

HEALTHY fast food ???

STUDENT VOICE ON U-PASS

ONE TOUGH COOKIE

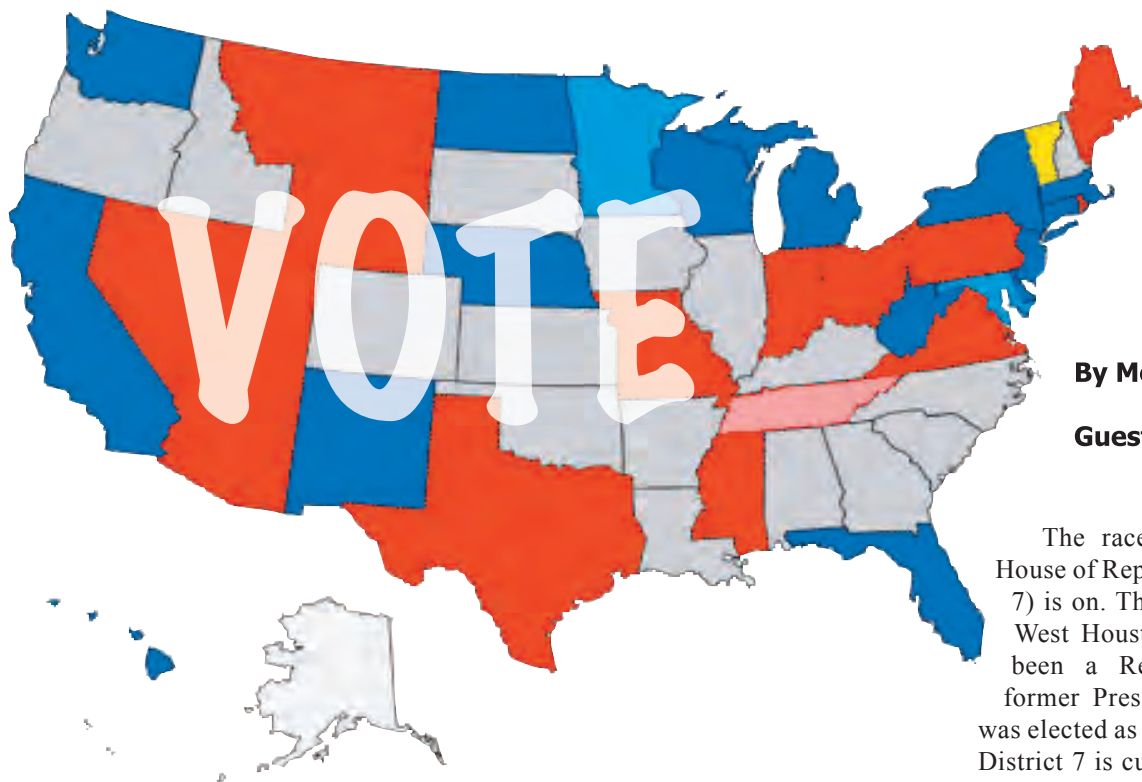
SCI-FI CHANNEL CONTEST

Dateline: Downtown

Oct. 30 - Nov. 13, 2006 NEWSPAPER FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN Fall Volume 37 Issue 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

ELECTIONS 2006



Texas

Houston: District 7 Congressional Race

By Megan Murray-
Guest Writer

his appropriations and authorization projects on the front page of his website, (<http://culberson.house.gov>) in the name of transparency in government.

Grass Roots Contender

Culberson's competition, Jim Henley, is running a largely grass-roots campaign. Henley, a one time Southern Baptist preacher, educator, and coach for the national champion Lanier debate team, started his campaign in the living room of one of his former student's homes. "I am about to retire and I wanted to stand up for my students and be a role model," Henley told *Dateline: Downtown*. Henley is also running without special interest donations or endorsements. Henley states, "We need to get back to the voice of the individual voter." Henley's campaign money comes from personal contributions, and events like bake sales manned by his current and former students.

The race for The United States House of Representatives (TX-District 7) is on. The district that spans from West Houston to Jersey Village has been a Republican enclave since former President George H.W. Bush was elected as its representative in 1967. District 7 is currently being represented by Republican Congressman John Culberson. However, in this year's election, Culberson was ranked as "vulnerable" on the Cook Report, an independent, non-partisan newsletter that analyzes current political races. The 2006 elections are projected to be marked with many upsets and surprises, and District 7 is one to watch.

National Attention

Incumbent John Culberson has gained national attention by appearing on cable news shows, such as CNN's *Lou Dobbs*, discussing his support for the U.S.-Mexico fence legislation passed by congress. Culberson has also co-sponsored a Bill that would impose a "Fair Tax" that would rescind income tax and impose a sales tax on all U.S. goods. The Fair Tax has gained popularity through the Neil Boortz show, a national call-in radio program. Congressman Culberson was also recently lauded by the Washington Times for publishing

Message for UHD Students

Due to the demands of Congress, Rep. John Culberson was not available to speak to *Dateline*; however, his press secretary Michael Green expressed the congressman's delight in the students' interest in their government and his desire to create an educated Texas work force. Jim Henley wants the UHD student body to know that he is committed to making education affordable for all students and to the standards of educational

National

Debate Heats Over Upcoming Elections

By Sean Augubright
Staff Writer

The 2006 House and Senate mid-term races are some of the most heated and watched in recent history. Currently, the Republicans hold sway in all three of the policy-making sections of American government. In the Legislative branch, the Republicans hold the majority in both the House and Senate. So what are we faced with in the upcoming elections? The questions remains, what are we faced with

in the upcoming elections?

Here's the breakdown: Republicans currently hold 55 of the 100 Senate seats and 231 of the 435 House seats. Only 33 of the Senate seats are up for re-election this year. There are 18 Democratic and 15 Republican incumbent Senate positions that hang in the balance. In the House, all 435 seats are up for re-election.

For a Democratic majority to rule Congress in the last half of Bush's second term, there are as many outcome scenarios as there are political pundits forecasting the races. Much ado has been made over the

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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

By **Kristopher Overholt**
SGA Senator

Food Court

Is it choice or is it coercion?

What is the one service at UHD that most students use every single day? That would probably be the UHD cafeteria, which is catered by Aramark. Most students noticed the change of restaurants just over a year ago when UHD switched from Chartwells to Aramark. How are things running now? Has there been an improvement? Are the food services at UHD “not bad?” Are they also “not good?” Surely there is always room for improvement.

Being a Senator in the UHD SGA has led me all over this campus and last week I had a chance to meet with Frank Blanchard, who is the Food Service Director employed by Aramark. He manages the UHD cafeteria and was able to give me some great insight into the whys and how’s of the UHD cafeteria and also about Aramark Corp. A big thanks to Frank for taking time out of his busy day to meet with me; he actually spoke with me in between slicing food in the UHD kitchen. Frank is always busy at work trying to make sure that your dining experience at UHD is the best it can be.

First, the predominant thing on everyone’s mind in the UHD cafeteria: what is the deal behind those prices? Why do the salads cost so much? And the Chick-fil-a sandwiches are out of this world! Well, actually Chick-fil-a, Taco Bell, and Starbucks sell at their street prices. The cafeteria prices are comparatively the same as other fast-food joints as well. How much is a slice of pizza at Sbarro? How much is a chicken salad from a fresh salad bar? That’s about where the UHD food finds itself as well. It still seems steep to me, considering the ingredients of the salad can be broken down and tend to be very cheap.

However, when delving into the pricing system, one finds the money going in all different directions. Frank provided me

with the dollar cost breakdown of the food at the UHD cafeteria. Out of each dollar spent, 35 cents goes to groceries, 35 cents goes to the cafeteria staff, 20 cents goes to paper goods and packaging, 7 cents goes to the university, and the remaining cents go to Aramark, to the other corporations, and yet some additional portions go back to UHD.

One gets the better sense of the business when observed from this perspective. However, I still have trouble with the structure, which is inevitable when dealing with such a large corporation. My problem is that it seems that the prices drive the students to unhealthy options. Upon entering the cafeteria, a student can grab a fried chicken sandwich from Chick-fil-a or a grilled beef taco from Taco Bell, both of which are loaded down with trans-fats, saturated fats, high fructose corn syrup, and other unhealthy food components which should be greatly reduced in one’s diet or even avoided altogether. If a student opts for a salad or some fresh fruit, he or she is faced with something that costs from two to five times more the amount of what it can be acquired at from the grocery store!

If you are at all concerned with the health of your body and the width of your wallet, this is so much more the reason to pack a lunch at home and avoid the higher cost altogether. It takes only a few minutes each day and you can save about a thousand dollars a year by packing your lunch. Overall, the lower prices for the prepared, unhealthy foods and higher prices for the fresh, simpler foods lead the students to make poor health decisions that are more based on price. I call that a very limited selection for health and food quality. Aramark calls that choice.

With pricing as it is with not much room to move, it is interesting to see in which direction Aramark is moving for the population which is getting more and more health conscious by the day. Not much information can be found about what direction Aramark is moving in. Frank was able to mention that Chick-fil-a has moved or is moving to a healthier type of oil to fry in, but not much more detail was given than that. Surely Aramark is interested in jumping on any health trends that surface in this country, as that is what people want, even if it may actually be less healthy for them, people may want to at least feel they are eating or drinking something healthy.

However, an important issue comes up when you consider what products, foods, or drinks that Aramark can and cannot adopt due to corporate involvement. Did you know that the corporations that are included here (Chick-fil-a, Starbucks, Taco Bell, and Smoothie King) dominate the UHD cafeteria food selection? The cafeteria will not sell a drink that competes with a Coca-Cola product. This idea even stretches to the extent that a certain company could dictate that Aramark could no longer serve chicken in the salads, and so on. You call that choice? Maybe for the corporations, but certainly not for the students and other customers. This makes me wonder if the reason that the water tap disappeared after Aramark came to UHD has anything to do with the sales of Dasani brand bottled water. Seriously, what cafeteria has no tap water available?

How can we let Aramark know what we think? Actually, they have had a survey going on for the past three weeks. What survey? Oh, it ended on October 20th. Didn’t you see any advertisements for it? Neither did

I. Oh, there it is, on each cafeteria table. I had never even seen the notice, because the biggest words on it are “Win an iPod” and 90% of its space is used to talk about prizes. How many times does a student hear about winning something in a day? Is this an effective way to advertise for potential feedback? A tiny label on the bottom of the ad had a link to a survey that you can take. Only about 40 students responded in total. Marketers are thinking that students would rather read about winning an mp3 player than actually voicing their opinions to Aramark. Let this article and those who read it serve as evidence otherwise. If you provide a clear means for customers to voice their opinion, they will speak their minds. The next survey is coming up next semester, so stay tuned. The SGA will be sure to *clearly* let you know next time.

In the end, I get the dirty feeling that Aramark is just another high-priced, high-markup business. Things that are “homemade” or closely thereof, like the same two plate lunches that they serve every single day, or the fresh salads: these are the healthier items that have gone through much less processing and use more wholesome ingredients. And these are the items that cost two to five times as much as a terribly unhealthy lunch, spiked with high fructose corn syrup and trans-fatty acids.

In conclusion, is Aramark

WANT TO ADVERTISE?

Contact our Business Manager
Tayvis Dunnahoe
(713) 221-8192
tayvis@gmail.com

doing better than Chartwells? In my opinion: barely.

Does Aramark have the student’s interest in mind? Sure, if they happen to be the ones dictating the student’s interests. Does Aramark give the student choice? Certainly. Cheap and unhealthy product X, cheap and unhealthy drink Y, pricey semi-nutritional Z, etc. Of course, this type of “selection” occurs in the environment at a college university where priorities may be somewhere other than health or nutrition. It’s like choosing the least bad thing, and it is done at the expense of a student’s money, time, energy level, and health. So, it seems that once again, a large corporation is taking advantage of convenience and is leaving the students with “choice,” which I think translates into “we don’t care what they eat, and long as they pay to eat it.”■

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photo by Juan Ortiz

A Fight to Save U-Pass

Students may see the end to affordable transportation

By Eetion Narcisse
Guest Writer

Metro's board of directors is expected to vote on a new fare policy this month. The new system is called the Smartcard. If this vote passes, this new system will be put into effect starting this December and the U-Pass will subsequently be revoked. With this new Smartcard system you will no longer be able to purchase and pickup your Metro passes on campus. Instead of the convenience of a U-Pass, you'll have to go directly to Metro or a participating ride store to get your Smartcard. But that's not the only reason why the U-Pass is better for UHD students.

A lot of students depend on the U-Pass to get from place to place during the semester. It's an easy and affordable alternative to driving when you'd rather not go through the hassle of having gas prices driving you up a wall. Currently, our UHD U-Pass costs students \$22 flat. That's a reasonable price for a semester worth of riding the Metrorail, bus, or park-n-ride, and it's a far better deal than paying a fee every time. Essentially, the new Smartcard will have you paying a fee every single time. Its only advantage is that you can put

more and more money on it- what a nice gift to your wallet. With the new Smartcard you'll have to pay three to nine times the cost of the UHD U-Pass depending on how often you use the rail, park-n-ride, or bus.

If you lose your U-Pass, you can get it replaced at the cashiers' office or at Metro and it's free. Do you think this new fancy Smartcard is going to be a free replacement? Let me tell you about this thing: It's not just a card; it's a machine with an electronic device in it. To use it, you have to rub it onto this funky shaped platform until it's detected. It also has your picture on it -you have to go down to Metro or a participating vendor to get the picture taken. Metro has to pay more to get these cards/machines (of course) and do you think they're *not* going to make you pay for it if you lose it or break it? Think again.

The U-Pass that we currently have is great for UHD students because we can order it along with our tuition. Alternatively, we can decide sometime throughout the semester that we'd like to pick up a U-Pass and easily walk up to the cashiers' office, pay for the pass, pick up the pass, then walk right through the front door and hop on the Metrorail or the bus. That's an easy, simple, one-time payment

that lasts for 20 weeks without worries. It's not nearly that easy with the Smartcard.

The new Smartcard system is put simply, another inconvenient money sucking account that you have to worry about keeping track of - just like that bank card you still owe money on. In order to use this account, you have to put money into it whenever your balance is low - just like a bank card. So, for instance, let's say you want to ride the Metrorail into town to grab some lunch. You think there's \$10 in your account. You get to your destination via rail, grab your lunch, and then head back to the rail. You try to swipe your shiny new Smartcard, but it's not working. Uh-oh! Your balance must be low. It's time to throw more money into that Smartcard. How much money? As much as you can, so you won't have to worry about your balance -and Metro would just love for you to feel comfortable putting money into that account, because what you're really doing is shoving money in their pockets.

Now, let's see exactly how your Smartcard will sneak into your wallet and drain your cash. There are some tricky changes that come with this new system: previously, you could ride the Metrorail and the bus for three

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Should Rick Perry be left behind?

By Monica Maza
Assistant Editor

"I'm running for reelection because Texans deserve a governor who will stand for their values, fight for their priorities, and deliver on promises." This sounds good, but what has really changed since Rick Perry was voted into office? His political website (rickperry.org) has many claims, but where is the evidence for what he has done to improve our state? Where is the *proof* that the state has improved at all? Even some of the evidence that the website includes leads to more questions rather than provide any real answers. Like all political websites, this one includes many good things he has done or tried to do; however, there are many convenient gaps that lead to vagueness about both he and his policies.

On the topic of jobs and the state economy, Perry "has fought for lower taxes." Fighting for lower taxes and actually lowering them are two different things. Has he accomplished anything by fighting to lower taxes? Are taxes lower now? Also, lower taxes for whom; businesses, the state, or the people? His website does not reveal that information and causes one to wonder. However, it seems that Texas has "one of the strongest state economies in America," and "has gained over 630,000 new jobs in three years." Also, there is the claim that "our job climate has been ranked #1 in the nation," but there is no indication when this ranking occurred. All we know is that our job climate "has been" number one in the past, but was that last year or when he first took office?

As for education, Perry has fought "for additional funding for schools" and fought "to increase education funding by \$9 billion." Once again, there is a gap in the information because there are no citations about what he has actually changed

about school funding. Where is the evidence that funding has in fact increased for schools across the state? Did he create and pass any new bills or referendums to help fund education? Then there is the statement that "college enrollment has climbed to an all-time high," which suggests that he has done something to influence this climb, but what? Anything could cause college enrollment to increase and if Perry has contributed to this increase one would think that his website would make a point to include whatever law or new program Perry created that made this happen. Also, Perry "helped create the TEXAS Grant Program to provide college scholarships to deserving students," and this program has led to "almost \$1 billion in college scholarships to over 170,000 deserving Texas students." However, he established this when he was Lieutenant Governor and not during his recent term as Governor; so what relevance this bears on his current campaign unclear.

There are two controversial issues that President Bush has recently brought to the public's attention- stem cell research and same-sex marriage, in which Perry has taken a stance. "Perry supports a ban on human cloning and will veto any legislation that provides state dollars for embryonic stem cell research, a process that ends a human life." The question of whether cells are considered human beings or not has yet to be decided legally and whether it even should be legally decided is why this is such a controversial, political issue. In regards to "protecting traditional marriage," Governor Perry championed a constitutional amendment that defines marriage in Texas as the union of one man and one woman. This addition to our state constitution "prevents activist judges and other states from forcing Texas to recognize

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VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER 7TH ELECTIONS



Rep. John Culberson (R)

DISTRICT 7

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excellence in Texas.

In the interest of informing the UHD student body of their electoral options, here are the candidate's views on an important issue facing the nation- immigration policy:

Backgrounds

Rep. John Culberson (R) is a native Houstonian and lifelong resident of District 7 ("Let Texans run Texas"). He is a graduate of both SMU and the South Texas College of Law. He was elected to the Texas

House in 1986 and the U.S. House in 2001. He is currently a member of the House Appropriations Committee, and is married with one child. Culberson is also a member of Memorial Drive Methodist Church.

Mr. Jim Henley (D) was born on a German military base, the son of a World War II veteran. Raised in Camden, Arkansas, he studied at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He has been the Pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Clarksville and served as a history and debate teacher at Lanier High School here in Houston.

Immigration

Culberson supports HR 4437. "This legislation will eliminate the visa lottery system, end the 'catch and release' policy of the Border Patrol,

mandate the construction of a 700-mile security fence along the most heavily trafficked areas of the southern border, increase monetary penalties on employers who knowingly employ illegal immigrants, and will allow for the deportation of an illegal alien upon the first conviction for drunk driving. Most importantly, the legislation also reaffirms the authority of state and local law enforcement to assist in enforcing immigration laws. Additionally, federal funds would no longer go to any state or local government agencies that do not report immigration violations to the Department of Homeland Security. This provision will put an end to the sanctuary policies of cities like Houston where law enforcement is not allowed to talk to federal authorities about the immigration status of someone they pick up in the normal course of duty."

Henley's response is as follows: "I support Senator John McCain's Immigration Bill, a 'Get Tough but Get Real' solution with broad bipartisan support. This plan provides improved enforcement at the

border with more agents and investigators, more checkpoints and better electronic surveillance. In the workplace, this bill will require employers to verify the legal status of job applicants, and it provides serious penalties for those who hire undocumented workers. It includes 15,000 new agents to investigate 'document fraud,' and enforce the law at work sites. McCain's bill will make it easier to detain and deport those who arrive here illegally. In addition to these enforcement provisions, Senator McCain's bill also provides: (1) A way for undocumented immigrants currently in the U.S. to earn the opportunity to apply for citizenship if they pay a fine and back taxes, learn English and American civics, obey the law, and get in line behind others seeking citizenship- an eleven year process. (2) A guest worker program that matches workers with employers who have advertised jobs to U.S. citizens first. In addition: (1) I would add a provision that all guest workers be paid no less than the minimum wage, and I would support raising the minimum wage to \$6/hour

for all workers including those in agriculture. (2) I support the bipartisan DREAM Act, which would allow children brought to the United States as undocumented minors to attend college."

The issues of Education, Energy, and Iraq are top priorities for both of these candidates as well. Please make an informed vote. For more on Rep. Culberson, visit culbersonforcongress.com, and for more on Jim Henley see henleyforcongress.com. ■



Debate teacher Jim Henley

Struggle for power continues

DEBATE

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race for the control of the Senate. This has a powerful impact on governmental direction as the majority party in the Senate sets the legislative agenda, establishes all the committee chairs, and controls the purse strings for all policy funding.

Basic math tells us that for the Democrats to control they need to get 51 seats in the Senate. This means in addition to the 27 currently held, they must maintain the 18 up for election and garner an

additional 6 for the majority rule. Accounting for the races that are firmly in the hands of one party or the other, there are at least 15 states that could decide the whole outcome. For Republicans, the battle ground states for the Senate are Pennsylvania, Montana, Ohio, Rhode Island, Missouri, Tennessee, Arizona, Nevada and Virginia. For the Democrats, the hot-bed states are New Jersey, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Washington and Nebraska. An October 23rd poll overview from electoral-vote.com shows a virtual dead-heat: a 50-50 split for Republicans and Democrats.

The bellwether race

will be in Missouri. In 2000, then Governor Mel Carnahan (D) was elected to the Senate posthumously, after his plane crashed three weeks prior to the election. The new Missouri governor appointed Carnahan's wife, Jean, to fill her husband's Senate seat. Jim Talent (R), by defeating her in a special election in 2002, became the incumbent in the '06 race and is untested in a competitive state-wide race. Running against him is Claire McCaskill (D), the twice-elected state auditor and a veteran of tightly contested races.

Get out the slide rule for the House races, as they are even more of a mathematical conundrum. As many as 60 - 75 positions are too close to call at this point. One of these House seats firmly planted in your Ford F-250's halogen spotlights is

Texas' own Sugar Land, District 22. This is the position vacated by 22-year House veteran Tom DeLay (R). Although his name must still appear on the ballot, according to court order, Mr. DeLay is not running.

The two leading candidates for this open seat are Nick Lampson (D) and Shelley Sekula-Gibbs (R). Remember the hard and fast rule of "one man, one vote democracy?" (One vote only, please). This race has the rare opportunity for you to legally vote twice. In an oddity of circumstances, if you cast your vote for the straight Republican ticket, you would still need to cast a second vote for Sekula-Gibbs as the write-in candidate. Her website, writeshelley.com, does an admirable job in educating prospective voters how to accomplish this in the booths.

If you are a fan of Survivor, Bachelor, Big Brother, or any of the other "reality" TV genres, pencil-in November 7th as your must-see TV night. Hopefully you're already registered to vote, as the registration deadline in Texas has long since passed. So first, make an informed vote. Then, get a gathering of friends in true bi-partisanship and toast the victors. Buy a bottle of red wine and a bottle of blue...wine...the analogy was going great right up until then. Anyway, raise a glass of cabernet to the Republican states and a glass of Mad Dog to the Democrat's states (it may not be blue, but isn't that the color you turn when you drink it?).

If it turns out as close as the pundits predict, you may need that glass of wine to tolerate the 50/50 partisan deadlock in Congress for the next two years. ■

One Tough Grandma

By Timika Simmons
Staff Writer

Carole Keaton's "One Tough Grandma" campaign pushes to shake Austin up. With her Texas First Agenda, she feels that her election to office of governor will make Texas not only great, but "stronger and safer."

"Keaton was the first woman in history elected Texas Comptroller. Her 2002 re-election came with the highest vote total of any winning official in Texas and more votes than any woman candidate nationwide of either party." She is referred to as "a common sense conservative, education watchdog, and *One Tough Grandma* – watching out

for Texas."

Strayhorn directly attacks current governor Rick Perry on several issues including accusing him not keeping the best interest of the citizens in mind. With her Solutions On the Issues of the Texas First Agenda – Carole Keaton Strayhorn is confident that it will take "One Tough Grandma" to govern Texas.

Her vision is centered around improving our schools, enhancing state security, and making the government more responsible for citizens.

Education Plan

Strayhorn's common sense plan for education is being pushed as her top priority. Her goals

through this plan are to "develop a better-educated workforce, increase efficiency of educators in the classroom and raise the bar on student performance."

Grade School

She first wants to restructure the TASKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) exam to make sure students are learning to retain information. She also feels that by increasing teacher salaries, reinstating Texas school performance reviews, restoring health care supplement to teachers, and increasing benefits to the Teacher and Employee Retirement Systems, the quality of teachers would increase. Another plan is to use \$8 billion to provide a permanent funding base for schools that will help with efficiency and establishing savings to the government across the board.

Higher Education

Strayhorn also feels that colleges and universities would benefit from her Texas First Plan. She is seeking to impose a tuition lock that will freeze tuition rates when students first enter college until graduation. She's also proposing to fund high school graduates for books, tuition, and fees at community and technical colleges. Another agenda is to allow students to buy textbooks tax free. OK, even I would like to see that happen.



google images

Will voters gravitate towards Strayhorn come election day?

Security Plan

Strayhorn's top priority in security for our families is to secure our borders. She is against the flow of illegal immigrants and plans to stop it all together. Her other objective is to develop security against terrorism in addition to stopping the control of Texas land and cattle by foreign companies. Strayhorn comments on how with "the number of refineries, pipelines, and ports in Texas; we are vulnerable to multiple, al-Qaeda-style terrorist attacks.

Government Accountability

Children

Strayhorn reveals on her website that Texas ranks "dead last" in the percentage of children with health insurance. Her comment is, "If the promise of the future is to be built on the success of our children, then we must do everything in our power to keep them healthy and ensure their success." That is why Strayhorn has plans to "cut bureaucratic roadblocks" that prevent children from receiving public health insurance and distribute funds back to the healthcare fund for children that were previously cut.

Strayhorn is also adamant about protecting our children from predators and being voice for our "Forgotten Children in Foster Care." She says that foster care system is long over due for a crisis management system.

Adults

Strayhorn feels there should be a constitutional amendment that protects private property owners from economic developments. She also wants to impose property tax relief. She has proposed a "10-percent across the board tax reduction" and a mandatory freeze on all property taxes for elderly homeowners 65 years and older and all Texans with disabilities including distinguished veterans with disabilities. Her goal is to give a continual 10% tax relief every five years to help those living on fixed incomes.

Her other target is the electricity prices. To address the politics surrounding the skyrocketing prices, Strayhorn wants refine the current Texas Energy and Communications Commission by having it headed by elected officials to protect citizens from the price heists.

Strayhorn has many more solutions in place to make the government more responsible to it's citizens – too much to discuss here. They include open elections, recorded votes in legislature, repelling small business tax, stopping income tax, and the expanding of state parks. She is also passionate about "improving economic conditions in poverty-stricken communities."

For more information on Carole Keaton Strayhorn visit her campaign website at www.onetoughgrandma.com. ■

**This is my Writing Arm.
Let's See Yours!**

**Dateline Downtown
Room 260S | 713-221-8569**

WANTED: MANAGING EDITOR FOR STUDENT NEWSPAPER

UHD's student newspaper, *Dateline: Downtown*, "Student-Run Since Volume One," seeks a literate, energetic and mature (full- or part-time) UHD student -- with excellent writing skills, ability to manage an eclectic and idiosyncratic staff of student writers, and broad knowledge of UHD student activities and interests -- for the position of managing editor. Will join a committed and enthusiastic current staff. Must be able to write and edit grammatically correct stories on short notice and tight deadlines, following Associated Press guidelines. Pay is based on a 20-hour workweek, but production schedules require the editor's commitment to on-time delivery to the printer, which often requires sustained teamwork and late hours "to put the paper to bed" on deadline. The job is open for the school year 2006-07, but successful candidate may be able to start in Spring 2006, depending on qualifications. Successful candidate

should have a vision for the paper, a nose for news, and a feel for human-interest stories featuring UHD students, staff, faculty, and administrators that would capture the curiosity of student readers. Ideal candidate would be a creative thinker who has (or could develop) a network of contacts on campus and in the No-Do neighborhood that would keep her or him well informed on topics of interest for readers in the broader UHD community; investigative reporting a distinct option, based on ability. Managing Editor works closely with the Business Manager, Assistant Editor, and Layout Designer, to produce a quality, twice-monthly publication with an editorial vision that includes high editorial quality and standards on tight deadlines. For application, contact the faculty advisor, Professor Anthony Chiaviello, at 713-221-8520 (leave message), or by email at ChiavielloA@uhd.edu.

METRO

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hours straight without having to pay another fee. Now, Metro proposes that three hours is too long; according to them, you only need 90 minutes per fee with this smartcard. 90 minutes? There are students at UHD who have to ride the bus for 90 minutes just to get to school. One fee to get to school, another fee to get lunch downtown, another fee to get home, three fees a day, fifteen fees a week, sixty fees a month- and there goes the money train (with your money).

Thanks, Metro! We were doing just fine with the U-Pass. Just because Metro's new CEO was cashing in off of a \$0.50, 90 minute, good for nothing fare pass in San Francisco doesn't mean that we're going to let this happen in Houston. Metro doesn't seem to care about students at all. This new Smartcard system will help Houston Metro rollover our bank accounts in order to make them more money.

Q: How much money does METRO expect to make each year from these changes?

A: METRO expects an additional \$10 million in revenue in FY07. ■

PERRY

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a non-traditional marriage."

Who you vote for does not matter, but the point is that you *vote* because too many people have fought and died so that all of us can have that right. If you want to vote for Perry, then do some research to find the truth behind his claims in order to decide whether you want him as Governor of Texas again.

For information on Rick Perry, visit www.rickperry.org and don't forget to listen to the audio link "Chuck Norris endorses Governor Perry," because apparently someone in Perry's campaign felt *that* is something important for Texans to hear. ■

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Sci-Fi Channel

Seeking aspiring filmmakers

By Peter Lovie II
Staff Writer

The Science Fiction channel is hosting a competition to find the best Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Horror movie shorts that are two to eight minutes long. Entries are being accepted beginning the week of October 22nd and continuing until November 20th. A panel from the Sci-Fi and Sundance channels will judge the film entries and the winners will be posted on their respective websites.

The competition, which is called "Exposure," is an attempt to find exemplary films from

ordinary people. Winners will be posted weekly; however, the competition will narrow down to eight finalists that will have their movie shorts aired on the Sci-Fi channel. The final winner of those eight, having been voted via the Internet, will be flown to New York to pitch a project with the Sci-Fi channel's picture group.

Top executives for the Sci-Fi channel are very excited about the opportunities this competition represents. This competition is being hailed as a way to find and harness fresh talent among ordinary people and to bring out the best new expressions in the genres of Science Fiction, Horror, and Fantasy. The Sundance channel feels great pride in joining

the Sci-Fi channel in this venture and both feel it will add greatly to content on each channel's online content.

The Sci-Fi and Sundance channels' long history of fine programming promises to continue with contests like these currently in progress. Such competition assures audiences that the type of quality they have come to expect from these cable channels is bound to continue. Variety is assured because people all across the United States have a chance to compete. The kaleidoscope that is America is bound to flourish as talent is uncovered and exposed in front of a vast viewing audience.

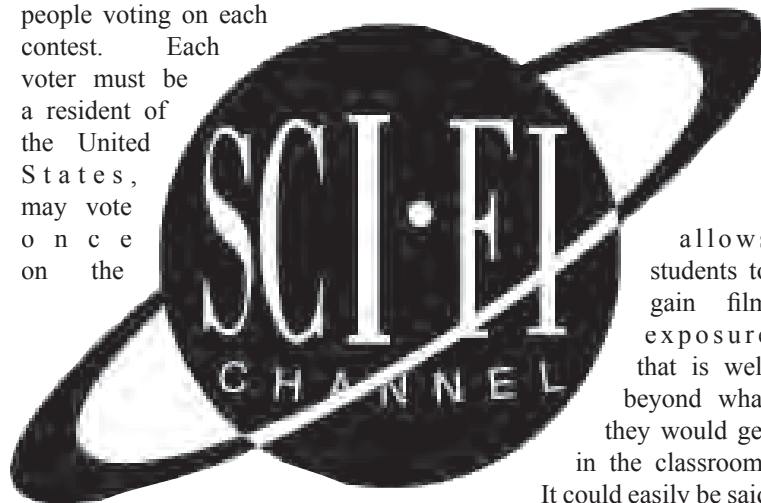
The genres offered allow for many kinds of movie magic to touch the heartstrings or the mind. When choosing between horror, fantasy or science fiction, the best of humanity's hopes, wildest imaginations or the darkest corners of the soul come to light.

These traits come out either in those who produce the film shorts or by those who choose to watch them, but either way there is a chance to explore the human experience through art and entertainment.

There are specific rules for people voting on each contest. Each voter must be a resident of the United States, may vote once on the

must be recorded by midnight November 20th.

This is a particularly good opportunity for all students in film at UHD or elsewhere because the competition is open to all amateurs and it

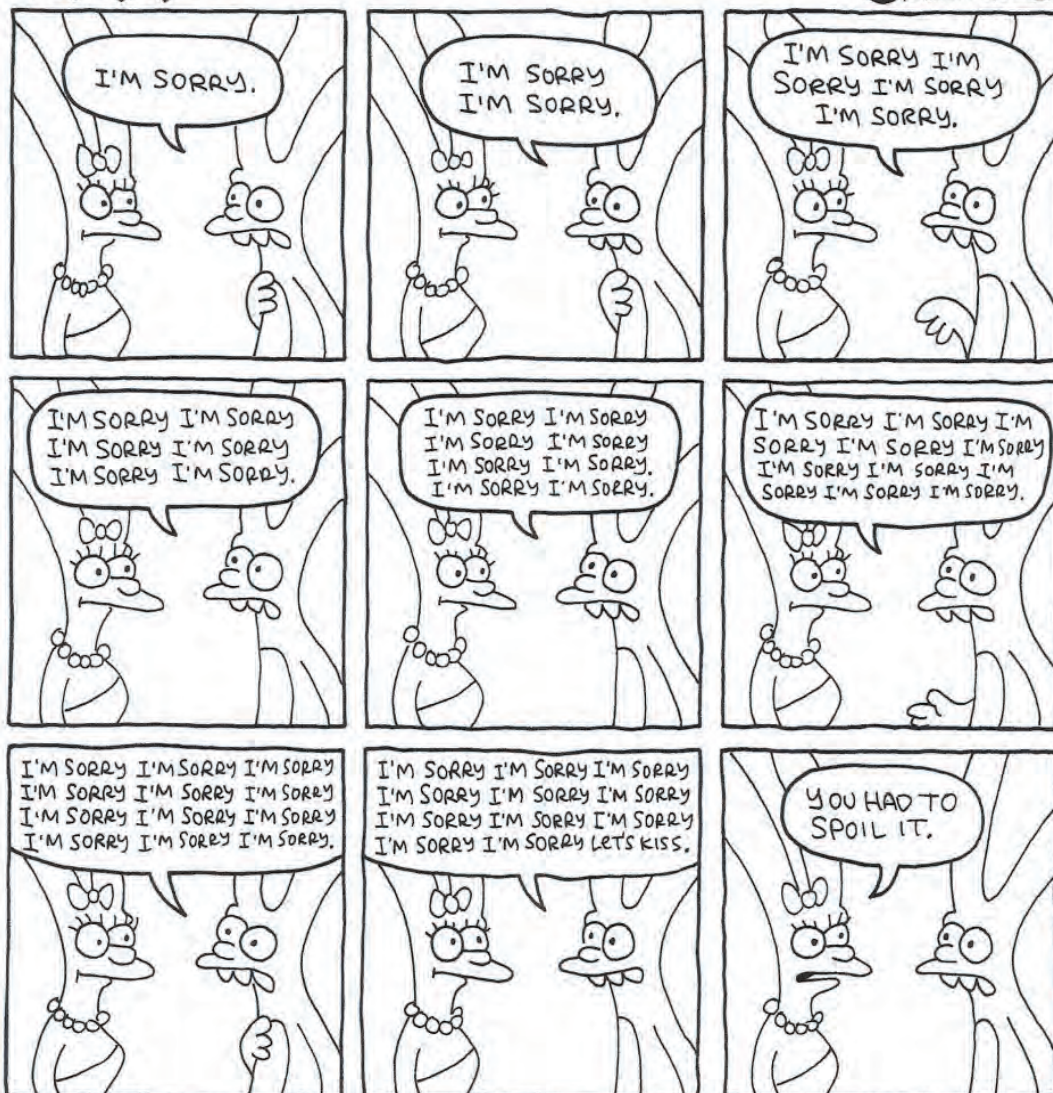


allows students to gain film exposure that is well beyond what they would get in the classroom.

It could easily be said that such exposure could open doors for business contacts. What better way to pursue one's passion in filmmaking than to accomplish this? ■

LIFE IN HELL

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Are you looking for a job on campus? Don't settle for a BORING job — work for your CAMPUS Newspaper!

The Dateline: Downtown, UHD's Student-run Newspaper currently seeks energetic UHD students to apply for the positions of Business Manager and Editor (separate positions). Candidates for the editor position must have excellent writing skills, ability to manage an eclectic and idiosyncratic staff of student writers, and a broad knowledge of UHD student activities and interests. Must be able to write and edit grammatically correct stories on short notice and meet tight deadlines. Pay is based on a 20-hour workweek, but production schedules require the editor's commitment to on-time delivery to the printer, which often requires sustained teamwork and late hours "to put the paper to bed" on a bi-monthly deadline. Some knowledge of InDesign will be helpful, although it is not required. This position is open for the Spring and Fall semester of 2007.

The same qualifications apply for all candidates seeking the Business Manager's position. In addition to managing staff this individual is responsible for managing the Dateline's budget for 2007. Must have excellent communication skills and the ability to generate advertising revenue for each issue. Some sales experience will be helpful, although not required. Primary responsibilities include producing payroll for newspaper staff and reporting faculty advisor on all expenses accrued throughout the school year as well as formulating a budget for the following academic year. This position is an excellent start up for any students majoring in Public Relations, Communication, Professional Writing, or Marketing. Position pays base plus commission on all ad revenue collected.

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