

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

NEWSPAPER FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN

Volume 40, Issue 5

APRIL 7 - APRIL 21

www.uhd.edu/dateline

4% Tuition And Fee Increase For Fall

Small Increase Will Pay For Library Expansion, New Website, And Student Services

By James Philpot
EDITOR



Tuition and fees will increase 4% next year, adding another \$84 for students taking twelve hours, but the revenue is going towards improvements students have wanted for several years, including an expanded library, new website, security updates, and

possible increases in student research projects.

Although UHD's tuition and fees will increase, it is the lowest increase in the UH system. Both UH and UH-Clear Lake are raising their tuition by 6% adding \$185 and \$136 respectively. So even though UHD tuition and fees will go up, it still remains one of the most affordable schools in Texas.

The actual tuition cost will not be raised, but the fees that you pay, such as the student

service fee, computer use fee, and library fee, will increase by modest amounts. Students may initially be upset about another hike in fees, but these are necessary expenses that students have asked for in SGA meetings, and at the Town Hall Meeting. The increased computer fee will be used to pay for a new website and improved e-services. The higher library fee will be used to pay for operating costs of the expanded library. Increases in student services will be

used to enhance services in the Enrollment Services area, including the Financial Aid Office. The university also expects to see an enrollment growth of 3% next year, and some of the revenue generated by this growth will be used to update some of the security features on campus and in the parking lots.

As these fees increase, the resulting revenue will be used to improve student services. It's not like the administration see **TUITION** on page 8

Making A Difference

The Exceptional UHD Student Body

By David Bradley
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

On the first two Saturdays of March 2008, I opened my Houston Chronicle to find stories about two young men with strong connections to UH-Downtown. One is quite well known. Juan Diaz is a champion boxer whose fights are shown on pay-per-view on HBO. The other, Orlando Perez, was a fighter as well but of a different kind. He was a soldier, and he'd been on the front lines in the war in Iraq. Both have brought honor to our university.

I can't say that I know Juan Diaz, although I have met him twice on campus. If I wasn't something of a sports junkie, there really would have been no reason to recognize Juan as anything other than a typical UHD student - Hispanic, early 20s, baggy



Juan Diaz with Don King after a victory bout.

clothes, and a backpack. When I did recognize him I could not resist the temptation to strike up a conversation. He seemed almost embarrassed that I knew who he was. I got the sense that he greatly appreciated the relative anonymity he still enjoyed. I asked

him how things were going, who he planned to fight next, and how school was going. Articulate and engaging, he truly could not have been more gracious.

Over the past couple of years, Juan's status as an active UHD student had been mentioned prominently in several articles about him in the Chronicle. In the interviews Juan talked about the value he and his family placed on education. He spoke of his goal to earn a CJ degree then enroll in law school. I was skeptical. I thought that if he were to ever win a championship belt we probably wouldn't see him around UHD any longer.

Juan has won not one but two championship belts. And it turns out that the relentlessness that he's shown in the ring carries over to his pursuit of a degree. Despite the growing pressures of being a major player in



Spc. Orlando A. Perez

the boxing world, Juan continues to steadily knock out the courses he needs to graduate. I have little doubt that in the not-too-distant future Juan will walk across the stage at Minute Maid Park and receive his UHD diploma.

On Saturday night, March 8th, in Cancun, Mexico, Juan lost the first fight of his pro career, a 12-round split decision to Nate Campbell. Juan was see **DIFFERENCE** on page 6

STUDENT LIFE

Culture On The Bayou

This Year's Theme: Caribbean

By **Marika Stepankiw**
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, April 16 between 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM on the south deck, UHD student organizations are gathering to celebrate our school's diversity at the annual Culture on the Bayou. Generally every year, 25 different organizations come together to celebrate a unique part of UHD's culture; this year the theme is the Caribbean.

Although organizations are still in the process of registering, some of the organizations in attendance this year include Sigma Lambda Gamma, the Black Student Alliance, the

American Medical Student Association, Alpha Lambda, Sigma Tau Delta, and the Houston Scholarship Fund. Organizations will be selling food that ranges from their own unique culture to traditional concession food. In addition to flavorful food, there will be a steel drum band, and a henna artist will be creating masterpieces on students' bodies.

UHD is nationally recognized for its student diversity. With students and faculty from almost every continent, UHD has a lot of culture to represent. At Culture on the Bayou, everyone is welcome to express their own culture and traditions.

Student Activities and Events hosts several events throughout the year. Maria Garrett, Coordinator of Student Activities, and Michelle Falcon, Assistant Director of Student Activities, help in the organization and preparation of student activities and events, including Culture on the Bayou. According to Garrett, "Student Activities puts on events where the students can have a traditional experience on an untraditional campus." Student Activities encourages everyone to come to the celebration on Wednesday, April 16 between 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM and enjoy the food, music, and fun. ■

*Gain Experience
Get Published
Get Paid*

300 Words = \$25

Submission does not guarantee publication.
Suggestions/ Complaints / Rants / Ideas

dateline@gator.uhd.edu

Faculty Profile

Fire Dynamic Simulator God

By **Frank Raia**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Traveling all over the wild world of Texas I noticed there is only one Fire Dynamic Simulator person in the Lone Star State. His name is Kristopher James Overholt and he's an adjunct professor here at UHD.

A very-soon-to-be-alumni of UH-Downtown, he teaches the engineering classes Structural Fire Safety, Fire Dynamics and Introduction to Fire Dynamics Simulator.

Kris was born "at the end of the Led Zeppelin era", and he frequently travels all over this beautiful country. One of his favorite travel places is Harrisonburg, Virginia. His next travel goal is Canterbury in New Zealand. He spends lots of time traveling because



Kristopher James Overholt

"Travel has broken every dream that I've had in a most fantastic and progressive way." This doesn't make much sense at first, but when you think about it it's a true statement.

He has done lots of traveling and has spent many nights wandering around in forests and other places. When you travel around enough you start to gain knowledge of natural things, but if you travel even

more like he has all those ideas get destroyed. So because of this new philosophy on life he has already retired from his line of work. He plans to do research, teach and travel for the rest of his life.

He said he retired so early because, "Why wait and do a few major things at the age of sixty or sixty-five when you can do a bunch of small things now." For example, he and a few friends plan to walk to Austin after graduating in May just to see how beautiful this state really is. Once he arrives in Austin he will ride back in a car with other friends he plans to meet up there.

Kris has been known to improve his intellect when he consuming large amounts of alcohol and he smokes constantly. He will drink and start working on random mathematic and engineering problems that have been bothering him. His nights

consist of drinking and doing math and engineering problems until the sun comes up. He's like Bender from Futurama. If you take his booze away he could die. And he smokes constantly to always be near fire because it inspires him to do great and bad things.

He was a firefighter and EMT for 3 years. Witnessing a number of different situations dealing with fire inspired him to do what he does.

Kris was certified as the Texas Fire Dynamic Simulator badass a few years ago. Fire Dynamics (FDS) is a computational fluid dynamics (CFD) model of fire-driven fluid flow. The software numerically solves a form of the Navier-Stokes (describes the motion of fluid substances such as liquids and gases) equations appropriate for low-speed, thermally-driven flow, with an emphasis on smoke and heat transport from

fires. Basically its an upper-level engineering classe that requires a ridiculous amount of math and skill to complete. He's taught his art at several conferences and spoken in front of hundreds of people.

He was born in Houston, raised in Greenspoint, also known as Guns-point, and loves soccer and says "Fuck you Yankees!" He is known to blast Led Zeppelin as loud as physically possible. Kris is looking for a woman that can solve ongoing questions in the world that are not bullshit but something meaningful. He wants to eventually join the Peace Corps and drink, smoke and enjoy the simple things in life as much possible.

Kris is good friend and a kickass teacher, so take a class he teaches and go drink with him and you will learn all kinds of things about fire and life. ■

Contact Us

Managing Editor

James Philpot
dateline@gator.uhd.edu
(713) 221-8569

Associate Editor

Andre Poisot
andrepoisot@gmail.com

Copy Editor

Megan Murray-McDonnald
megangloria@sbcglobal.net

Business Manager

Daniel Almanza
dateline@gator.uhd.edu
(713) 221-8192

Staff Writers

Jacob Benavides
Regina Panis
Reggie Plummer
James Quiroga
Kristi Seidel
Marika Stepankiw
Tamara Wise
Gloria Reisman

Contributing Writers

Frank Raia
Wil Chinchilla
Lindsey Hagood
James Kern
Regina M. Latson

Faculty Advisor

Anthony Chiaviello
chiaviello@uhd.edu
(713) 221-8520

VOTE!

The UHD Student Government Association needs your vote to elect its 2008-2009 officers.



GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

WHEN: Monday, April 7 through April 10
WHERE: UHD E-Services
WHEN: 24 hours/day

How to Vote:

- Step 1. Go to uhd.edu/eservices.**
- Step 2. Click "SGA Elections".**
- Step 3. Follow instructions.**
- Step 4. Cast your Vote!**

Who Are We?

A Letter To The Editor

By Douglas Ahern

UHD CRIMINAL JUSTICE JUNIOR

Each day I drive to the University of Houston-Downtown, I see cars on the highway with alumni stickers or plate holders from a wide variety of schools. It is rare that I see UHD stickers. I have not checked, but I will bet that UHD stickers and plate holders are not hot commodities at the UHD store.

Why do you think this is? I have at least one possible answer — we do not know what our identity is as a school.

Let's face it. UHD is a four-year, degree-granting

community college. But that is okay because the school fills a role in the community. Why does UHD seem to not want to embrace that role?

Without that identity and the pride that goes along with connecting ourselves to this facility, UHD will continue to flounder as a faceless institution.

If we are Downtown's alternative college, let's be exactly that!

We need to increase opportunities for potential students to be part of something much larger at UHD and have a closer affiliation with the University of Houston System.

Active solicitation and recruitment should expand at the campuses of San Jacinto College, Harris County Community College, and Texas Southern University. Area high schools need to know that UHD is the best choice for students who are not University of Texas candidates. Transfers are great, but incoming freshmen are better.

I call on the UHD's administration to determine our identity, to embrace that choice, and to communicate it to whomever will listen. If UHD is ever to develop the esprit' de corps that major institutions possess this has to be a priority. ■

Letters to the Editor: Dateline welcomes letters to the editor from any member of the UH system. Letters should be no more than 250 words, include the author's full name, phone number or email address, and affiliation with the University, including classification and major. Anonymous letters will not be published. Deliver letters to Room S-260 Main Bldg; email them to dateline@gator.uhd.edu; fax them to (713) 221-8119. All submissions are subject to editing.

Editorial Policy: The opinions and commentaries expressed within reflect the views of the contributing writers. No opinions expressed in the Dateline reflect the viewpoints of the University of Houston-Downtown or its administration or students. Dateline reserves the right to edit or modify submissions for the sake of clarity, content, grammar, or space limitations. Submissions should be sent to dateline@gator.uhd.edu in Microsoft Word format. All submissions become property of Dateline and may not be returned. If you have any questions, please call (713) 221-8569.

CAMPUS NEWS

Metro Unveils New Q Card

New Fare System Still Offers Student Discount, But In Different Method

By **Tamara Wise**
STAFF WRITER

It's official, the last day to use your U-Pass was on March 31. Now if you want to ride with a student discount you will have to use the new Q Card. Don't worry, the balance on your U-Pass will be transferred to your Q Card, however the maximum you can transfer is \$150. You can get your Q Card at any Transit Center location. The closest to the university is at 6910 Fannin, but be sure to take your student ID and a copy of your class schedule.

Once you have your card you can reload it with up to \$500

at METRO RideStores, Park & Ride lots, Ticket Vending Machines (TVM), and Q Card Reloaders on the bus. There is a TVM located on the outside of UHD's main building facing Main Street. Additionally, you can reload your card at various retailers such as Krogers, Fiesta, and Valero.

To reload your card at a TVM, you can insert your money in the slot and then place your card in the Q Card holder. Your card will then be reloaded and your balance will be displayed on the screen. Unfortunately the TVMs only take paper money - no change - and you can only put in one bill per reload. So if you're

using ones to reload your card you will have to repeat the steps for each dollar.

Though the U-Pass seemed to be more of a value, the Q-card is still beneficial to you. You will receive a 50 percent discount if you're taking at least nine credit hours, and you get five free rides after 50 paid ones. Unlike the U-Pass the five free rides will not be added as dollars to your account; once you've reached your 50 rides the next five will be free, this includes rides on the commuter bus, train, or local bus. Transfers will be free and valid for two

hours in one direction. What's nice is that your card balance will be protected if your card



is lost or stolen, but you must register the card before you will be protected.

According to Julie Harris of UHD's Student Accounting office, if your card is lost or

stolen you will first have to go to UHD's student accounting office to get your account number. Then you will need to notify METRO so they can stop any activity on your card, the value will be stored and transferred to your new one, but if your card isn't registered though you will lose your balance. There will be no charge for your first replacement card.

For more information call the METROLine at 713.635.4000. Or you can search METRO's website www.ridemetro.org, which has a lot of information about the Q Card. ■

Houston Area Woman's Center Rep Speaks at UHD

By **Regina Panis**
STAFF WRITER

In honor of Women's History Month UH-Downtown welcomed special visitors from the Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC) to speak about sexual and domestic abuse. On March 25th, students were given the opportunity to receive insight HAWC's services, and how to recognize different types of abuse. The guest speaker, Taressa Taylor, is part of HAWC's Education Outreach program.

The HAWC provides help to anyone who has experienced domestic and sexual related violent situations and crimes. There is a 24-hour crisis hotline, and since the center is a non-profit organization, it offers free services, which includes counseling and shelter to those who need it. Women, children, and even men can receive assistance, even if it is to simply provide information.



Taressa Taylor, HAWC Representative

Anyone who seeks help can be sure that all services are confidential.

The services begin with a questionnaire provided by the center. The questionnaire is a tool to determine how much help that person needs and whether or not the victim will need to be placed in a shelter. This can be crucial since, according to Taylor, "Women are especially at high risk of being killed for leaving."

Taylor explained that the locations of the shelters are kept secret for safety reasons. Victims of sexual or domestic

abuse are not forced to stay in a shelter because it is their choice. "The minimum of days people stay at a shelter is 30 days, and the maximum is 90 days", said Taylor. The Women's Center "encourages independence" and people are allowed to leave, but the center's doors remain open to those who come back. "One woman left and came back six times," explained Taylor. She was able to do that "because she didn't leave on a bad note."

It is important that people who need the Women's Center follow their guidelines for admittance. Taylor related, "One woman's pastor dropped her off to the shelter. This is not acceptable." No one is allowed to know, for the safety and privacy of the victims, where the shelters are, even if it's a member of the church. The purpose of the shelter is to provide a confidential safe haven for abuse victims.

HAWC provides counseling for children that have been

exposed to violent situations, such as "a child who has been around parents that are constantly fighting with each other." Children are special cases. Taylor emphasized, "Abusers are not allowed to pick up their kids. The center cooperates with elementary schools and provides a bus to get kids to school." Taylor added, "The kids are encouraged to speak the truth, even to draw what they've seen if they can't say it." Their descriptions can be used "to help testify in court."

The center has speakers of different languages in order to cross language barriers. Taylor encourages anyone, even if they are in the country illegally, to contact the center if they have been sexually

or domestically abused. She explained that those who are in the country illegally are afraid to report their crimes because "they are scared of deportation," but that is not the goal of the center. "HAWC will not report you. They can arrange to pick you up at a public place if you need a ride."

HAWC's website and 24-hour crisis hotline is able to assist anyone who has questions about abuse or feels they have been abused. "The root of domestic and sexual abuse is control. The abusers victimize those who they know won't fight back." If you feel you are not in control of a domestic or sexually related situation, you may be at risk for abuse. ■

HAWC Hotlines

Domestic Violence and Information: 713.528.2121

Sexual Assault: 713.528.7273

www.hawc.org

UHD Police Department

On-Campus Emergency: 713.221.8911

On-Campus Non-Emergency: 713.221.8065

“Voices of the Tempest” In The O’Kane Gallery

Artist Showcases War At Sea and The Struggle For Survival

Frank Raia
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I was cruising around at school and I was taking along an epic journey of soldiers getting attacked in the sea. Some died and others lived to tell a tragically horrific but killer story about their adventure.

The O’Kane Gallery has done it again with the brilliant display of “Voices of the Tempest” by Adriana Groisman. This exhibit displays the conflict of the Falkland Islands and the Islas Malvinas during the early 1980s and the sinking of the General Belgrano on May 2, 1982.

“Voices of the Tempest” will occupy O’Kane Gallery from March 7 to April 17. This is first time this is showing in the

U.S. It is also part of Fotofest 2008.

What happened is a war between Argentina and the United Kingdom was fought over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The Falkland Islands consist of two large and many small islands in the South Atlantic Ocean east of Argentina. Their name and ownership have long been disputed. Anyway, a British Royal Navy nuclear submarine torpedoed the General Belgrano, sinking it. The attack killed a total of 323, including two civilians who were on board at the time. The rest were rescued by Argentine and Chilean ships. They saved 770 men in all from May 3 to May 5.

“Voices of the Tempest” premiered at the Centro

Cultural Recoleta, in Buenos Aires, Argentina back in 2005 and eventually made its way to the Maritime Museum of Ushuaia in Argentina.

Searches for the remains of the ship started back in 2003 when Groisman accompanied a National Geographic expedition to find the ship. Sea conditions prevented the expedition from finding the wreck, but Groisman took a ton of great photographs and conducted many interviews with survivors.

The black and white photographs reflect on human loss and hardship in the fight to survive. She connects everything together using letters sent home and from interviews with survivors. This is an epic, emotional rollercoaster of sadness and triumph.



Photo courtesy of O’Kane Gallery

Adriana Groisman’s “Voices of the Tempest” displays the struggle for survival when an Argentinian ship is sunk during a battle over the Falkland Islands. A survival raft in which viewers can sit occupies the floor of the gallery.

Adriana Groisman was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She currently lives in New York City but often travels back to her native Argentina. Groisman’s photographs have been published in Newsweek, The Atlantic Monthly, The Smithsonian and Aperture. Her work is part of the permanent collection at the

Museum of Fine Arts of Houston. She is represented by Contact Press Images.

For more information contact Mark Cervenka or Brad Thomason at the O’Kane Gallery, 713-221-8042. ■

Gallery hours
Mon-Sat, 10:00 -- 5:00

Houston’s Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart



Photo courtesy of Flickr

Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart during construction.

By Regina M. Latson
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whatever your personal religious affiliation happens to be, the new Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart is definitely something to talk about. The Co-Cathedral has been under construction since 2005. April 2, 2008 marked the completion of this 39

million dollar project. The Co-Cathedral seats 1,820 people and, if necessary, can squeeze in an additional 200. It features a 140 foot bell tower (campanile), a 117 foot dome, a 72 foot interior nave, and contains about 30,000 square feet of marble on the interior.

The Co-Cathedral was designed by Ziegler-Cooper Architects, a Houston

based group. They began the architectural process by sending a design team to Europe to study various cathedrals. As a result the exterior architecture is inspired by the Italian Romanesque style. They accomplished their goal beautifully because the cathedral has clean, simple lines without appearing pretentious or overly ornate.

The Co-Cathedral is built in the shape of a cross, which is the customary style for European cathedrals. The dome on the Co-Cathedral is clearly inspired by the famed dome of the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral in Florence, also known as the Duomo. The copper dome is topped by a 16 foot gold leaf cross. The interior of the dome is encircled by 12 stained glass windows. Each window displays one of the 12 apostles,

and the center of the dome has an 8 foot circular stained glass window. A 40 foot tall and 20 foot wide stained glass window, with an image of Jesus above a Houston skyline, decorates a face of the cathedral.

The Co-Cathedral also features two one-of-a-kind marble statues which stand 12 feet tall and weigh 12,000 pounds. One sculpture is called Mary of the Immaculate Conception in the West, and the other is Jesus of the Sacred Heart. Artist Roberto Pedrini sculpted both statues in Italy and flew to Houston to oversee their installation. Pedrini used white Carrara marble to sculpt both statues. That marble quarry, in Carrara Italy, has been owned and operated by the same family for many generations. The family confirms Michelangelo’s

David was created from the same marble.

The Co-Cathedral is located at 1115 St. Joseph Parkway, on the southern edge of Downtown. For information about mass or guided tours call Yvonne Gill, 713-659-1561, ext. 15 or visit the church website at www.diogh.org. ■

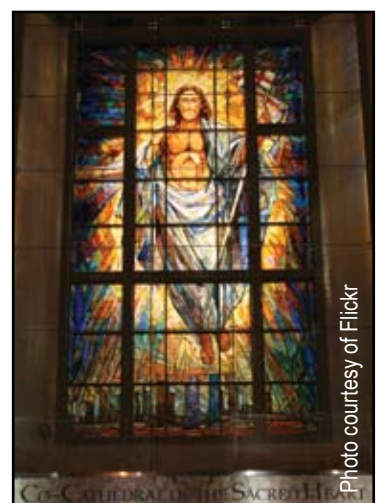


Photo courtesy of Flickr

Stained-glass window at Co-Cathedral. The Houston skyline can be seen at the bottom

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

DIFFERENCE

Continued from page 1

in control of the fight until Campbell opened a deep gash over his left eye in the sixth round. Juan fought the second half of the fight squinting as the blood ran down his face into his eye. When the fight was over, there was no excuse-making from Juan. He gave Campbell credit, acknowledged it wasn't his best fight, and said that he was proud to have finished out the fight, given the situation. "I wasn't going to give up," Juan said, "I have a lot of heart."

I'd read about Orlando a week earlier than Juan, on Saturday, March 1st. The article twice mentioned Orlando's time as a UHD student, which made me think that the time he'd spent with us had been important to him.

Like Juan, Orlando was a first-generation American. His parents immigrated to the United States from El Salvador. Like Juan, he came

from a tough background but found a means to overcome his difficult circumstances. For Juan it was the ring; for Orlando it was the ROTC program at Bellaire High. He was eager to join the service after high school, but elected to go to college first and chose UHD. Two years later, when his best friend joined the Marines, Orlando decided to enlist as well. He joined the Army and was assigned to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

On Sunday, February 24th, as his unit searched for insurgents and weapons in abandoned neighborhoods in Baghdad, Orlando Antonio Perez was killed in action. The Defense Department announced on its website that Orlando died from "small arms fire during dismounted operations."

Orlando's high school sweetheart and wife of eight months, April Perez, said several times in the article that Orlando was proud of his efforts in Iraq. "He didn't want to worry me too much," April said, "but he said they were

doing good things in Iraq. They were cleaning up neighborhoods to make sure they were safe. He said they were doing good stuff."

As I sat at my breakfast table thinking about Orlando, I found myself reflecting on how similar our lives had been for those two years he attended UHD. I may have played a pick-up basketball game with him over at the SLC, or stood in line behind him at our Starbucks. The connection was obviously very direct for the students who knew him and the faculty who had him in their classes. However you look at it, Orlando was very much one of us, a member of this loosely bound community that is the university.

As I write about these two young men, I don't mean to equate boxing, a sport, with the life-and-death nature of military service. Juan would probably be the first to make this point. Neither do I intend to offer any commentary on this war that cost Orlando his young life. By their stories, I simply

hope to point out something that too often gets overlooked. Namely, that a considerable number of the almost 12,000 students who collectively make up the UHD student body are quite exceptional individuals. And despite the bad rap it tends to get, this coming-of-age generation of Americans is strong and ambitious, and capable of great things and noble service.

So as you pursue your education at UHD, as you walk these halls walked by Orlando and Juan, take inspiration from their example. Admire their courage, commitment, and ambition. Emulate their passion, perseverance, and humility. As your life's journey plays out, be proud of your connection to them through UHD. Enjoy the future successes of your fellow student and local boxing champion – there will be more down the road for him, both inside and outside the ring. And never, ever, forget Orlando Antonio Perez. ■

Horton Hears A Boo

Movie sends wrong message to kids

By Kristi Seidel
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who! hit theaters Friday, March 14. For most, it was a wonderful film to take the children to enjoy. Some parents felt as though the film wasn't really for their children, that the film was just another way for the media to send mixed messages to people about society. As an avid film buff, I enjoy watching all kinds of films and analyzing the underlying messages in the film. I was very disappointed when I read some reviews by parents who made disappointed claims about the film, but after reviewing the film myself, I have to agree with those unhappy filmgoers.

In the film, Horton, a giant elephant, teaches the children of the jungle animals. The film does not specify what he teaches but does state that he is a teacher. After Horton hears noises coming from a speck on a flower, he becomes convinced that tiny people live on it. He states, "A person's a person, no matter how big or small." That statement is great to teach your children to respect those around them, BUT as the movie progresses this simple message gets out of hand and becomes more than just that.

The other jungle animals, in particular the Kangaroo, leader of the jungle animals, get very upset and disturbed that Horton is making such a big deal about a speck on a flower. The film had good

intentions to send the message: stand up for what you believe in no matter the cost, and respect all people and things no matter how big or small. Those messages get mixed when the Kangaroo's obsession with controlling the jungle animals takes over the screen. I read into the film that the Kangaroo's character mimics our political, historical, or belief systems. I noted such things as symbolism of oppression, rule by the majority and threats of the minority, rage and riots. Near the end of the film it almost had me thinking about Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people.



After watching the film with my five year old and being disturbed by its messages, I tested my son to see if it really did pass off to children in the wrong context. I asked him what Horton was standing up for and why he didn't listen to all the other jungle animals. He replied, "Because no matter what grown ups tell you, if you think you know something don't listen

to them." As if parents don't have a hard enough time to get their children to mind and listen to them, now we have films telling our children it's okay not to listen to authority figures because those figures don't know what they're talking about. That's media slapping parents in the face. Don't go see this film with your children, you'll regret it. ■

Our Town

New Play In O'Kane Theater

By James Quiroga
STAFF WRITER

Beginning April 4 the UH-Downtown's O'Kane Theater will begin its run of "Our Town". The piece is directed by Thomas J. Lyttle, Doctor of Theater, and a professor of Arts and Humanities.

Initially published in 1938, Thornton Wilder's play is now regarded as a modern stage classic. When asked what the piece is about, Dr. Lyttle first instructed me to sit down and to take a deep breath, and then offered me bottled water. His response is that the play is about, "you, me, and our everyday life, and how we fail to appreciate it like we should."

Dr. Lyttle cites the state of hectic disarray I am in after taking six flights of stairs, running to reach his office in time for this interview, as an

example of people's inability to appreciate life as it is being experienced. He goes on to summarize my situation using concepts from the play, "Wilder is saying, 'enjoy life'."

Nearly a decade before this interview, I had seen a filmed performance of "Our Town" in a tenth-grade English class. Dr. Lyttle's description suddenly brings to my mind the words of the play's narrator, spoken during the final act. Asked by another character, Emily, if people ever appreciate life while they live it, the narrator replies: "No...The saints and poets, maybe they do some".

Tickets are on sale in the Cashier's Office as of this writing. Performances run April 4 through April 12 and will be staged in the O'Kane Theater at the University of Houston, Downtown, located at 1 Main. ■

CD REVIEW: Raconteurs' 'Lonely' will make you cooler

By Laura Phelps
THE EAGLE (AMERICAN U.)

(U-WIRE) The Raconteurs' sophomore album, "Consolers of the Lonely," is everything a sophomore album should be. Once you get past the slightly emo title, the music is fresh, innovative and musically inspiring.

"Consolers of the Lonely" is a mutt of the great roots of American rock. Blues, funk, piano rock and 1970s power rock all found its way onto the record.

The best songs are "Many Shades of Black" and "Five On The Five," but this record offers something for everyone.

Be sure to visit the band's Web site to download the songs, where they are offering larger file sizes than what can be found on iTunes for what they claim to be better sound quality. The album, coincidentally, was released a day earlier online than it was in stores.

Buzz aside, a few of the lyrics are lacking ingenuity: "It's hard sticking to your guns / when everybody's having fun / makes me wanna run / I don't know what to do." But what they occasionally lack in their lyrical skill is more than made up for in a unique balance between words and notes. The music is poetry

itself. This kind of equilibrium is typically reserved for mature bands. "Consolers of the Lonely" proves that The Raconteurs are not just riding on Jack White's good name - they have real talent.

So whether you get your kicks laying on your leather jacket and reading Nietzsche on the quad or if you're all about the upcoming sorority party, you'll still be slightly cooler after listening to this album. ■



The new album cover for Raconteur's "Consolers of the Lonely". Band members from left to right: Jack Lawrence on bass, Patrick Keeler on drums, Jack White on guitar, and Brandon Benson on guitar.

COMICS

TUITION

Continued from page 1

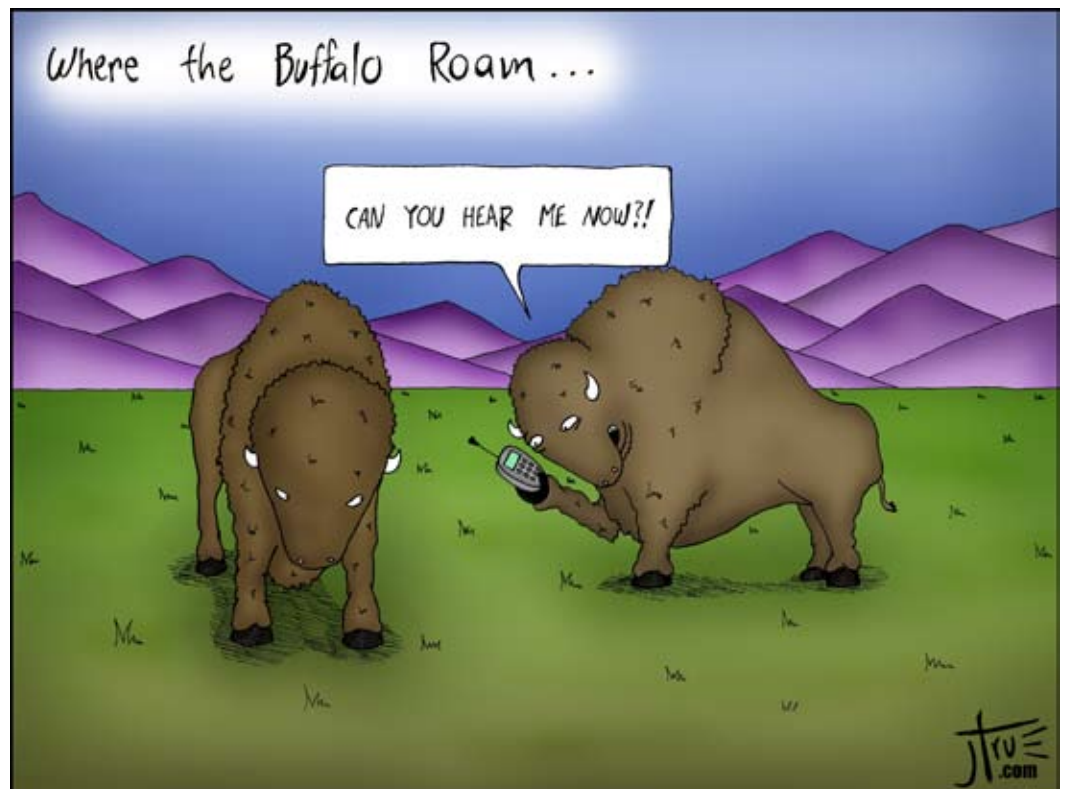
is increasing the computer fee to build a new building. The money that we pay through this fee increase is given right back to us in the form of enhanced services and campus updates. The additional tuition revenue generated through projected enrollment growth even provides more financial aid money to UHD students.

There are also other possible improvements that this increase will support once the administration finalizes some of the initiatives that are on the table. Those initiatives include expanding student support for weekend and evening students, supporting student research, expanding study abroad programs, and developing new degree programs.

Part of the reason UHD has the lowest increase in the system is because of strong enrollment growth this year. This greater-than-anticipated enrollment growth generated \$1.5 million of additional revenue, which is what enables UHD to keep the tuition and fee increases down while simultaneously providing enhanced services for students.

Although no one likes it when tuition goes up, the small increase of 4% will provide a number of improvements that students have been wanting for years. So rather than cringe at the thought of higher tuition and fees, instead think of it as an investment in your own education. For a little under a hundred dollars for a 12 hour load, you get a new library, a new website, better online support, better security, and more financial aid. ■

CLASSIFIEDS



Sell Your Junk

The Dateline Is Starting A Classified Section That Will Be Free To All Faculty And Students. See Details Below

FREE Classified Ads for all students, faculty, and employees. All submissions should include a brief description of what you are advertising (25 words or less) as well as your contact information.

You may submit these as an e-mail ATTN to: classifieds at dateline@gator.uhd.edu

All ads will remain in print until notification is received that it has been successful. All ads will be published on a first come, first serve basis, so hurry up. **Deadline: April 16, 2008**

