

Dateline: DOWNTOWN

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

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Escaping College Debt

Save an Arm and a Leg, Apply for Financial Aid

By Marika Stepankiw
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

The price for intellectual growth is rising. The average student loan amount for graduating seniors is \$19,237. By putting in a little effort now, you can save money in the long run and come out of the college experience with a lot less debt.

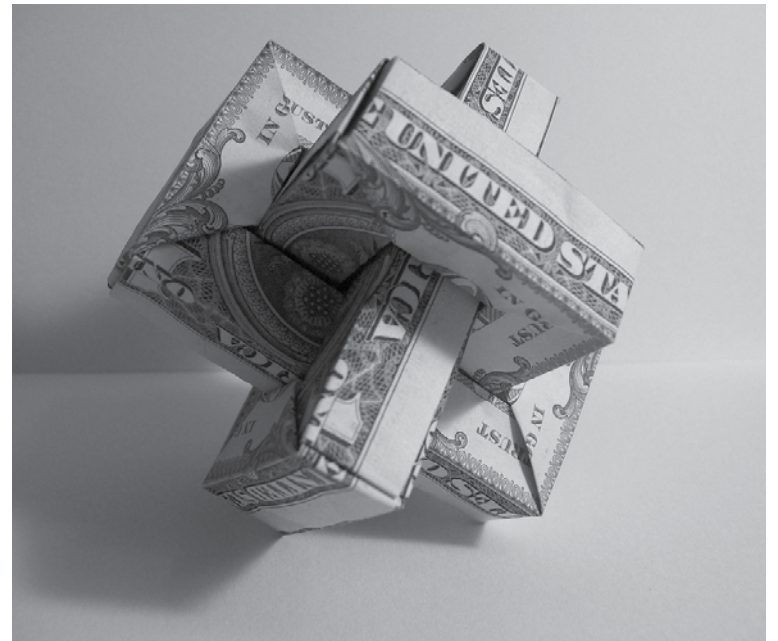
There are three main forms of financial aid: loans, grants, and scholarships. Financial aid is offered by federal and state governments, colleges and universities, and public and private organizations.

The first step to paying for your college education is to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA determines your eligibility for federal student financial aid, which includes grants, loans, and work study programs. The FAFSA evaluates your need for financial aid based on your family's income, assets, family size, number of family members attending college, and other factors. You must renew your FAFSA every year to continue receiving aid. Many state schools will also use the

information from the FAFSA to award non-federal aid to students. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for more information or to fill out a form for financial aid.

Unlike the typical loan, grants do not need to be paid back. Many grants are designed for low-income and minority students, but there are also grants available based on a student's degree subject or degree level.

Scholarships and fellowships are forms of financial aid that also do not need to be repaid. They are often based on special qualifications, such as academic, artistic, or athletic. Some scholarships are available to students in a particular field of study, students from underrepresented groups, students who live in a certain area of the country, or students from a low-income house. Sallie Mae offers several scholarships, including the "American Dream" scholarship to African-American students, the "First in My Family" scholarship to Hispanic-American students who are the first in



their family to attend college, and the "Unmet Need" scholarship to students whose combined family income is less than \$30,000. Be careful to avoid scholarship scams. Search for scholarships on reputable, free scholarship search engines, such as FastWeb (www.fastweb.com), College Board's Fund Finder (http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp), and Scholarships.com.

see **DEBT** on page 6

Get With the Program

Study Abroad, You're Already Paying for It

By Regina Panis
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Every semester, students are charged fees that range from Computer Lab print fees, to Library fees, to a strange, little \$3 International Fee. What is this international fee on the tuition receipt? Why are we charged \$3 a semester?

While that does not seem like a lot of money, \$35,379 does. This is the total amount of \$3 multiplied by the amount of students enrolled last Fall. With that amount in mind, questions now need answers. What happens to that money?

According to Dr. David Fairbanks,

Associate Vice President for Policy and Planning at UHD and in charge of the Study Abroad Program, "All students are charged a \$3 international fee. This fee goes into a scholarship pool to support international education."

From that pool qualified students enrolled in a Study Abroad class can receive a scholarship to offset the cost of their trip. The maximum award can be up to 40% of the total trip cost or \$2000, whichever is greater. An awards committee made up of administrators, faculty, and students determines the actual amount.

Studying abroad is a different way

to enrich education with a hands-on approach, outside of traditional classrooms. You may have noticed signs around campus for trips to London and Hong Kong. Those trips are a part of UHD's Study Abroad program. It makes complete sense for a student studying British Literature to go to London or an International Business student studying foreign markets to go to Hong Kong.

According to Dr. Fairbanks, the College of Humanities has sponsored a spring trip to London for the past six years. If you are enrolled in a course that participates in the Summer in

England program, such as World Politics: The Special Case of Great Britain (POLS 3308), you can get credit for about one-half of your course hours by going to London as a continuation of your course studies.

Those studying Criminal Justice also can benefit by studying abroad. "Their program involves observing and studying law enforcement in other countries, for example, police in different European countries," notes Dr. Fairbanks.

If you have participated in a similar program where you traveled for college

see **STUDY** on page 5

CAMPUS NEWS

UHD Ambassadors

Be a Leader, Help Your Fellow Students

James Quiroga

DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Do you know UHD like the back of your hand? Have you figured out the labyrinth of stairways? Do you find yourself showing around bewildered new students? You should become a UHD Ambassador.

UHD Ambassadors assist in campus tours and co-host special events such as College Fairs and the Hispanic Forum. Ambassadors can also look forward to participating in morale-boosting social events such as the Crossroads Festival and Culture on the Bayou.

Ambassador Advisor Patricia Santos describes the University of Houston-Downtown's Student Ambassador Program enthusiastically, "We take pride in leadership, commitment, and service." Asked why a student would want to become a UHD Ambassador, Santos

answers: "to promote campus pride, to meet new students, to make new friends, and to develop a social network among university constituents." Other benefits of being an Ambassador include priority registration, a uniform, and experience to round out one's resume.

Formed during the Fall 2007 semester, the Ambassador program currently has 12 students, although Santos hopes to see that number increase to 30. Students interested in joining the organization can obtain applications at the Office of Admissions,

Room 350 South; or contact Patricia Santos, Assistant Director of Freshman Admissions and Ambassador Advisor, at (713) 221-8692.



Bottom Left to Right: Patricia Santos (Advisor), Victoria Rivera, Yuri Salazar, Barbara Perkins, Jeanny Herrera, Carol Say, Rhysia Joseph, Matthew Vetter, Faria Diane, Elena Hilla, Chris Davis, Gary Acosta, Jason Hyman. Not pictured Alexandria Hill, Monica Flores, and Dale Vanwright

Statistically Speaking,

We Need Your Help!

Tutors Desperately Needed for This Difficult But Essential Class

By Megan Murray-McDonald

DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Was there ever a word that instilled more fear in students than statistics? Well their fears may be justified: students who take Statistics for Business I (STAT 3309) are more likely to get below a C than the semester average of all other classes combined. Statistics is a "milestone" class; completing the dreaded class is a good indicator that you will graduate. Since majors in criminal justice, business, natural science, social science, education, and mathematics all require some form of statistics, it is important to make sure you do well.

An excellent way to get ahead of the curve is by peer tutoring. Our university has the experience and the facilities, such as the Academic Support Center, to run a successful peer-tutoring program in statistics. In fact, UHD participates in the

student success program Achieving the Dream, which annually grants \$10,000 to UHD to provide 360 hours of peer tutoring and a faculty supervisor.

So peer tutors take note: there's money out there. And of course, tutoring looks great on a resume and helps you give back to the UHD community.

Have the impressive brainpower to help?

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New Year, New Semester, New Rules

A Glass Half Empty Column

By **Lindsay Hagood**
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

New Rule #1: Okay, so if you have a class one floor up from where you are catching the elevator, please take the darn stairs. It never ceases to amaze me how many folks avoid the stairs at all costs. Unless you have a disability, are feeling under the weather, or are suffering from extreme fatigue, get your lazy behind moving. We do not need unnecessary congestion in the elevators. Besides, a little exercise never hurt anyone.

New Rule #2: I am a dirty smoker that often feels ostracized from society. However, I am aware that there exists such a thing as smokers' etiquette. First and foremost, keep your butts where they belong...in the ashtrays located in the smoking areas. We all pay to attend UHD, and I assume everyone appreciates a nice, clean campus. Don't throw your butts on the ground. Just take the extra bit of effort to dispose of them in the appropriate place. I promise you won't break a sweat.

New Rule #3: There is an old saying, "If you sprinkle when you tinkle, please be neat and wipe the seat." Now I can only speak for the women's restrooms when I say that the school's facilities are an absolute disaster. I take a deep breath before opening each stall door in hopes that my discoveries will not prove too unsettling. Not only is it disrespectful to your peers but to the janitorial staff that works hard to keep the school sparkling. Would you treat your restroom at home in the same manner? I think not.

New Rule #4: The library is for studying. Therefore, it is rude to talk on your cell phone in the "quiet" areas. As happy as I am for you, I do not care to hear the details of your hot date last night while I am trying to read Shakespeare. For goodness sake, think of someone besides yourself and keep your cell phone conversations private. Let us nerds study in solitude.

New Rule #5: Speaking of cell phones, turn them off before entering class. I am not just talking about turning your ringer off, but the vibrate option as well. There is nothing worse

than hearing "buzz buzz" throughout a professor's lecture. The sound is so subtle yet so annoying. I would almost rather hear some catchy pop song ringer than that irritating "buzz buzz." If you are so important that you need to hear your phone ring, don't come to class. Take care of your "buzz buzz" business instead.

New Rule #6: I doubt anyone would disagree with the fact that the parking situation at UHD sucks. Even worse is the way people deal with this reality. First of all, do not park in imaginary parking spaces. You are not special. You are not a celebrity though you may possess a sense of entitlement. Park in a bloody parking place. Also, don't be a meanie when looking for a place and cut someone off who was waiting before you. Be patient. Your time will come, my friend. Lastly, remember that pedestrians have the right away. Quit driving like a bat out of hell and pay attention.

Author's note: If you are guilty of any of the above offenses, you may now consider yourself enlightened.

University of Houston - Downtown

Student Profile

By **Regina Panis**
DATELINE DOWNTOWN



Monica V. Montoya, 23
Major: **Biology**

Q: Was Biology your first choice of majors?

A: Yes

Q: What do you want to do when you graduate?

A: I plan to attend medical school.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Bowling, pool, reading, dancing, painting, and word puzzles

Q: What are your favorite hang-

outs in Houston?

A: Jamba Juice on Post Oak and Westheimer, the Galleria, Belvedere Lounge, Tropicana and Metropolis Night Club

Q: What is your favorite place to grab a cheap bite to eat?

A: I love to chow down at any Chipotle Mexican Grill.

Q: What is something about you people wouldn't know just by looking at you?

A: I was born in Pennsylvania but my parents are from Venezuela. I grew up in Moscow, went to a French high school, and graduated in Hong Kong. (She speaks Russian, French, Spanish and English.)

Q: Who or what inspires you the most and why?

A: I am inspired by my mother, who is a great person and business woman.

Student Government OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 31 – 11:00 to 1:00
Room A-300

Drinks and Snacks will be available to students!

Student Government is always looking for students willing to make a difference on campus. Stop by the Open House and find out what we do and how you can get involved.

SGA

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SPORTS

Rollerblade Bash Hits Downtown Young Group Shows Off Their Skills

Frank Raia
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

On Saturday, January 19, 2008, a group of about 100 young whip-persnappers gathered together under a downtown bridge and held a rollerblading competition, with at least half competing in an assortment of jumps. The funny thing was, all the competitors were kids. Yes, kids. None of them looked older than eighteen. Okay, some looked a bit older than that, but it seemed that I was the oldest person there.

The day started off with a long set of warm up maneuvers on all the different areas they were going use. The first area was along a long rail that went down a set of stairs; the second was another short rail; the third was along a set of stone stairs below the rails.

Once the competition began, things started to heat up. These kids did unbelievable things with their rollerblades. For the opening part on the long rail, they did all kinds of jumps and tricks ranging from spins and slides to just straight jumping over the rail. The short rail part was just as impressive as the long rail part. If anything, the tricks were even more clever and creative. The same goes for last part along



the bottom stair.

Were there injuries? Well, yes, some people were banged up and a few drops of blood were spilled on the concrete, but nobody was seriously hurt. Other good news is that when the Houston Police arrived they didn't break up the gathering because it was a peaceful. It helped that nobody was doing illegal drugs, and there was no underage drinking.

I asked around to find out as much information about any future competitions, but unfortunately came up short. The bits of information that did leak out suggest this style event will happen again soon. I will try to keep you posted on when that might happen.

Aikido Master to Teach Self Defense

By Jacob Benavides
DATELINE: DOWNTOWN

The Jesse H. Jones Student Center will kick off the Spring 2008 semester with a new activity that may tantalize the inner Samurai in some of the student body here at UHD. Ever heard of Aikido? If not, Aikido is the art of spiritual harmony, and it teaches one the instincts and principles of staying out of harm's way.

On February 8, the Student Center will begin an eight-week Aikido class open for anyone who would like to participate. The class runs from 2:30 to 4:00 and will be lead by Erik Calderon, founder of ShinKiKan and the Japan Culture Center.

In light of a growing crime rate, this class offers a form of self-defense that is

unique from many others. Aikido's intent is to harness an attacker's energy then redirect that same energy right back at the attacker. When you learn how to use someone else's strength against them, it gives you leverage in an unexpected attack, no matter how big or small you may be.

Master Morihei Ueshiba, founder of the art of Aikido, applied these simple movements and practices to this style of martial arts to help one avoid being attacked and leave an abuser to be the one hurting in the end.

Come check out this harmonic martial arts practice. and equip yourself with the tools needed to take down an unanticipated attacker.

UFC 80: Rapid Fire

By James Kern
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Even though there was only one title fight, UFC 80: Rapid Fire was exactly what the title implies - full of action. The action was explosive and good fights were the hallmark of this Pay-Per-View, with victory and defeat clearly delineated and surprising results around every corner. Anyone who is a fan of mixed martial arts will love this event, as it is not only educational but packed with action, proving the fighters weren't just fighting to add to their professional record but really attempting to give a good show. Overall this was one of the better UFC events, and definitely worth seeing.

"Da Spyder" Kendall Grove fought Jorge Rivera as the first midQeweight

match of the night. Rivera connected with a stinging leg kick and then took Grove to the ground. There was a scramble, but Rivera managed to get on top and started raining blows. Grove managed to regain his feet, and Rivera dropped Da Spyder with an overhand left, causing the referee to stop the fight in 1:20 of round 1 in a TKO.

Second was a light heavyweight match between Jason Lambert and Wilson Gouveia. Lambert dominated the first round starting when Gouveia attempts to take Lambert down and he defends. Blows are exchanged by both sides; Gouveia sweeps and manages to scramble to his feet. Lambert got another takedown; Gouveia attempted a triangle choke which Lambert escaped from, and the first round is over. The second round starts with

an exchange between the two fighters when Wilson Gouveia lands a left hook out of nowhere, KOing Lambert and ending the fight in 37 seconds of that round.

The third fight went by quickly. Rumors had been spreading about the incredible striking power of welterweight Mark "The Irish Hand Grenade" Davis, and there had already been some talk by "Joker" Jess Laudin of Davis being a "fake Irishman." The beginning of the fight started with Laudin keeping distance and kicking, not only to the legs but to the body and head as well. Davis responded, settling all conjecture in 1:04 of the first round by knocking unconscious Laudin with a left hook.

The beginning of the fourth welterweight fight started with fireworks, as Paul Taylor and Paul Kelly threw blows at a breakneck pace. The Aaller Taylor was much faster and more accurate

than the newcomer Kelly. However Paul Kelly, larger and more powerful, dominated Paul Taylor throughout most of the rounds when they were on the ground, which is where they spent most of their time. The match went to a unanimous decision which the judges awarded to Kelly.

Both heavyweights, Gabriel "Napão" Gonzaga and Fabricio Werdum, were Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu practitioners who have fought before, so it is no surprise that Gonzaga and Werdum went to the ground quickly in the fifth fight. Napão brought the fight to their feet, throwing brutal leg kicks, but Werdum brought it back to the ground where the first round ended. The second round was fought mainly standing, with Verdun coming out ahead. Fabricio Werdum controlled much of the round with punches and devastating knees, eventually knocking Gonzaga down

see **UFC** on page 8

UHD Team Tryouts

Basketball, Soccer, and Volleyball Starting Up

By Reggie Plummer
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Women's Sports Club Teams

Gators Women's Club
Basketball: The current defending champions of the Lone Star College Sports Conference are looking for new talent. Prospective players must be skilled in basketball and be able to attend practices/games on Tuesdays 4pm-6pm and Fridays 5pm-8pm beginning on January 15 through April 13.

Gators Women's Club
Volleyball: The UHD Women's volleyball team is looking once again to make its mark in the Houston Collegiate Volleyball League. Prospective players must be skilled in volleyball and able to attend practices/games Monday and Wednesday evenings 5:30pm-8:00pm beginning on January 14 through April 20.

Female students who wish to participate in UHD Clubs Team must meet these requirements:

- Current enrollment (6 or more credits) at UHD during Spring 2008
- Student in Good Standing
- Positive and Supportive

Debt

Continued from page 1

Are you about to graduate? You can still take out a big chunk of your education debt while serving your community. Recent college grads can have part or all of their federal-education debt forgiven by working in public sector jobs. Teachers can have as much as \$5,000 of their federal Stafford loans forgiven by working in low-income elementary or secondary schools. The National Health Service Corps offers loan-forgiveness to nurses, psychologists, physicians, and other healthcare profession-

Team Player

Players must pay a team membership fee (\$25 - \$30) upon making the team.

Interested students should contact Mr. Richard Sebastiani via email at sebastianir@uhd.edu or come by the UHD Student Life Center for more information.

Intramural Sports

UHD Intramural Soccer League: Saturday afternoons, 1pm-4pm from February 2 through March 9 at McReynolds Middle School Field.

UHD Intramural Basketball League: Sunday afternoons, 1pm-4pm from January 27 through March 2 in the UHD Student Life Center.

Sports & Fitness is accepting entries for both male and female players, individuals, and teams. Team entry is \$20 per team. Players without a team can register as free agents and will be placed on a team. Players must be UHD students, employees, or Sports & Fitness members.

Team entry forms and free agent sign-ups are in the UHD Student Life Center.

als who work for two years in communities in need of healthcare. Volunteering for Peace Corps can wipe out 30 percent of your Perkins loans' balance for two years or 70 percent for four years. AmeriCorps offers a monthly stipend and an education awards for members who successfully complete their service term. Any of these programs help you gain valuable work experience and pay off your college debt at the same time.

Through your search for college funding, remember one thing: no matter what it costs now, a college education is worth the investment.

Student Profile

By Regina Panis

Kortney Crawford , 21
Major: Biology

Q: Do you plan on getting a Master's degree?

A: Yes

Q: What do you plan to do with your degree?

A: I plan on becoming a Pediatrician.

Q: What is your favorite place to get a cheap bite?

A: I like to eat at Pei Wei, which is a diner version of P.F. Chang's

Q: What are your favorite hobbies?

A: Travel is one of my favorite hobbies. Since my mom is a flight attendant, I've been able to visit Japan, Italy, and Hawaii.

Q: What are your favorite Houston hangouts?

A: One of her favorite hangouts is the Belvedere, which is a bar/lounge in Uptown Park. She also goes to bars and clubs downtown.

Q: Why did you decide to go to UHD?

A: I previously attended Prairie View A&M in College Station but decided to go to UHD, because it's closer to home and cheaper to attend.

Q: Who or what inspires you most?

A: My inspirations are my mom, grandma, and God.

TOWN HALL



MEETING

DATE: February 20th, 2008

TIME: 12:00 Noon

LOCATION: Room A-300

Come visit with UHD Administration!!

Food & Refreshments will be provided to attendees.

Sponsored by:

University of Houston - Downtown



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Comedian Sebastian Maniscalco Think You're Hip to Innovative Design? You Get a Black Coffee and You Go to Work! Check Out the Contemporary Arts Museum

By Wil Chinchilla
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Sebastian Maniscalco has been pursuing his stand-up career for 10 years now, and another "golden boy" of comedy has emerged through a lot of hard work and sacrifice. Sebastian has been on many late show programs, but his recent role in Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show (VWWCS) has enabled Sebastian's star to grow. The movie is a 30 day 30 show tour on a bus. Although Sebastian did not get enough time to explore the cities toured or get sleep on the bus, he still made it out to the Houston Improv where he recommended people to invite their friends to come over and eat some

Q: So Northern Illinois University was your college, how did that work out?

A: Yeah I went to Northern Illinois at Dekalb. I went for a communications degree, but my original plan was to just get out of school. Well to tell you the truth I wanted to quit after a year of college. I always knew I wanted to do standup. I wanted to leave school and pursue a career in comedy in Los Angeles, but my parents told me to get a degree before I do any of that and then shortly after graduation I left to Los Angeles to pursue my career in comedy. College was great because I was in a fraternity, I was actually president. The school I went to was like a commuter college so I found a social life in a fraternity and it turned out to be one of the best decisions I made. It was good times.

Q: So you now have a YouTube account, what do you mean in regards to your statement, "Do me a favor and leave the home videos where they belong, in a drawer collecting dust"?

A: What I mean is that YouTube is a good vehicle with people who are in the entertainment industry and



are trying to get a web series to create some heat with that to eventually become a series on network television. A lot of the stuff on YouTube seems to be people's home videos and all of a sudden these people are now considered entertainment. I mean one video where one couple had a wedding dance that they gained coverage all over the USA and now they are all over the news, on morning news shows, I think it's just watered down entertainment.

Q: Faith the dog? Comment

A: I have nothing against the dog, I just basically reenacted what I saw on T.V. As far as the dog is concerned I got nothing bad to say, it is an inspirational story, I just reenacted how the dog walks around. I also have nothing to say about the owner, I am not being sued although I was proposed to receive a subpoena but I never received it.

Entenmann's crumble cake.

A humble Chicago native born to an Italian family is a main focus in his act which ranged from text messaging to a dog that walks like a human. Sebastian, while in Houston, explored his humanitarian side by partaking in the Adopt-A-Child program from the Salvation Army, which included him sponsoring Jesus for the holidays. Despite his character on stage who hates today's man who wears flip flops, drinks apple martinis, and makes up their own drink at Starbucks (who should just get a black coffee and go to work), Sebastian is a very humble person that reflects the idea of remembering where you've come from.

Q: How did you get approached to do the Movie Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show?

SB: Vince was a friend of a friend and Vince used to come down to see some comedy shows that his friend used to be in and its Ahmed who is also in the movie. I was performing at a show Vince was at, the Ahmed just made the introduction between me and Vince. We found out that we had a common background because I grew up in Chicago and he grew up in Chicago and we just saw each other a lot at the comedy clubs. We had a drink and he asks me if I can be in a bus tour across the country like a rock band that would bring stand up comedy and entertainment to parts of the country that really doesn't get to see this kind of entertainment. Given that the VWWCS is a variety show of sorts in a 30 day 30 show tour from Los Angeles to Chicago and we documented it as a movie and it was picked up. Just to name some guys in the movie there's John Favaru, Justin Long, Peter Billingsly who is "Ralphie" from a *Christmas Story* who is good see **Maniscalco** on page 8

Tamara Wise
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Test your knowledge of innovative design at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston's (CAMH) Design Life Now: National Design Triennial, running now through April 20 in its Brown Foundation Gallery.

The National Design Triennial, from the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, presents ingenious American designs from 2003-2006. It will feature over 80 designers and firms from such diverse fields as architecture, furniture, technology, science, and fashion.

Exhibits are grouped into four themes: Emulating Life, Community, Hand-Crafted/Do-it-Yourself Design, and Transformation. Each design was chosen for its innovation and relationship to the physical world. According to CAMH Interim Director Linda Shearer, the exhibit demonstrates "ties that bind art and

everyday life."

Some of the designs may be familiar, such as the Nike Free running shoe, which was designed to reproduce the foot's motion when running barefoot. Other designs may not be as familiar, yet are no less intriguing. Ralph Rucci's haute couture gowns highlight hand-stitched seams, hems, and lavish handcrafted details.

A "must see" is Joseph Ayers' Robolobster. As the name suggests it is a functional robot that resembles a lobster, which can recognize temperature changes in seawater and locate underwater mines. The scaled model of Craig Konyk's up!house, a prefabricated house of the future, is simple, practical, and mobile.

The National Design Triennial offers such a variety of animation, graphics, and new technologies that no one will go away disappointed. Best of all it is entirely free!

*Contemporary Arts Museum
Houston @ 5216 Montrose Blvd.*

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Step into Quiet Elegance

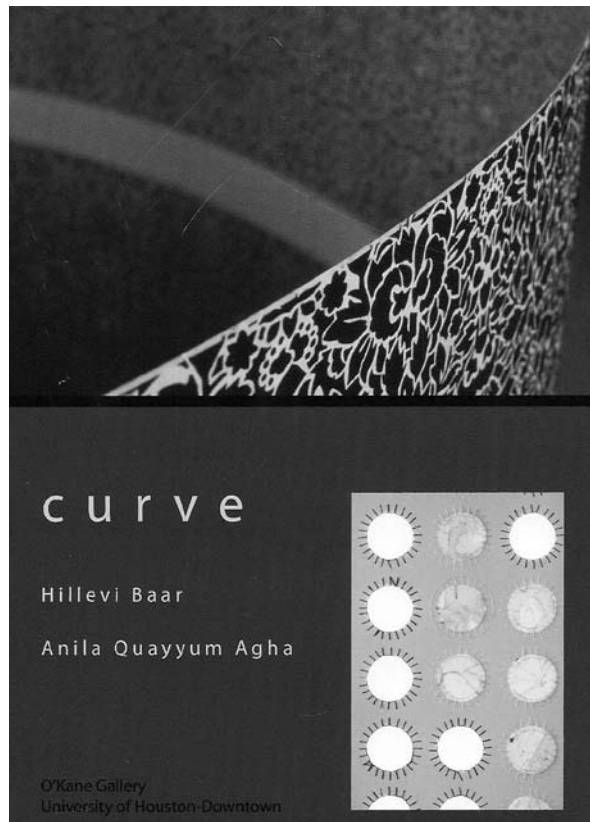
New UHD Exhibit Brings a Sense of Serenity to Our Choatic Campus

by **Gloria Reisman**
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Okay, so you've been racing around all day getting your kids to school and yourself to work only to have to leave in a few a hours to make it to classes at UHD. Or perhaps you've been reading English prose all night or even worse, finishing complicated math assignments. Do yourself a favor; step into the O'Kane Art Gallery on the third floor of the Main Building and catch your breath amidst the Curve Exhibition. Currently featured are artists Hillevi Baar and Anila Quayyum Agha, and together their works are a welcome break from a hectic schedule.

Hillevi Baar's *Jade Ring* is a major focus of the exhibition due to the fact that it takes up so much space in the Gallery. As soon as you walk in, the sculpture is a beautifully intricate, 6 ft. circular ring with green etching that pleases the eye. Also worth honorable mention is the artist's *Red Drops* work that consists of alluring and exquisite flowers on red paper circles of varying sizes, which are suspended in mid air by steel wire.

Anila Quayyum Agha's works are delicate examples of how she combined old crafts, such as embroidery, from her native Pakistan with newer aesthetics to create a modernistic approach to enjoy art. Agha uses a thick, textured paper as her canvas, and using paint and metallic fibers to form perfect circles into interesting groupings, she seeks to touch on "the



wooden and metal screens that are actually and symbolically placed in front of windows in South Asian architecture to ensure separate personal spaces for genders," as explained in her artist statement provided to viewers.

So the next time you just want to scream for a minute or two to clear your mind and refresh it while at UHD, swerve into the O'Kane Gallery.



UHD Begins Film Noir Series

Movies Every Thur at 7 in A436

By **Kristi Seidel**
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Film noir came about in the 1940's with the end of World War II and lasted until the 'Golden Age' in the early 1960's. Film noir creates a sense of terror to the viewer and creates a mood of alienation, bleakness, ambiguity, moral corruption, evil, guilt, and paranoia. It literally means 'black film' because of the darkness the film creates for the viewers.

During the war, people were watching films like *Frankenstein* and were shocked by the horror films of the 1930's. Horror is a physical disgust and fear to the viewers; terror created by noir films is a psychological fear based on the idea that anyone, not just the grotesque and horrifying, can be a "monster." It creates the eerie feeling that your next door neighbor could be a

murderer, and you would never know.

The university will be showing a noir film series all semester in A436 every Thursday evening at 7, and anyone is welcome to come and view them. A few of the films that will be shown are "Double Indemnity," "Sunset Blvd.," and "Kiss Me Deadly." "Double Indemnity" is a murder mystery about a shady woman who manipulates a man without shame or remorse into the darkest of deeds. "Sunset Blvd." is about an old forgotten star trying to recapture her glory days in Hollywood but is driven mad. Lastly, "Kiss Me Deadly" is about a detective who ends up in the wrong place, at the wrong time, running into a troubled young woman who just escaped from an asylum. Come to A436 every Thursday evening at 7 and view a true classic film.

Hosted by the UHD Department of English
Screenings accompany English 4327: Advanced Film Studies / Spring Semester 2008

NOIR NATION: A Film Series

FREE & OPEN to the PUBLIC - Thursday evenings, doors open at 7pm.
University of Houston - Downtown - One Main Street / Academic Building / Room A 436
Metro stop: UH Downtown Station Faculty Contact: Prof. Chuck Jackson. 713.221.8615

CALENDAR OF SCREENINGS

January 24:	<i>The Maltese Falcon</i> (1941, dir. John Huston)
January 31:	<i>Double Indemnity</i> (1944, dir. Billy Wilder)
February 7:	<i>The Big Sleep</i> (1946, dir. Howard Hawks)
February 14:	<i>Gilda</i> (1946, dir. Charles Vidor)
February 21:	<i>Out of the Past</i> (1947, dir. Jacques Tourneur)
February 28:	<i>Sunset Blvd.</i> (1950, dir. Billy Wilder)
March 6:	NO FILM
March 13:	<i>Kiss Me Deadly</i> (1955, dir. Robert Aldrich)
March 20:	NO FILM (Spring Break)
March 27:	<i>Touch of Evil</i> (1958, dir. Orson Welles)
April 3:	<i>Sweet Sweetback's BaadAsssss Song</i> (1971, dir. Melvin van Peebles, Rated X)
April 10:	<i>Shaft</i> (1971, dir. Gordon Parks)
April 17:	<i>The Spook Who Sat By the Door</i> (1973, dir. Ivan Dixon)

CONTINUATIONS

Maniscalo

Continued from page 6

friends with Vince.

Q: Do you think that you can beat the ticket sales of this comedy movie compared to the Kings of comedy tours?

A: I mean I just feel that in the movie there is a separation of stand-up from VVWCS compared to other stand up movies like Jerry Seinfeld's *Comedian*. This is a unique concept because the A list actor took in four unknown comedians on the road which you never really see, nowadays you would never see that. This is unique because this is a unique in depth view of comedian backstage, with their parents, and it's really cool.

Q: What was your favorite city to do stand-up?

A: Las Vegas just because you get a good cross section of USA since you get everyone visiting from all over you get a feel of how your material is playing throughout the country. The thing for me is it's another pinnacle of entertainment for me, although it is very corporate it's the place where entertainment is king. I love going back home to Chicago to perform in front of family and friends. I like the south too the south is pretty cool and Miami is another favorite place to perform.

Q: I understand you are gaining a ton of exposure, what do you want the end result to be?

A: I would definitely like to get into film and television I definitely want to go into that field although my first love is stand-up comedy. I would definitely like to increase my following and keep heading clubs eventually making my stand-up career into an acting career. Hopefully more opportunities come after the movie comes out. As far as I'm concerned I love doing stand-up and some comedians say

they hate the road but I love it. There's nothing like going to a different city, getting the flow of the city, going golfing during the day and then taking a rest. I don't like golfing by myself though I usually travel with other comedians and we all play together but I didn't take my clubs to play here in Houston.

Q: Who would you want to work with?

A: Vince Vaughn was the guy who I looked up too and wanted to work with since I started comedy. I watched his comedy movies and always said I would definitely want to be part of what he is doing because his comedy resonates with me.. John Favaru is great to be around because he is very creative and he has great ideas. If I can do another movie with Vince Vaughn that would be great. . It's a dream come true because I grew up watching *Swingers*, all of his movies and to think ten years later I would be in a movie with him it's crazy.

Q: Not that long ago you were still waiting tables? Is it surreal that you have your dream job?

A: Yeah its kind of weird man because it has been ten years, its tuff just like any entertainer, any person that is going into this business has to have another job to supplement their income while your pursuing stuff. I kind of abruptly made a change from having two jobs to just doing stand-up and its great, its a dream come true, it's all I ever wanted to do, make a living while doing what I love to do.

Sebastian Maniscalco will be huge in 2008. Watch out for his Half-Hour Comedy Central Special that has aired and is already in syndication. His DVD "Going Up" is available through his website www.sebastianlive.com, and Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show is out in Theater's February 8.

UFC

Continued from page 4

and "ground and pounded" an ending to the fight at 4:34 by TKO.

For the Lightweight Championship, "The Prodigy" B.J. Penn dropped from welterweight to lightweight to fight Joe "Daddy" Stephenson. Penn took Stephenson to the ground quickly, dominating Stephenson from the top and even gaining the mount. Stephenson escaped for only a moment, but "The Prodigy" never even let Stephenson off the ground, and left a huge cut in Stephenson's forehead in the first round. The second round started with some exchanging of blows. Penn dropped

Stephenson with an uppercut, mounted him, and after some ground and pound used a rear naked choke to win the title in 4:02 of the second round.

The next fight was over before the cheering ended when Antoni Hardonk, an experienced European kickboxer, won by TKO against the larger Colin Robinson 17 seconds into the first round using powerful leg kicks.

Alessio "Legionarius" Sakara defeated James Lee in the last match quickly. The fight started with Lee attempting to take Sakara to the ground. Lee defended, and won by TKO in 1:30 due to Lee not intelligently defending himself.

Study Abroad

Continued from page 1

course at a different institution, you may also receive credit towards your curriculum at UHD – if the credits transfer.

Students do need to be aware that not all school-sponsored trips are covered under the Study Abroad Program. As an example, all students may take part in the Annual Drama trip to New York City each May, but that trip is not included in the Study Abroad Program. The university is not responsible for those on the trip, and academic credit will not be applied.

SURGE IN HELL

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