It was reported that The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board was not able to vote on the proposed expansion at the last meeting because UHD did not submit the required 30-day notice and that the board was not clear on when they would schedule the vote.

The letter written by Ms. Maranville is not correct, and is misinformed. Dr. Molly Wood, VP of Academic Affairs and Provost at the University of Houston-Downtown issued the following statement in response to the letter:

"The College of Business at the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) has developed a MBA degree that is currently in the approval process within the University of Houston System. The proposed degree was approved by the various levels at UHD and by the U of H System

Provosts' Council during the 2004-2005 academic year. The last two steps in the process are approval by the U of H System Board of Regents and finally the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. UHD's College of Business (COB) has the largest number of majors and graduates in the university and many of these graduates are eagerly awaiting the approval of this degree. The approval of the MBA was recently identified as the highest goal of the COB faculty during their Strategic Long Range Planning Retreat."

Clearly, the university has not made a decision to stop pursuing the MBA program at the University of Houston-Downtown. ■

Kinky Concluded...

By Peter Carlson
Washington Post
Part 3 of 3

The Second Career

Kinky Friedman has lived a life that could, and soon might, inspire the world's most entertaining political attack ad.

"I've been stoned a lot of times," he says. "And I've been involved with a lot of beautiful women. And I don't regret any of it."

He was born Richard Friedman in 1945 in Chicago, but his parents soon moved to Texas. His mother was a speech therapist, his father a professor of educational psychology at the University of Texas. In 1952, they founded Echo Hill, a Jewish summer camp in the Texas Hill Country, where Kinky worked as a counselor and began performing with Jewford, singing old folk songs and a new one that Kinky wrote at age 11: "*Old Ben Lucas, had a lot of mucus coming*

right out of his nose . . ."

"He was energetic, he was pushing the envelope and he was doing things to irritate people," Jewford recalls. "He was pretty much the same as he is now."

At the University of Texas, he was nicknamed Kinky -- a reference to his hair, not, alas, to anything more risqué. After graduating in 1966, he joined the Peace Corps and was sent to Borneo, where, he says, "I was supposed to teach agriculture to people who had been farming successfully for 2,000 years."

Back home in the early '70s, he formed the Texas Jewboys. Kinky, who played guitar, wrote some soulful, sensitive ballads, but what inspired a cult following were his outrageous comic songs: among them, a satire of anti-feminists called "Get Your Biscuits in the Oven and Your Buns in Bed," and a parody of Merle Haggard's "Okie From Muskogee" called "[Lower End of the Intestinal Tract] From El Paso," which suggested that

men from that Texas city were a tad too fond of sheep.

Kinky had some success -- he played the Grand Ole Opry, joined Bob Dylan's Rolling Thunder Revue and toured with Willie Nelson -- but by the early '80s, his career was tanking, his longtime girlfriend had died in a car crash and he was doing way too much dope.

"He was high on 27 different herbs and spices," says Jimmie "Ratso" Silman, a Washington TV cameraman who has played backup guitar for Kinky off and on since the '70s. "He was a different person back then, definitely fairly repellent as a human being."

"I quit doing cocaine," Kinky says, "when Bob Marley fell out of my left nostril."

Actually, he quit doing cocaine when he moved into a trailer on the grounds of his parents' camp and began a second career writing comic mystery novels. The novels -- he wrote 17 -- feature a country singer-turned-detective named Kinky Friedman, who smokes cigars, cracks a lot of jokes and occasionally solves a case.

"The point wasn't the mystery, it was the voice," says Evan Smith. "The guy has got one of the most extraordinary authorial voices."

When Smith became editor of Texas Monthly in 2000, he hired Kinky as a columnist. The column was funny and very popular, but editing the Kinkster wasn't always easy. Once he did a column about . . . well, we can't say what it was about, for the same reason that Smith wouldn't run it.

"Kinky is 60 going on 12," Smith says.

A few years ago, Kinky called Smith at 7 in the morning, grumbling that he couldn't think of an idea for a column. Smith blurted out a suggestion: "Why don't you run for something?"

So Kinky wrote a column about running for governor. Smith

See KINKY pg 6

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Textbook Tips

By Sean Augabright
Staff Writer

In a related article in this issue you can read Texas State Representative Scott Hochberg's proposed legislation for lowering the cost of textbooks. Unfortunately, any help from Austin will come too late to relieve the spring semester book-

buying blues. There are ways to beat the bookstore prices, however. With a little effort and planning, you can save hundreds on your textbooks.

The first step is to start early. As soon as the spring class line-

up is posted, find the instructor that will be teaching your course. This is easily done through UHD's student e-services website. From the e-services web page, search for your class by selecting 'Class Schedule', 'Spring 2006' semester and fill in the appropriate search criteria. The search results will show the instructor's name in the fourth column from the right. You can then get the instructor's email by clicking the 'People/Campus Directory' link in the top menu bar on the e-services main page.

Politely - very politely - inform the instructor that you'll be taking the course in the spring and would like to know the ISBN number(s) of the required text(s) for the course, at his convenience. Explain that your early preparation will enable you to find the most economic way to be prepared for that first class. Most instructors will appreciate your diligence and frugality and give you the information you

need.

Before you actually purchase your text, ensure that you have the correct 10-digit International Standard Book Number, or ISBN. Look for it above the bar code on the textbook's back cover or title page. If you are purchasing your text online, the order details page should contain the ISBN along with the book title, author and edition.

Once armed with the ISBN

for a used book is \$11.50 (\$3.49 standard shipping). You can see the savings start to add up if you have five or six books to buy each semester.

There are other options, though less appealing than having your own textbook. Some students are employing book-sharing to beat the high textbook costs. Not having immediate access to your own book can be problematic. Older editions of the textbooks can be used

in some courses. Check with the professor to see if the new edition of the textbook being used for the course has substantial changes. If the instructor doesn't teach the course regularly, he or she may not have this information. A new edition of the textbook often means new page numbers. If you can get your hands on an old syllabus with the old page numbers, you may be able to get away with using a

previous edition of the book.

Also, think international. Often the publisher makes an international version that is identical to the U.S. counterpart except it might be a paperback instead of a hardback to cut on shipping costs. The content is usually the same. Buying international versions of textbooks could save in some cases up to 90 percent of the U.S. retail price. To find international textbooks, you can go to www.bestbookbuys.com or www.amazon.co.uk. The ENG 3304 text was available for \$27.96, but be mindful of the shipping point.

A little advance planning to find out what books you have to buy can pay off in the long run. Start searching early so you'll have a chance to buy used books, which often sell out fast once the semester starts. When it comes to shopping for college books, it is a textbook case of the early bird getting the bargain. ■



Photo by Juan Ortiz

Frustrated Senior: Monica longer has to worry, what about you?

numbers, there are a number of sources to try. Several student Public Interest Research Groups (PIRG) are taking up the cause to lower textbooks. One California PIRG-sponsored website is www.campusbookswap.com, run by the Make Textbooks Affordable campaign. You are required to register, but the site is free. The site allows students to post and search for texts to buy and sell.

Try these sites as well: www.textbookx.com, www.half.com and www.bigwords.com. When buying online, though, remember to consider shipping charges. My ENG 3304 text cost \$55.00 at the UHD bookstore, but Textbookx.com has it new for \$30.06 (\$2.00 UPS 2-3 day shipping). Half.com offers it for as little as \$15.00 used, but keep in mind this site is sponsored by eBay. You will be purchasing from an individual and shipping times can vary. Bigwords.com's cheapest price

ON CAMPUS

Town Hall Discussion U.S. Role on Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Americans for Informed Democracy at the University of Houston-Downtown presents:

A BETTER, SAFER WORLD: STOPPING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR ARMS

FEATURING:



Matthew Martin

Program Officer, Policy Analysis and Dialogue, The Stanley Foundation
Former Senior Defense Aide to U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey (D-NE)

Mr. Martin Martin brings a wealth of experience working directly on nonproliferation, cooperative threat reduction, missile defense, and strategic security issues. Prior to joining the Stanley Foundation as their Program Officer for Policy Analysis and Dialogue in 2005, Martin spent ten years in Washington directing projects to increase nuclear security and serving as senior defense aide for former Senator Bob Kerrey. He has held positions with the British American Security Information Council, the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, the Henry L. Stimson Center, and Amnesty International, USA. He has authored and edited briefs, reports, and articles on a range of topics and has been a regular source for background, commentary, and interviews for national and international media.

September 26, 2006 at 2:00p.m.

Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium

Questions? E-mail Debbie Hernandez or Chris Graves at brighteyes.debbie@gmail.com or st_e_graves@yahoo.com

By Christopher Graves
Guest Writer

On Tuesday, September 26th at 2pm in the Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium, Americans for Informed Democracy (AID), a non-partisan group that seeks to foster informed discussion among Americans on important issues, will be holding a town hall meeting that will focus not only on nuclear non-proliferation, but also on what role the U.S. should adopt towards stopping the spread of nuclear arms.

With recent headlines on the stalling of talks with North Korea, the possibility of Tehran and the U.S. reaching a diplomatic deadlock before negotiations can begin on Iran suspending their uranium enrichment program, and the need to promote a discussion on the U.S.'s role in such situations has become critical. According to the Associated Press, "Russian diplomats [believe] it [is] now highly probable that North Korea [will] carry out its first underground test of a nuclear device."

Currently, North Korea refuses to resume the six-party talks that were broken off last year in response to U.S. economic sanctions. While Iran recently showed a greater willingness to discuss suspending their uranium enrichment program—a program which the U.S. foresees leading to the construction of nuclear arms,

but which Iran sees as a program for energy purposes—they have made suspension conditional on the U.S. terminating its sanctions, having the issue of their nuclear program being dropped from the discussion of the U.N. Security Council, and seeking security guarantees against Israel.

This event will give students and the general public background on this current situation and insight on constructive ways that the U.S. can

deal with this situation. It also seeks to give students the chance not only to weigh in with their own views on the U.S.'s role in current global security issues, but also to discuss such issues with experts in the field.

Matthew Martin, one of the three speakers to be attending, is a Program Officer for Policy Analysis and Dialogue at the Stanley Foundation. Martin brings a wealth of experience working directly on non-proliferation, cooperative threat reduction, missile defense, and strategic security issues. Prior to joining the Stanley Foundation, Martin spent ten years in Washington D.C. directing projects in the think tank world and serving as senior defense aide for former Senator Bob Kerrey. He has held positions with the British American Security Information Council, the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, the Henry L. Stimson Center, and Amnesty International, USA. In addition, he has authored and edited briefs, reports, as well as articles on a range of topics and has been a regular source for background, commentary, and interviews for national and international media.

Some of the questions to be addressed during the town hall will be: How has the U.S. "war on terrorism" affected its diplomatic position with both Iran and North Korea? In what

See NUCLEAR pg 4

Music

Clipse Believe the Hype

By Woodie Stephenson
Staff Writer

After a barrage of setbacks and ceases, the highly anticipated sophomore album by Clipse will at last find a release date in October. Following a lengthy legal battle, the Jive Records release, *Hell Hath No Fury*, is appropriately scheduled for a Halloween debut with two new singles already setting the rap world abuzz.

After finding their label Arista Records absorbed into the larger subsidiary Jive Records in 2003, the Virginia based hip-hop duo would find their record temporarily shelved from further development. A large industry merger between BMG and

Sony unfortunately left the duo relegated to Jive while the rest of their production team at Star Trak found a new home at Interscope. Known for their alliance with the sharp production team The Neptunes, Clipse, comprised of brothers Pusha-T and Malice, made a strong impression with their debut release in 2001. However, controversy is no stranger to the group; the duo has shared an endless onslaught of setbacks from their inception in 1993 when their first recording attempt *Exclusive Audio Footage* was shelved by Elektra Records. After finding a lack of distribution for their product once again, Clipse released a series of well received underground mix tapes known as the *We Got it 4 Cheap* mix tape series. During the legal

battle with Jive, Clipse further solidified their clout by creating their own label imprint, Re-up Records which would eventually reach an agreement with Jive to distribute *Hell Hath No Fury*.

The first single from the forthcoming release, "Mr. Me Too," is a slick down-tempo track with a deep rattling bass produced by and featuring none-other-than Pharrell Williams of The Neptunes. An almost eerie slow staccato bass emanates over the tight drums as the duo returns to form. The track is already working its way up the charts garnering buzz for the unreleased record. The album's second massive single features Houston's own up-and-coming Slim Thug, also a Star Trak Records roster member. The anticipated collaboration,



"Wamp Wamp (What it Do)," pairs the deep and authoritative baritone of Slim Thug with the nonchalant lyrics of Clipse to create a track with slick verses and a powerful and catchy chorus. The production work on "Wamp Wamp" rivals the best of The Neptunes' catalog with precise

clarity and a breathy relaxed feel. Additional guest spots on *Hell Hath No Fury* include R. Kelly, fellow trap-rapper Young Jeezy, Sean Paul, and Young Buck.

To view Clipse page and preview *Hell Hath No Fury*, visit <http://www.myspace.com/clipse>. ■



AMA Guest Speaker Judge Jay D. Hirsch

**By Eric Saville
Guest Writer**

Come see what we're all about at this fall's guest speaker series, hosted by the UHD AMA. The American Marketing Association will be presenting many guest speakers this fall to enlighten us on how different industries employ various marketing and promotion strategies to build a successful business. Our first topic of conversation is marketing in the legal system, with guest speaker Judge Jay D. Hirsch.

Judge Jay D. Hirsch has worn and continues to wear many hats related to the legal profession. He has been a practicing attorney for 40 plus years, he served as a Judge in the U. S. Army Reserve, JAG unit, in excess of 10 years, a court-appointed mediator for many years, and an Associate Judge for the Municipal Courts, being appointed by Houston City Council six years ago. He continues to serve as an Adjunct Professor at both South Texas College of Law and Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston teaching professional liability and Insurance Law, and writes the textbook for these courses.

While serving on the bench and teaching law school, he still found time to build an extremely successful and nationally recognized insurance defense firm, Hirsch, Glover, Robinson & Sheiness, which served Texas insurance companies and their insurers throughout Texas for over 28 years. In 2002, he merged his practice with a healthcare group, Kroger, Myers & Frisby, adding his expertise to their professional liability practice and bringing with him an impressive group of



lawyers practicing general tort. Judge Hirsch speaks at State Bar seminars, educating lawyers, has written numerous articles, textbooks, and has made some significant law for the insurance industry in Texas. Although you may appropriately address him as "Judge Hirsch," or "Colonel Hirsch," "Professor Hirsch," or even Mr. Hirsch, he is perhaps best known as "The Junkyard Dog," a nickname given to him years ago by his son when he watched his Father in trial. His son, an artist, sketched his metaphorical likeness: a bulldog. Hirsch thereafter became "The Junkyard Dog." This nickname stuck, and he continues to receive calls from clients who need a tenacious and aggressive attorney on their cases. His trial skills have gained him the respect of the plaintiff and defense bar, the judiciary, and clients on a nationwide basis.

Currently, Judge Hirsch heads the firm's marketing efforts at Kroger, Myers, Frisby & Hirsch, giving seminars to insurance companies and the medical profession.

A practicing attorney for more than 40 years, Judge Hirsch has built a lifetime of expertise and experience in the profession of law. He has also represented a multitude of physicians and prominent hospitals, including St. Luke's and MD Anderson Cancer Center. During his career, he has been involved in several precedent-setting lawsuits which results in a change in the law in Texas.

In a recent interview for Top Attorneys in Houston by *H Texas* magazine editor, he was asked about why he had stayed in teaching so many years. "Teaching is also my passion. If I had to choose between teaching and trying lawsuits in the courtroom, I don't know if I could ever make a choice," he said. So, he does both, while also devoting considerable

See JUDGE JAY pg 6

Revamped Career Expo Seeking Volunteers

**By Jhonathan Herrera-Shaikh
Guest Writer**

As Student Career Expo Chair this semester, it is my pleasure to work for you and to be a part of the new opportunities this event might open for you today and hopefully for the rest of your life. If you are to launch your career, get a job, or look for an internship, then maybe you should volunteer some hours for a meaningful event. This year the Fall Career Expo will be held on Wednesday, September 27th in A300 starting at 10am. For those who don't know, the Career Expo is a wonderful opportunity to get a head start with your career. It is the time and place where you bring your résumés to more than 60 businesses (yes, more than 60) that are looking to hire UHD students. These businesses include oil companies, banks, school districts, insurance companies, police and security departments, accounting firms, Universities, and more. So regardless of you major, you are welcome to this event.

Do you want specifics? Well, let me name some of the companies and organizations that are going to come so you can get an idea: IBC Bank, Exxon mobile, Walgreens, Fossil Inc., Accounting Principals, Houston Independent School District, Office of the Attorney General, University of Houston, City of Houston, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army Health Services, the Gallup Organization, Smith and Associated, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and many more. All of the above is just a sneak peak of the overall number of companies that will be visiting us on Wednesday, September 27th so be sure to bring enough résumés.

Do you have your résumés ready? Or maybe you want to volunteer? We need volunteers for this event. If you or your organization needs volunteer hours please don't hesitate to contact me before the event through Career Services in N340. It will be great to have you as a volunteer and for

CAREER EXPO

September 27



Volunteer Committee (left to right)

- TINU CHERIAN, *Hospitality Team Manager*
- ANGELEE KUMAR, *Registration Team Manager*
- JHONATHAN SHAIKH, *Chair*
- DELYCE MCKEEHAN, *Catering Team Manager*
- JAY WILLIAMS, *Parking Team Manager*

SEE YOU AT THE EXPO!

*Bring Résumés Dress Professionally
over 60 employers attending...and counting*

you to join us in one of the most important UHD events of the season. We have a dynamic and fun group of volunteers signed up so far. This year we want everyone to feel welcome as a volunteer and to know the difference you are making by helping us make this event a really exciting one. You can go to Career Services N340, sign up to volunteer, and I'll contact you as soon as I hear from you. We have teams of volunteers that you can join and there are multiple shifts available. Although we would love to have you all day, we understand that you may only volunteer for a certain time, but, either way, you are welcome to be part of us.

There is a mandatory meeting on Monday, September 25th in S290 at 8am or 7pm (you can choose one) for all volunteers. This meeting will help us to get to know you, explain the event, and assign you to a team. This is the first time volunteers are meeting before the event and I organized it this way so that volunteers can have the opportunity to really know what their duties at the event will be. Rather than be thrown in the middle of something, I wanted this semester's Career Expo volunteers to be confident about their role in the event. I promise not to keep you long at the meeting. It will be interesting and it's only 20 minutes, so I hope to see you there. ■

KINKY

continued from page 3

thought he was kidding. So did everybody else. But Kinky -- who, in his only other stab at elective office, ran unsuccessfully for justice of the peace back in the '80s -- decided to make a serious run.

"I said, 'If you're really serious, you can't write for us,' " Smith recalls. " 'When you announce officially, I'm going to have to fire you.' "

Early in 2005, Kinky announced his candidacy on the Don Imus radio show and Smith fired him. Now, Smith hopes Kinky will lose so he can start writing the column again. He's fond of Kinky. In fact, he's fond of both Kinkys.

"There's definitely the act and the person," he says. "The person is more insecure and more sweet. He is one of the most genuinely sweet-tempered people I've ever met. You see it when he's with children or animals. . . .

"There's a definite sadness about him. He's alone. His mother and father are dead -- he was very close to them -- and he's not married. In a way, this campaign is a way for him to be out with a lot of people."

Hitting the Jackpot

"I gotta go to Vegas," Kinky says.

He's eating lunch at a Mexican restaurant in Fort Worth and longing for a slot machine. His campaign promise to bring casinos to Texas is not mere wonkery: Kinky *loves* playing the \$5 slots. "It's meditative," he says. His love was reciprocated last summer, when he won \$45,000 playing \$5 slots in Louisiana.

"God help the small child who steps between me and a slot machine," he says, smiling.

His lyrical ruminations on gambling are interrupted when a woman comes to the table to ask for his autograph. A few moments later, a couple stop by to pose for a picture with Kinky.

This happens all over Texas. The previous day, in Houston, a Republican geologist recognized Kinky on the sidewalk and pledged his support. A few hours later, at a Waffle House in rural Ennis, two elderly cowboys said they'll vote for Kinky, too. Later, a waitress

in Fort Worth told Kinky that her coven had voted to endorse him.

Now, in the Mexican restaurant, Kinky's shaking hands and posing for pictures.

"He'll get my vote," says Ray Lopez, 32, an auto technician eating with his family. "I know it's a cliché, but I like the underdog. And I like the individualism he brings to the campaign."

Kinky wallows in the love. "I'm predicting landslide," he says on the way back to the hotel.

As he strolls into the lobby, Kinky is recognized by a retired autoworker named Billy Vann.

"I like your style," Vann says. "If you get in, it'll be because of your style."

Always the Maverick

Chowing down on eggs Benedict, Kinky grumbles about his shirt.

It's the morning after his speech at the Flying Saucer and he's wearing the same black shirt that he'd found a tad too fragrant last night. It's a problem: He packed only one black shirt, and he can't very well appear in public out of costume. They need to go to a drugstore, he tells Jewford, to buy some of that Febreze stuff that you spray on shirts to de-funkify them.

It's crucial to get Febreze *today*, Kinky says, because tomorrow he'll be addressing a Dallas convention of the National Association of the Blind.

"They're *blind*," Kinky says. "That means they have a heightened sense of smell."

Maybe he's joking. But he *looks* serious.

Anyway, there's no time for shopping now. They've got to hustle down the highway to join Willie Nelson for a news conference on biodiesel fuels.

A couple of hours later, the news conference begins at Carl's Corner, a biodiesel gas station off Route 35. But Nelson is a no-show, and a panel of earnest environmentalists drones on about renewable resources.

"This is stupefyingly dull," Kinky says, watching from the back of the crowd.

But he's got exciting news: He just thought of a great new line to use in his stump speech. He pauses dramatically, then reveals it: "I'm not like them."

He's smiling. He *loves* this line. He whips out his notebook and writes it down in big block letters: "NOT LIKE THEM."

He's right about that. No matter who "them" is, Kinky's not like them. If Texans want to elect a certified non-them as governor, they'll know where to find him. ■

NUCLEAR

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ways have the U.S.'s profoundly negative image abroad facilitated both countries willingness to resist the U.S.'s policy on nuclear arms? How can the U.S. better understand the reasons why North Korea and—according to the Bush Administration's fears—Iran, are in the process of acquiring nuclear arms? In what ways can the U.S. use that understanding to reach a resolution with North Korea and Iran?

The town hall is part of a broader series called *The People Speak*, which is building discussions in the U.S. on a wide range of issues, including peace, security, human rights, energy and global climate change, and the Millennium Development Goals. *The People Speak* series offers a rare opportunity for all Americans to consider topics such as global security, development, and the environment.

For more information on this series, visit www.thepeoplespeak.org. For questions regarding the town hall, contact Chris Graves at si_cgraves@yahoo.com or Debbie Hernandez at brighteyes.debbie@gmail.com. Information on Americans for Informed Democracy is at www.aidemocracy.org. ■

JUDGE JAY

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time to philanthropic pursuits.

Judge Hirsch is one of the top attorneys in the state and because he is equally as well known as the "guru of law firm marketing."

Keep your eyes open for future presentations from the UHD AMA.

AMA Event: How Marketing Contributes to a Law Firm's Success

When: Tuesday Sept. 26th 6:30-7:30pm

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RECYCLE

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of every nation: Earth, our home. Then and only then do those issues cease to be “paltry,” and it looks as if that time has come, if it isn’t already too late.

With a problematic situation so massive, one usually feels the typical American feelings of helplessness and innocuous detachment. After all, what can one person do for a planet so huge? Well, it may not seem you can do much at all except stand by the old maxim of “thinking globally, acting locally.”

Not everyone’s neighborhood in the greater Houston area has a recycling program, and this usually stems from a lack of funding or a simple lack of participation. Which brings me to my next point: Ever notice the large grey Coke bottles that lurk in the corners on every floor on campus? Believe it or not, they’re there for a reason. Those are UHD’s recycling receptacles, and sadly, they aren’t being used. Every individual classroom has some kind of waste receptacle of its own, but those are not for plastic bottles and aluminum cans. Not a day goes by when those same classroom wastebaskets are spilling over with trash that for the most part contains recyclable goods. It only takes a split second to keep from ditching a water bottle, fruit juice, Diet Coke or Sprite, or even the plastic Starbucks cups. Take that split second and remind yourself and others to bypass the trash and put it in its rightful place, the recycle bin.

If everyone does their part, UHD may be able to keep from pulling the plug on its recycling program. If such a drastic measure as killing the program has to be taken, it really is nothing short of embarrassing and a poor reflection on our institution, and we’d have no one to blame but ourselves.

Since the 40-cubic yard dumpster containing the goods collected in the Coke bottle receptacles arrived in April, which the recycling vendor agreed to provide and store free of charge to UHD, it has never been emptied because it has never been full. In fact, from the initial container delivery in April until this writing,

the dumpster is only 25% full, and that’s an optimistic statistic. Yes, there are less students in the summer on campus, but it still is clear that the program is not getting through to students- that’s almost six full months of university-wide trash that hasn’t garnered enough recyclables to fill a quarter of the dumpster provided. The container takes up space and has drawn more insects and odors than recyclables. As Director of Facilities Manager Chris McCall has noted, “I don’t believe the level of participation we are currently experiencing can justify the plastic recycling program.” Sadly, Mr. McCall is correct. So what can be done and what’s up with all those giant Coke bottles?

For one, people have to stop throwing trash and food into the receptacles. That’s not what they’re for, and using them in this fashion only leads to someone else having to pick through the trash to separate your garbage. No food, no trash, and no cardboard are to be placed in the giant Coke bottles. Any hard plastic container (no bags or baggies), such as 20 oz. soft drink bottles, water bottles, or any other plastic bottle or container is acceptable. It is preferable if the container is empty or cleaned. Aluminum cans are acceptable for the Coke receptacles as well. The recycle logo is generally stamped somewhere on appropriate recyclable material, in a corner or on the bottom of the can or bottle.

The university itself provides extensive recycling of office materials, corrugated cardboard and wooden pallets; the plastic containers recycled by students only strengthens and supplements the recycling program as a whole. It is important that the UHD community not lose this valuable tool for providing the small service of helping pay the overdue debt we owe to our planet. If you ever feel helpless in the war against the destruction of our natural environment, recycling is a small, but no less invaluable tool for the individual that must be practiced properly at UHD. Keep an eye out for signs and reminders from the campus Environmental Club and be sure and stuff those giant Coke bottles full of proper recyclables so we don’t needlessly lose this valuable source of collective social and environmental consciousness. ■

Achieve the Perfect Day with Goals

A Good Start Leads to Another

By Kristopher Overholt
Staff Writer

“Greetings. It’s your goals talking. I haven’t heard from you in a while. Did you know that I can allow you to not only meet great achievements in life, but I can make each and every day of yours the day of your dreams?”

That’s right, goals are not only a powerful tool to help you lose weight, save money, or get that degree that you are working so hard for; rather, goals can also help make your experience a great one. After all, what takes up more of your time, walking across the stage to get your diploma, or spending four years getting to that point?

It is essential to focus on making each and every day the best day that you have ever had, so that when you are right in the middle of your journey, you always find yourself looking forward with excitement.

What would it take you, personally, to have in order to experience the perfect day? More energy to work, think, exercise, and get things done? Eating better to get healthy or lose weight? Spending less cash everyday in order to save money for the future? You can quickly come up with at least five goals that will help you get where you are going.

It is easy to make every day your perfect day by breaking your goals down into easy-to-use, bite-sized, daily experiences. It is also easy to track your goals and daily habits to make sure that you have a great day – everyday.

MAYHEM

continued from page 1

that publishers have created to augment the price. Your textbook may now come shrink-wrapped with a workbook, a reference guide, a CD with tutorials or case studies and various coupons offering

You will need to break up your big goals into smaller habits or tasks that can be performed daily.

You should think like this when breaking down who you want to be:

My ideal person → Goals I want to achieve → Daily habits or routines

For example:

Healthy, energetic person → Eat more healthily → Pack a lunch every day - or -

Organized person → Fix up house / room → Clean house for 10 minutes per day

Once you have thought out at least five goals this way, read on to find out how to easily and happily achieve these goals.

1) Visit www.joesgoals.com for a very easy way to track your daily habits and goals. Signing up only takes 30 seconds.

2) Input the daily habits (Use the ‘Add a Goal’ link) that you decided to focus on in order to have great days. You will have the ability to set certain goals to be more important than others. And, you can even set the website to remind you by e-mail when you haven’t updated your goals in a few days.

3) Print out a copy of your goals and carry it with you every day. Stick to your new system and take a minute or two each day to track your progress at the website. Remember, you can only grow after tracking and examining your history.

4) Surround yourself with information and motivation so that you can easily and happily work towards your goals. Rent a book about dieting, exercise, studying, or whatever your goal is. Search

additional ways for you to lighten your wallet with McGraw-Hill. Unless these extras are going to be an integral part of the course, they are a waste of money – your money. Publishers defend this practice, stating the additional features are what professors want.

Hochberg is not alone in the crusade to lower book prices. Lawmakers from 18 other states have also introduced bills to make

the internet for even five minutes on your topic and you will easily find forums or articles to help you along your way. Immersing yourself in the benefits and success of your goal will get you there faster than you think - try it. You would be surprised at how much you can do in a day when you just sit down and do it.

5) Reassess your goals and habits at least once a month. Check out the goal history graphs to see how much more you have achieved over time. Are there some new, audacious, hairy goals that you want to put in? Are there goals that you want to raise the standard for? Or are there goals that you no longer wish to achieve? Add, remove, or update goals as necessary.

It is your system, use it as you wish; the important idea is that you use it and stick to it! You will see that in an amazingly short time, you will be living in your ideal world - everyday!

Remember to spend even five short minutes a day working on your goals. People see a goal such as quitting smoking, losing weight, saving money, or studying more often as a huge task. And it is, if you look at it as one step. Life is not one step. Worry about how much that you want to accomplish today.

Finally, remember to diversify your goals. Use goals to your benefit to create a great life experience. Like Robert Heinlein says in his book, Time Enough for Love,

“A human being should be able to change a diaper, plan an invasion, butcher a hog, steer a ship, design a building, write a sonnet, balance accounts, build a wall, set a bone, comfort the dying, take orders, give orders, cooperate, act alone, solve equations, analyze a new problem, pitch manure, program a computer, cook a tasty meal, fight efficiently, die gallantly. Specialization is for insects. ■

textbooks more affordable. To date, Connecticut, Virginia and Washington have passed legislation dealing with rising textbook prices. Representative Hochberg said he would take this proposal to Austin when the Legislature convenes in January. “We’ve had good discussions with higher education officials in our area, and look forward to working with them to pass meaningful legislation”. ■

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